

Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group

Report for 2011



George Henderson

Compiled by
Robin M. Ward

Expedition dates:
25th June – 2nd July
&
3rd – 6th July 2011

Expedition members:

Robin Ward (Leader),
Jurjen Annen,
Andrew Carter,
Tim Dixon,
Claire Dovey,
George Henderson,
John Hodson,
Shaun Micklewright.
&
Jamie Dixon & Helen Stace

Correspondence:

Robin Ward, 25 Fairfield Road, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, LS24 9SW
e-mail: robin.ward2@virginmedia.com

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Map of the Treshnish Isles.....	5
Weather	6
Systematic List of Birds for 2011	7
Systematic List of Mammals for 2011	16
Systematic List of Lepidoptera for 2011	17
Notable Records from other Orders of Fauna and Flora	17
Map of census zones	18
2011 Breeding Seabird Census Data for Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil	19
Population Changes for a Selection of Breeding Species on Lunga, 1994 – 2011	20
Treshnish Ringing Totals for 2011	22
Treshnish Ringing Totals 1971 - 2011	23
Recent Ringing Recoveries	25
References	29
Acknowledgements.....	29
The Expeditions 1971 – 2011	30
Ring Series used on the Treshnish Isles since 1927.....	33

INTRODUCTION

Since 1971, the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) has monitored, through ringing and census work, the breeding seabird populations of the Treshnish Isles, Argyll. A summary of the early expeditions is given in *Birds on the Treshnish Isles 1971-1995* (Walker & Cooper 1996). Annual reports have been produced since 1996. This report summarises the results of the Group's 33rd expedition to the Treshnish Isles during 25th June – 2nd July 2011.

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 systematic ringing of specific seabird colonies was carried out. The Group's activities were determined as always by the prevailing weather conditions. Other than for a day's fieldwork lost to rain on 26th June, the week was dominated by very favourable weather that allowed the mist netting of Storm Petrels on Lunga during several nights. With a forecast of calm sea conditions during the week it was expected that good use would be made of the inflatable boat kindly loaned by the Hebridean Trust. Unfortunately the opportunity to visit the other islands was soon thwarted when problems arose with the boat's engine early in the week. With logistical help from Iain Morrison and his family, expedition members were however able to census the seabird colonies of Bac Mór and Bac Beag from a boat providing the first count since 1999. The negative side to the calm weather was that the light southerly winds resulted in very few auks close enough to our fleyg sites. This year was the sixth year of a Shag Retrap Adult Survival study (RAS); this entails ringing each adult with its own uniquely engraved colour-ring so that it can be re-identified in the field in future years. This is part of the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) Integrated Population Monitoring Programme, funded by the UK Government.

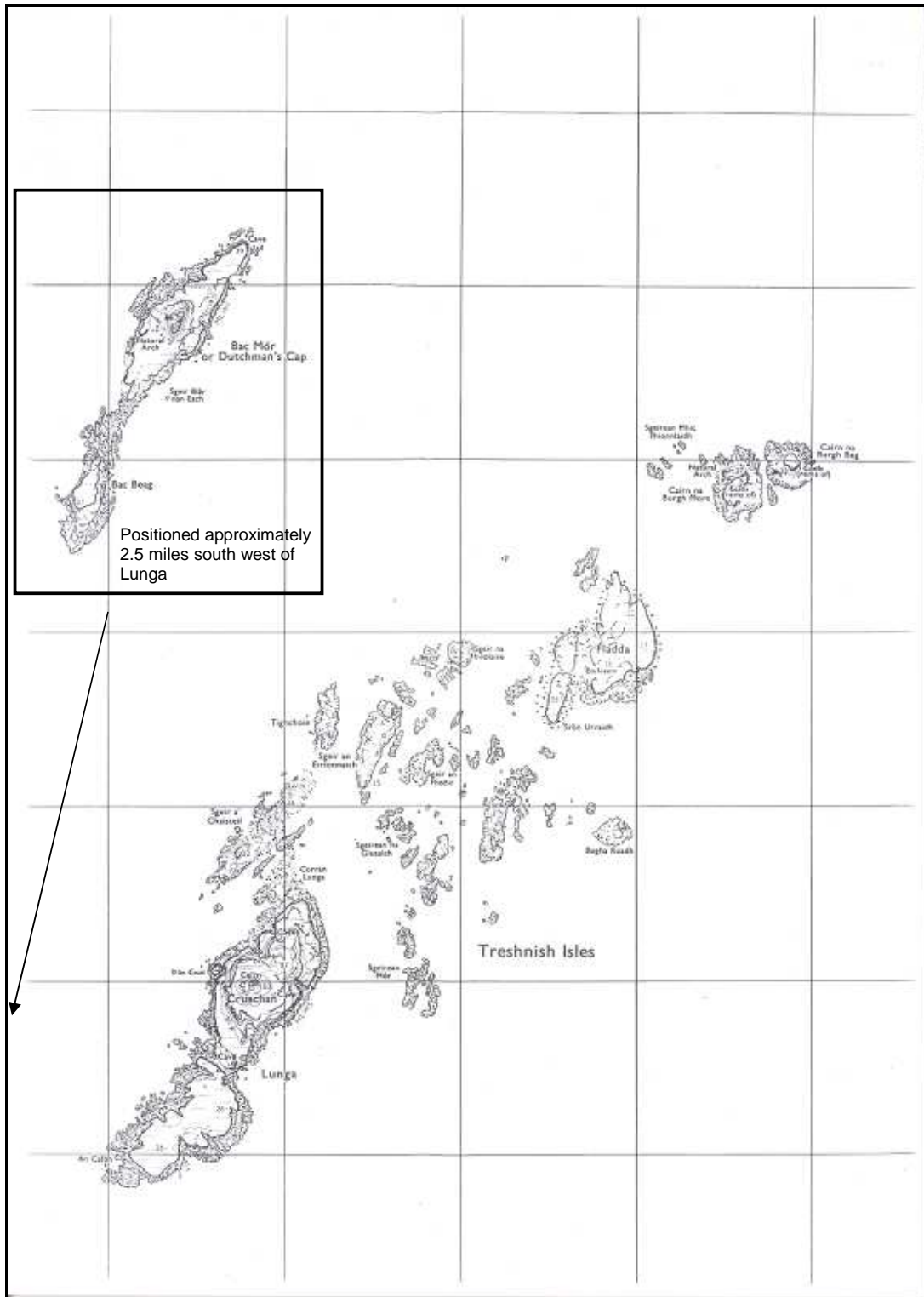
In addition, this year, Tim Dixon, along with Jamie Dixon and Helen Stace, returned to Lunga from 3rd to 6th July to collect further data, particularly breeding bird data for the final year of the BTO Breeding Bird Atlas.

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 (BTO), respectively. The data supplied are of great conservation value, being the sole means of monitoring the seabird colonies of the Treshnish Isles. The conservation importance of these islands is recognised by their designation by the UK Government as a Special Protection Area because of the breeding colonies of seabirds they support. Financial support for the monitoring work TIARG undertook in 2011 was organised by the Seamark Trust, on behalf of the Hebridean Trust (www.hebrideantrust.org), owners of the islands.



Expedition participants 2011 (top left clockwise): Jurjen Annen, Shaun Micklewright, Claire Dovey, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, John Hodson, Tim Dixon & George Henderson (*Andrew Carter*)

MAP OF THE TRESHNISH ISLES



WEATHER

Intermittent showers were experienced at the beginning of the week with the second day seeing the majority of the rain which halted census activities until late afternoon/evening. For the rest of the week conditions for survey and cliff counts were usually excellent. Towards the end of the week the temperature increased as did the wind however wind conditions were far from those experienced in 2010. Wind conditions on the whole did not generally interfere with nocturnal netting for Storm Petrels but the direction which stayed predominantly south west/south east affected fledging conditions at Harp Rock, as all netting stations were in the lee of the island, limiting the flight activity of the auks. Visibility for the majority of the week was good and sea conditions calm.

All readings were taken from the plateau just below the Village site at the NE extremity of Lunga, unless otherwise noted.

