

# Isles of Scilly

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 12 May 2007

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Report compiled by Paul Dukes  
Photographs by Sarah Barnes



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Participants:	Sarah Barnes Alistair and Joan Ainsworth Diana Chadwick Geoff and Lynn Vorley Geoff and Barbara Perkins Pete Belcher and Pam Jackson Benjamin & Olivia Richardson

## Day 1

**Saturday 5th May**

After travelling to Penzance from various parts of the country most of the Naturetrek group made their way to the Lighthouse pier bright and early to board the Scillonian 111 ferry. It was a misty spring morning with poor visibility which represented no problem for the steamship but threatened to delay the journey of the tour members who had opted to travel to Scilly by air. With the World Gig Racing Championships taking place on the islands over the weekend I was expecting a full complement of passengers on the vessel but whilst it was undoubtedly busy the numbers were fewer than I feared.

Eventually the ropes were cast off and we began the three hour sailing to St Mary's, passing several summer plumaged Great Northern Divers before we had ventured far into Mount's Bay. Others were observed on the flat calm sea as we drew opposite Newlyn and in total at least six birds were noted, most in summer or partial summer dress. We were scanning for Basking Sharks but sadly none were seen although just a month later over 40 were counted between Penzance and Land's End! As we made our way parallel with the South Cornish coast the cliffs were barely visible in the mist becoming more and more indistinct as our route took us further out to sea.

Plenty of Gannets were present for most of the journey, sometimes occurring in concentrations where they were clearly finding shoals of fish to predate. Fulmars occasionally joined the ship, gliding effortlessly on stiff wings, and during the mid-point of the journey we met with about 20 of their smaller relatives, the black and white Manx Shearwaters which breed in some numbers on Scilly. Quite a few Guillemots were bobbing on the sea or whirring over the waves with rapid wing beats. Almost opposite the Wolf Rock lighthouse a few Storm Petrels appeared flying purposefully past the ship but getting others to see these tiny, fast-flying seabirds is always difficult and sadly most of the group missed the sightings.

Eventually the Eastern Isles came into view with the distinctive red and white day-mark on St Martin's visible behind the cluster of islands. Visibility had greatly improved and fittingly the sun was shining as the Scillonian docked at St Mary's. Having never coincided with the Gig Championships I was amazed at the scenes on the Town Beach where hundreds of people were milling around a line of gigs that stretched from one end of the beach to the other. Other boats were out in the harbour and we learned later that over 100 gigs and their attendant crews were on the islands for this largest ever event.

Making our way through throngs of people at the harbour side we left the daily chaos and hubbub that greets the arrival of the steamer and walked through Hughtown to Sallyport where most of the group were staying at the Santa Maria Guesthouse. Introductions were made to the proprietors Jackie and Andy, rooms allocated and the acquaintance made of Geoff and Barbara, who had arrived on an early Skybus from Exeter, and the Ainsworths who had flown on the Skybus from Lands End. I left at this juncture to find my self-catering accommodation on the Strand and discovered that I was directly opposite the main HQ for the Gig Championships, a location that I surmised would not be conducive for a good night's sleep!

After a break for everyone to settle in and to purchase lunch in 'town' we reassembled outside the Santa Maria at 3pm to take an afternoon walk around the Garrison headland. We were still missing Diana who was on a delayed helicopter flight from Penzance but set off on our stroll in the hope that she might catch up later. A tight squeeze through a low and narrow passageway links Sallyport with the Garrison footpath but we negotiated this without too many groans of complaint and began a clock-wise circuit of the old garrison walls which took us along the coast opposite St Agnes and the adjacent island of Gugh.

Very distant Kittiwakes could be seen swirling around their cliff colony on Gugh but in fairness it was not the best of views on a slightly hazy afternoon and I do not blame any doubters who were unconvinced by the identification! There was no doubt however about the Stonechats scolding us from amid the gorse or a Cuckoo which announced its arrival with a call and perched on top of a dead tree. Rock Pipits 'parachuting' song flight brought attention to these rather drab inhabitants of the rocky coastline and other more familiar birds such as Wren and Robin joined in the afternoon chorus. Holly Blue and Small Copper butterflies were enjoying the moments of sunshine and a plump Oil-beetle on the path was much admired as it dragged a bloated, and presumably egg-filled, body towards the cover of the Garrison wall.

In general birdlife around the Garrison was rather sparse and we met with few migrants apart from numerous Swallows hawking for insects. We soon encountered the first of many Linnets which proved to be abundant everywhere we went. Some other typical 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.

