

# Isles of Scilly

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 - 28 April 2012

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Peregrine on the Eastern Isles



Golden Pheasant on Tresco



Group on St Agnes



Ringed Plover on Bryher

Report compiled by Paul Dukes  
Images courtesy of Mike and Heather Garner



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## Day 1

Saturday 21st April

Despite a stormy week preceding the tour, the weather was relatively benign as we boarded the *Scillonian 111*, although a strong wind was blowing, and the day began with extensive clouds which shed a little rain during the crossing. Everyone arrived on the quay in good time, some bright eyed after a night's sleep in a guest house, others slightly travel weary following an early morning drive to Cornwall, or in the case of Jackie and Linda, a claustrophobic overnight on the sleeper train from London! The crossing to Scilly was fairly uneventful but a number of Manx Shearwaters treated us to close views as they glided past the ship and Gannets were a frequent sight despite the nearest colony being hundreds of miles away. For the first hour of the voyage the landmarks of the Cornish coast such as Lamorna Cove, Porthcurno, the Minnack Theatre and Gwennap Head slipped by to starboard then we entered the rather more turbulent seas off Land's End and pushed on towards Scilly with the Wolf Rock lighthouse to port indicating roughly the half-way mark as a welcome sign for those discovering that they were not cut out for a life ploughing the salt! Just as we rounded Peninnis Head a summer plumage Great Northern Diver was spotted close to the rocky shore but unfortunately not everyone managed to see it.

The sun was shining as we disembarked on St Mary's and made our way through the usual chaos of people on the quay to the Santa Maria Guest House which was to be our base for the next week. After sorting out the rooming the group dispersed to find lunch in Hugh Town where the choice ranges from sandwiches from the local store to more substantial meals in the various cafes, pubs and hotels.

We gathered again soon after 3pm to undertake a birding walk around the Garrison headland following a clockwise circuit around the coast. The lovely purple flowers of *Geranium maderensis* were a delightful sight in gardens as we squeezed through the narrow passageway leading from Sally Port to the Garrison and other spring colour was provided by yellow Aeoniums growing from the walls. Unfortunately the many tall Tree Echiums were not yet in full flower unlike their smaller relatives which seemed to be well in bloom.

As we progressed along the walk, absurdly tame Song Thrushes and Blackbirds gave a taste of island birdlife. Scilly has probably the highest density of Song Thrushes in England and they are both a familiar sight throughout the islands and their song a melodic accompaniment to every excursion. Wrens and Dunnocks are also abundant adding their own vocal contributions to almost every habitat. The northerly winds had clearly put a brake on migration but a few Wheatears were encountered along the Garrison walls, some Swallows were hawking insects in sheltered corners and we heard one or two Chiffchaffs in the Elms. The walk serves as a good introduction to Scilly affording views of each of the inhabited islands beginning with St Agnes and Gugh, then Tresco and Bryher before finally rounding the headland to see St Martin's away to the east. Perhaps because of the cold wind, birdlife was a bit sparse but we did observe a number of Linnets, one of the commonest little birds on Scilly in the spring, as well as Rock Pipits, many Wrens and a large flock of Shags offshore. Further botanical interest was provided by the misleadingly named Bermuda Buttercup (which is neither a buttercup nor from Bermuda!) and carpets of fleshy Hottentot Fig.

Later we enjoyed a tasty meal at the Pilot's Gig restaurant near the Quay and most of the group fought off tiredness to attend Will Wagstaff's entertaining slide show on Scilly Wildlife which whetted appetites for the week ahead.

## Day 2

Sunday 22nd April

A cool, cloudy dawn did not encourage an early start but I was joined by Mike for a pre-breakfast walk around Peninnis Head. It was good exercise to sharpen the appetite but we found few migrants although it was pleasant to watch Gannets diving off the headland and yet more Linnets twittering away in the gorse.

Despite the grey start the forecast was reasonable for the day and as most of the group wished to see the famous Abbey Gardens I decided to make Tresco our destination. In a routine that was to be replicated each excursion day, the group met on the quay at 0945 and we joined a crowd of fellow visitors boarding the tripper boats. Thanks to the strong winds it was a rather more lumpy than usual crossing over the 'roads' to Carn Near on Tresco and I was among the passengers who received a few buckets of seawater in the face to liven up the morning!

