

Isles of Scilly

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 13 May 2006

Report compiled by Paul Dukes



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Day 1

Saturday 6th May

Replete from guest house breakfasts, the group arrived promptly to board the Scillonian 111 at the Lighthouse pier in Penzance. The only absentee was Alison who had opted to fly over to Scilly by helicopter and would meet us later. We gathered at the stern of the vessel and in no time at all introductions had been made and everyone was chatting together like old friends. As we waited for departure time, a couple of Rock Pipits scuttled along the quay wall and out in Mount's Bay a few Sandwich Terns and Gannets were busy fishing. Eventually the mooring ropes were cast off and we began the two hours forty five minute voyage to the islands but we had barely drawn level with Newlyn when the ladies spotted the distinctive fins of a Basking Shark just a few metres from the ship. Fortunately this ocean giant was in no great hurry to move and as it receded into the distance the dorsal fin stood like a marker buoy to betray its presence. An unsettled day had been forecast and half way to the islands we witnessed an extraordinary cloud formation with a belt of dark, sinister looking clouds extending from south to north in a clearly defined front. Shortly afterwards it rained heavily for a while but as predicted, things were improving rapidly by the time we neared Scilly. Birds were relatively sparse on the crossing but we did see plenty of Gannets, Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Shags and Guillemots with added interest provided by a few Manx Shearwaters. After a fairly choppy trip which not all passengers enjoyed, we finally docked at St Mary's and made our way through the throng on the quay to the Santa Maria Guest House where most of the group would be staying. Pam and I formed an outstation in the aptly named Shearwater Guest House not far from the island Museum. It was nice to not worry about our luggage which would be sorted by luggage labels and delivered to accommodations by the Island Carriers, an admirable service which takes all the effort out of arriving.

We had arranged to meet for lunch at the Kavorna restaurant and had no difficulty finding a table where we were joined by an old friend of mine, Peter Nichols, who was on his way home after a week on St. Agnes. After demolishing the meals we followed Peter to a rather obscure patch of farmland behind the Garrison Football pitch where a male Subalpine Warbler had been discovered earlier in the day. Unfortunately the bird had moved from obvious view but we did hear a few snatches of scratchy song to confirm that it was still in the vicinity. After a reasonable wait in fairly windy conditions we decided that it was a bit of a fruitless vigil and set off on an anti-clockwise walk around the Garrison Headland which took us along the coast opposite St Agnes and the adjacent island of Gugh. We paused first at the top of Star Castle Hill, which affords superb views of the many islands comprising the archipelago and spent some time identifying the major islands. Tresco with its abundance of trees, and St Martins with distinctive red & white day-mark were easy to pick out whilst Bryher was partially obscured by the twin hills of Samson from this position. The myriad of uninhabited islands scattered around the larger islands are described in relation to their compass alignment thus those clustered around the tip of St. Martins are known as the Eastern Isles and the jumble of granite outcrops several kilometres beyond St. Agnes are called the Western Rocks, pointing towards the Bishop Rock Lighthouse, standing isolated against the might of the Atlantic breakers which even on this calm spring afternoon were causing plumes of spray over the rocks.

In general birdlife around the Garrison was rather sparse and we met with few migrants apart from numerous Swallows hawking for insects. Several Stonechats were observed in the gorse and the first of many Linnets which proved to be abundant everywhere we went. Some other familiar Scilly residents also introduced themselves during the walk; the absurdly tame Song Thrushes which are such a feature of the islands, the distinctly orange-billed local Blackbirds, and groups of Oystercatchers noisily displaying on the shore. Most of the gulls were either Lesser Black-backed or Herring but several Greater Black-backs stood around among their smaller relatives looking suitably menacing as befits a bird capable of swallowing Puffins in one gulp!

Great thickets of Hottentot Fig growing on sunny banks were testament to the mild climate which makes Scilly such an attractive place for plants. Three exotic garden species were much in evidence throughout the islands; the tall spikes of Tree Echium, much beloved by bees, rows of purple Whistling Jacks and the strange Giant Herb-Robert (*Geranium maderense*) each plant a mass of pretty flowers supported by a cluster of buttressed roots. It was soon evident that the spring was several weeks later than usual and many plants were only just beginning to flower whilst others such as the 'Whistling Jacks' were still mostly in bud.

