

Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group

Report for 2004

Compiled by
Robin M. Ward

Expedition dates:
19th June – 25th June 2004

Expedition members:
Simon Walker (Leader), John Calladine, Andrew Carter,
Tim Dixon, Shaun Micklewright, Robin Ward, Tina Wiffen.

Correspondence:
Simon Walker, Park Head, Norton Downs, Bromyard, Herefordshire, HR7 4PF

e-mail: simon.walker9@btinternet.com

CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction..... | 2 |
| Map of the Treshnish Isles | 3 |
| Weather | 4 |
| Systematic list of Birds for 2004 | 5 |
| Systematic list of Mammals for 2004..... | 11 |
| Systematic list of Butterflies for 2004 | 12 |
| Other species recorded systematically | 13 |
| 2004 Breeding seabird census data for Lunga and Sgeir A Chaisteil | 14 |
| Population changes in a selection of breeding species on Lunga, 1994 – 2004..... | 15 |
| Map of census zones – Lunga and Chaisteil | 16 |
| An assessment of TIARG’s contribution to the British and Irish Ringing Scheme..... | 17 |
| Treshnish ringing totals 1971 - 2004..... | 18 |
| Recent ringing recoveries..... | 19 |
| References | 21 |
| The Expeditions 1971 – 2004..... | 22 |
| Ring series used on the Treshnish Isles since 1927..... | 24 |

INTRODUCTION

Since 1971, the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) has undertaken to monitor, through ringing and census work, the breeding seabird populations of the Treshnish Isles, Argyll (Walker & Cooper 1996). This report summarises the results of the Group’s 26th expedition to the Treshnish Isles during 19th June – 25th June 2004. This year the expedition was cut short by a day due to bad weather.

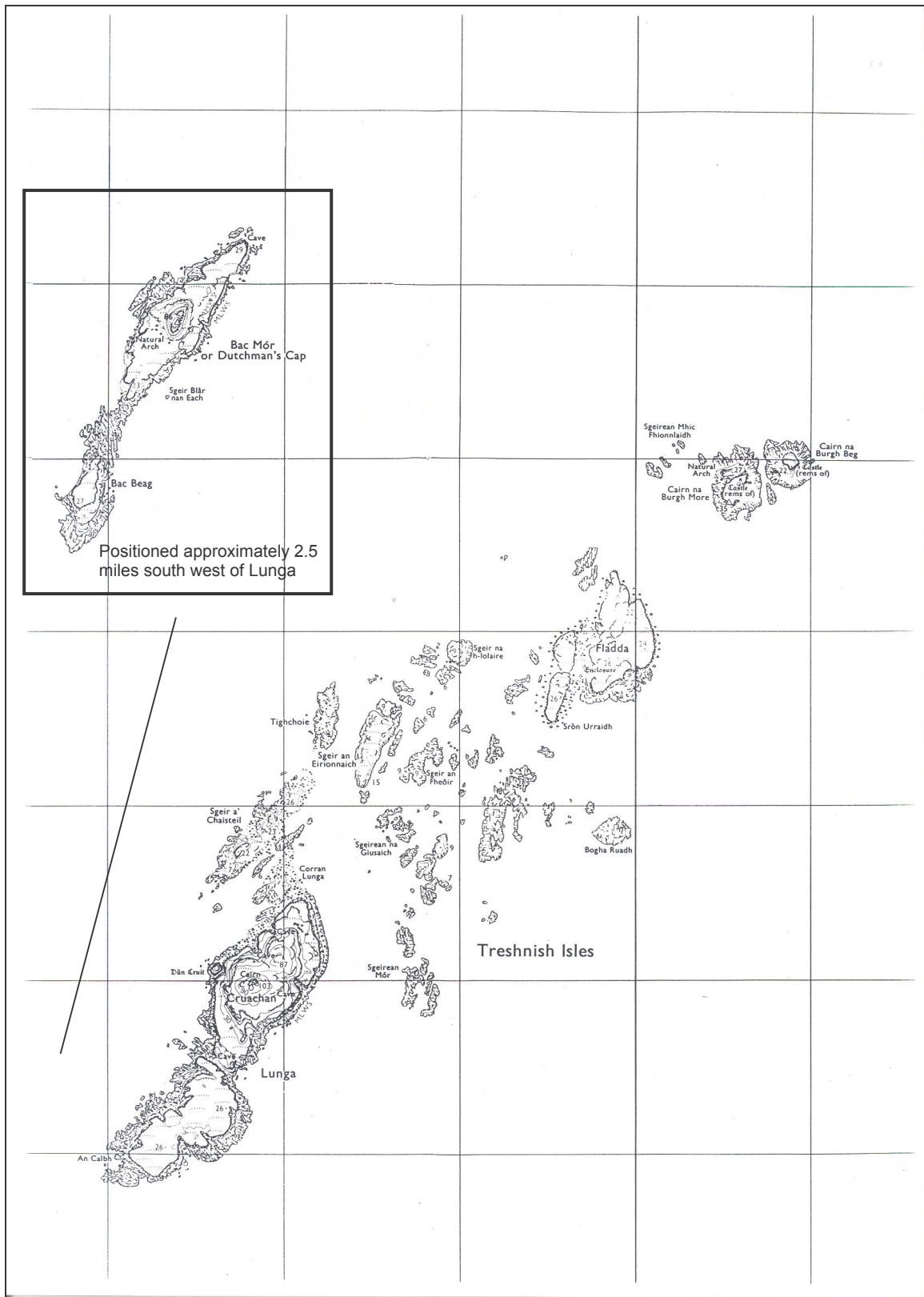
As in previous years, the expedition’s base was set up around the ruined village site at the northern end of Lunga. The majority of the week’s fieldwork was centred upon Lunga & Sgeir a Chaisteil where the regular annual full seabird census and the systematic ringing of specific seabird colonies was undertaken. A week dominated by windy conditions resulted in very few storm petrels being mist netted but on the other hand was ideal for fleyg netting auks, resulting in larger numbers of Guillemots being ringed. These windy conditions meant it was too dangerous in the boat available to venture to other islands (although we did manage a very brief trip to Fladda). Consequently less additional census and ringing activity was achieved. This year, six permanent and repeatable seabird monitoring plots were set up, and it is our intention to collect data on survival into the future.

All TIARG census and ringing data are fed into two national monitoring programmes, the Seabird Colony Register (J.N.C.C.) and National Ringing Database (British Trust for Ornithology), respectively. The data supplied are of great conservation value as they are the sole means by which the seabird colonies of the Treshnish Isles are currently monitored. The conservation importance of these islands is recognised by their designation as a Special Protection Area by the UK Government for the breeding colonies of seabirds they support. Financial support for the monitoring work TIARG undertook in 2004 was given by the Hebridean Trust (www.hebrideantrust.org).

Highlights of the expedition were an ‘on island’ meet up with Hebridean Trust staff, excellent catches of Guillemot and superb extended views of a female Otter playing with her two well grown cubs off Corran Lunga below the Puffin colony.

Any comments on the report and how future editions can be improved upon for relaying information required by conservation agencies are much welcomed. We are currently in the process of developing our own web site.

MAP OF THE TRESHNISH ISLES



WEATHER

| Km/hr | Beaufort wind scale | Wind Force |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 6-11 | 2 | light breeze |
| 12-19 | 3 | gentle breeze |
| 20-28 | 4 | moderate breeze |
| 29-38 | 5 | fresh breeze |
| 39-49 | 6 | strong breeze |
| 50-61 | 7 | near gale |

- 19th June** Westerly Force 5.
Cloudy with sunny intervals.
Occasional, very slight precipitation.
Temperature, max 15 C, min 9.5 C.
- 20th June** Westerly Force 2 –3, falling calm by evening.
Warm and mainly sunny.
Dry.
Temperature, max 18 C, min 11 C.
- 21st June** Northerly Force 2, falling calm by evening.
Warm and sunny.
Dry.
Temperature, max 17 C, min 10 C.
- 22nd June** Northerly Force 1 – 2, freshening north-easterly 4 in evening.
Warm and Sunny – a lovely day.
Dry.
Temperature, max 20 C, min 10 C.
- 23rd June** Westerly Force 4, moderating to 1 – 2 by evening.
Cold and complete cloud cover.
Continuous rain, sometimes heavy, for most of the day. Moderating to drizzle by evening. A miserable day redeemed by the Otters in the evening.
Temperature, max 13 C, min 9 C.
- 24th June** South-easterly 3 –4.
Slight cloud early on, then a sunny afternoon.
Rain shortly after dawn.
Temperature, max 17 C, min 10 C.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS FOR 2004

The following systematic list is a brief account of those bird species seen whilst the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group were present on the Treshnish Isles, 19th June – 25th June 2004. Unless specified, no records are available for the Cairn na Burghs and the Dutchmans. The status comments (first paragraph) refer to the species' occurrence during the breeding season as recorded by previous years expeditions.