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. Closer at hand the Gig racing had transformed the usual sleepy aspect of Hughtown on a Saturday afternoon into a scene of great excitement as gigs raced across from Tresco to the harbour egged on by boat loads of vociferous supporters and cheered by crowds on the quay. The departure of the Scillonian 111 back to the mainland was also a noisy affair as the crowds left behind and the mass of passengers on deck tried to outdo each other with singing!

After a tasty evening meal at the Santa Maria Guest House we joined an almost full audience in the Church Hall for 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. The festivities on the Strand continued well into Sunday morning as the Gig followers celebrated the day's events but after the first few bouts of singing I soon fell asleep!

## Day 2

## Sunday 6th May

A pattern for the week was established as Sarah, Alistair and I turned out at 0615 to walk around Peninnis Head in a pre-breakfast search for migrant birds. A reward for our early start came in the form of an immature Kumlien's Gull sitting among the rocks at the eastern end of Porthcressa Beach. This ghostly pale gull had been around for some weeks but tended to move around a lot and Porthcressa first thing in the morning proved to be most reliable place to look for it during our week. The bird was pecking half-heartedly at some tit-bit hidden among the rocks and seemed quite at home on this Scillonian beach far away from its birth place high in the Canadian arctic. Half a dozen Whimbrels were also exploring the tideline on Porthcressa Beach along with the local Oystercatchers.

Moving on around the headland we disturbed many Song Thrushes and Blackbirds enjoying the early worm (and snail) on the footpath and were scolded by the parents of several juvenile Stonechats sitting amid thickets of gorse beside the footpath. The remainder of the walk produced a number of singing Rock Pipits and a single Cuckoo but no sign of any overnight arrival of migrants.

After breakfast we made our way down to the quay and boarded a tripper boat for a cruise around the Eastern Isles followed by landing on St Martin's. This is an excursion that can be prone to cancellation if weather or tides are unsuitable and my usual policy is to take this trip at the first opportunity. The boats were all pretty full this morning especially the Tresco departures but still more people were remaining on St Mary's to watch the Gig races.

We were joined for the day by Danny from the Wildlife Trust who had a day off and chose to spend it with us. An engaging character with good all-round natural history knowledge he was a pleasant companion for the outing. After dropping some visitors at Higher Town St Martin's we set off to navigate around the scatter of islands known as the Eastern Isles. Close up views of Shags, Cormorants, Fulmars and three gull species were all enjoyable but the star performers were undoubtedly the Grey Seals which as usual seemed to play to the audience. We saw about 50 animals in total, many loafing about on the rocks where they viewed our passing in a mixture of curiosity and mild alarm. Some huge bulls were present but many of the seals were females or immatures. It was an enchanting encounter and after completing a circuit of the last island it was a happy crew of passengers that headed back to land on the quay at Higher Town.

A few Common Terns were fishing the shallow waters off St Martin's but clearly most of the nesting population had still to arrive from their African sojourn. At least ten Whimbrels were feeding on the long sandy sweep of Highertown Bay, another example of how widespread these elegant waders are around Scilly in mid-May as they pause to feed before the last lap of their long migration to nesting grounds in northern Europe.

After 'ploughing the salt' we also felt in need of a refreshment break and made our way to the splendid Polreath tea room in Higher town where coffees and teas restored enthusiasm for a walk towards the western end of the island where the settlement of Lowertown and the St Martin's Hotel are situated. A Sedge Warbler singing loudly from a thicket of vegetation beside the rock encouraged us to hope for a few more migrants but he proved to be as isolated as his location although later we did hear a Cuckoo calling and several Wheatears flirted their white rumps ahead of us on the moorland paths.

In pleasant late morning sunshine we made our way from the cultivated southern side of the island to the gorse and heather expanse which cloaks the central and northern portions of St Martin's following a footpath which bisected the two habitats with moorland to our left and fields to the right. The scenery was magnificent as we looked down over the white sands and azure sea of Great Bay towards White Island in the distance. Even further to the north it was just possible to make out the outline of the Cornish coast but on a day such as this the mainland seemed light years away! Later the views to the south and west were just as impressive as large expanses of white sand were revealed by the retreating tide and it almost looked possible to walk across to Tresco.