Date	Time	Wind (Beaufort scale)	Max wind speed (mph)	Cloud cover	Visibility	Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	Pressure (mb)	Notes
25 th June	19.00	2SW	9.6	8/8	Tiree	13.7	95.8	1010.5	Light breeze, cloudy and cool
	23.00	1 SW	3.4	8/8	Tiree	13.4	83.1	1012.5	
26 th June	11.00	2 S	6.6	8/8	Tiree	15.3	93.2	1009.8	Light breeze, overcast. Rain from early hours, stopping intermittently. Rain heavier towards late afternoon then stopped from 17.00 onwards
	16.45	1 SW	3.7	8/8	Tiree	15.4	100.0	1009.2	
	23.15	1 SW	4.8	7/8	Tiree	14.5	82.1	1011.9	
27 th June	10.00	1 SE	4.8	7/8	Treshnish Point	15.7	81.4	1011.9	Warm, hazy with a light breeze for most of the day. Sea conditions seemed rough
	19.10	2 SW	7.4	7/8	Coll/Tiree/Mull	13.4	84.2	1010.7	
	22.45	1 SW	4.1	3/8	Coll/Tiree	12.7	87.3	1012.7	
28 th June	12.45	1 SE	2.4	4/8	Mull	17.4	86.8	1014.8	Sunny and warm mostly but with intermittent showers. Visibility good. The evening became cooler and wind picked up
	19.30	1 S	2.4	3/8	Rum	18.7	74.6	1014.8	
	23.00	2 SW	7.6	3/8	Egg/Coll/Tiree	12.9	86.5	1015.0	
29 th June	09.30	2 SW	7.7	7/8	Tiree	14.5	79.1	1016.2	Cooler start to the day, brightening up to be warmer but windy, getting stronger towards the evening. Visibility good.
	18.30	2 SE	8.7	7/8	Rum/Coll/Tiree	17.1	78.3	1018.1	
	23.45	3 S	10.2	8/8	Coll	11.4	85.9	1019.1	
30 th June	11.45	3 SW	12.1	6/8	Coll/Egg	13.7	85.9	1021.5	Rain in early morning giving way to sun but staying cool
	18.45	3 SW	12.3	3/8	Coll/Egg/Tiree	14.5	80.1	1022.6	
	23.00	4 SW	13.4	6/8	Coll/Tiree	12.4	83.6	1024.1	
1 st July	09.40	1 W	3.8	7/8	Rum/Egg/Skye	15.8	67.3	1024.5	Warm all day, getting slightly cooler in the evening. Visibility very good
	19.30	1 SE	2.1	7/8	Rum	17.5	72.0	1022.4	
	23.00	1 SE	2.0	3/8	Rum/Skye	12.9	84.6	1021.2	
2 nd July	11.30	2 SE	5.2	4/8	Skye	20.8	60	1017.1	Very warm, sea conditions good

Claire Dovey

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS FOR 2011

The following systematic list describes those bird species seen during the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group's presence on the Treshnish Isles, 25th June – 2nd July 2011. The introductory comments (first paragraph) refer to the species' status during the breeding season as recorded by previous expeditions.

A detailed breakdown of breeding seabird numbers on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil in 2011 is provided in at page 18. 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).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

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

The moult flock had built up to at least 140 birds by 28th June, typically most were around the islands of Sgeir an Eirionnaich, Fladda and Sgeir an Fheòir. Two or more broods were noted in the same area when TIARG were being taken to Lunga on 25th June.

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Peak count	25	160	240	268	79	101	316	90	164	77	80	225	160	140

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Until recently a rare visitor with one pair having bred occasionally since 2003

A pair of adults was seen regularly, typically in flight, around the northern half of Lunga. One of these birds or another individual was also seen on Sgeir a' Chaisteil on 25th June and flying over the Village and on Fladda on 1st July.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Breeds regularly in small numbers.

Only two broods were seen from Lunga, two ducks with three ducklings near Corran Lunga and a duck with one well-grown duckling off Chaisteil.

The waters between Fladda and Lunga supported small numbers of late-summer moulting birds, typically male-biased with a maximum of 35 on 25th June. Unusually, on 4th July a drake off Corran Lunga was still in full-summer plumage.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Rare visitor

Single birds were seen flying off Lunga on the 28th & 29th June.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

A common breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.2% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. The breeding population for Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil was estimated at 369 pairs based upon apparently occupied sites (AOS). There is no evidence of a recovery from 2009 when the population was at its lowest since annual monitoring began in 1994. Over the longer term, 1994-2011, the average rate of change in the numbers of breeding birds on Lunga is calculated at -4.1% per annum, this trend being very highly significant ($P < 0.001$). Fulmar is amongst several offshore surface feeders whose breeding population in the UK has declined since the mid 1990s (JNCC 2009).

A single bird showing characteristics of the dark morph (blue phase) was seen on a nesting ledge on Bac Mór. This or another individual was seen by TIARG on Bac Mór in 1999 but not during our last visit in 2000.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

A common breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.4% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Presumed breeding birds were seen and heard at night on Lunga. During the week up to 500 birds were noted passing in the evenings, offshore along the west coast of Lunga. Off the east coast, 175 birds were seen "rafting" on the evening of the 1st July.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

A common breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 20% of the Great Britain population and between 0.7 – 1.7% of the Atlantic (north-eastern) population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Many birds were heard churring from burrows on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil.

Several nights of light south westerly winds gave the opportunity to mist net for Storm Petrels on Lunga at the Village and the Boulder Beach. On the Boulder Beach, traditionally ringed localities near the Well and below the Village on single nights, provided catches of 89 and 156 birds using three 12m (for 2½ hours) and one 12m net (for 2¼ hours) respectively. At the Village, 41 birds were caught using three 18m nets over a 2½ hour period. Numbers caught at the Village and Boulder Beach colonies were, as in other recent years, less than during the 1990s. The presence of many birds with partial brood patches was again recorded amongst these smaller catches suggesting either a reduction in the numbers and success of breeding birds or a change in the time of breeding since the 1990s.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Regularly seen offshore

Small numbers of mainly adult birds were seen daily, feeding or passing offshore of Lunga.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

A common breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 2.1% of the Great Britain population and between 0.8 – 0.9% of the Atlantic (northeastern) population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Breeding was confirmed on Sgeir an Eirionnaich, Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. The breeding populations on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil were 109 and 9 pairs respectively, based on nest counts. Following a marked decline in the numbers of active nests in 2005 and 2006, no recovery has occurred, with numbers fluctuating since between 73 and 169 active nests.

Large numbers of adults were in the vicinity of the colonies but had once again chosen not to breed, as evidenced by atypical concentrations of between 500-1000 moving offshore from the islands in the mornings to forage. Presumably many of these were in too poor condition to breed successfully. Of those birds that were breeding on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil, great variation was once again found in the progress of breeding, with all stages from eggs to already fledged young noted. Brood sizes were mostly small, typically only two or three young.

2011 was the sixth year of a Retrap Adult Survival study (RAS) that entails ringing each adult with its own uniquely engraved colour-ring so that it can be identified in the field in future years. This is part of the BTO's Integrated Population Monitoring Programme funded by the UK Government (<http://www.bto.org/ringing/ringinfo/ras/index.htm>). In 2011, of the birds marked from 2006 to 2010 on Lunga, 3, 18, 19, 10 and 4 were re-sighted by TIARG respectively involving 54 out of a possible 185 individuals. A further 6 breeding adults were colour-ringed on Lunga in 2011.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Rare visitor.

The remains of a recently predated bird were found on Corran Lunga on 3rd July.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Until recently, one pair bred in most years

Regular sightings suggested the presence of one, or possibly two, adults and a juvenile on Lunga. Although no nest was found, successful breeding may have occurred as the area of cliff traditionally used for nesting is difficult to view.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Seen most years with breeding known to occur on adjacent coasts.

An adult male was seen on several dates around Lunga, with an immature male also seen on 26th June and 4th July. A female was seen only once - near Harp Rock on 28th June.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Recorded almost annually and probably a regular breeder in small numbers.

Two broods of different ages were seen in and around the Village. This is the first record of confirmed breeding by TIARG. The brood sizes were difficult to determine given their elusive behaviour - rapidly moving under the cover of bracken - though each numbered at least five. On 1st July, one of the females was found trapped under a fleyg net only minutes after she had taken her brood past our tents. Unbelievably, later that morning, also at the Village, an adult male was found in one of our regular nets set up

to catch passerines. The only Corncrake caught by TIARG previous to this occasion was in 2005, again at the Village.

Close to the Village, a pair of adult Wheatear was seen to raise the alarm when a young Corncrake chick approached the entrance of their ground cavity nest. Both adults fluttered and alarmed above the chick, mobbing it as it passed the nest, containing two Wheatear chicks.

Four calling males were noted on Lunga during the week. Two were in residence typically to the north and east of the Village. Another was heard regularly from the vegetation along the base of the cliff beside the access track and Boulder Beach. The fourth was heard in the vicinity of the second gully south of Corran Lunga on 25th and 29th June.