A detailed breakdown of breeding seabird numbers on Lunga and Chaisteil in 2004 is provided in a subsequent section of the report. For several seabird species (Shag, Kittiwake, auks) the census results for 2004 requires careful interpretation as observations detailed below identify an unusually poor breeding season which for the auks has probably resulted in a higher adult attendance than normal for late June. This would appear not to be a localised event. A poor breeding season was reported widely from other Scottish and northern England colonies and for the majority of seabird species, with the Treshnish Isles colonies apparently faring much better than many further north. The proportion of a species in attendance that were either failed or non-breeders in relation to previous years is not known. To be able to address this question in the future, TIARG has established trial monitoring plots for several species.

For some seabird species, average rates of population change have been calculated by linear regression of the natural logarithms of the breeding numbers year on year. The significance of the slope of the regression, equivalent to the average annual rate of increase or decrease in the population, is then assessed using the t-statistic (Fowler & Cohen 1986).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

A common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Fladda, Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil. Over the long term, 1994-2004, the average rate of change in the numbers of breeding birds on Lunga is calculated at -3.6% per annum, this trend being significant ($P < 0.05$). For a similar period, 1993-2002, Mavor *et al.* (2004) reports no significant trend in the cumulative Fulmar population of colonies monitored in this region, S.W. Scotland. The breeding population for Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil in 2004 was estimated at 547 pairs based upon apparently occupied sites (AOS), a 4.6% increase from 2003 with the suggestion that the long-term decline in population has now ceased. Much of the change in numbers between 2003 and 2004 can be attributed to substantial increases in numbers within sector 8 (69 AOS; over 75% of that recorded in the past two years) and Sgeir a Chaisteil (87 AOS) where the previous year's decline was almost redressed.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

A regular breeding species

Presumed breeding birds were seen at night on Lunga. During the evenings at Harp Rock, usually small numbers of birds were noted flying past distantly offshore though on 19th June a count of 200 was made.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

A common breeding species

Many birds were heard churring from burrows on Fladda and Lunga. Mist netting on one night at the Village provided a total of 138 birds. Further attempts to mist net on Lunga were thwarted by the wind.

Gannet *Sula bassana*

Regularly seen offshore

A exceptional strong passage of birds offshore was noted off Lunga on the morning of the 24th June when 127 birds were counted north in two hours, amongst which were only 22 adults. By 12.30 this passage ceased with 15 birds loafing off the west coast. On other days between 4 and 35 individuals were noted offshore, most adults.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

A common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Fladda, Lunga, Sgeir a Chaisteil and Sgeir an Eirionnaich. The breeding population for Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil was 319 and 23 pairs respectively, based upon a nest count. When combined, the number counted has increased by 5% from that in 2003, continuing the trend of an overall population increase noted since 1994. During this period the average rate of change in the

number of breeding birds on Lunga is calculated at 6.0% per annum, this trend being highly significant ($P < 0.01$). In consequence the population on Lunga has more than doubled over the same period and at an annual rate of increase suggested to be above that measured for the various regions of Scotland up to 2002 (Mavor *et al.* 2004). Within the S.W.Scotland region that encompasses the Treshnish Isles, Mavor *et al.* (2004) reports no overall significant trend in the dynamics of the cumulative breeding Shag populations of those colonies monitored; these include Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil (Mavor *et al.* 2004). To the north and including the nearby colony of Eigg, long-term declines continued into the 2003 breeding season in N.W. Scotland and this also occurred further north still, in Shetland (Mavor *et al.* 2004).

Underlying the overall increase in population on Lunga has been some re-distribution in breeding numbers between the different count sectors as in previous years. The most notable decline has been the loss in 2004 of breeding birds within sector 4 where numbers in recent years fluctuated between 8 and 25 pairs. Sectors 2 & 8 have returned to supporting numbers at or above the numbers held in the late 1990s whilst the substantial increase in population within area 12 noted in 2003 was maintained in 2004.

Of particular note in 2004 was that away from the north-west coast of Lunga the majority of breeding Shags were incubating eggs or brooding very young chicks with few nests containing the well developed chicks most would be expected to hold by the end of June.

At least one breeding pair was noted on Sgeir an Eirionnaich. No counts were made on Fladda where the breeding population is at least in high double figures.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Breeding noted in some years, with a moulting flock present during late summer

The late summer moult flock in June held at least 316 birds, typically most residing around the islands of Sgeir an Eirionnaich, Fladda and Sgeir an Fheadir. Extensive areas of vegetation heavily grazed and trampled by geese were located once again on Sgeir an Eirionnaich and at the south end of Lunga where six adults were noted on 20th.

| Year | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Peak count | 25 | 160 | 240 | 268 | 79 | 101 | 316 |

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Rare visitor

A lone female roosted on the Boulder Beach, Lunga, on the morning of 25th June. This record follows successful breeding by a pair on Corran Lunga in 2003 with the only previously documented record of the species by TIARG being that of a pair regularly seen in June 1976.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Regularly breeds in small numbers

Three broods were noted around Lunga comprising of 4 ducks with a single duckling in area 6, and single broods of 2 and 4 at Corran Lunga. The latter brood may have been the offspring of an incubating female noted several days earlier on Corran Lunga. Elsewhere two recently used nests were located on Sgeir an Eirionnaich, with further two on Sgeir an Fheadir plus one active nest, whilst during a brief visit to Fladda three ducks and a duckling were encountered.

The waters between Fladda and Lunga supported the usual late summer moult flock of birds, typically male-biased; 54 were counted on 21st June. Elsewhere up to 4 females were noted at Sgeir a Chaisteil.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Until recently, one pair bred in most years

At least one moulting adult and a juvenile were noted daily around Lunga, with prey when identified, usually being Rabbit.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Seen most years with breeding known to occur on adjacent coasts

An adult male was noted along the north west coast on 21st June. What was presumably the same adult male was later seen on the 24th over Sgeir a Chaisteil attempting to predate a Kittiwake.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Probably a regular breeder in small numbers

Two, possibly three, calling males were noted during the week. A single bird was heard calling on several occasions from the cliff top Bracken immediately south of Shearwater Gully. Another bird was

regularly heard from the Village calling to the north; that may have been the bird calling from Sgeir a Chaisteil, a new locality for the species. Certainly one observer, hearing a bird from the village, was misled into thinking it was calling from the Puffin Lawn above 12a, then when followed, that it was on Corran Lunga, until eventually tracked down to over the water on Sgeir a Chaisteil. On this occasion, as with most nights, the breeze had a northerly component. No birds were heard to be occupying the area traditionally held in recent years to the east of the village on Lunga.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Regularly breeds in small numbers

12 breeding pairs were found to be holding territories on Lunga's beaches and rocky outcrops (1 in Tarbet east, 3 in area 8, 3 at Corran Lunga, 1 on the Landing Beach, 3 in area 5 and 1 at Tarbet west) with broods noted at Corran Lunga (two of 3), the Landing Beach (1 young) and a clutch of 3 eggs in area 5. Elsewhere 6 breeding pairs held territory on Sgeir a Chaisteil of which two had broods of 3, and two pairs were on Sgeir an Fheòir. Small flocks of presumed failed breeders/immatures were evident typically on Lunga in area 6a and Sgeir an Eirionnaich with up to 7 and 12 birds noted respectively.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

One or two pairs breed

The behaviour towards intruders of one pair on the Landing Beach suggested they were incubating eggs. A second pair was typically on territory at Corran Lunga. Observations suggested at least one pair were attempting to breed on Sgeir a Chaisteil. The distribution of these breeding pairs was much as noted in recent years.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Regularly breeds in small numbers

Dry ground conditions, this particularly noticeable across the sphagnum areas of the south end of Lunga, were considered to be the principal reason for the small numbers of birds recorded. Only two male birds were apparently on territory as discerned from drumming birds, at Lunga's north end, at and to the east of the Village. One bird was however heard chipping over the Puffin colony, north-west of the Village. North of Tarbet additional territories were suggested from single displaying males noted on the 20th June between Shag Alley - Shearwater Gully and immediately south of the Well. At the south end of Lunga, one bird with 2 day old chicks were located just above Tarbet in area 7. Otherwise singles were flushed on only two dates in area 6, with no drumming heard during several visits made to the south end in day time.