After a tasty evening meal at the Santa Maria Guest House we joined a packed house at Will Wagstaff's talk on the Wildlife of Scilly and as his slides depicted the many seasonal natural history delights we wondered what surprises awaited us during the next few days.

Day 2

Sunday 7 May

My invitation to meet any interested participants for a pre-breakfast walk was answered by an almost full contingent outside the Dibble & Grub beach front café at 0630 on a fine, clear morning. We walked around Peninnis Head enjoying more great views of the Western Rocks and St Agnes but finding few birds although Meadow Pipit was a new bird for the holiday list and several Wheatears flirted their white rumps as they flew among the boulders on the headland. A calling Cuckoo was a lovely summery sound to start the day and as we made our way back towards Hughtown we were treated to an incredible performance as two rival males chased each other around in flight for fully ten minutes. Calling constantly, one bird would make clumsy dives at the other but neither seemed prepared to back off and they progressed right across a field in front of us eventually disappearing out of sight towards Old Town. I cannot recall ever seeing two Cuckoos in the air for such a prolonged period but I guess they migrate to Africa each year so a tour of Peninnis Head was no big deal!

As boat trips around the Eastern Isles are always subject to tide and weather conditions I like to undertake this excursion at the first available opportunity and today was to be that occasion as a combined Eastern Isles and St Martins trip appeared among the options chalked on the Boatmen's Association blackboard in Hughtown. With a fine day in prospect there was a big demand for the off-island boats and we made our way through hundreds of fellow holidaymakers patiently queuing for boats on the quay. The Eastern Isles were not as popular as Tresco, which invariably attracts the largest crowds but nonetheless we were reasonably full as we cast off and cruised along the coast of St Mary's towards the distant cluster of islands comprising the Eastern Isles. Small groups of Razorbills bobbed on the sea and a great feeding raft of Shags attracted attention as we crossed the Sound and a number of Common Terns could be seen fishing the shallows off St Martins. Circling each of the Eastern Isles in turn our captain showed us close up views of Fulmars, Shags, Cormorants and Razorbills, whilst the large numbers of nesting gulls gave us ample opportunities to contrast Lesser and Greater Black Backs. A few curious

Grey Seals followed our progress but the best spectacle came towards the end of the trip when we came upon several dozen animals resting on a shoreline and the captain gently brought the vessel to within a few metres while cameras clicked. In all we probably saw over 30 seals during the cruise and as usual it was a perfect opportunity to obtain really close views.

After this we headed to the quay at Higher town St Martin's, admiring the wonderful turquoise waters around the island caused by the sky reflecting from the white sand which is such a feature of the beaches on both St Martin's and Tresco. This brought us closer views of the Common Terns before we stepped ashore to begin our exploration of St. Martin's. To begin with we circled around Little Arthur Farm and Chapel Downs, the closest part of the island to the Eastern Isles. A flock of nine Whimbrel on the beach diverted us for a while and the appearance of the sun encouraged butterflies to appear including Peacocks and some pristine Small Coppers. A Cuckoo began calling on the farm and feeding Swallows over the fields also included several House Martins. Our progress was initially leisurely but the imperative of lunch increased speed and we arrived at the excellent Poltreith Cafe soon after one pm. We settled ourselves at a garden table to enjoy a typically splendid lunch and as is usual in Scillonian cafes, House Sparrows, Blackbirds, Song Thrushes and a Robin or two were in attendance to polish off any stray crumbs! Replete from the sizeable portions, and some parting Roskilly's ice cream, we headed towards the west of the island taking in more superb views of Tresco, Tean and even St Agnes and the western rocks far in the distance. Walking along through the centre of the island the dichotomy of St Martin's was clear to see with expanses of gorse filled moorland to our right and the neatly cultivated bulb fields to the left. The magnificent sweep of white sand known as Great Bay was also the subject of admiration, one of the most idyllic beaches in Britain yet rarely occupied by more than a handful of people! Once again birdlife was sparse but we did see or hear a few Stonechats, lots of Linnets and two Kestrels were also noted. Reaching Lower town mid afternoon we paused for refreshments at the Seven Stones pub then made our way back towards Higher town along the 'main' road. A singing Whitethroat briefly halted our progress, and the flora was constantly intriguing but time was pressing and I was anxious to ensure that we arrived back at the quay with at least 15 minutes in hand before the arrival of the boat. We accomplished this with ease and thus ended a very enjoyable day on St Martin's.