Corncrake, adult male (*John Hodson*)



Corncrake, adult female showing less blue grey on head than male (*John Hodson*)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Breeds regularly in small numbers.

On Lunga's beaches and rocky outcrops, four pairs were behaving as though near to nests or dependent young (2 pairs at Corran Lunga, 1 in area 2 and 1 in area 6a), the only broods seen were at Corran Lunga. An abandoned nest with two eggs was found below the Gully in Area 8. Other pairs or singles were on territory at times, briefly alarming at human intruders and performing displays on the appearance of other Oystercatchers. Away from Lunga, breeding was confirmed on Sgeir a' Chaisteil where 2 pairs including one with a nest with eggs were seen during a brief visit on 30th June. Additional adults may have attempted to breed and were seen during scans from Lunga of the islets between Lunga and Fladda; specifically Sgeir an Eirionnaich (2 birds) and Sgeir an Fheòir (1 bird). Small flocks of presumed failed breeders/non-breeders were evident on Lunga, typically at high tide, in the area of Sgeir a' Chaisteil and Corran Lunga where there would generally be up to 17 birds roosting.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

One or two pairs breed annually.

Typically, the only breeding pair on Lunga was confined to Corran Lunga and the adjacent boulder beach, where a second pair was seen on 27th June but not subsequently. Although the adults were heard to alarm to human intruders, no nest, eggs or young were found.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare visitor

A single bird was heard from the west coast of Lunga on 29th June. The first TIARG record.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Breeds regularly in small numbers.

Only one bird was ever drumming/chipping over the Village whilst up to two additional birds were seen in flight. This suggests a maximum of two breeding pairs in the general area. Up to four birds were flushed on the slopes of Cruachan, where north of Shag Alley a single was heard drumming once. At the south end of Lunga, singles were flushed in areas 7 and 6 where drumming was also noted. Two birds were flushed from deep in the blow-hole in Area 7 on 4th July, one of which was thought to have come off a nest. These data suggest a minimum population of 5+ pairs.

Whimbrel *Numerius phaeopus*

An irregular passage migrant.

Single birds were seen or heard flying high southwards on four dates between 29th June and 3rd July,

Curlew *Numerius arquatus*

An irregular visitor.

One was on Corran Lunga on 6th July.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One or two pairs usually breed.

At least four birds were on Corran Lunga on 27th July. Subsequently two adults were seen regularly, either on the Boulder Beach, or occasionally on Corran Lunga. Although breeding was not confirmed, birds were heard alarming to human intruders at times on the Boulder Beach.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Irregular visitor.

A single bird was heard from the west coast of Lunga on 25th June.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Small numbers seen daily, presumably from the breeding grounds on Coll.

Up to 4 birds at any one time, of both dark and light phases, were seen most days, generally offshore from Harp Rock and Sgeir a' Chaisteil.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A regular but small breeding population has become established since the first confirmed breeding by a pair in 1998.

On Lunga breeding was confirmed by the presence of one chick on the high ground south of Tarbet (area 6), where breeding has previously been proven. Up to three adult birds were seen regularly flying over

Lunga.

On the west side and southern end of Fladda, birds could be seen from Lunga on two apparently occupied territories at locations where breeding has also previously occurred. No other birds could be seen on Fladda from Lunga. One adult was seen to come off Bac Mór when TIARG sailed around the island on 29th June.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

A localised breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.2% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Breeding was confirmed only on Lunga, where the main colony is around Harp Rock. The number of apparently occupied nests on Lunga was 308. This does not include nests (c.50 in 2009-2010) in that part of sector 11 to which access was obstructed by a rockfall in winter 2004. This year engine failure prevented the intended boat count from taking place. Even taking this into account, 2011 was the lowest nest count since annual monitoring of Lunga began in 1994.

The average rate of change in the numbers of breeding birds on Lunga for the period 2008 – 2011, is calculated at -29.7% per annum. This downward trend is very highly significant ($P < 0.001$).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Irregular breeding species.

From Lunga, up to eight adults were seen holding breeding territories on Sgeir an Eirionnaich but with no visible young. No birds could be seen from Lunga on the low-lying basalt rock outcrop on Fladda's south-east coast, where a colony had been established since 1998.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Regular breeding species in small numbers.

Four pairs were noted within the south end gully on Lunga, in area 8. Elsewhere, a brief visit to Sgeir a Chaisteil on 29th June found one pair occupying a breeding territory.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

A common but declining breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.2% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga (estimated 18 pairs) and Sgeir a Chaisteil (estimated 7 pairs). Breeding was also suggested by the presence of paired adults on territory on Bac Mór (estimated 11 pairs; 22 adults), Bac Beag (2 pairs; 3 adults) and Cairn na Burgh More (estimated 6 pairs; 12 adults). No birds were holding territory on Sgeir an Eirionnaich, Sgeir na H-lolaire, Sgeirean na Guisaich or Sgeir an Fheòir. The average rate of change on Lunga between 1994 and 2011, is calculated at -11.5% per annum, this downward trend continuing to be very highly significant ($P < 0.001$).

Up to 40+ adults were seen daily roosting on the Boulder Beach, Lunga.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

A regular breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 2.0% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

From colony observations, breeding was confirmed on Lunga (23 pairs), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (estimated 7 pairs) and Sgeir na H-lolaire (1 pair). Breeding was also suspected from the presence of paired adults on territory on Bac Mór (estimated 22 pairs; 15 adults) and Bac Beag (estimated 3 pairs; 6 adults). Following a period of fluctuation in the breeding population of Lunga (1994-2004; 34-67 pairs), a decline occurred during the first decade of the century that has since stabilized at a lower level (16-24 pairs). The average rate of change on Lunga between 1994 and 2011, is -6.5% per annum. This downward trend is very highly significant ($P < 0.001$).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Irregular breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.6% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

A mixed Arctic/Common ternery was present on the islet at the north end of Sgeir an Eirionnaich. Flush counts resulting from passing avian predators varied daily from 100 to 300 birds as seen from Lunga. The ternery was considered to be dominated by Arctic Terns with no more than 5% of birds seen being Common Terns. Several Common Terns were seen regularly fishing offshore at the north end of Lunga and then leaving for the ternery.

One immature bird, in a plumage conventionally known as "*portlandica*", was seen off Sgeir a' Chaisteil. Most birds in their first summer, which this individual was most likely to be, remain in or close to

their wintering areas off the coast of West Africa.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Irregular breeding species.

A mixed Arctic/Common ternery was present adjacent to Sgeir an Eirionnaich (see above). When flushed by passing avian predators, over 95% of birds in attendance at the colony were this species.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Common breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.7% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Breeding was confirmed only on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil with the main concentration as usual within the vicinity of Harp Rock where 6,835 adults were estimated. This estimate includes 135 birds counted on the west side of Harp Rock and only visible from the sea. The total for Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil combined was 7,087, largely reversing the previous year's marked decline. The mean count for the past five years is 7,371 (range 6,943-7,712).

Bizarrely, two birds were seen entering burrows just below the cliff top in area 12a. See also Razorbill below.

Following a recent series of poor or late breeding seasons, in 2011 (as in 2010) most breeding was further advanced than of late with many adults either brooding or tending chicks close to fledging. Furthermore, in contrast to recent years, there appeared to be a good supply of fish being brought in, amongst which no Pipefish (*Syngnathidae*) were noted.

The average annual rate of change for the population of Lunga is calculated at 0.0% p.a. for the period 1994-2011; the trend is not significant.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.8% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. The main concentration was typically located within the vicinity of Harp Rock with 280 adults estimated.

A total of 509 birds was counted on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. Although the numbers of individuals counted in 2011 increased by 60% compared with 2010, a further 100% increase would be required to reach the levels recorded during the earlier period of stability at around 950-1250 birds (1999-2008; no significant trend).

As with Guillemot, two birds were seen entering burrows just below the cliff top in the same section of area 12a.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Regular breeding species in small numbers. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.4% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Adults were seen around the Sgeir an Eirionnaich - Sgeir an Fheòir sea area (8 birds), Cairn na Burghs (11) Bac Mor (8) and Lunga's south end (22). Single birds were seen carrying food at sea at Lunga's south end.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Common breeding species. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.3% of the Great Britain population as estimated by *Seabird 2000* (1998 – 2002).

Breeding adults occupied burrows on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. The estimated breeding population on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil was 1,611 apparently occupied burrows (AOBs), a 6% decrease since 2010. For counts of birds, one bird is taken to represent one AOB (Lloyd *et al.* 1991, Mitchell *et al.* 2004). These data, along with those from 2010, indicate that the population on Lunga (1,372 AOBs in 2011) has declined markedly, from the comparatively high estimates of the previous six years, to well below the long-term average (2,065 AOBs; 1994-2009). However the mean annual rate of change for Lunga's population is calculated at +1.5% p.a. for the period 1994 – 2011 and this trend is not significant (P=0.26).