No birds were noted during the brief visits made to Fladda, Sgeir an Fheòir, Sgeir an Eirionnaich or Sgeir a Chaisteil.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Rare visitor

A single bird was seen at the south end of Lunga on 25th June. A calling bird was later heard on the night of 23rd from the Well.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One pair occasionally breeds

One pair was daily in attendance alarming and thus suggestive of breeding on Corran Lunga. Elsewhere on Lunga a single bird was noted on 20th June at Tarbet with no further sightings from this locality on subsequent visits. On the other islands visited, one pair were found breeding on Sgeir an Fheòir and a single bird on Fladda where breeding is regularly suspected.

Turnstone *Areneria interpres*

Rare visitor

A single first-summer bird was seen during a brief visit to Sgeir an Eirionnaich on 25th June.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Small numbers seen daily presumably from the breeding grounds on Coll where numbers in recent years have declined (Mavor *et al.* 2004)

Up to 8 birds at any one time were seen daily, generally offshore from the Harp Rock - Sgeir a Chaisteil coast. Dark phase birds were typically more common with no more than two light phase birds being seen at any one time. During a period of marked Gannet movement off the west coast of Lunga on the 24th June, a total of 4 dark & 2 light phase birds were noted in 2 hours heading north.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A regular and increasing breeding population has become established since confirmation of breeding by a pair in 1998.

No evidence of breeding was established for a pair of (unringed) birds that regularly occupied the high ground south of the Tabet (area 6), a locality where breeding has previously been proven. When disturbed both birds would vacate the area, often not returning within half an hour.

A brief visit to single breeding territories situated on the west and east coast of Fladda was unable to confirm successful breeding. However successful breeding can not be discounted as both pairs on territory kept their distance from the intruders as in previous years when such behaviour made locating the young that much more difficult.

Up to three birds, often displaying in flight, were noted on several occasions over Lunga's west and north coasts.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

In recent years has become established as a regular breeding species in small numbers

An estimated 17 breeding pairs (33 adults noted on site) were localised on the low-lying basalt rock outcrop of Fladda's south-east coast in a colony where breeding has been noted annually since 1998. The number of estimated pairs in this colony has increased by 55% from that in 2003, continuing the trend of increase since 1998. Between one and two birds were occasionally seen or heard from the north end of Lunga.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Breeding was suspected on Lunga (area 8) with 1 pair within the west coast Herring Gull colony. Since the start of annual seabird censuses of Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil in 1994, the species breeding population has fluctuated between 1 and 9 pairs with no significant trend (1994-2004). Elsewhere two or more pairs were noted in the gullery on Cairn na Burgh Beg by the expedition when passing en route to Lunga on the 19th June. Four adults were also noted amongst a much larger Great Black-backed Gull roost on the north end of Sgeir a Chaisteil on 25th June.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

A common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga (27 pairs), Sgeir a Chaisteil (6 pairs), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (1 pair), Fladda (15+ pairs), Sgeir na H-Iolaire (between 8-25 pairs), Sgeir an Fheòir (6 pairs) and Cairn na Burg More (21 pairs). No birds were occupying territories on Sgeirean na Guisach or apparently Cairn na Burg Beg. It is increasingly evident that the numbers of breeding birds on Lunga and the intervening islands between there and Fladda, have been in decline since the late 1990s. The average rate of change in the numbers of breeding birds on Lunga for the period 1994 – 2004, is calculated at -10.2% per annum, this trend being highly significant ($P < 0.01$). In Scotland and specifically the Argyll & Bute region, the breeding population has declined between the two most recent national seabird censuses (1986 *Seabird Colony Register* and 1999-2001 *Seabird 2000*), though the situation at a colony level has been variable within the region with some stable (Mitchell *et al.* 2004). A complete census of the Treshnish Isles is required to assess whether the decline for which there is no obvious explanation, is real or merely a re-distribution of birds between the different islands.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

A regular breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Fladda (45+ pairs, most in north-east gullery), Lunga (41 pairs), Sgeir a Chaisteil (1 pair). Scanned from adjacent land or a boat, breeding was also considered to have occurred on Sgeir an Eirionnaich (27+ pairs; 54 adults), Sgeirean na Guisach (north 1 pair, south 1 pairs), and Sgeir an Fheòir (7 pairs with 3+ broods) amongst those islands between Fladda and Lunga. During the period 1994-2004 the population of Lunga has fluctuated widely (34-67 pairs, no significant trend) with the 21% (7 pairs) increase in this population between 2003 and 2004 following on from two years of decline (67 to 34 pairs).

An atypical gathering of 79 birds, that included 5 immatures, were noted roosting on the north-east tip of Sgeir a Chaisteil on the 25th June.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

A localised breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Fladda and Lunga where the main colony is situated around Harp Rock. The numbers of apparently occupied nests on Lunga totalled 985, a 12% increase from 2003 and reversing

the decline of that year. Up until then the population had undergone an increase following a period of stability at c.725 pairs during the mid 1990s. The average rate of change in the numbers of breeding birds on Lunga for the period 1994 – 2004 is calculated at 3.8% per annum, this trend being highly significant ($P < 0.01$). This is comparable to the overall trend reported for the seabird colonies monitored over a similar period (1991 - 2003) in S.W.Scotland (Maver *et al.* 2004); these include Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil.

In common with several other breeding seabirds on Lunga, the majority of breeding pairs were still incubating eggs and not brooding young as would be expected in late June.

Typically a flock of up to 835 adults and including the occasional 1st summer bird, was noted daily on rocks between Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Irregular breeding species

In marked contrast to recent years, a brief visit by two expedition members found only small numbers of this species (approximately 10% of birds; 20+ pairs) occupying the ternery on the islet immediately adjacent to Sgeir an Eirionnaich.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Irregular breeding species

For the second year, a ternery was centred upon an islet adjacent to, rather than on as in the previous two years, Sgeir an Eirionnaich. When flushed during a visit to Sgeir an Eirionnaich, approximately 90% of birds in attendance at the colony, an estimated 360 birds, were of this species. Only one pair were found nesting on Sgeir an Eirionnaich.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil, the main concentration typically located within the vicinity of Harp Rock with 8980 adult birds estimated. Birds were also considered to be breeding on Fladda as confirmed in previous years.

The numbers of individuals counted on Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil totalled 10,385, a 42% increase from 2003. This marked increase was noted across all those sectors of Lunga that regularly support birds as well as on Sgeir a Chaisteil. High adult attendance may explain this apparent increase in population size as the majority of those adults confirmed to be breeding were still incubating eggs with few brooding well developed young as would be expected for the majority of breeders in late June. Furthermore, very few adults returning from the sea were observed to be carrying fish, this the consequence of much fewer young requiring feeding but also a likely factor driving the poor breeding success.

The average annual rate of change for the population of Lunga is calculated at 2.9% p.a. for the period 1994-2004; the trend is not significant.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil. Birds were also seen at suitable breeding sites on Fladda.