Day 3

Monday 8 May

The dawn patrol gathered dutifully outside Dibble & Grub 0630 for another brisk ramble around Peninnis Head but those who stayed in bed missed nothing much except the smug feeling gained from having done something energetic and vaguely worthy while most of the world was comfortable in bed.

Today was devoted to an exploration of St. Mary's and starting off after breakfast we walked out of Hughtown following the Rocky Hill track to Holy Vale. Making our way down the narrow trail through the most extensive tract of Elm trees on the island, we emerged at Porth Hellick and after checking the pool from the bird hides, continued around the coastline to our lunch destination at the Tolman's cafe Old Town. The profusion of exotic blooms in gardens along the way were matched by some interesting wild plants, the most unusual looking being the great mounds of Tussock-Sedge growing in the Higher Moors.

Migrant birds were not much in evidence although several Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps were singing along the Holy Vale trail. As if to illustrate that the resident species also deserve attention, we admired some smart Goldfinches and Linnets along the way plus the inevitable Song Thrushes. Porth Hellick Pool was a study in

tranquility with just a few Gadwall and Mallard sorting out domestic matters and Coots busily constructing their waterside nest. A few Shelduck appeared and some Swifts among the feeding hirundines but the main excitement was caused by a female Marsh Harrier which made several hunting expeditions over the reed beds. After nesting on the Scilly for the first time ever in 2005, several Marsh Harriers were still present on the islands but did not seem to have settled any where and this individual had become a regular visitor to Porth Hellick. The resident Ringed Plovers on the nearby beach were more static and evidently trying once again to incubate eggs just above the high water mark despite the intrusions of passing holidaymakers and the occasional dog. Both Reed and Sedge Warblers were in good voice from the reed beds and one Sedge in particular treated us to fine views as he poured out his torrent of scratchy notes from a bush beside the boardwalk.

As we continued our progress along the coastal footpath a couple of Wheatears flirted their white rumps from the moorland beside the path and several Stonechats were noted but there was no sign of a Dotterel reported earlier from the airfield. We were ready for our meals at the Tolman Cafe and enjoyed a relaxing lunch which in my case consisted of some fine crab sandwiches. Later we meandered through the strollers beside Old Town Bay and paid a visit to the churchyard where Harold Wilson is buried in his beloved Scillonian earth. Returning through the Lower Moors we ended up at Porth Low Beach then made our way back to town with diversions along the way for such distractions as art galleries and ice cream sellers.

Day 4

Tuesday 9 May

A single Cuckoo graced the dawn patrol but enthusiasm was undiminished.

Thanks to the famous Abbey Gardens, Tresco is perhaps the best known of the Scilly islands, and certainly the most popular with visitors. Privately owned by the Dorrien-Smith family, the farm estate has created a largely artificial appearance to the centre of the island where rows of neatly maintained flower fields are sheltered by tall belts of conifers and other trees grouped around the long freshwater lake known as the Great Pool. By contrast the north of Tresco is mostly wild moorland whilst around most of the coastline can be found exquisite white sand beaches, the equal of any to be found in the Mediterranean or Caribbean. The mix of managed estate and untouched nature is not to everybodys taste but the variety of habitats make Tresco a top priority for any birding tour.

We landed at Carn Near and made our way to the Abbey Gardens with just a short delay to wait for a helicopter to take off from the highly intrusive heliport. Perhaps aware of his audience the pilot performed a few interesting ballet movements before dipping the nose and roaring off to the mainland.

