

Warden's Report (April 2010 – October 2010)

1 Staff

- 1.1 Sophie has been doing a distance learning MSc in Advanced Energy & Environmental Studies and will be taking extended leave over the winter months to focus on her studies. She will be leaving Lundy on 1 November and is scheduled to return to work at the beginning of March.
- 1.2 Steve Pratt has been a member of the conservation team in a voluntary capacity since April and has been a great help and an asset to the team. He has been offered a winter position as a General Assistant and will be working for the Landmark in a maintenance capacity.

2 Survey & Monitoring

- 2.1 RIB – has disappointingly been out of service all season, so has not been available to use. It was sent to the mainland for coding in May, and unfortunately failed a tube test. Funding had to be sourced by Natural England to get the RIB re-tubed and it spent a considerable amount of time on the mainland. The RIB was bought back to Lundy on 12th August, with a broken bilge pump which has meant that it has not had any use this season.
- 2.2 Grey Seals: Without the RIB we have been unable to complete the seal surveys recommended in Stephen Westcotts 2009 survey, this should be marked as a priority for 2011. We have had three confirmed pups on the east coast at Quarry Beach, Ladies Beach and Three-quarter wall bay.
- 2.3 **Cetaceans Sightings:** The Summary Report, from Sophie includes all the sights from the Island, MS Oldenburg and Jessica Hettie

In 2010 we had the following vessels/groups participating:

MS Oldenburg - Returned
Jessica Hettie - Returned
(Obsession I – Awaiting Forms)
(Obsession II – Awaiting Forms)
(Ilfracombe SAC x2 – Awaiting Forms)
(Appledore SAC – Awaiting Forms)

- 2.4 Basking shark sightings: More bad news, NO sightings have been reported in 2010! I did here that ASAC & Colin Eastman may have seen one on route to Lundy, but we have had no official reports reach us on Lundy

2.5 Seabird Productivity Results:

| Species | 2009 | Nest Attempts | Fledged | 2010 | Nest Attempts | Fledged |
|--------------------|-------|---------------------|---------|------|---------------------|---------|
| Fulmar: | 0.47 | 30 (across 2 sites) | 14 | 0.43 | 82 (across 3 sites) | 35 |
| Kittiwake: | 0.28* | 134 | 37 | 0.67 | 145 | 98 |
| Guillemots: | 0.63 | 65 | 41 | 0.68 | 79 | 54 |

* In 2009 the Kittiwake productivity over the two sights was vastly different; The islands largest colony at St Mark's Inlet has a productivity of just 0.17, there were 106 nest attempts with just 18 chicks surviving to fledge. In contrast, Aztec bay had a productivity rate of 0.68 with 19 fledglings from 28 nest attempts.

In 2010 there was a marked increase in the productivity at St. Mark's inlet and an increase in the number of breeding attempts

| Kittiwake Site Summary | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| St Marks Inlet | 0.17 | 0.65 |
| Aztec Bay | 0.68 | 0.76 |

A full report is available and will hopefully be published in the LFS annual report.

2.6 The puffin surveys and observations for 2010 were very encouraging. A full report is being written to summarise the 2009 & 2010 results.

A summary of the breeding pairs and productivity on Lundy 2007 - 2010

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Breeding Pairs | 5 | 5 | 6 | 16 |
| Confirmed* | 4 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Productivity | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.44 |

* Breeding was confirmed and considered successful on site of a chick or through provisioning observations

Mid June saw an influx of puffins with a high count of 74 records on 13 June, and records of 30-60 individuals recorded daily for two weeks. On 25 June there was a count of 50 on land at Jenny’s Cove.