We completed a wide loop and arrived back at the Polreath tea rooms to make our choice from the excellent lunch menu and discuss the events of the morning. Suitably restored after a protracted break we continued our exploration by walking around the eastern extremity of the island with some tour members diverting to take a closer look at the Day mark. We didn't see a lot of birds, although two Ravens were new for the week, but an Oak Eggar Caterpillar was an interesting find and butterflies included Speckled Woods, Red Admiral and several Small Coppers.

Once again the coastal scenery was magnificent especially as we rounded the headland and gazed out over the Eastern Isles. We reached Higher Town quay in good time for the return boat to St Mary's and as we waited a Sandwich Tern was fishing offshore. We arrived back to St Mary's at the climax of the Gig Championships and there was much excitement in the harbour and Strand areas as the winning crews were presented with their trophies. This was the conclusion of the weekend of competitions but there was plenty of time left for celebrations as I would later be able to verify as the revellers made their noisy and probably unsteady way past my accommodation!

## Day 3

Monday 7th May

A grey and windy start to the day became wetter during the morning but eventually grew brighter in the afternoon although remaining windy. The pre-breakfast trio were once again rewarded by views of the Kumlien's Gull on Porthcressa but no indication of any arrival of migrants around Peninnis Head. Later we caught a boat to Tresco in the hope that the weather would improve during our visit but the knowledge that we could always shelter in bird hides if it didn't!

Conditions were not ideal but we did pass an immature Great Northern Diver during the twenty minute journey from St Mary's and both Sandwich and Common Terns were noted. After a brief diversion to drop passengers on Bryher we eventually arrived at New Grimsby quay and made our way around to the Great Pool. The gusty damp weather was not conducive to hirundine activity but nonetheless I was surprised, and a little alarmed, to see very few Swallows over the water an indication that both Swallows and Martins were particularly late arriving this year. We paused for a while to scan over the pool but apart from the customary Gadwall and Mallards and a few Canada Geese on the shore, not a lot was apparent. A Blackcap gamely sang from the trees beside the track and proved remarkably adept at keeping hidden amid the foliage.

We squelched our way towards the famous Abbey Gardens where most of the group opted to spend the remainder of the morning touring the grounds although not before a cup of tea in the restaurant. By now the rain had become quite steady but undeterred, three of us left the others to enjoy the sub-tropical plants in the less than sub-tropical rain while we continued birding along the southern edge of the Great Pool. I have to admit that it was not the most productive of excursions but we did hear a few Goldcrests singing and once or twice a Reed Warbler piped up from the soggy reeds. Sitting in the comparative comfort of the David Hunt hide we gazed out on a fairly birdless vista relieved only by a few Gadwall and the antics of some tiny Coot chicks.

Returning to the restaurant for lunch we met up with the others, who had enjoyed their time in the gardens, and attempted to dry off along with all the other visitors trailing puddles of water behind them. Fortunately the weather began to show signs of improvement and I was even able to take my lunch into the garden where I had to defend the plate against determined raids by House Sparrows, Robin, Song Thrush and Chaffinches, all looking to steal a morsell!

Barbara returned for a further look around the gardens while the rest of us followed a very scenic route along the eastern side of the Island towards Borough Farm. Once again the scenery was superb with changing perspectives of the views across towards St Martin's and frequent glimpses of the long white beach which extends virtually the length of the shoreline on this side of Tresco. Before reaching Old Grimsby we cut inland and followed the side of the discreetly hidden rubbish tip back to the edge of the Great Pool. En route we heard more Goldcrests and several Blackcaps but viewing the singers was more difficult. A final spell in the new hide at the farm end of the Great Pool concluded a slightly disappointing day for birds but everyone seemed to have enjoyed their visit to this most famous of Scillonian islands and the only complaint was about the cost of entering the gardens.

## Day 4

Tuesday 8th May

Today was a 'stay at home' day with the activities centred on St Mary's. The faithful trio once again met with the Kumlien's Gull before breakfast and completed another very pleasant walk around Peninnis. Later we set off on a longish hike which took us past the Longstone Centre to Holy Vale then down the Porth Hellick Nature Trail finally following the coastal footpath beside the airfield to Old Town where we paused for lunch at the Tolman's Café.

Highlights included a splendid drake Garganey on Porth Hellick Pool along with a confiding Ringed Plover in front of the hide, and a small flock of Whimbrel on the airfield with two summer plumaged Golden Plover. Along the way we saw five or six Wheatears on the downs and a nesting pair or two of Ringed Plovers valiantly trying to keep their eggs safe in nests above the high water mark on Porth Hellick beach.