The number of individuals counted on Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil totalled 2064, a 66% increase from 2003 with much of this increase at and adjacent to Harp Rock. In common with Guillemot, comparatively fewer adults were observed returning to the colony carrying fish than would be expected for late June. As most Razorbills nest within inaccessible crevices, it was not possible to ascertain whether the majority of birds were incubating or brooding. Amongst the few small boulder colonies accessible, young were heard, and when seen, these were small.

The marked increase in the presence of adults should bring caution when considering the average annual rate of change for Lunga's population that is calculated at 6.9% p.a. for the period 1994 – 2004, whereas up to 2003 there was no significant trend. Within the past decade, however there was apparently a real significant period of increase (+24% p.a. 1994-1998; $P < 0.05$) to a count of 1400 individuals followed by counts fluctuating between approximately 950 and 1200 birds thereafter (1999-2003; no significant trend).

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Adult birds were seen around Fladda (7 birds) Sgeir an Eirionnaich - Sgeir an Fheòir sea area (38). Carn na Burg More (6) and Lunga's south end (14).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Common breeding species

Breeding adults were occupying burrows on Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil. Birds were also seen on suitable breeding sites at Fladda.

A 98% increase in the estimated breeding population on Lunga between 2003 and 2004 returns the population to a size comparable to most years since 1994. Previous to a marked reduction in 2003, the mean estimated number of breeding pairs of Puffin for Lunga since 1994 was 1776 pairs (range 1,631 – 2,549, n=9) with that in 2004 estimated at 1,850 pairs. The species is however difficult to census accurately, especially when other burrowing species are present in the vicinity of the colonies i.e. Rabbits and Manx Shearwaters, or adults are counted due to burrows being hidden by vegetation or the viewing perspective.

In common with Guillemot and Razorbill, comparatively fewer Puffins were seen to arrive at the colonies carrying fish than would be expected in late June.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Regular breeding species in very small numbers

A minimum of three birds were present at the south end of Lunga with one pair using a cave in sector 5. Elsewhere, single pairs were seen around the cliffs in area 10 and 12a on single dates. No evidence of breeding was found.

Swift *Apus apus*

Irregular visitor

A single bird was noted over the Village, Lunga, on the 22nd June.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

The presence of at least four singing males on Lunga in 2004 is encouraging in that it follows a period of population decline since the 1990s that culminated in only one singing bird in 2003. Territories were over the north slope of Cruachan immediately above the Village, on the saddle of Cruachan above Shearwater Gully, in sector 6 and in sector 7. No birds were noted during a brief visit to Fladda.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

An irregular visitor

A single bird was noted over the Village, Lunga, on the 21st June.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Widespread breeding species on Lunga and Fladda with no estimation of territories made though probably less numerous than Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Common breeding species along the coast of Lunga, with birds also noted on Fladda, Sgeir an Eirionnaich and Sgeir a Chaisteil.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Irregular breeding species

At least one pair is thought to have bred on Lunga with an adult female and dependent juvenile noted on one date south of Harp Rock (sector 10). What was perhaps a separate female with young was noted carrying food at Shearwater Gully on the same date (20th June) and later in the week. A singing male and juvenile were also seen on separate occasions to the north at the Village. Elsewhere on Lunga, single adults were noted from around Tarbet, Harp Rock and Corran Lunga. A single bird was noted during a visit to Sgeir a Chaisteil.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Regular breeding species, quite common where habitat suitable.

As in previous years, the vast majority of records of the species were confined to the northern half of Lunga, predominantly amongst the boulder scree and bracken-covered slopes from Cruachan down to the sea and on Corran Lunga. Casual observations identified a minimum of twelve territories on Lunga and three on Sgeir a Chaisteil. One pair was found nesting within the Village at the north end of Lunga, whilst recently fledged broods were found near to Harp Rock and north of Shag Alley. Mist netting at the Village

caught the breeding adult female (with brood patch) and two juveniles.

During a brief visit to Fladda, two singing males were noted on the low lying "waist".

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

A minimum of nine families of dependent and presumed locally bred young were noted on Lunga with the two southernmost broods located between area 5 & 6 and at east Tarbet. The remainder of the broods were centred upon the cliff top plateau surrounding Cruachan, with the exception of a single brood on Corran Lunga.

Elsewhere two fledged broods were noted on the low lying "waist" of Fladda during a brief visit on 25th June.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Scarce visitor

During one of several visits to the reedbed at the south-east end of Lunga, one bird was briefly heard in song on 24th June. Previous records also refer to a single individual at the same locality during late June in the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2002.

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone cornix*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

The species was noted daily on Lunga, predominantly in those areas from Cruachan summit southwards, involving both moulting adults and non-moulting juveniles. A minimum of 5 birds were involved, including one pair of adults and three juveniles, suggesting at least one pair may have successfully bred on the island. No nest site was found. Three juveniles and one un-aged bird were seen during the brief visit to Fladda on 25th June.

Single birds noted on single adjacent dates near Shag Alley and the Village were seen heavily oiled by, it was presumed, Fulmar.

Raven *Corvus corax*

At least one pair breeds in most years

Observations suggest that one pair of moulting adults and five juveniles were in residence on Lunga though never recorded as a single family unit. The largest counts were of two adults with two juveniles and, on a separate date around Cruachan, five juveniles and later two adults. Only one adult was recorded on Fladda during a brief visit on 25th June. No nest sites were located.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

As the week progressed, the flocks reported increased in size from 18 on 20th June at the south end of Lunga to one of 50 birds at Sgeir an Eirionnaich on 25th June. The flocks were comprised of adults and juveniles, the island's population peaking at the week's end at an estimated 50-100 birds. An occupied nest was located in cliffs at Lunga's south end (area 5), whilst an adult was observed carrying food on to Harp Rock.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

A minimum of three families of dependent and presumed locally bred young were noted on Lunga. These centred upon the Village at Lunga's north end, the gully south of Harp Rock and area 6. Elsewhere on Lunga up to three birds were noted at Shearwater Gully including two singing adults, and 1-2 birds at the south end.

During the brief visit to Fladda at least two family parties of 4 and 3 birds were noted.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF MAMMALS FOR 2004

Otter *Lutra lutra*

Evidence of presence regularly noted

Following last year's sighting, one female accompanied by two well grown young were watched for over 15 minutes (by all expedition members!), fishing and playing in the water between Lunga and Corran Lunga on the evening of 23rd June.

House Mouse *Mus musculus*

Resident

At least three animals were seen at the expedition base, the Village, at the north end of Lunga.

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Resident, numbers much reduced in recent years.

Though no systematic monitoring of this species occurred, casual observations on Lunga continued to suggest fewer visible animals than in the years immediately prior to 2002. All sightings of black individuals were of singles noted on Lunga.

No animals were seen during brief visits to Fladda.

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

Regular breeding species whose numbers are regularly monitored by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (NERC, St Andrews)

Up to 20 animals regularly hauled out on intertidal reefs north and north-east of Lunga. A single animal was also noted off the South end of Lunga.

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

Resident in Hebridean waters

Several distant sightings were made of one or more animals to the west and north of the Treshnish Isles on the 22nd June.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

A resident in West Scottish coastal waters

At least one animal was sighted to the west of Lunga on 22nd June. Upon the expedition's departure on 25th June, at least four animals were seen from the boat at approximately a kilometre or so east of the Treshnish Isles.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BUTTERFLIES FOR 2004

Small White *Pieris rapae*

Presumed migrant

One was seen at the south end of Lunga (area 6) on 21st June.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Regular breeder

Small numbers (less than 10) were seen daily on Lunga until the final day, 25th June, when fine weather coincided with over 30 individuals being noted. A single was noted during a brief visit to Sgeir a Chaisteil on 20th June.

Peacock *Inachis io*

Presumed migrant

One was seen during the brief visit to Fladda on 25th June.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Migrant

2-3 were seen on 3 dates on Lunga up until the final day, 25th June, when fine weather coincided with over seven individuals being noted.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Regular migrant

Between 2 and 10 individuals were recorded daily on Lunga, with all from sites lying from Tarbet northwards. Elsewhere 6 individuals were noted on Fladda during the expedition's brief visit on 25th June.