A slow walk around the sub-tropical gardens occupied the rest of the morning with everyone following their own interests and for some the realization of a long held desire to visit these famous gardens. There were certainly some extraordinary sights among the plethora of exotic plants with particular interest generated by some of the flowering palms. After a leisurely tour we met up again in the restaurant garden which provided another setting for an al fresco lunch with Goldcrests calling from the nearby pines and Song Thrushes raiding the tables for crumbs.

After the break we wandered slowly around the Great Pool inspecting the reeds and open water for birdlife. A bundle of white feathers in the shallows beside the pool eventually revealed a spatula bill to identify it as a

Spoonbill but quickly resumed its slumbers and became again a rather unspectacular white lump. This was one of two that first appeared on the islands in October 2005 and rather sensibly decided to stay! A juvenile Black-headed Gull on the Abbey Pool was unexpected as was the Pochard duckling diving with its mother at the north end of the Great Pool. Pochards have only been proven to breed on Tresco in recent years but sadly have poor success with the predatory gulls in attendance. A Yellow Wagtail feeding on the heliport posed nicely for telescope views but two White Wagtails chose to remain on the far side of the grass strip. Other birds seen around or on the Pool included Gadwalls, a fine male Pintail, Mute Swans, Reed Warblers, Willow Warbler and Little Egret but perhaps the most unusual find was a Comma butterfly photographed by Barbara in the gardens. Commas were formerly very rare on Scilly but have appeared a number of times in recent years. As we made our way to New Grimsby on the north of Tresco to catch the return boat to St Mary's, a refreshment stop at the New Inn found favour and we sat in the pub garden enjoying a spell of late afternoon sunshine. Unfortunately I was facing the opposite direction to the group when a Golden Oriole suddenly appeared flying towards us over the top of a gorse hill overlooking the pub and despite me bellowing 'Oriole' (and causing some consternation among the other patrons) the wretched bird had turned back and vanished from view before anyone raised binoculars. It later transpired that some thought I was joking when I yelled but even the quickest of responses would probably have failed so briefly was the bird in view.

The journey back enabled us to see a few terns as we navigated between Samson and Tresco then crossed the 'roads' to Hughtown. For some of the group the evening was a non-stop social whirl of slide shows and entertainment but for the writer it was another early night in bed!

Day 5

Wednesday 10 May

By way of a change the dawn patrol visited the hides at Lower Moors before breakfast and whilst there were no great surprises, three Little Egrets were fishing the shoreline of Porthcressa Bay and at least five Sedge Warblers were singing, and showing well, in Lower Moors.

The sunny weather continued and today we decided to visit Bryher. Unfortunately the tidal conditions meant that it was a 'wet landing' in Rushey Bay necessitating a zodiac transfer into the shallows and a wade ashore through ankle deep water. The process took a while as the boat was packed and only a few could board the zodiac at one time. There was also a delay as the arriving castaways set about drying feet and possessions! At length we moved to the adjacent stretch of grassland where we crawled around on hands and knees looking for the very rare Dwarf Pansy. Almost unique to Scilly, this diminutive plant redefines Dwarf and is extremely hard to find even though relatively numerous in this area. Prize for finder went to Gill Green who incredibly managed to spot the flower whilst still standing up! Several others were in bloom in close proximity but it needed a magnifying glass or inverted binoculars to fully appreciate these pretty little flowers. Rather easier to see was the immature Peregrine which soared overhead as we botanised.

A cup of coffee at the rather swish Hell Bay Hotel revived us and a summer plumage Dunlin was seeking its own refreshment on the muddy shores of the nearby pool. Moving on we followed the shoreline around and found in quick succession, a Greenshank, Yellow Wagtail and a Grasshopper Warbler singing intermittently from tangles of vegetation above the beach. Most of the group eventually achieved reasonable views of this skulking bird but a Cuckoo calling from the fields was less cooperative and a Turtle Dove gave a flight only viewing. The cliff footpath gradually ascended Shipman Hill with the impressive rock formations of Hell Bay to seaward and

expanses of heather moorland inland. Dotterel and other open country birds are not infrequently seen on the downs but a tramp across the heather produced very little apart from the ubiquitous Linnets. From here we headed back towards the main settlement passing opposite the photogenic Cromwell's Castle on Tresco although a mock gibbet that some wag has constructed atop one of the foreground rocks may give a strange impression of Scillonian law to anyone viewing the resulting snaps! At the Vine Café we managed to arrive ahead of the crowds and this ensured that lunch was not quite the excruciatingly protracted event that it can sometimes be! I am a great fan of the home made cakes and scrambled eggs served in this quaint and mildly eccentric little café but service can be very slow due to the practice of cooking or preparing each order in strict sequence and not starting on the next one until the first is fully ready. A pot of tea ordered tenth in sequence after several meals and complex sandwiches might take half an hour to appear!