Crab sandwiches were on the menu at the Tolman's and were enjoyed by several of the group while others opted for more substantial meals. After the meal we meandered to nearby Old Town churchyard to see Harold Wilson's grave then made a leisurely return to the Santa Maria via the Lower Moors Nature Trail where a visit to the hides produced two Common Snipe giving excellent views in the pool vegetation whilst several Gadwalls swam around in open water. At least one Sedge Warbler was singing in the reeds and a few Reed Warblers could also be heard although none obliged with views. The final stop of the afternoon was Porth Loo beach which was host to several Whimbrels on the sand and another Wheatear among the boulders.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 9th May

After breakfast we boarded two mini-buses and travelled to the north end of the island at the start of another day on St Mary's. Disembarking at the end of Watermill Lane we walked down to the delightful little cove and then followed the coastal footpath to the west. It was not the nicest of mornings in terms of weather but a Blackcap was singing loudly at the beginning of the path and gave at least an illusion of summer. Pausing at the 2,000 year old Innisidgen Burial chambers, we tried to imagine what life must have been like in those far distant times but concluded that the cafes were probably better in present day Scilly. A few Razorbills were bobbing on the sea and birds along the rocky shoreline included two Herons, Shelducks, Oystercatchers and of course the inevitable Whimbrel or two.

Moving around the coastline we visited another archaeological site at Bant Carn ancient village then made our way across the famous St Mary's Golf Course, once beloved by Harold Wilson, to Juliet's Garden café for lunch. This superbly appointed establishment overlooking Hugh town harbour is arguably the best of all the many eating places on Scilly and certainly the one with the finest outlook. It was pretty crowded but we enjoyed a typically excellent meal and swapped notes with a birding friend of mine who had just arrived from the mainland. As some of the party returned to town for a museum visit the remainder of us re-visited Lower Moors and circled around Peninnis Head at a different time of day. A Redshank was in front of the Lower Moors hide with just one Snipe today

The Santa Maria does not serve an evening meal on Wednesdays and this gave us the opportunity to eat out in Hughtown. Our venue was the Pilot's Gig near the harbour, a fine restaurant owned by Scillonian birder, and one of the best bird photographers in Britain, Bryan Thomas. A convivial time was had by all and following the lunch at Juliets this was definitely the eating day of the holiday!

## Day 6

## Thursday 10th May

For a change the dawn patrol, augmented by Joan and Diana, tried the Garrison walk today and saw at least two Cuckoos. The main destination for later was the pretty little island of Bryher but a grey start to the morning soon developed into steady rain which rather spoilt our planned activities especially as the wind also increased during the afternoon. We sought refuge in the splendid Hell's Bay hotel for a protracted and exceedingly expensive coffee break whilst we attempted to dry out both our optical equipment and our coats. Looking at the steady rain we did not have much incentive to move! Eventually we did tear ourselves away from the comfort of the lounge and during an almost rain free interlude wandered to the rough pasture area maintained by the Wildlife Trust for the preservation of the very rare Dwarf Pansy.



After resorting to a hands and knees forensic search of the area we felt we deserved rather more than an abundance of rabbit droppings but could find no trace of the tiny plants. Sharp-eyed Sarah did however discover a number of minute *orthoptera* which she identified, and later confirmed, as Grey Bush Cricket nymphs. Whilst scrabbling around looking for the pansies a large flock of Dunlin flew over but continued away towards the northern isles never to be seen again!

Our party continued to file around the coastline with the bracken and gorse covered Samson Hill to our left. As so often on Scilly, the walk revealed more stunning vistas of the islands, this time the twin peaks of Samson, the more distant islets of the northern rocks and to the east, the long sandy coastline of Tresco. As the tide receded numerous sandy islets were exposed between islands and large flocks of gulls congregated on these temporary refuges. We found a dead White-toothed Shrew on the path and met some more Whimbrel along the beach but in general it was not very productive for birds albeit a very pleasant walk after the early rain.

We stopped for lunch at the Vine Café, a slightly less grand venue than the Hell Bay Hotel but somewhat cheaper and always reliable for good wholesome food. The renewed rain beating against the window did not encourage us to hurry and I was quite glad to delay the afternoon activities. Some of the party rather sensibly elected to return to St Mary's on a 2pm boat while the rest of us strode out into the rain and took the coastal footpath around the base of Shipman Hill.