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Regular breeding species in very small numbers.

Birds were seen almost daily on Lunga, principally along the east coast, the largest group of five birds being at Shearwater Gully. A predated egg was found in the cave of the 2nd gully south of Corran Lunga. Two hatched, rather than predated, eggs were found in the blow-hole at the south end of Lunga. Elsewhere single pairs were seen on Cairn na Burgh Beg and Cairn na Burgh More when TIARG passed these islands

en route to Lunga on 25th June.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Rare visitor.

One seen near the Village, Lunga on 1st July was the first TIARG record.

Swift *Apus apus*

Irregular visitor.

Three and two birds were seen flying over Lunga on 2nd and 5th July respectively

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

A regular breeding bird in small numbers.

Up to two birds were seen daily on Lunga, mostly at the north end. The species was less numerous than in previous years. One was found dead in a sea cave on Lunga.

Elsewhere single birds were seen from Lunga on Fladda and Sgeir a' Chaisteil and from the boat on Bac Mór.

Raven *Corvus corax*

At least one pair breeds in most years.

At least eight individuals were seen regularly frequenting the north end of Lunga. At least two were moulting adults, with a minimum of three of the remainder thought to be juveniles due to the absence of wing moult or abraded flight feathers.

Elsewhere, up to four birds were seen occasionally on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. No birds were seen during the passage of the other islands by boat.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

A regular breeding species in small numbers.

At least five singing males were on Lunga, all in the same general localities as in other recent years. Single territories were on the slopes of Cruachan, immediately above the Village and in sector 6 with two in sector 7.

Swallow *Hirundo hirundo*

Irregular visitor.

An adult male circled the Village on 3rd July.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Rare visitor.

A single adult female was mist netted at the Village, Lunga on 1st July. This is the third record by TIARG, the previous records being singles in 1999 and 2006.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Rare visitor.

A singing male was mist netted at the Village, Lunga on 1st July and was seen again on 3rd, 5th and 6th. This is the third record by TIARG on the Treshnish Isles, the previous birds being on Fladda in 2002 and Lunga in 2007.



Whitethroat, adult male (Andrew Carter)

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A scarce but almost annual visitor.

Two singing males were seen regularly on territory until 6th July; singing against each other from the extensive area of bracken immediately south of the Village, Lunga. One of these birds was caught in a mist net at the Village and ringed. A third bird was found singing in the reedbed at the south end of Lunga on 1st July.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A regular breeding species, quite common where habitat is suitable.

As in previous years, the vast majority of records 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. The species was, as in 2010, much less numerous than in most recent years. Casual observations indicated a minimum of two territories on Corran Lunga; two south of Tarbet; two at Tarbet; two around the Village; one beside the Boulder Beach; three along the west coast footpath between the Village and Harp Rock, and four along the east coast footpath between the Village and Tarbet. At least two broods were noted at the north end of Lunga whilst a juvenile was seen at the Blowhole in Sector 7.

During a brief visit to Sgeir a' Chaisteil on 30th June, one male was heard singing.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

A regular breeding species in small numbers.

Small flocks of up to 15 birds were noted daily on Lunga, comprising both adults and juveniles. Breeding was confirmed on both Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil, where, on both islands, single nests with young were found.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Rare visitor.

A male was seen at the Village, Lunga on 25th June and 1st July.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A regular breeding species in small numbers.

Several families of adults with dependent (and presumed locally bred) young were seen on Lunga, including around the Village, at Harp Rock, Corran Lunga and Shearwater Gully. Breeding was confirmed when parent birds were watched mobbing a Corncrake chick that had approached the entrance to a nest in a burrow. The two Wheatear chicks in the nest differed markedly in size.

One juvenile was noted during a brief visit to Sgeir a' Chaisteil on 30th June. .

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Scarce visitor.

A single singing male was present throughout the week on territory south of the Village where single birds were also seen carrying food. Breeding was later confirmed when a bird in the territory was seen to take food to a nest on 1st July but the position of the nest made it unwise to inspect it more closely.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

An irregular breeding species.

A pair was feeding young, throughout the week, in a nest in a crevice above the Village, Lunga. Elsewhere on Lunga, a single bird was noted at Harp Rock.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A regular breeding species in small numbers.

Breeding birds were widespread on Lunga but, as in 2010, it was much less numerous than in most recent years. During a brief visit to Sgeir a' Chaisteil a minimum of two breeding territories was estimated with three individuals seen.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

A regular breeding species in small numbers.

Breeding birds were common along the coast of Lunga and on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. Food carrying, alarms and recently fledged young confirmed breeding by several pairs on Lunga and two pairs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. A nest with young was found at the 2nd gully south of Corran Lunga and another was found in the blow-hole at the south end of Lunga. Elsewhere a single bird was seen from the boat on Bac Mór on 29th June.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Rare visitor.

A singing male was heard in Shearwater Gully, Lunga on 29th June. This sighting follows on from those in 2008 and 2009 which were the first records by TIARG.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Small parties of up to nine birds were noted almost daily around the Village, Lunga, where three juveniles were mist netted. Elsewhere birds were seen occasionally around the 2nd gully south of Corran Lunga (up to three); at Shag Alley (singles); on the slopes of Cruachan (seven); the south end (up to seven) and Tarbet (up to three; two adults and a juvenile). None were seen during the visit to Sgeir a' Chaisteil.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Rare visitor.

Single Redpolls heard in flight over Lunga on 27th June and 1st July were presumed to be this species. These are the first records of this species by TIARG.



Twite (Andrew Carter)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF MAMMALS FOR 2011

Otter *Lutra lutra*

Evidence of presence regularly noted.

Tracks of adults were found in both caves on the west coast of north Lunga. Very recent tracks of an adult and cub were found in the blow-hole at the south end of Lunga.

American Mink *Neovison vison*

No known occurrences.

No evidence of this species was noted on either Lunga or Sgeir a' Chaisteil..

House Mouse *Mus musculus*

Resident, apparently in small numbers.

Single animals were seen on several occasions at the expedition base in the Village, at the north end of Lunga. These animals were seen frequenting the remains of the three westernmost cottages.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

No known occurrences.

No evidence of this species was noted on either Lunga or Sgeir a' Chaisteil.

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Resident, numbers much reduced in recent years.

No systematic monitoring took place. Casual observations on Lunga suggest that it is abundant. All sightings of black individuals were from Lunga, involving several individuals at widespread localities.

No evidence was noted of animals on Sgeir a' Chaisteil.

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

A regular breeding species, contributing just under 3% of the annual UK pup production. Numbers are regularly monitored by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (NERC, St Andrews). The conservation importance of these islands as a breeding colony is recognised by their designation by the UK Government as a Special Area of Conservation.

A maximum of 34 animals were visible from Lunga hauled out on intertidal reefs to the north and north-east at low tide. Ten animals were also seen from the boat hauled out on intertidal reefs at Bac Beag on 29th June.

Common Seal *Phoca vitulina*

Rare visitor.

A single pup was seen on the intertidal reefs north-east of Lunga on 1st July.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

Rare visitor.

Two were south of Lunga on 3rd July.

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

Irregular visitor.

Single animals were seen on four evenings, between 27th June and 1st July, to the west of Harp Rock and earlier in the day on 28th June, to the east of Lunga. A second individual was possibly present with the animal watched feeding off Harp Rock on 30th June.

Killer Whale *Orcinus orca*

Rare visitor.

Off the west coast of Lunga a pod of three adults was seen and photographed by one fortunate Group member as they moved south through a calm sea on the evening of the 1st July. This is the first record of this species by TIARG.

Bat spp. *Pipistrellus sp.*

Rare visitor.

Two small bats were seen flying around the Village at the north end of Lunga, at dusk on 26th June. From the size and flight of the animals, viewed well enough by several TIARG members to eliminate mis-identification of early returning Storm Petrels, the species was considered one of the Pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus*

pipistrellus and *P. pygmaeus*). A further individual was seen on 30th June at dusk above Shearwater Gully, Lunga, on 30th June.

These are the second confirmed observations of bats on the Treshnish Isles by TIARG, the previous sightings in 2006.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF LEPIDOPTERA FOR 2011

Brown House Moth *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*

One was at the Village on 3rd July.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Regular breeder.

Up to eight were seen daily on Lunga, the vast majority at the north end. During a brief visit to Sgeir a' Chaisteil on 30th June, twelve individuals were counted.