We eventually escaped and to round off the afternoon followed the footpath around the shoreline below Samson Hill on the south side of the island. With the tide now at its lowest, great sand bars and temporary islets were revealed amid the turquoise and azure waters between the islands creating a wonderful panorama as we gazed out towards Tresco and Samson. It was a lovely tranquil scene disturbed only occasionally by the arrival of a helicopter on Tresco. Birds were scarce as we continued our walk but we did encounter plenty of Oystercatchers and at least two Little Egrets were fishing the shallows. An unexpected sighting involved a Lesser White-toothed or 'Scilly' Shrew surprised on the path which everyone managed to glimpse except the writer! These funny little creatures are unique to Scilly, Sark and Jersey in the British Isles but more often seen as cat victims than alive.

As we neared the end of our walk, a couple of St Mary's birders showed us two Turtle Doves in a ploughed field and a Hooded Crow perched in a tree. Earlier we had seen one or both the resident Jackdaws which nest on Tresco but feed on Bryher so by Scilly standards we were having a good corvine day. We joined the gathering of passengers waiting at Bryher harbour for the St Mary's boat and with time to spare some of the group took the chance to look around the nearby churchyard. Sailing back to Hughtown we passed plenty of terns in the channel and a fine summer plumage Great Northern Diver cruising through the waves off Samson.

Day 6

Thursday 11 May

For a change we convened the Dibble & Grub club at a new location and walked around the Garrison before breakfast. The new venue rewarded us with views of the immature Iceland Gull at Morning Point where it was bobbing on the water among Herring and Lesser Black back Gulls. Although it had been around for a few days this wanderer from the north had eluded us thus far so we were pleased to strike lucky. A Cuckoo was also in good voice and showed well in profile on a branch.

Later we boarded the Community Bus outside the Town Hall and travelled to the north end of St Mary's alighting at Maypole opposite the turning to Holy Vale. From here we made our way to Watermill Cove and along the coastal footpath, with stunning views of St Martins and the Eastern Isles We eventually arrived at Innisidgen, the site of several well preserved ancient burial chambers dating back to 1500-2000BC which reminded us that Scilly has a long history stretching back into Neolithic times before the islands were separated from the Cornish mainland by rising seas. Rounding Bar Point, the most northerly tip of St. Mary's, we reached Bant Carn where the remains of a megalithic village and another burial chamber were further reminders of the past and completed our brief archaeological mini-tour. From Bant Carn we moved next to the nearby golf course where Harold Wilson was not infrequently stalked by the press during his many holidays on the islands.

Midday found us installed indoors at Juliet's Garden cafe where we enjoyed an excellent lunch with crab sandwiches once again featuring among the most popular choices.

Everyone had their own agenda for the remainder of the afternoon and the lunch stop effectively brought a conclusion to our group activity for the day. Whimbrel, Turnstones and four Dunlin on Porth Low beach enhanced the bird list and one or two Wheatears were also hopping around amid the rocks.

Day 7

Friday 12 May

We returned to the Peninnis Walk today and were surprised by a Golden Oriole which suddenly hurtled over the footpath and with typical swervy flight disappeared in the general direction of Tresco. This time my shout had the desired affect and everyone saw the bird, albeit briefly.