This walk affords wonderful views over Hell Bay and Shipman Head but on this wet and windy afternoon we could be forgiven for concentrating more on where to place our feet rather than admiring the scenery. A few Swallows and House Martins were flying along below the shelter of the cliffs and earlier we had seen a lone Swift arrow over the island. A Cuckoo was also calling from the now neglected area of bulb fields between the hotel and the incongruously named 'Town' as the small settlement is named. It was a rather bedraggled windswept group that assembled on the beach to catch a 4 o'clock return boat to Hughtown but despite the weather we had enjoyed the opportunity to explore this small but picturesque north-western island which is well known to many people as the setting for the popular cinema film 'When the Whales Came'. Sadly no whales today, nor Dwarf Pansies but we did manage a Grey Seal and during a lull in the rain, a Common Blue butterfly.

## Day 7

## Friday 11th May

Peninnis at first light produced a Kestrel, two male Cuckoos chasing each other in aerial display and the Kumlien's Gull sitting among the rocks in its favourite area. A Scillonian 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 reasonable 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. Some of the group remained on board the boat to circle the seabird reserve of Annet where they met with at least twenty Puffins before returning to St Agnes and meeting us for lunch.

Scanning the expanse of seaweed and rocks exposed by the retreating tide in Porth Killier Bay we found several Whimbrel and a few Curlew, which made telescope comparison an easy task. The tideline ribbon of decomposing seaweed provided insect prey for Rock Pipits and Wheatears as well as such residents as Song Thrush, Blackbird, Robin and Wren.

A small flock of Turnstone, with some in handsome summer plumage were also finding plenty to eat among the weedy rocks. Continuing past the small freshwater pool, which today was covered with bathing and preening gulls, we 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. The recent TV documentary about Scilly had featured the building of a new farm cottage at Troytown Farm and as we walked past the now completed building we also encountered the young couple featured in the series adding two more ticks to the growing celebrity list. We had already seen the German vet, the fisherman, Max Hastings and Hannah Stacey from Radio Cornwall so only the new vicar remained to be ticked on our list!

We continued to follow the cliff path, stopping en route to look at the often pictured Troytown maze (labyrinth) before rejoining the one concrete road on the island near the historic old lighthouse which is a distinctive feature of St Agnes. Some say that all roads lead to a pub and so it is with the St Agnes A1 which runs through the centre of the island to the quay conveniently leading us to lunch in the Turk's Head. This island hostelry had recently changed hands but was as busy as ever and although pasties were off the menu today there were plenty of alternatives on offer.

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 and a few Wheatears then whilst dozing on Horse Point, or to give it an ornithological description, seawatching, half a dozen Manx Shearwaters glided by offshore passing Kittiwakes and auks loitering around beyond the headland.

Earlier we had heard a Willow Warbler singing in the centre of the island and some other birdwatchers had glimpsed a Golden Oriole indicating that some migration was happening. Numerous yellow Grass Eggar caterpillars at the sides of the path were tempting fare for any passing Cuckoo. An example of the unexpected sightings that make birding so exciting came as we peered into a grassy field at the edge of Wingletang and were shaken from our torpor by a loud shout from Sarah who pointed to a superb pale phase Arctic Skua flying overhead. Quite why this seabird should choose a short cut across the middle of St Agnes is a mystery but on it flew heading towards Annet.

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. Cuckoos were still calling as we made our way to the quay and probably at least four had enriched our day, a good total by recent standards.

## Day 8

Saturday 12th May

Our final day and sadly time for some of the party catching earlier flights to take their leave after breakfast. The rest of us caught a taxi to the north of the island then from Watermill Cove walked in an easterly direction around the coast crossing the lovely sandy beach at Pelistry and onward around Porth Hellick Downs to the Pool. An entertaining hike in pleasant conditions produced sightings of Grey Seal, more Whimbrel, an attractive yellow Grass Eggar caterpillar, Green Tiger Beetle and a family of Emu's. The latter were sadly not rare terrestrial vagrants from down under but behind a fence as part of an incongruous private wildlife collection near the coastal path.

As we returned to Hugh town we were pleased to finally obtain field sightings of the Vicar and thus complete our set of celebrities from the TV 'Island Parish' before reaching town we enjoyed a last lunch at Juliet's Garden and this time crab was on the menu having been unavailable on our previous visit.

Eventually it was time to board the Scillonian and watch the islands recede into the distance as we sailed back to Penzance. It was somewhat clearer conditions than the outward journey and the various landmarks on the Cornish coast were easy to see as we headed towards Mounts Bay. Seabirds were sparse but several Storm Petrels appeared opposite Wolf Rock and a few Manx Shearwaters were observed.