Stepping ashore on the island we filed along the track leading to the Abbey Gardens, pausing briefly to run through the identification features of the three gull species resting on the heliport grass. Everyone opted to visit the gardens for the morning so as they toured this impressive collection of exotic plants and trees I went to see if I could find any birds on the nearby Abbey Pool. A fair number of Swallows were feeding over the water along with some Sand Martins but my best find, a small flock of Teal, unfortunately could not be found when we returned after lunch.

Gradually the group returned for lunch in the garden restaurant and enthused about their visit and reported an encounter with one of the very tame Golden Pheasants which solicit tit-bits from visitors. Possibly the same male had earlier toured the restaurant garden and at one time seemed intent on entering the building! Equally confiding Chaffinches, House Sparrows, Song Thrushes and Blackbirds competed for table scraps showing great skill at snatching any edible item left unguarded for a fraction of a second.

When everyone had finished eating we gradually made our way past the Abbey Pool and along the shore of Pentle Bay as we headed north towards Old Grimsby. A flock of about 15 Whimbrel flew in from the direction of St Martin's and passed overhead uttering their evocative calls. On the pristine white beaches we met Oystercatchers and a few Ringed Plovers whilst Swallows dashed over the sand catching flies above the seaweed. This eastern coastline of Tresco, on what had now developed into a fine sunny afternoon, provided stunning holiday brochure panoramas of the islands and the combination of turquoise seas with white stretches of beach must surely rival any stretch of coast in the UK. Birds were not plentiful but we did encounter plenty of Linnets and the 'resident' Common Buzzard obliged with some aerial displays over the pines. Once a Scilly rarity, this widespread Cornish raptor is now a regular sight on Tresco and this year it is thought that a second bird might be present, encouraging hope of a nesting success. Later we saw the Buzzard carry away some unidentified prey from a field overlooking the Great Pool.

Before reaching Old Grimsby we turned off the coastal footpath to cross Borough Farm and cut inland past the carefully concealed rubbish tip to reach the Great Pool. Numerous Red-legged Partridges and Pheasants scuttled from beside the paths, enjoying the temporary cessation in shooting which will begin again in the autumn. Apparently shooting parties visit Tresco in the winter for the dubious pleasure of blasting these poor unsuspecting birds which seem about as keen to fly as the average chicken!

Scanning the Great Pool we counted three Redshanks standing on the shore, and three Tufted Ducks among the Gadwall, Mallard and Coot on the open water. The resident Mute Swans and Canada Geese were loafing about in characteristic fashion whilst overhead hirundines hawked for insects. A summer-plumage Black-headed Gull was a bit of a surprise as most leave Scillonian waters earlier in the spring to breed at mainland sites.

We returned to St Mary's from New Grimsby at 1645 after a very enjoyable and mostly sunny day. Razorbills on the sea were a highlight of a much calmer boat trip taking us the extent of Tresco Channel which separates Tresco from Bryher and Samson, a test for sailors with its myriad of scattered rocks and sandbars exposed by the tide. Dinner at the Pilot's Gig gave another opportunity to try something new from the menu.

## Day 3

Monday 23rd April

A Front passed through overnight bringing heavy rain but this had moved away by breakfast leaving a mostly sunny and bright day although later in the afternoon cloud and rain returned. Given the uncertainty of the weather we decided to stay on St. Mary's and concentrated on the central and eastern portion of the island.

Our route took us along the Strand, where Pilot Gigs were parked ready for the forthcoming World Championship weekend, then along Rocky Hill and Longstone Lane to the small Community Garden at Carreg Dhu where we paused for some twenty minutes admiring the variety of plants and listening to the songs of Blackcap and Chiffchaff. Continuing past the closed Longstone Centre we conveniently ignored a sign warning of the temporary closure of the footpath and followed the edge of the Elms down into Holy Vale where workmen renovating one of the cottages hurled good-natured abuse at me for ignoring the sign! The small cluster of cottages comprising Holy Vale elicited much admiration from the group and bathed in the morning sun it looked the perfect location for a peaceful holiday.

We turned towards the coast here and filed along the somewhat muddy track through the largest tract of Elms on the island passing clumps of Hemlock Water Dropwort in the boggy areas below the trees. The Elms were still largely leafless and many festooned with Ivy prompting Brian to declare that someone should set about removing this, although we declined the challenge! Apart from the inevitable Wrens, thrushes and a few Chiffchaffs, it was fairly quiet amid the trees and we were soon in the more open area approaching Porth Hellick Pool, watched by an imaginary unit of soldiers sporting huge growths of Tussack-Sedge as disguise!