A bright sunny morning and a visit to St Agnes in prospect, what better way to start the day! St Agnes is my favourite island, and in my biased opinion never disappoints, but nevertheless I was glad of the bright conditions to show it off. Twenty minutes after leaving Hughtown we stepped ashore on Porth Conger quay St Agnes and began our exploration of this small island by following an anti-clockwise route around the northern coastline. Scanning the expanse of seaweed and rocks exposed by the retreating tide in Porth Killier Bay we found several Whimbrel and the tideline ribbon of decomposing seaweed provided insect prey for Rock Pipits as well as such residents as Song Thrush, Blackbird, Robin & Wren. Continuing past the small freshwater pool, which today was covered with bathing and preening gulls, and briefly pausing for a Sedge Warbler chattering away in a thicket of brambles, we eventually arrived at the wild western extremity of the island characterised by a chaos of granite boulders scattered randomly over the landscape, ranging in size from modest rocks to great monoliths towering twenty or thirty metres above the gorse and bracken. Out to the west, the jumble of uninhabited rocky islands known as the Western Isles, stretched away towards the isolated white finger of the Bishop Rock lighthouse, surely one of the loneliest of postings in the days when the light was manned. As we lay in the grass looking out towards the seabird island of Annet, covered by carpets of pink thrift, we saw plenty of seabird activity but no sign of the few Puffins still breeding there each year. Eventually our meanderings took us to the Old Coastguard buildings where we rested our legs for a while to enjoy a splendid lunch at the cafe where some delicious cakes proved too tempting to resist.

After the meal we ventured onto Wingletang Downs, the gorse and heather moorland leading to Horse Point, the southern most extremity of the archipelago. Here the scenery becomes even more dramatic with further scatterings of granite boulders and huge outcrops which have been eroded into fantastic shapes. We heard and saw several Cuckoos during our walk but perhaps the star species was the trio, or possibly quartet, of Golden Orioles roaming over the Downs. Characteristically flighty and wild, the birds were feeding among the gorse and heather flying up to perch on rocks when disturbed. At one time we could count three atop rocks but it was difficult to keep track and later we met a somewhat yellower young male which constituted a pretty convincing fourth. After watching the orioles for some while, we continued on our way to Horse Point whilst Robert and Gill temporarily left us to catch a mid-afternoon boat for a cruise to Annet. Whilst dozing on Horse Point, or to give it an ornithological title, seawatching, two Manx Shearwaters glided past and a pod of three Bottlenose Dolphins cruised up and down off the headland. An extremely pleasant day on the premier island finished with a visit to the excellent bulbshop and afternoon tea at Covean Cottage Cafe before joining the throng on the quay

waiting for the return boat to Hughtown. We had been joined at Covean by Robert and Gill with tales of the Puffins seen during their Annet trip.

Day 8

Saturday 13 May

Final day inertia was in danger of overwhelming us but to maintain enthusiasm we spent some time at Porth Hellick, travelling there on the community bus but walking back to town via the Carn Dhu Gardens. The latter provided a very pleasant interlude with Blackcaps singing from the canopy but as the morning became increasingly hot and sunny we set our sights on Porth Cressa beach where we eventually ended up paddling and sunbathing like everyone else!

The boat journey back to Penzance later in the day was unremarkable and surprisingly birdless although the usual Manx Shearwaters appeared off the Cornish coast. It was a sad moment to say farewell to such an excellent group but I hope our paths might cross again some day. Thanks to everyone for being such a nice bunch of people!