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

Accidental.

Singles were seen at Shearwater Gully on 28th June and at the south end of Lunga on 1st July, with five around the Village on 4th.

Yellow Shell *Camptogramma bilineata*

Singles were at the Village on 3rd and 4th July.

The Magpie *Abraxas grossulariata*

One was at the Village on 3rd July.

Moth spp.

During several nights moth trapping was undertaken with a bulb from a "Heath Trap" stood on a white sheet in the Village on Lunga. One or more individuals of the following species were caught:

Bright-line Brown-eye *Lacanobia oleracea*

Magpie *Abraxas grossulariata*

Map-winged Swift *Hepialus fusconebulosa*

Knot Grass *Acronicta rumicis*

Small Blood Vein *Socpula imitaria*

Clouded-bordered Brindle *Apamea crenata*

Angle Shades *Phlogophora meticulosa*

Dark Arches *Apamea monoglypha*

The occurrence of Small Blood Vein is noteworthy record given it is fairly common in the southern half of Britain, but local further north (<http://ukmoths.org.uk/show.php?bf=1690&map=true>).

On several occasions during the week, Map-winged Swifts were seen in leks displaying on footpaths between the Village and Harp Rock.

OTHER NOTABLE WILDLIFE RECORDS

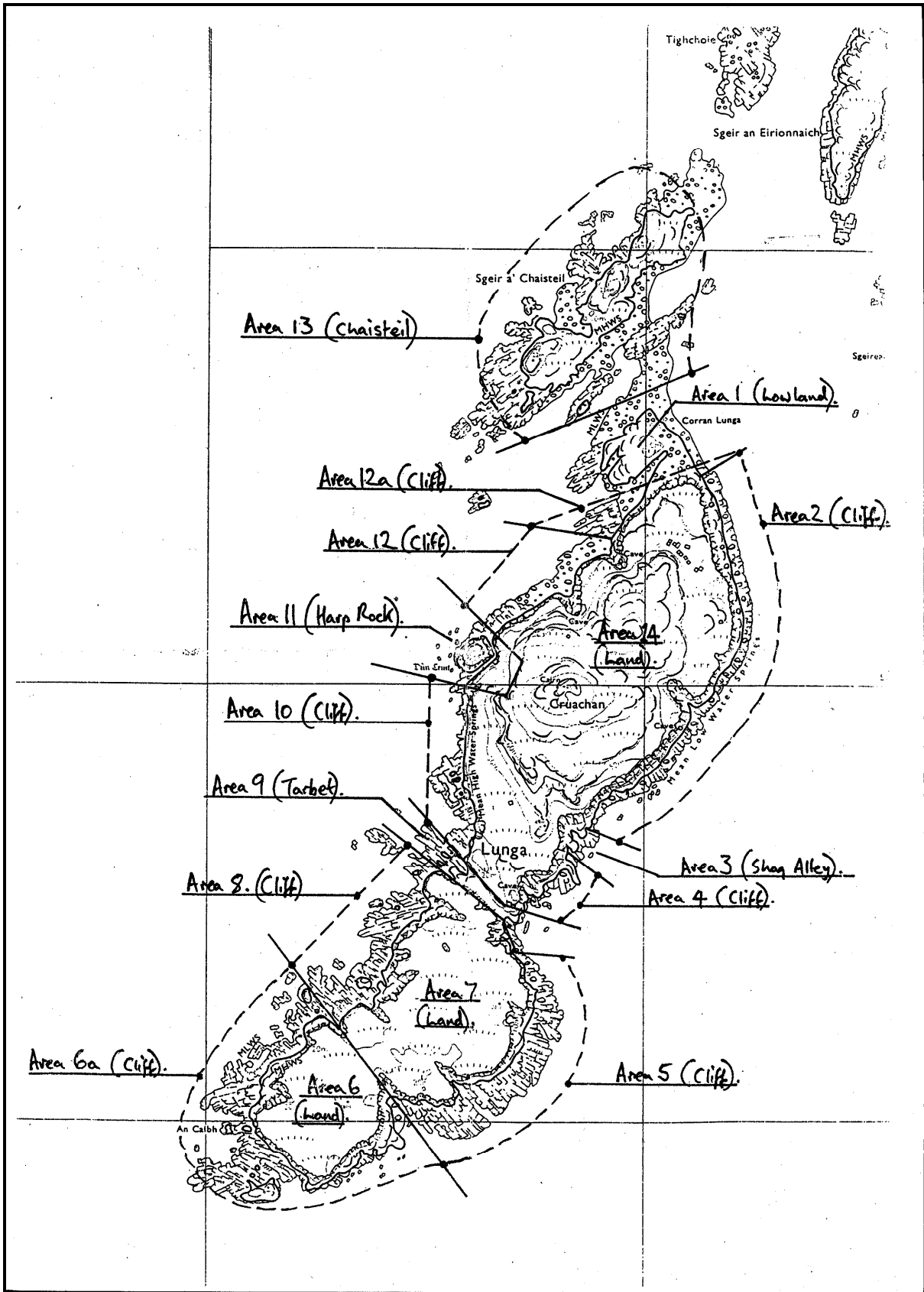
Oyster Plant *Mertensia maritima*

Localised species known only from "colonies" at Tarbet on Lunga and two localities on Sgeir a' Chaisteil.

An absence of plants from what was a well established "colony" at the north end of Sgeir a' Chaisteil was again noted for the seventh consecutive year. This colony can now be considered lost. At Tarbet over 200 plants were found, most of which were comparatively large and many were spreading extensively.

A single plant first located in 2010 at Corran Lunga, was found a year later to have increased markedly in size.

MAP OF CENSUS ZONES – LUNGA AND SGEIR A' CHAISTEIL



2011 BREEDING SEABIRD CENSUS DATA FOR LUNGA AND SGEIR A' CHAISTEIL

Sector	Count unit	Lunga	Sgeir a' Chaisteil	Bac Mor	Bac Beag	Sgeirean na Giusaich*	Sgeir an Fheoir*	Sgeir an Eirionnaich*	Sgeir na h-Iolaire*
Fulmar	AON	301	68	146	42				
Manx Shearwater	No census	+							
Storm Petrel	No census	+	+						
Shag	AON	109	9	17	18			4	
Great Skua	AOT	1		1					
Kittiwake	AON	308							
Common Gull	AOT							2	
Lesser B-b Gull	AOT	6	1	9					
Herring Gull	AOT	18	7	11	2				
Great B-b Gull	AOT	23		8	3		4	7	1
Common Tern	IND							+	
Arctic Tern	IND							300	
Razorbill	IND	509							
Razorbill	AON	40	6						
Guillemot	IND	6980	107						
Black Guillemot	IND	22			10			8	
Puffin	SEA	890		10					
Puffin	IND	209		4					
Puffin	AOB	1163	239						