OTHER SPECIES RECORDED SYSTEMATICALLY

Three-spined Stickleback *Gasterosteus aculeatus*

Unknown

All rain filled pools inspected on Sgeir an Eirionnaich held a population of this fish species.

The Magpie Moth *Abraxas grossulariata*

Probable resident

Single moths were seen at the Village, Lunga, on Sgeir an Eirionnaich, and on Fladda.

Oyster Plant *Mertensia maritima*

Localised species known only from "colonies" at Tarbet (west), Lunga and the north end of Sgeir a Chaisteil.

Over 381 plants were identified on the beach at Tarbet (west), Lunga, with much spreading of many well established plants making separation of individuals extremely difficult. 117 plants were counted at the other well established "colony" at the north end of Sgeir a Chaisteil.

2004 BREEDING SEABIRD CENSUS DATA FOR LUNGA AND SGEIR A CHAISTEIL

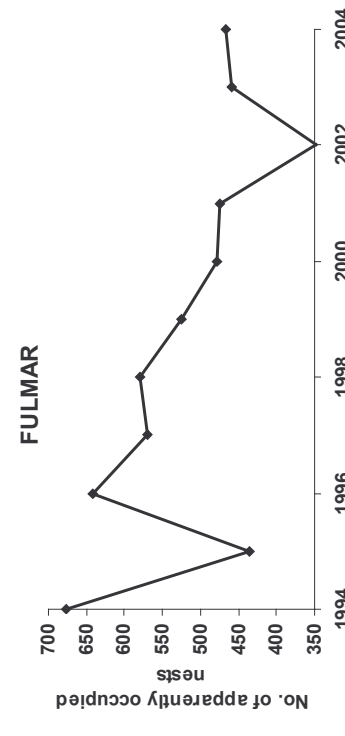
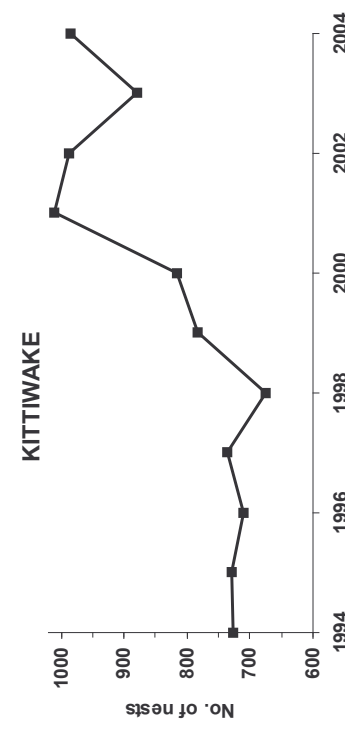
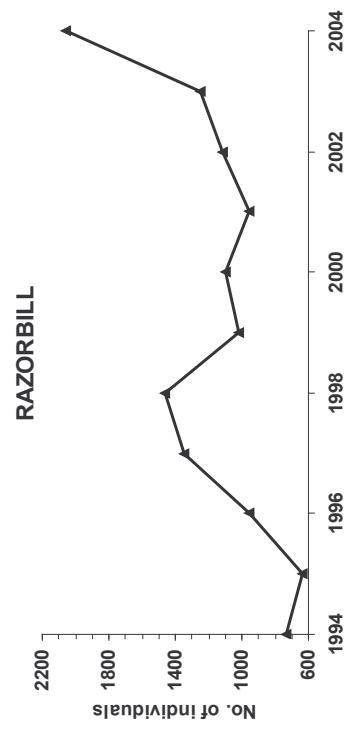
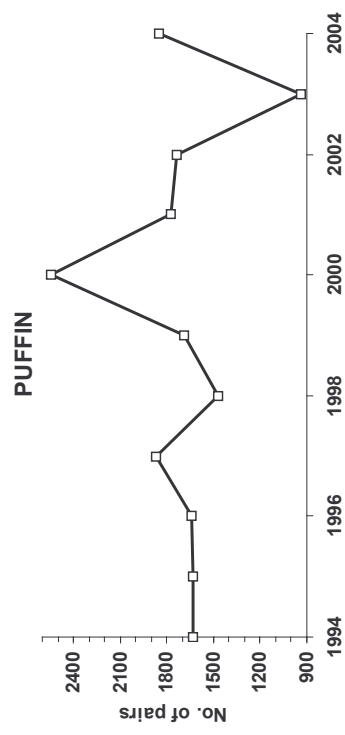
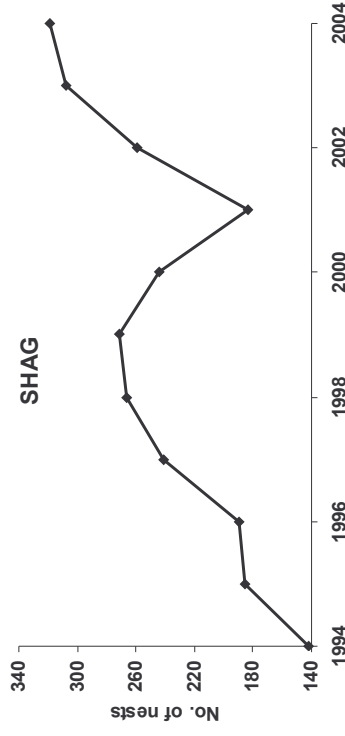
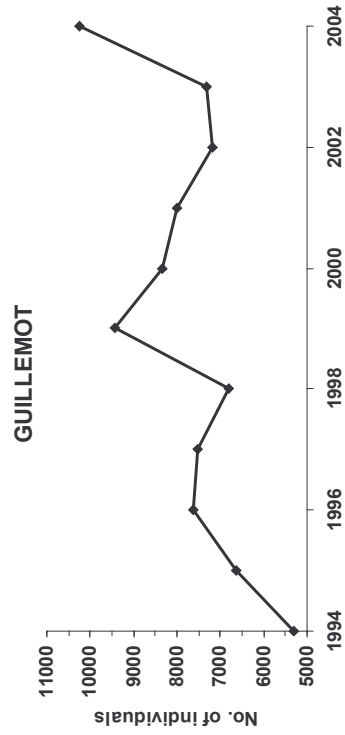
Totals for each Sub Colony Zones of Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil

| Sector | Count unit | Count Sectors on Lunga (1 - 12) and Sgeir a Chaisteil (13) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Lunga & Chaisteil Totals | |
|-----------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|-------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6a | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | 12a |
| Fulmar | AON | 39 | 4 | 24 | 46 | | 49 | | 69 | 15 | 33 | 42 | 129 | 10 | 87 | 547 |
| Shag | AON | 47 | 60 | | 39 | 6 | | 51 | | | 29 | 27 | 60 | | 23 | 342 |
| Lesser B-b Gull | PRS | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Herring Gull | PRS | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 17 | | | | 5 | 2 | 6 | 33 |
| Great B-b Gull | PRS | 1 | | 1 | | | | 11 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 42 |
| Kittiwake | AON | | | | | 26 | | | | | 76 | 826 | 68 | 15 | | 985 |
| Bonxie | AON | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Razorbill | IND | 284 | 69 | 55 | 55 | | 34 | | 34 | | 108 | 112 | 288 | 13 | 4 | 2064 |
| Guillemot | IND | 15 | | | 34 | | 1 | | | | 885 | 898 | 298 | 54 | 118 | 10385 |
| Black Guillemot | PRS | | | | | | 7 | | | | | 0 | | | | 7 |
| Puffin | IND | 420 | 303 | 53 | 2 | | | | | | 37 | | 439 | | | 1254 |
| Puffin | AOB | | | | | | | | | | | 340 | | 883 | 310 | 1533 |