Bird list

Figures in brackets indicate number of days seen

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	One off Samson
FULMAR (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) (4)	Seen on crossings and nesting on Eastern Isles
MANX SHEARWATER (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>)	On crossings and two off St Agnes
GANNET (<i>Sula bassanus</i>) (7)	Numbers offshore & on crossings
SHAG (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) (8)	Very Common around islands
CORMORANT (<i>P. carbo</i>) (4)	Most at Eastern Isles where nesting, a few singles elsewhere
LITTLE EGRET (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>) (5)	Three Porth Cressa, two Bryher/Tresco, other singles St Mary's & St Agnes
HERON (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) (3)	3-4 Immatures
SPOONBILL (<i>Platylea leucorodia</i>)	Immature Tresco
MUTE SWAN (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) (2)	10+ Tresco, single Porth Hellick
CANADA GOOSE (<i>Branta Canadensis</i>)	Several Tresco
SHELDUCK (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) (6)	Pairs scattered around all islands
GADWALL (<i>Anas strepera</i>) (6)	20+ Tresco, a few P. Hellick, Lower Moors & St Agnes
MALLARD (<i>A. platyrhynchos</i>) (6)	Many Tresco, others on most ponds etc
PINTAIL (<i>A. acuta</i>)	Male of uncertain origin Tresco
POCHARD (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) (1)	Female with duckling Tresco
KESTREL (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>) (4)	Singles on three occasions
PEREGRINE (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Immature Bryher
MARSH HARRIER (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>)	Female Porth Hellick
PHEASANT (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>) (5)	Numerous Tresco & some on Bryher
MOORHEN (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>) (5)	Tresco, Porth Hellick & Lower Moors
COOT (<i>Fulica atra</i>) (3)	Tresco & Porth Hellick
OYSTERCATCHER (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) (8)	Widespread around the islands
RINGED PLOVER (<i>Charadrius. hiaticula</i>) (3)	P. Hellick, St. Agnes & Bryher- a few pairs at each
DUNLIN (<i>Calidris alpine</i>) (2)	One Bryher, four St Mary's
WHIMBREL (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>) (7)	Total of 30+ birds , largest flock 9 on St Martin's
CURLEW (<i>N. arquata</i>)	Two Porth Cressa 8th
GREENSHANK (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	One Bryher and one Tresco
TURNSTONE (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	Up to six St Mary's
BLACK HEADED GULL (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>)	Immature Tresco Abbey Pool
HERRING GULL (<i>L. argentatus</i>) (8)	Common
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (<i>L. fuscus</i>)	Common
GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL (<i>L. marinus</i>)	Widespread but fewer than above two spp.
KITTIWAKE (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) (4)	Small numbers around islands & offshore-colony Gugh
COMMON TERN (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) (6)	Small numbers around islands, max day count 10+ off Samson & also in vicinity of St Martin's

SANDWICH TERN (<i>S. sandvicensis</i>) (4)	One or two Porth Cressa Bay in mornings
GUILLEMOT (<i>Uria aalge</i>) (4)	Small numbers on crossings-singles around Scilly
RAZORBILL (<i>Alca torda</i>) (7)	Small numbers around islands esp Eastern Isles
WOODPIGEON (<i>C. palumbus</i>) (7)	Common & widespread
COLLARED DOVE (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>) (7)	Seen daily in small numbers
TURTLE DOVE (<i>S. turtur</i>)	Two Bryher
CUCKOO (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>) (7)	Total of 10+ birds seen or heard over the week although doubtless some duplication at Peninnis.
SWIFT (<i>Apus apus</i>) (2)	Total of 5-6 birds St Mary's
SWALLOW (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) (8)	Seen daily in variable numbers with several days of noticeable passage.
HOUSE MARTIN (<i>Delichon urbica</i>) (6)	Distinct influx and passage during latter part of week
MEADOW PIPIT (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>) (4)	A few, mostly Peninnis & St Agnes
ROCK PIPIT (<i>Anthus petrosus</i>) (8)	Small numbers around shorelines
YELLOW WAGTAIL (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)	Singles Tresco & Bryher
WHITE/PIED WAGTAIL (<i>M. alba</i>)	Two Tresco, single St Mary's
WREN (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>) (8)	A very common resident
DUNNOCK (<i>Prunella modularis</i>) (8)	Common
ROBIN (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>) (8)	Common & widespread
STONECHAT (<i>Saxicola torquata</i>) (7)	Present in coastal gorse areas, family noted on St Agnes
WHEATEAR (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>) (6)	Small numbers only during week
BLACKBIRD (<i>Turdus merula</i>) (8)	Very common on all islands
SONG THRUSH (<i>T. philomelos</i>) (8)	A common and conspicuous resident on all islands
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (<i>Locustella naevia</i>)	One singing Bryher
SEDGE WARBLER (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>) (5)	10+ Lower Moors, also P. Hellick St. Mary's and one St Agnes
REED WARBLER (<i>A. scirpaceus</i>) (5)	Lower Moors & Porth Hellick St. Mary's & Tresco
WHITETHROAT (<i>Sylvia communis</i>)	One singing St Martin's
BLACKCAP (<i>S. atricapilla</i>) (4)	Heard singing St. Mary's & Tresco
CHIFFCHAFF (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>) (5)	A number heard singing on each island
WILLOW WARBLER (<i>P. trochilus</i>) (4)	Heard or seen on four occasions
GOLDCREST (<i>Regulus regulus</i>)	Heard Tresco
BLUE TIT (<i>Parus caeruleus</i>) (5)	A few seen on two dates
GREAT TIT (<i>P. major</i>) (6)	A few each day; some youngsters seen
GOLDEN ORIOLE (<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>)	Singles Tresco & Peninnis Head, c4 St Agnes
JACKDAW (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	Pair Tresco & Bryher
CARRION CROW (<i>C. corone</i>) (8)	A few each day- noted on each island – Hooded Crow seen on Bryher
STARLING (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) (8)	Common and widespread- many young noted
HOUSE SPARROW (<i>Passer domesticus</i>) (8)	A common resident
CHAFFINCH (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>) (4)	A few on four dates, most Tresco
GREENFINCH (<i>Carduelis chloris</i>) (7)	Small numbers on each island