Looking out from the first hide overlooking Porth Hellick we could see many Swallows feeding over the water together with a few Sand Martins and at least one House Martin. A Little Egret flew in to feed in the shallows and several Gadwall were present but the big surprise was a lone Pink-footed Goose. Although the origins of single geese must always be a little suspect this individual did not show any obvious signs of captivity and may well have arrived as a result of the stormy overnight conditions although we will never know. It seemed a little bemused and at one point vanished into the reeds but was later swimming in the open water. Pinkfeet are rare visitors to Scilly making this our first rarity of the week!

Making our way to the coastal footpath we continued on towards Old Town, negotiating the end of the airfield runway where at least one Wheatear was visible on the grass. A growing hunger quickened our pace and soon after 1pm we were inspecting the menus in the Tolman's Café overlooking Old Town Bay. After a leisurely meal we went to view Harold Wilson's grave in the nearby church yard and telescoped half a dozen Whimbrel which conveniently settled on rocks to one side of the bay. Swallows were also swooping over the beach along with one or two House Martins. Despite it being rather early in the season I looked briefly for Stick-Insects in the church yard then we ambled through the Lower Moors Nature Reserve with ever increasing cloud cover suggesting that rain would not be long arriving. A Greenshank offered excellent views in front of the first hide but small birds were keeping their heads down in the wind and no herons were present to take advantage of the numerous Eels which kept disturbing the water surface in the pools.

We arrived back into Hughtown slightly earlier than usual giving time for a little relaxation before dining once again at the Pilot's Gig. By the time we headed for the meal it was raining quite heavily, an unwelcome return visit by the earlier Front.

## Day 4

**Tuesday 24th April**

The bad weather had again passed over the islands by dawn leaving another warm, sunny day. Tripper boats run daily from St Mary's to most of the islands but the wildlife cruise around the Eastern Isles is subject to weather and tide so I was glad to see it on offer today combined as usual with a landing on St Martin's. We set off on board the 'Golden Spray' with the 'Kingfisher' serving as a relief vessel because of the demand for St Martin's. En route we passed the immature Eider which has been frequenting the north of St Mary's for some weeks, and large rafts of Shags in a communal hunt for fish. After dropping St Martin's passengers at Higher Town quay, our captain, Mark, headed out towards the group of uninhabited islands comprising the Eastern Isles. The sea was largely calm and we enjoyed almost an hour of exploring the coastline of the islands with Mark giving a commentary on the history and wildlife. Plenty of Fulmars, gulls, Shags and Razorbills were observed at close range and a small colony of Cormorants, but perhaps the ornithological highlight was a fine adult Peregrine peering down at us from a high crag.

At first the popular Atlantic Grey Seals were a little elusive with only a dozen or so around their usual haunts but Mark eventually tracked down the main gathering and took the boat close to the rocks where some 30 or more animals posed obligingly for the cameras. Many were hauled out in awkward looking postures on rocks and these included some hefty bulls.

After touring the islands because of the retreating tide we were obliged to follow the deep water channel to the Lower Town quay and took advantage of the close proximity of the St Martin's hotel to enjoy relaxing beverages in the very civilised surroundings of the hotel garden. It would have been easy to spend much longer in this lovely spot but with time ticking away we were soon on our way along the central spine of the island with gorse heathland and a glorious coast to our left and cultivations to the right. A few Wheatears and two Meadow Pipits were disturbed from the footpath and we admired some freshly emerged Small Copper butterflies looking very orange in the sun. Earlier a male Kestrel had hovered over the hotel garden we heard both Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs in the thickets of trees near Lower Town. Swallows were again much in evidence although not in large numbers. Another butterfly noted on our walk was the brightly coloured Scillonian form of Speckled Wood which can look very different to the mainland race.

St. Martin's is an island with a particularly attractive coastline which constantly delights as each twist in the footpath reveals a different perspective of the shore. The sweep of Great Bay is one such vista and as usual, this magnificent beach was mostly devoid of people. Later we looked out over the extensive sandy flats exposed between the island and Tresco at low tide which can be crossed on foot at certain times. Before turning off the main path to head towards Higher Town, Gill, Jackie and Linda drew our attention to an unexpected young male Ring Ouzel hopping around a rough field in the company of a Song Thrush. It offered excellent views although in typical fashion, by the time I had set up the telescope it had vanished over a ridge.