*Counted with telescope from Lunga

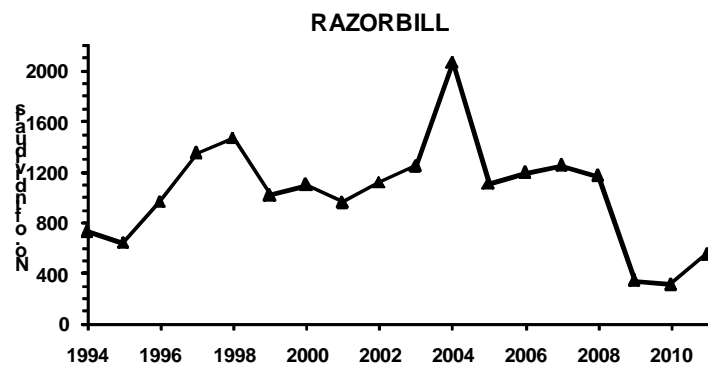
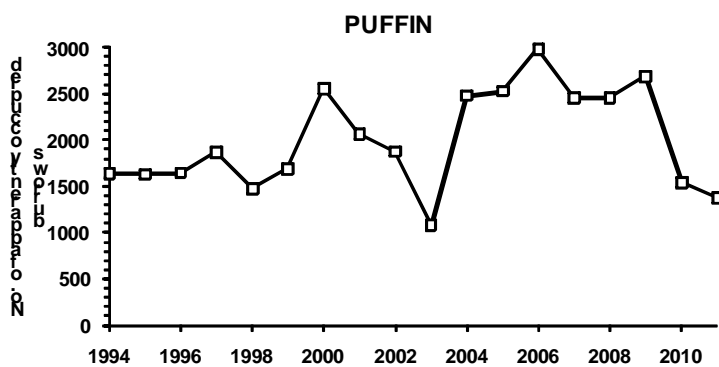
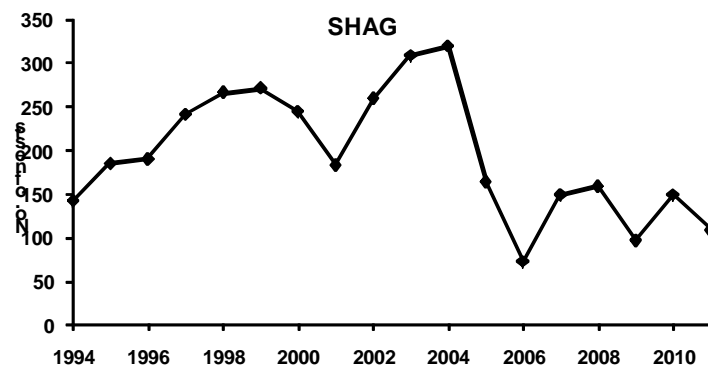
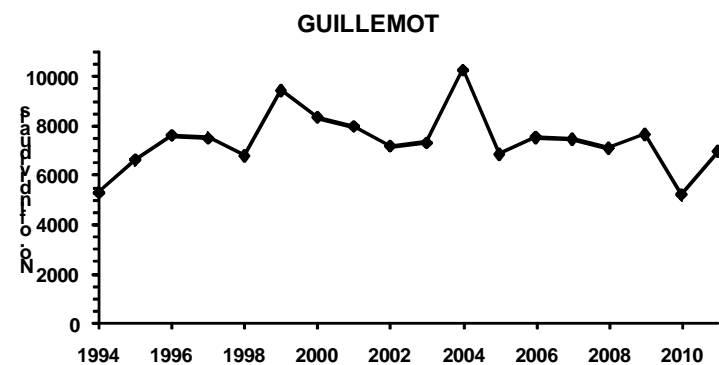
Totals for each Census Zone of Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil

Sector	Count Unit	Count Sectors on Lunga (1 – 12a) and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (13)															Lunga & Chaisteil Totals
		1	2	3	4*	5	6	6a	7	8	9	10	11	12	12a	13	
Fulmar	AON		17	7	7	42		34		39	5	9	19	107	15	68	369
Shag	AON		31	28		11				5		16	2	13	3	9	118
Great Skua	AON						1										1
Kittiwake	AON												302	6			308
Lesser B-b Gull	AOT									6						1	7
Herring Gull	AOT		1							14				3		7	25
Great B-b Gull	AOT	2					11		9			1					23
Razorbill	IND		21	19	21	15		8		4	2	36	280	66	37		509
Razorbill	SEA		74			26								50			100
Razorbill	AON					21		4		8		7				6	46
Guillemot	IND					28						25	6835	70	22	107	7087
Black Guillemot	IND							22									22
Puffin	SEA		557			31		2						300			890
Puffin	IND		37	21	21	5								125			209
Puffin	AOB											30	528		605	239	1402

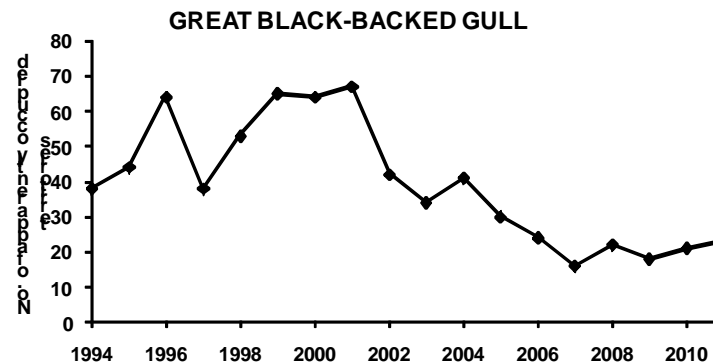
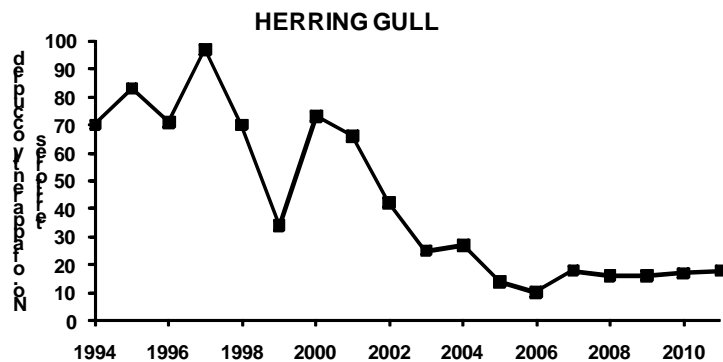
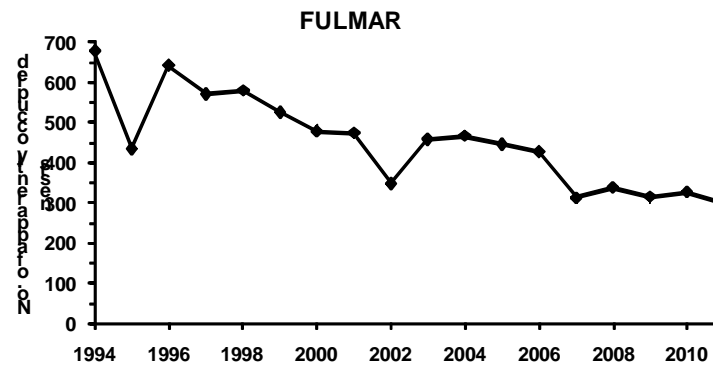
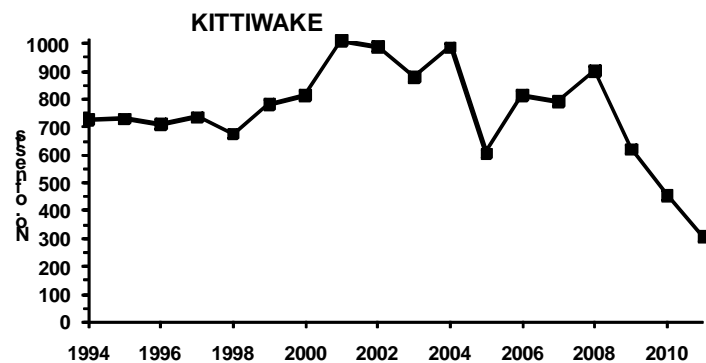
*Numbers represent a minimum as birds were counted from a passing boat.

Key to count unit codes: AON/AOT/AOB = apparently occupied nest/territory/burrow within 200m of colony PRS = Pairs nc = no count + = breeders present IND = Individuals on land SEA = individuals on sea

POPULATION CHANGES FOR A SELECTION OF BREEDING SPECIES ON LUNGA, 1994 – 2011



POPULATION CHANGES FOR A SELECTION OF BREEDING SPECIES ON LUNGA, 1994 – 2011 (con't)



TRESHNISH RINGING TOTALS FOR 2011

Site	Species	Adults	Pulli	Retraps/Controls	Total
Lunga	Manx Shearwater	3		1	4
	Storm Petrel	202		84	286
	Shag	6	55	56	117
	Corncrake	2			2
	Oystercatcher		2		2
	Great Skua		2		2
	Kittiwake	8			8
	Lesser Black-backed Gull		2		2
	Herring Gull		4		4
	Great Black-backed Gull		10		10
	Guillemot	169		56	225
	Razorbill	8		5	13
	Puffin	68		14	82
	Willow Warbler	1			1
	Whitethroat	1			1
	Sedge Warbler	2			2
	Wren	2		1	3
	Wheatear	3	2		5
	Duncock	1			1
	Pied Wagtail	3			3
	Meadow Pipit	2			2
	Rock Pipit	4			4
	Twite	3			3
Other islands	Shag		6		6
	Herring Gull		4		4
Treshnish Isles	Grand total for 2011	488	87	217	792

Note: All rings used in 2011 were registered under *Treshnish Auk Ringing Group*.