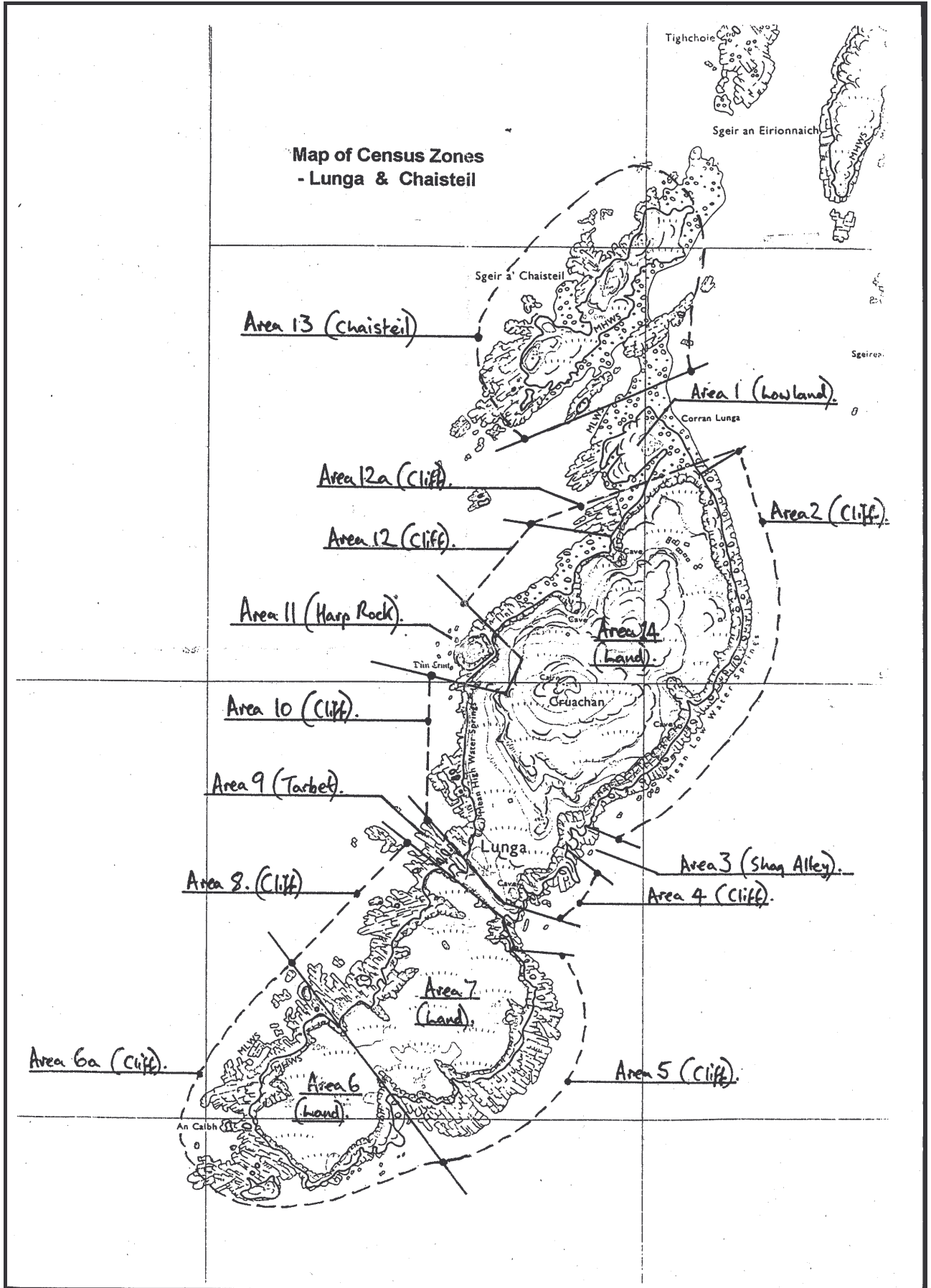
Key to count unit codes:

- AON = Apparently occupied nest
- IND = Individuals
- PRS = Pairs
- AOB = Apparently occupied burrow

POPULATION CHANGES IN A SELECTION OF BREEDING SPECIES ON LUNGA, 1994 – 2004



MAP OF CENSUS ZONES – LUNGA AND CHAISTEIL



TRESHNISH RINGING TOTALS FOR 2004

| Site | Species | Adults | Pulli | Retraps | Controls | Total |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| Lunga | Fulmar | 47 | | 8 | | 55 |
| | Manx Shearwater | | | 1 | | 1 |
| | Storm Petrel | 83 | | 48 | 7 | 138 |
| | Shag | 45 | 155 | 14 | | 214 |
| | Herring Gull | | 11 | | | 11 |
| | Great Black-backed Gull | | 4 | | | 4 |
| | Kittiwake | 21 | | 16 | | 37 |
| | Guillemot | 800 | | 61 | 5 | 866 |
| | Razorbill | 146 | 1 | 26 | | 173 |
| | Puffin | 226 | | 9 | 1 | 236 |
| | Meadow Pipit | 3 | | | | 3 |
| | Rock Pipit | 2 | | | | 2 |
| | Wren | 3 | | | | 3 |
| | Wheatear | 2 | | | | 2 |
| | Sgeir a Chaisteil | Great Black-backed Gull | | 2 | | |
| Sgeir an Fheòir | Eider | 1 | | | | 1 |
| | Great Black-backed Gull | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Sgeir an Eirionnaich | Great Black-backed Gull | | 11 | | | 11 |
| Treshnish Isles | Grand total for 2004 | 1379 | 185 | 183 | 13 | 1760 |

Note: Rings used in 2004 were registered under *Treshnish Auk Ringing Group* and *Robin M. Ward*.
Retraps: No retraps of birds ringed earlier during the 2004 expedition are included.

AN ASSESSMENT OF TIARG'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRITISH AND IRISH RINGING SCHEME

The Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) has ringed over 26,000 seabirds between the years 1971 - 2004, a substantial proportion of the national ringing total for some species and years. Tabulated below is TIARG's contribution to the National Ringing totals in 2002 (Clark *et al* 2003)*.

| | Juv/ad ringed 2002 | | | Pulli ringed 2002 | | | Ringing Totals to & incl 2002 | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| | UK & Eire | TIARG | % UK & Eire | UK & Eire | TIARG | % UK & Eire | UK & Eire | TIARG | % UK & Eire |
| Fulmar | 529 | 22 | 4.2 | 1,343 | 0 | 0 | 108,646 | 313 | 0.3 |
| Storm Petrel | 8,235 | 15 | 0.2 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 394,265 | 8767 | 2.2 |
| Shag | 250 | 10 | 4 | 4,859 | 87 | 1.8 | 202,014 | 1248 | 0.6 |
| Great Skua | 61 | 0 | 0 | 1,482 | 1 | 0.1 | 72,513 | 2 | 0.003 |
| Common Gull | 102 | 0 | 0 | 1,463 | 11 | 0.8 | 79,710 | 31 | 0.04 |
| Herring Gull | 322 | 0 | 0 | 3,331 | 11 | 0.3 | 301,131 | 418 | 0.1 |
| Great black-backed Gull | 22 | 0 | 0 | 2,136 | 5 | 0.2 | 70,084 | 297 | 0.4 |
| Kittiwake | 375 | 3 | 0.8 | 1,265 | 0 | 0 | 123,079 | 169 | 0.1 |
| Guillemot | 1,312 | 425 | 32.4 | 9,531 | 0 | 0 | 281,082 | 5738 | 2.0 |
| Razorbill | 510 | 89 | 17.5 | 1,853 | 21 | 1.1 | 99,063 | 2253 | 2.3 |
| Puffin | 5,753 | 351 | 6.1 | 293 | 0 | 0 | 228,274 | 4768 | 2.1 |

* 2002 is the most recent British & Irish annual ringing totals available at the time of publication.