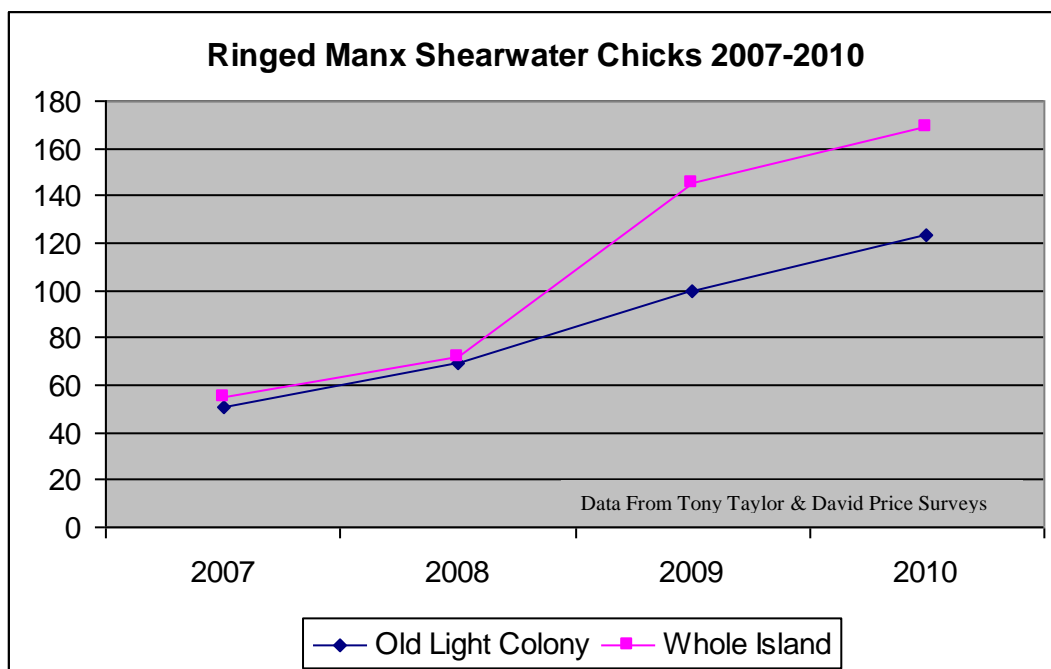
2.7 Manx Shearwaters – separate agenda point

Tracking Survey – Ben Dean lead the tracking survey for this year and deployed and recovered 15 GPS devices a further 3 were deployed, but lost. The survey took place between 10 -23 July, a month earlier than the 2009 survey. The tracks show that many Manx shearwaters breeding on Lundy make short range trips to the waters around the island, particularly south along the North Devon and Cornish coast, or west of Lundy into the Celtic Sea.

Several birds were recorded making longer range trips north to the Irish Sea Front area between the Isle of Man and Dundalk Bay, an area known to be important to birds from both the Skomer and Copeland colonies. One bird was also recorded making a longer range trip around the Cornish coast and into the English Channel.

Of the 20 Geo-locators deployed in 2009, 15 were recovered. The geolocator data will show migratory movements and non-breeding season locations between 2009 and 2010 from fourteen successful device retrievals in 2010. This will be reported in a further report, once these data have been analysed.

Chick Ringing - Tony Taylor and David Price continued the Manx Shearwater ringing survey at the Old Light colony for the fourth consecutive year, a summary of the number of ringed juveniles is illustrated below:



2.8 Temperature loggers: Monitoring is on going and a report summarizing the existing data is nearly complete.

3 Interpretation

3.1 The Lundy Splash-IN was a success. There was plenty of media coverage for the event in the dive magazines and Local press and one of the images made a half page spread in the Independent and The London Metro.

<http://e-edition.metro.co.uk/2010/07/14/>

The 2011 event has been scheduled for 18 – 19 June

3.2 Leaflet's; No further leaflets have been produced, but options are still under consideration

3.3 Marine Guide: I am hoping to have this completed for the start of the 2011 Dive season – so watch this space!?

3.4 Beach Building:

The boards from the beach building will be moving up to Hartland's new 'Helicopter Departure Lounge' next week! New replica boards will be printed and installed into the beach building before next seasons sailing.

Work is on going on the mainland interpretation boards which will also be completed and in place for the next sailing season!

Nicola Saunders, Lundy Warden