TRESHNISH RINGING TOTALS 1971 – 2011

SPECIES	1971	1974	1976	1977	1978	1980	1982	1984	1986	1989	1991	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Eider																
Fulmar	17	6	4		8	21	14	18	7	21	15		4	27	38	7
Manx Shearwater		2	13		4	4	1	8					9	1		2
Storm Petrel		254	22		1	283		203	800	411	975	75	440	536	331	1104
Shag	150	7	10	10	24	80	50	160		40	10		10	59	96	99
Buzzard						1	2									
Corncrake																
Oystercatcher		1				1	4	2								
Ringed Plover																
Common Sandpiper																
Great Skua																
Kittiwake						1	1	1	2	2	4		6	10	1	50
Common Gull																
Lesser Black-b Gull																
Herring Gull	6	1			14	46	35	56	4	4	3		5	24	19	52
Great Black-b. Gull	3	6	3	7	6	22	14	35		22	15		6	25	16	48
Guillemot	32	20	14		66	502	137	364	180	250	306		109	498	349	472
Razorbill	65	72	90		115	266	218	236	151	103	64		81	101	105	98
Black Guillemot																1
Puffin	70	198	271		203	200	208	182	174	160	114		358	236	301	267
Hooded Crow																
Willow Warbler														1		
Wren														3		
Starling																
Stonechat																
Wheatear			12					1	3						5	24
Pied Wagtail													1	3	2	
Meadow Pipit														4		1
Rock Pipit									5	1				2	4	2
Twite																2
TOTAL	343	567	439	17	441	1427	684	1266	1326	1014	1506	75	1029	1530	1267	2229

NOTES: (1) Data for 1971 - 1995 extracted from Walker & Cooper (1996). This may not include all rings used.
(2) Ringing data for a three day visit in 1972 are not available.

TRESHNISH RINGING TOTALS 1971 – 2011 (continued)

SPECIES	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Eider							1								1
Fulmar	24	23	12	25	22	25	47	14	15	8					422
Manx Shearwater	1	4	4			2		1	1	2		4	9	3	75
Storm Petrel	741	732	814	1030	15	360	83	491	962	21	118	403	293	202	11700
Shag	150	100	59	37	97	99	200	77	35	141	124	53	116	67	2160
Buzzard															3
Corncrake								1						2	3
Oystercatcher		2		1						4				2	17
Ringed Plover								1		1					2
Common Sandpiper	1								1	1	1				4
Great Skua	1				1	1		1			2	4		2	12
Kittiwake	41	23	13	11	3	2	21	15	14	16	3	4	3	8	255
Common Gull	4		5	11	11	6		16	8						61
Lesser Black-b Gull											1		2	2	5
Herring Gull	73	39	15	11	11	8	11	8	1	11	7	20	11	8	503
Great Black-b. Gull	19	16	2	27	5	21	18	12	3	4	13	12	15	10	405
Guillemot	503	507	892	312	425	261	800	141	172	123	1	51	53	169	7709
Razorbill	112	102	133	31	110	56	147	37	33	34	5	6	7	8	2586
Black Guillemot				1											2
Puffin	398	274	389	214	351	244	226	151	272	195	327	32	38	68	6121
Hooded Crow										1					1
Willow Warbler														1	2
Whitethroat														1	1
Sedge Warbler														2	2
Wren				1			2	4	2		2	1	1	2	18
Starling										3					3
Stonechat									2		1				3
Wheatear	37	22	50	24	2	2	2	7	1	2	4	2	4	5	209
Dunnock														1	1
Pied Wagtail										4				3	13
Meadow Pipit			12	1	4	1	3	5	1		4		1	2	39
Rock Pipit	4	2	1	2	2	2	2		3	21	10	1	2	4	70
Twite					1					1	1	1		3	9
TOTAL	2109	1846	2401	1739	1060	1090	1563	982	1526	593	624	594	555	575	32417

RECENT RINGING RECOVERIES

STORM PETREL

TIARG have in the past year received details of 17 recoveries of birds ringed within Britain and Ireland in the months July - September and controlled by TIARG on Lunga in June - July 2010. These recoveries are summarised in the table below; all birds were ringed as adults (Euring code 4).

Ringing Site	No. of controls at:		Time interval (days)		Distance Km	Direction (degrees)
	Lunga		min	Max		
Annagh Head, Bellmullet, Co.Mayo, Eire	1			1411	342	43
Inishglora, Co.Mayo, Eire	1			1054	344	43
Sheepland Harbour, Ardglass, Co.Down	2	1039		1112	251	348
Bardsey Island, Aberdaron, Gwynedd	1			1805	428	346
Lowca, Cumbria	1			1439	279	320
Ailsa Craig, Strathclyde	1			1414	160	330
Sanda Island, Kintyre, Strathclyde	1			3988	146	340
Isle of Muck, Highland Region	1				41	198
Eilean An Taighe, Western Isles	2	354		362	156	182
Priest Island, Highland Region	1			2572	173	199
Eilean Nan Ron, Highland Region	1			336	262	209
Fife Ness, Fife	2	694		1066	238	276
Isle of May, Fife	2	1059		1775	241	278

STORM PETREL RECOVERIES

Details are given below of two birds originally ringed on the Treshnish Isles, one recovered on Lunga and the second elsewhere.

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
 SR - Sick or injured, released with ring
 S - Sick or injured, fate unknown
 O - Ring read on bird in field by non-ringer

Storm Petrel

2624521	6	01/7/2009	Lunga			
	R	14/8/2009	Copeland Bird Observatory, Down			
			208 km	165 degs	44 days	

Storm Petrel

2542865	6	25/6/2001	Lunga			
	X	29/6/2010	Lunga			
			0 km	0 degs	3291 days	
			Ring found within Herring Gull pellet			

Storm Petrel recoveries relating to the Treshnish Isles as either birds ringed or controlled there, now number 552 (relating to 522 birds) of which many have been of birds from the Isle of Man & Sanda (64 & 147 respectively). The above retraps of birds ringed on the Treshnish Isles, were attracted in by tape lure on recapture and are therefore likely to have been a wandering immature (up to 4 years old) or failed breeders. Only 69 birds ringed on the Treshnish Isles have been recaptured elsewhere, 13.2% of all recoveries. This figure is remarkably close to the overall probability of 15% that Ratcliffe *et al.* (1998) found for non-breeder colony attendance in late June/early July.

RECOVERIES OF OTHER SPECIES

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

Shag

1453621	1	29/6/2010	Lunga			
	X	10/7/2010	Lunga			
			0 km	0 degs	11 days	
			Bird found dead, not fresh			

Razorbill

M55327	4	23/6/1991	Lunga			
	XF	12/10/2010	Sorvag Fjord, Sorvagi, Vaga, Faroe Islands			
			267 km	173 degs	4090 days	
			Bird shot			

Razorbill

M72523	6	30/6/1995	Lunga			
	XF	15/9/2010	Port Logan, Dumfries and Galloway			
			217 km	155 degs	5556 days	
			Bird found freshly dead on beach			

Razorbill

M88247	6	22/6/2004	Lunga			
	X	29/6/2010	Lunga			
			0 km	0 degs	2198 days	
			Bird found, eaten			

Razorbill

K10742	6	29/6/2006	Lunga			
	O	12/6/2011	Lunga			
			0 km	0 degs	1809 days	
			Sight record by non-ringer			

Guillemot

R31605	6	24/6/2003	Lunga			
	R	28/6/2009	Port Ban, Strathclyde			
			47 km	165 degs	2547 days	

Guillemot

X63453 6 27/6/1996 Lunga
 R 01/7/2011 Garbh Eilean, Western Isles
 158 km 2 degs 5482 days

Guillemot

X63483 6 28/6/1996 Lunga
 X 27/10/2010 Camas Mor, Isle of Muck, Highland
 38 km 20 degs 5234 days
 Dead, leg and ring only found, on beach

Guillemot

R31605 6 24/6/2003 Lunga
 R 28/6/2009 Port Ban, Strathclyde
 47 km 165 degs 2547 days

Guillemot

R51588 6 22/6/2004 Lunga
 X 20/4/2011 Lunga
 0 km 0 degs 2493 days
 Ring only found

Guillemot

X67521 6 28/6/1996 Lunga
 S 29/12/2010 Gyllynvase Beach, Falmouth, Cornwall
 712 km 173 degs 5297 days
 Oil victim taken into care, fate unknown

Guillemot

X83095 1 04/7/1999 Isle of Canna, Highland
 R 27/6/2010 Lunga
 64 km 174 degs 4011 days

Puffin

EW18177 8 21/6/2008 Lunga
 XF 24/6/2010 Lunga
 0 km 0 degs 733 days
 Freshly dead, taken by animal

Puffin

EG88971 6 24/6/2004 Lunga
 X 20/4/2011 Lunga
 0 km 0 degs 2491 days
 Bird found dead

Puffin

ET52988 8 01/7/1999 Lunga
 XF 12/3/2011 Penarronda, Ribadeo, Asturias (Oviedo), Spain
 1438 km 182 degs 4637 days
 Freshly dead on beach

Puffin

ET80101 8 03/7/1998 Lunga
 XF 29/10/2006 Lunga
 0 km 0 degs 3040 days
 Dead, leg and ring only found

Puffin

EG23714

2	28/6/2000	Lunga			
XF	15/5/2008	Lunga			
		0 km	0 degs	4723 days	
Fresh deadly, predated by Skua or Peregrine					

Puffin

EG61351

6	27/6/2002	Lunga			
X	04/6/2011	Lunga			
		0 km	0 degs	3264 days	
Dead, not fresh, eaten.					