TRESHNISH RINGING TOTALS 1971 - 2004

| SPECIES | 1971 | 1974 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1986 | 1989 | 1991 | 1993 |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Fulmar | 17 | 6 | 4 | | 8 | 21 | 14 | 18 | 7 | 21 | 15 | |
| Manx Shearwater | | 2 | 13 | | 4 | 4 | 1 | 8 | | | | |
| Storm Petrel | | 254 | 22 | | 1 | 283 | | 203 | 800 | 411 | 975 | 75 |
| Shag | 150 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 24 | 80 | 50 | 160 | | 40 | 10 | |
| Buzzard | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| Oystercatcher | | 1 | | | | 1 | 4 | 2 | | | | |
| Common Sandpiper | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Great Skua | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Herring Gull | 6 | 1 | | | 14 | 46 | 35 | 56 | 4 | 4 | 3 | |
| Great Black-b. Gull | 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 22 | 14 | 35 | | 22 | 15 | |
| Kittiwake | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | |
| Guillemot | 32 | 20 | 14 | | 66 | 502 | 137 | 364 | 180 | 250 | 306 | |
| Razorbill | 65 | 72 | 90 | | 115 | 266 | 218 | 236 | 151 | 103 | 64 | |
| Black Guillemot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puffin | 70 | 198 | 271 | | 203 | 200 | 208 | 182 | 174 | 160 | 114 | |
| Meadow Pipit | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rock Pipit | | | | | | | | | 5 | 1 | | |
| Pied Wagtail | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wren | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wheatear | | | 12 | | | | | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Willow Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Twite | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 343 | 558 | 439 | 17 | 441 | 1427 | 684 | 1266 | 1326 | 1014 | 1506 | 75 |

| SPECIES | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | Total |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Fulmar | 4 | 27 | 38 | 7 | 24 | 23 | 12 | 25 | 22 | 25 | 47 | 385 |
| Manx Shearwater | 9 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | | | 2 | | 55 |
| Storm Petrel | 440 | 536 | 331 | 1104 | 741 | 732 | 814 | 1030 | 15 | 360 | 83 | 9210 |
| Shag | 10 | 59 | 96 | 99 | 150 | 100 | 59 | 37 | 97 | 99 | 200 | 1547 |
| Eider | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Buzzard | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Oystercatcher | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | 11 |
| Common Sandpiper | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Great Skua | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| Black-headed Gull | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | | | | | 4 | | 5 | 11 | 11 | 6 | | 37 |
| Herring Gull | 5 | 24 | 19 | 52 | 73 | 39 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 437 |
| Great Black-b. Gull | 6 | 25 | 16 | 48 | 19 | 16 | 2 | 27 | 5 | 21 | 18 | 336 |
| Kittiwake | 6 | 10 | 1 | 50 | 41 | 23 | 13 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 21 | 192 |
| Guillemot | 109 | 498 | 349 | 472 | 503 | 507 | 892 | 312 | 425 | 261 | 800 | 6799 |
| Razorbill | 81 | 101 | 105 | 98 | 112 | 102 | 133 | 31 | 110 | 56 | 147 | 2456 |
| Black Guillemot | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Puffin | 358 | 236 | 301 | 267 | 398 | 274 | 389 | 214 | 351 | 244 | 226 | 5238 |
| Meadow Pipit | | 4 | | 1 | | | 12 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 26 |
| Rock Pipit | | 2 | 4 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 25 |
| Pied Wagtail | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 6 |
| Wren | | 3 | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 6 |
| Wheatear | | | 5 | 24 | 37 | 22 | 50 | 24 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 184 |
| Willow Warbler | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Twite | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | 3 |
| TOTAL | 1029 | 1530 | 1230 | 2130 | 2109 | 1844 | 2401 | 1739 | 1059 | 1090 | 1563 | 26965 |

NOTES:

- Data for 1971 - 1995 extracted from Walker & Cooper (1996).
- Ringing data for a three day visit in 1972 was not available.
- In 2003 wind speed and in particular direction was unfavourable for the fleaying of large numbers of auks usually ringed at Harp Rock. Likewise wind was a factor in the reduced Storm Petrel catch.

RECENT RINGING RECOVERIES

Abbreviations used:

Age 1 - Pullus
 4 - Hatched before this calendar year, exact year unknown
 6 - Hatched before previous calendar year, exact year unknown
 8 - Hatched more than two calendar years before year of ringing

Manner of recovery

R - Caught and released by a ringer
 X - Found dead
 XF - Found freshly dead or dying
 XL - Found long dead
 SR - Sick or injured, released with ring
 VV - alive and probably healthy, ring read in field by non-ringer
 // - condition on finding wholly unknown

All ringing recoveries relating to the Treshnish Isles received since the previous TIARG report are listed below.

Fulmar

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|---------------------------------------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| FR76734 | 4 | 27/6/1989 | Lunga | | | |
| | X | 05/3/2004 | Hornum, Nordfriesische Insein, F.R. Germany | 941 km | 102 degs | 5365 days |

Remarks: This is only our second recovery. This individual was from a Fulmar wreck that involved many hundreds of birds found dead along all North Seas coasts in early 2004. Post-mortem work carried out by BTO staff showed that virtually all of these birds were adult females that had died when their guts started to bleed into themselves, a classic sign of acute starvation.

Storm Petrel

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| D014332 | 4 | 14/6/1995 | Ponta de Almadena, Faro, Algarve, Portugal | | | |
| | R | 24/6/2003 | Lunga | 2165km | 5 degs | 2932 days |

Remarks: This is our fifth Portuguese recovery, all having originated from Ponta de Almadena.

Storm Petrel

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|--------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|
| 2560208 | 6 | 24/6/2003 | Lunga | | | |
| | R | 12/7/2004 | Priest Island, Highland Region | 173 km | 19 degs | 384 days |

Remarks: This bird was retrapped in a breeding colony without the use of tape lure

Storm Petrel

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| E409786 | 4 | 28/7/2000 | Krakenes Fyr, Vagsoy, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway | | | |
| | R | 24/6/2003 | Lunga | 895 km | 227 degs | 1061 days |

Remarks: This is our sixth Storm Petrel recovery from Norway, and second from this region & site

Storm Petrel

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| 2538450 | 4 | 27/6/2000 | Fladda | | | |
| | R | 01/8/2004 | Sheepand Harbour, Ardglass, Co.Down, Northern Ireland | 252 km | 168 degs | 1496 days |

Shag

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1373760 | 1 | 30/6/2000 | Lunga |
| | X | 12/8/2002 | Gunna, Isle of Tiree, Strathclyde |
| | | | 19km 294 degs 773 days |

Shag

| | | | |
|---------|----|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 1378463 | 1 | 27/6/2002 | Lunga |
| | XF | 18/4/2003 | Heanish, Tiree, Strathclyde |
| | | | 24km 270 degs 295 days |

Remarks: Bird found freshly dead on tideline

Shag

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1378463 | 1 | 27/6/2002 | Lunga |
| | X | 3/5/2003 | Between Mannal & Hynish, Tiree, Strathclyde |
| | | | 29km 263 degs 310 days |

Remarks: Bird found dead on shore

Shag

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|------------------------------------------|
| 1399655 | 1 | 28/6/2003 | Lunga |
| | X | 26/1/2004 | Loch Kishorn, Ardarroch, Highland Region |
| | | | 112km 27 degs 212 days |

Remarks: Bird found dead on loch shore

Shag

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1399673 | 1 | 28/6/2003 | Lunga |
| | X | 02/5/2004 | Traigh Thodhrasdail, near Kilkenneth, Tiree |
| | | | 34 km 270 degs 309 days |

Remarks: Bird found dead on tideline

Great Black backed Gull

| | | | |
|---------|----|-----------|---------------------------------|
| HT80365 | 1 | 26/6/2003 | Lunga |
| | XF | 25/1/04 | Moleigh, Strathclyde |
| | | | 62 km 101 degs 213 days |

Remarks: Freshly dead, found shot at rubbish dump

Guillemot

| | | | |
|--------|----|------------|---------------------------------|
| X99260 | 6 | 21/6/1999 | Lunga |
| | XF | 23/12/2003 | Treflez, Finistere, France |
| | | | 887km 171 degs 1646 days |

Remarks: Freshly dead, oil victim

Guillemot

| | | | |
|--------|---|-----------|-----------------------------------------|
| R19875 | 4 | 27/6/2000 | Lunga |
| | R | 14/6/2003 | Port Ban, Isle of Colonsay, Strathclyde |
| | | | 47km 165 degs 1082 days |