GOLDFINCH (*C. carduelis*) (8) ditto
 LINNET (*C. cannabina*) (8) Very common throughout

Mammals

Grey Seal - 30+ Eastern Isles-other singles around islands most days
 Rabbit - numerous
 Lesser White-toothed Shrew – Bryher

Butterflies

Speckled Wood
 Holly Blue
 Small Copper
 Small Tortoiseshell
 Peacock
 Large White
 Painted Lady
 Red Admiral
 Comma (Tresco)

Flora (thanks to Pam for compiling the following)

Royal Fern	Tamarisk
Bracken	Sea Campion
Male Fern	English Catchfly
Monterey Pine	Red Campion
Lodge Pole Pine	Common Mouse-eared Chicory
Monterey Cypress	Sandwort
Creeping Buttercup	Hottentot Fig
Lesser Celandine	Common Mallow
Western Fumitory	Tree Mallow
White Ramping Fumitory	Cut-leaved Cranesbill
Sea Radish	Dove's foot Cranesbill
Sea Kale	Sea Storksbill
Sea Rocket	Wall Oxalis
Shepherd's Purse	Pink Oxalis
Common Scurvy Grass	Bermuda Buttercup
Common Watercress	Sycamore
Heath Dog Violet	Euonymous
Dwarf Pansy	Tree Lupin
Common Milkwort	Gorse
Heath Milkwort	Broom
Pittisporum	Spotted Medick

Fenugreek	Changing Scorpion Grass
White Clover	Tree Echium
Common Birdsfoot Trefoil	Great Mullein
Common Vetch	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
Blackberry	Balm-leaved Figwort
Silverweed	Foxglove
Tormentil	Common Speedwell
Hawthorn	Germander Speedwell
English Stonecrop	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Biting Stonecrop	Lousewort
Wall Pennywort	Eyebright
Aenium spp	Bear's Breech
Escallonia	Ground Ivy
Ivy	Woodsage
Sea Holly	Plantain spp.
Alexanders	Cleavers
Cow Parsley	Elder
Hemlock Water Dropwort	Honeysuckle
Fennel	Red Valerian
Wild Angelica	Groundsel
Hogweed	Winter Heliotrope
Wild Carrot	Daisy
Rock Samphire	Sweet Chamomile
Sea Spurge	Scentless Mayweed
Japanese Knotweed	Corn Marigold
Sheep's Sorrel	Smooth Hawksbeard
Common Sorrel	Common Dandelion
Broad-leaved Dock	Star of Bethlehem
Common Nettle	Vernal Squill
Wych Elm	Bluebell
Common Elm	Spanish Bluebell
Fig	Babington's Leek
Alder	Three-angled Leek
Oak	Yellow Flag
Grey Sallow	Montbretia
Rhododendron	Whistling Jacks
Ling	Large Lords & Ladies
Thrift	Arum Lily
Primrose	Common Duckweed
Scarlet Pimpernel	Reed
Greater Periwinkle	Marram
Privet	Tussock Sedge
Borage	