It had not been the most bird-filled time on the Scilly Isles, due mainly to the prevailing conditions but I hope everyone enjoyed the week as much as I did. Such are the vagaries of migration that a Squacco Heron arrived at Porth Hellick the day after we left but birdwatchers and fisherman always have tales of the one that got away!

## Species Lists

### Birds

Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	At least 6 near Cornish coast 5 <sup>th</sup> , one near Samson 7 <sup>th</sup>
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Numbers during crossings and a few nesting around islands
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	c20 on crossing, a few off St Agnes
Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	A few on crossings
Gannet	<i>Sula bassanus</i>	Common on crossing and around islands
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Nesting Eastern Isles, small numbers elsewhere
Shag	<i>P. aristotelis</i>	Common around islands, rafts of several hundred
Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Up to 2 around St Mary's coast
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Two Tresco
Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	Five or six Tresco
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Up to 10, mostly in pairs around coastlines
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Tresco, Porth Hellick, Lower Moors & St Agnes
Mallard	<i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	A few on each island, many Tresco
Garganey	<i>A. querquedula</i>	Drake Porth Hellick
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	One Peninnis
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Tresco
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Pairs on most island pools
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Tresco & Porth Hellick
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Common around coastlines
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Porth Hellick beach & St Agnes
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Two St Mary's airfield
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Flock flew over Bryher
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Two Lower Moors
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	One St Mary's a few St Agnes
Whimbrel	<i>N. phaeopus</i>	Up to 20+ daily, seen on most islands
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	One Porth Loo & one Lower Moors
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	A few around St Mary's, 6+ St Agnes
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Adult over St Agnes 11th
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Common and widespread
Herring Gull	<i>L. Argentatus</i>	Common and widespread
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>L. marinus</i>	Locally common
Iceland Gull	<i>L. glaucoides</i>	Immature 'Kumlien's' seen daily Porth Cressa
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	A number during crossings and also around islands
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Singles St Martin's and off Tresco
Common Tern	<i>S. hirundo</i>	Just a few around islands, mostly off St Martin's
Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Plentiful on crossing but few, if any, around islands
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	Small numbers around islands, especially Eastern Isles
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	c20 around Annet seen from boat
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Two Holy Vale
Woodpigeon	<i>C. palumbus</i>	Common and widespread
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Seen in small numbers most days and on all islands
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard or seen most days on St Mary's (2-3+) also 4+ St Agnes & One Bryher. Heard St Martin's
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	One Bryher, one Hugh town
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen daily but only in generally small numbers
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Only 4-5 birds seen during week (apparently big influx on 12 <sup>th</sup> !!)
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Nesting Peninnis Head & St Agnes
Rock Pipit	<i>A. petrosus</i>	Distributed around coasts in small numbers
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	One Tresco
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Very common
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Common throughout
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Common
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Pairs and families seen at a number of gorse sites
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Small numbers only, no more than 15-20 birds in total
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Very common
Song Thrush	<i>T. philomelos</i>	Very common
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	One St Martin's, a few heard Lower Moors & Tresco

Reed Warbler	<i>A. scirpaceus</i>	Heard Lower Moors, Tresco & P Hellick
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Heard Tresco & several places St Mary's, also St Agnes
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A few seen and heard around islands
Willow Warbler	<i>P. trochilus</i>	Heard St Agnes
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	A number heard and 1-2 seen Tresco
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	One or two seen during week
Great Tit	<i>P. major</i>	Several seen and heard during week
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	A few most days
Raven	<i>C. corax</i>	Two St Martin's
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common
Chaffinch	<i>Fringella coelebs</i>	Small numbers St Mary's & Tresco
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Fairly plentiful
Goldfinch	<i>C. carduelis</i>	Encountered fairly frequently
Linnet	<i>C. cannabina</i>	Numerous

### Mammals

Grey Seal	50+ Eastern Isles, a few around other islands
Rabbit	Common
White-toothed Shrew	One dead Bryher
Brown Rat	St Mary's

### Insects

Holly Blue	Cinnabar Moth	Oil Beetle
Common Blue	Oak Eggar caterpillar	Minataur Beetle
Red Admiral	Grass Eggar caterpillar	Green Tiger Beetle
Speckled Wood	Yellow-tail Moth caterpillar	Grey Bush Cricket nymph
Small Copper	Burnet Moth caterpillar	
Large White		