Remarks: This bird was also controlled on Colonsay on 11th June 2002

Guillemot

| | | | |
|--------|----|------------|---------------------------------|
| X99377 | 6 | 21/06/1999 | Lunga |
| | XF | 01/01/2004 | Wembury, nr Plymouth, Devon |
| | | | 703km 168 degs 1655 days |

Remarks: Bird found freshly dead on beach

THE EXPEDITIONS 1971 – 2004

A list of participants through the years, with brief notes on the work performed

- 1971** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Eatough, Shiela Anderson, Dick Hansford.
Full census and ringing.
This was the first trip and the Treshnish Isles were included in a “mopping up” of islands not fully covered during the 1969/70 “Operation Seafarer” National Seabird Census.
- 1972** Barry Lawson, Geoff Ward, Bevan Craddock.
Part census and ringing
Forced to leave after three days due to bad weather.
- 1973** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Geoff Cope.
Trip abandoned – unable to land due to rough seas
- 1974** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, Geoff Ward, John Hodson, Geoff Cope, Tom Pool.
Census of Lunga and ringing
An RAF Helicopter landed a photographer onto Harp Rock, causing many bird casualties.
- 1976** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, Geoff Ward, John Hodson, Geoff Cope, Tony Kilgallen.
Full census Lunga – Fladda and ringing.
Very hot summer.
- 1977** Barry Lawson, John Hodson.
Ringing only.
Called in on “Corryvreckan” boat cruise.
- 1978** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker.
Full census Lunga and Chaisteil and ringing.
- 1980** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker, David Lawson.
Ringing only
- 1981** Geoff Ward, Geoff Cope.
Part census and photography
- 1982** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker, Andrew Lawson.
Ringing only.
- 1984** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker.
Ringing only.
- 1986** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, Geoff Ward, John Hodson, Simon Walker, Andrew Lawson.
Full census with ringing
- 1989** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker.
Ringing only.
- 1991** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, Simon Walker, David & Andrew Lawson, Jan Densham.
Ringing only.
- 1993** Roger Broad *et al.* (Scottish Natural Heritage charter)
Full census of The Dutchman’s, Lunga, Chaisteil and Fladda.
Chris Redfern *et al.*
Storm Petrel ringing.
- 1994** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Jan Densham, Danny Lenain.
Full census Lunga and Chaisteil and ringing.

THE EXPEDITIONS 1971 – 2004 (con't)

- 1995** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Jan Densham, Fergus Henderson.
Full census Lunga and Chaisteil and ringing.
- 1996** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Danny Lenain, Robin Ward
Full census of Lunga and Chaisteil and ringing.
- 1997** Simon Walker, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Damian Offer, Steve Willis, Chris Spray
Full census of Lunga – Fladda and ringing.
- 1998** Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Damian Offer, Steve Willis,
Steve Worwood
Full census of Lunga – Fladda and ringing.
- 1999**
Week 1 Simon Walker, Dennis Cooper, Steve Willis, John Osbourne.
Week 2 Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Damian Offer, Jan
Densham
Full census of the Treshnish Isles for *Seabird 2000* and ringing
- 2000**
Week 1 John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Damian Offer
Full census of Manx Shearwater on Lunga for *Seabird 2000*. Limited passerine ringing. (May).
Week 2 Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Steve Willis, Andrew Carter,
Steve Woodward
Full census of Lunga, Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Tern census for *Seabird
2000*. Ringing.
- 2001** Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Damian Offer, Andrew Carter
Completion of census for *Seabird 2000*. Full census of Lunga, Chaisteil and the islands
between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2002** Simon Walker, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Phil Bone, Sara Brown, Jackie Hay.
Full census of Lunga, Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2003** Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Jackie Hay, Matt
Smith.
Full census of Lunga, Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2004** Simon Walker, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, John Calladine, Tim Dixon, Shaun Micklewright,
Tina Wiffen.
Full census of Lunga, Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.

RING SERIES USED ON THE TRESHNISH ISLES SINCE 1927*

| SHAG RINGS | A2 RINGS | E RINGS | F RINGS | G RINGS | H RINGS | RAZORBILL RINGS | GUILLEMOT RINGS | MISC. RINGS |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1080101 – 110 | 2010581 – 583 | EF75001 – 500 | FB22601 – 700** | GH21301 – 350 | HT09001 – 004 | K10701 – 1000** | R07001 – 100 | 1F4094 – 097 |
| 1087111 – 120 | 2101991 – 2000 | EG23501 – 700 | FC52551 – 558 | GJ35401 – 500 | HT17871 – 890 | M46501 – 800 | R19401 – 20200 | C331894 – 900 |
| 1105561 – 570 | 2121401 – 500 | EG23721 – 780 | FC52571 | GJ76001 – 800 | HT17931 – 940 | M55001 – 500 | R24001 – 26350** | E196501 – 520 |
| 1123541 – 550 | 2167051 – 068 | EG23801 – 999 | FR13606 – 636 | GJ99081 – 082 | HT34021 – 030 | M72451 – 800 | R31601 – 900 | JB44316 ('94) |
| 1123671 – 690 | 2170201 – 203 | EG61000 – 500 | FR14401 – 500 | GK34351 – 354 | HT68201 – 210 | M85501 – 800 | R51501 – 2000 | K039209 – 230 |
| 1123961 – 970 | 2238501 – 600 | EG88501 – 807 | FR56351 – 400** | GK50214 – 220 | HT68221 – 226 | M88001 – 300 | R65501 – 6000** | K419290 – 295 |
| 1159651 – 700 | 2261001 – 500 | EH33377 – 380 | FS51016 – 500 | GK50551 – 570 | HT80301 – 400 | M92501 – 700** | T14001 – 5000# | NA84296 – 299 |
| 1163701 – 740 | 2284001 – 5000 | EH54501 – 55000 | FS87001 – 100 | GK62985 – 990 | HW05351 – 360 | | T82001 – 300 | KX83101 – 106 |
| 1168001 – 100 | 2309901 – 10000 | EH89256 | FV10611 – 620 | GK90821 – 840 | HW06951 – 7000 | | X39501 – 40000 | KX83116 – 118 |
| 1170601 – 700 | 2311301 – 400 | EH89260 | FV10646 – 650 | GK91471 – 490 | HW08994 – 09000 | | X56501 – 57000 | |
| 1187901 – 950 | 2311501 – 2000 | EH98001 – 300 | FV54446 – 460 | GP13416 – 450 | HW37361 | | X63001 – 500 | |
| 1237401 – 450 | 2348001 – 500 | EK29501 – 900 | FV62410 | GP62201 – 207 | HW68101 – 110 | | X67501 – 68000 | |
| 1322951 – 960 | 2369301 – 400 | EK72657 – 660 | FV62416 – 226 | GP74501 – 75000 | HW68161 – 170 | | X79501 – 80000 | |
| 1328481 – 490 | 2405001 – 6000 | EK91471 – 490 | FV96681 – 684 | | HW74971 – 990 | | X99001 – 500 | |
| 1350801 – 900 | 2430701 – 900 | EL52501 – 3000** | SS96101 – 300 | | HW87211 – 225 | | | |
| 1357901 – 8000 | 2436501 – 7000 | EN22001 – 500 | | | HW94907 – 913 | | | |
| 1366901 – 7000 | 2444501 – 5000# | EP85608 – 612 | | | MA12551 – 600** | | | |
| 1373751 – 3900 | 2446201 – 300 | EP85687 – 700 | | | | | | |
| 1378401 – 8500 | 2455501 – 6000 | ER03701 – 800 | | | | | | |
| 1399601 – 700 | 2480001 – 500 | ES64018 – 189 | | | | | | |
| 1408301 – 500 | 2513501 – 4000 | ET19501 – 700 | | | | | | |
| | 2538001 – 800 | ET52501 – 3000 | | | | | | |
| | 2542001 – 3000 | ET80001 – 500 | | | | | | |
| | 2554001 – 500 | | | | | | | |
| | 2560001 – 1000* | | | | | | | |

*All rings series known (to TIARG) to have been used on the Treshnish Isles are documented irrespective of to whom they were issued to by the BTO.

** Ring series still in use

Ring series yet to be used