Puffin

EL52532

6	23/6/2004	Lunga			
X	07/7/2011	Sule Skerry, Orkney			
		0 km	0 degs	2540 days	
Dead, leg and ring only found					

Puffin

EL52908

6	28/6/2006	Lunga			
XF	14/6/2011	Laggan Bay, Argyll and Bute			
		92 km	174 degs	1812 days	
Freshly dead on shoreline					

Guillemots (*R.M. Ward*)

REFERENCES

Fowler, J. & Cohen, L. (1986). *Statistics for Ornithologists*. BTO Guide No. 22. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.

JNCC, (2009), *UK Seabirds in 2008*, ISBN 978 1 86107 611 3. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Lloyd, C., Tasker, M.L. & Partridge, K. (1991) *The status of seabirds in Britain and Ireland*, T. and A.D. Poyser, London.

Mitchell, P.I., Newton, S.F., Ratcliffe, N. & Dunn, T.E. (2004). *Seabird populations of Britain and Ireland: results of the Seabird 2000 census*. T. & A.D. Poyser, London.

Ratcliffe, N., Vaughan, D., Whyte, C. & Shepherd, M. (1998). The development of playback census methods for Storm Petrels (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) *Bird Study* 45:302-312.

Walker, S. & Cooper, D. (1996). *Birds on the Treshnish Isles 1971-1995*. Unpublished report by the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly we would like to express our appreciation to the owners of the Treshnish Isles, THE HEBRIDEAN TRUST (www.hebrideantrust.org) for permission and funding to allow our continuing studies to be made on these fascinating islands. Financial support for the monitoring work TIARG undertook in 2011 was organised by the Seamark Trust, on behalf of the Hebridean Trust (www.hebrideantrust.org).

We thank Iain Morrison and his family, for providing our transportation between Mull and Lunga (<http://www.turusmara.com/>), and are grateful for his continuing advice, co-operation and help.



TIARG expedition unloading MV *Hoy Lass* of Turus Mara (R.M. Ward)

Any comments on this report, and suggestions for improvements for relaying information required by conservation agencies, are much welcomed.

THE EXPEDITIONS 1971 – 2011

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 Sgeir a' 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, Sgeir a' Chaisteil and Fladda.
Chris Redfern *et al.*
Storm Petrel ringing.

THE EXPEDITIONS 1971 – 2011 (continued)

- 1994** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Jan Densham, Danny Lenain.
Full census Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil and ringing.
Chris Redfern *et al.*
Storm Petrel ringing.
- 1995** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Jan Densham, Fergus Henderson.
Full census of Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil and ringing.
- 1996** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Danny Lenain, Robin Ward
Full census of Lunga and Sgeir a' 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, Sgeir a' 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, Sgeir a' 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, Sgeir a' 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, Sgeir a' 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, Sgeir a' Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2005** Simon Walker, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Shaun Micklewright, Gareth Harris, George
Henderson, Tracé Williams.
Full census of Lunga, Sgeir a' Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2006** Simon Walker, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Shaun Micklewright, John
Calladine, Tim Dixon, George Henderson.
Full census of Lunga, Sgeir a' Chaisteil, Cairn na Burgh More, Cairn na Burgh Beg and the islands
between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.

THE EXPEDITIONS 1971 – 2011 (continued)

- 2007** Simon Walker, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Shaun Micklewright, George Henderson, Tim Dixon, Tracé Williams.
Full census of Lunga, Sgeir a' Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2008** Simon Walker, John Hodson, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Shaun Micklewright, George Henderson, Tim Dixon, John Calladine.
Full census of Lunga, Sgeir a' Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2009** John Hodson, Robin Ward, Dennis Cooper, Andrew Carter, Shaun Micklewright, Tim Dixon, Jurjen Annen, Claire Dovey.
Full census of Lunga, Sgeir a' Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2010** John Hodson, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Shaun Micklewright, Tim Dixon, Tracé Williams, Jurjen Annen, Claire Dovey.
Full census of Lunga, Sgeir a' Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2011** John Hodson, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Shaun Micklewright, Tim Dixon, George Henderson, Jurjen Annen, Claire Dovey.
Full census of Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. Boat count of The Dutchman's. Ringing.



Tai chi on the cliffs overlooking Mull (*R.M. Ward*)

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	HT03619	K10701 – 1000**	R07001 – 100	1F4094 - 097
1087111 – 120	2101991 – 2000	EG23501 – 700	FB23401 – 500**	GN85301 – 400**	HT09001 – 004	K13001 – 300 [#]	R19401 – 20200	C331894 - 900
1105561 – 570	2121401 – 500	EG23721 – 780	FC52551 – 558	GJ35401 – 500	HT17871 – 890	M46501 – 800	R24001 – 26350	E196501 - 520
1123541 – 550	2167051 – 068	EG23801 – 999	FC52571	GJ76001 – 800**	HT17931 – 940	M55001 – 500	R31601 – 900	JB44316
1123671 – 690	2170201 – 203	EG61000 – 500	FC74501	GJ99081 – 082	HT34021 – 030	M72451 – 800	R51501 – 2000	K039209 - 230
1123961 – 970	2238501 – 600	EG88501 – 9000	FH36101 – 200	GK34351 – 354	HT68201 – 210	M85501 – 800	R65501 – 6000**	K419290 - 295
1159651 – 700	2261001 – 2350	EH33377 – 380	FR13606 – 636	GK50214 – 220	HT68221 – 226	M88001 – 300	R72501 – 4000**	NA84296 - 299
1163701 – 740	2284001 – 5000 [#]	EH54501 – 55000	FR14401 – 500	GK50551 – 570	HT80301 – 400	M92501 – 700**	T14001 – 5000**	KX83101 - 106
1168001 – 100	2309901 – 10000	EH89256	FR56351 – 400	GK62985 – 990	HW05351 – 360		R73001 – 4000**	KX83116 - 118
1170601 – 700	2311301 – 400	EH89260	FS21478	GK90821 – 840	HW06951 – 7000		T82001 – 300	RF10011-020 [#]
1187901 – 950	2311501 – 2000	EH98001 – 300	FS51016 – 500	GK91471 – 490	HW08994 – 09000		X39501 – 40000	LA59201-300**
1237401 – 450	2348001 – 500	EK29501 – 900	FS87001 – 100	GM78756	HW37361		X56501 – 57000	DD90261-270 [#]
1322951 – 960	2369301 – 400	EK72657 – 660	FV10611 – 620	GP13416 – 450	HW68101 – 110		X63001 – 500	CBV601-700**
1328481 – 490	2405001 – 6000	EK91471 – 490	FV10646 – 650	GP47917	HW68161 – 170		X67501 – 68000	V711401-500**
1350801 – 900	2430701 – 900	EL19801 – 276	FV54446 – 460	GP62201 – 207	HW74971 – 990		X79501 – 80000	TJ18901-9000 [#]
1357901 – 8000	2436501 – 7000	EL52501 – 3000	FV62410	GP74501 – 75000	HW87211 – 225		X99001 – 500	BT09481-490**
1366901 – 7000	2444501 – 5000	EN22001 – 500	FV62416 – 226		HW94907 – 913			NV42851-860**
1373751 – 3900	2446202 – 233	EP85608 – 612	FV96681 – 684		MA12551 – 600**			SR49601-700**
1378401 – 8500	2455501 – 6000	EP85687 – 700	SS96101 – 300		MA15801 – 900**			A297482-500
1399601 – 700	2480001 – 500	ER03701 – 800						B229951-992
1408301 – 500	2513501 – 4000	ER48401 – 404						BV70669
1414301 – 500	2538001 – 800	ES64018 – 189						
1421701 – 800	2542001 – 3000	ET19501 – 700						
1417001 – 7100	2554001 – 500	ET52501 – 3000						
1445601 – 800**	2560001 – 1000	ET80001 – 500						
	2579001-80000	EW18001 – 500						
	2605001 – 5500**	EW50001 – 500**						
	2624001 – 5000**	EX12501 – 3000 [#]						
	2650101 – 61000							

*All rings series known (to TIARG) to have been used on the Treshnish Isles are documented irrespective of ring ownership.

** Ring series still in use

[#] Ring series purchased but yet to be used