We arrived at the Polreath Café in Higher Town just in time to order lunch which we chose to eat in the windiest corner of the garden thanks to my panic in claiming some seats before the 2pm deadline for ordering food! After the meals, some of the group set off for a brisk walk around Chapel Down whilst the rest of the party took a leisurely stroll past Little Arthur Farm and along the edge of Par Beach before turning back to walk along the white sands to Higher Town quay for the return boat to St Mary's. It had been another lovely day and although migrant birds had been in short supply we were happy to have seen the Ring Ouzel and the attractions of the Eastern Isles.

## Day 5

Wednesday 25th April

A second full day on St Mary's began with a 15 minute ride on the Community bus to Maypole in the north of the island, a delightfully Scillonian travel experience complete with string operated door and driver Steve's sardonic comments. From Maypole we made our way to Newford Duck Ponds where a Chiffchaff showed well in the bushes, then along Watermill Lane to the cove. A pair of Shelducks watched our passing from the sheltered beach of the cove and both Chiffchaff and Blackcap were heard from the line of elms along the lane.

At Innisidgen Burial Chamber we paused to inspect this 2000 year old tomb and a scan of the sea offshore revealed no less than three Great Northern Divers along with several Razorbills. One of the divers was in partial summer plumage and despite the birds spending long periods underwater we obtained some good telescope views from beside the tumulus.

We passed by the lower Innisidgen burial chamber then continued along the coastal footpath towards the Telegraph. The weather had again been kind to us and it was pleasantly warm as we reached Bar Point where several Sand Martins were among a flock of Swallows taking advantage of emerging insects. A few Whimbrels were noted along the rocky coast and a lone winter plumage Bar-tailed Godwit as well as the usual Oystercatchers. A single Curlew was a new bird for the week. The immature male Eider was resting on a small island in its favourite bay and offered rather better telescope views than the previous day!

The ancient village site at Bant's Carn completed our brief glimpse of Scillonian history then we obeyed the messages from our stomachs and strode purposefully past the edge of the golf course to the rather splendid Juliet's Garden for lunch. Arguably the best of St Mary's eating establishments, Juliet's is certainly one of the best positioned perched on a hillside overlooking Hughtown and the harbour. Our lunches matched the reputation and suitably replete we left the garden to spend the afternoon in a variety of ways. I had to pick up a ticket from the Steamship offices whilst others went to investigate galleries or work off the meal with a walk. We made vague plans to walk around the Garrison later but rain was threatening by 3pm and I completed the circuit on my own with just a Kestrel, Stonechat and singing Willow Warbler as rewards. In the event the heavy rain clouds mostly passed to the south and I avoided what seemed like a certain soaking.

Later the Women's Wednesday night Gig Race was watched by some of the group although not without causing a degree of confusion in the kitchen of the Pilot's Gig and consequently a somewhat protracted evening meal!

## Day 6

## Thursday 26th April

A sunny morning encouraged us to visit St Agnes, the most southerly island in the archipelago and my favourite holiday destination for the last 45 years!

Arriving on the quay at Porth Conger we were greeted by the evocative wailing cries of Kittiwakes calling from their new colony on a low cliff a few hundred metres from the Turk's Head pub. The nationwide decline in Kittiwakes has been mirrored in Scilly with the once thriving colony on Gugh dwindling to extinction but against this trend one pair of these attractive gulls set up home on St Agnes a few years ago and reports suggest that there are now 16 birds! They are a welcome sight and we spent some minutes watching them through my telescope. Close to the quay we found several Willow Warblers flitting around the base of a hedge and as we progressed and met others in similar situations it seemed clear that there had been something of an arrival of migrants which also included many Blackcaps. This was to be a feature of the next few days but on this first morning it just seemed a little odd that the warblers were feeding in this fashion.

Continuing around the shoreline we found much activity in the seaweed covered Porth Killier and paused to telescope a flock of 25+ feeding Whimbrel along with 20+ Turnstone, some of the latter acquiring summer plumage. A Little Egret was also sitting on the beach. The small freshwater pool, which to reflect St Agnes scale is known on the island as the 'big pool' was full of bathing, splashing gulls, two Gadwalls and a single female Tufted Duck. After scanning Porth Killier, on which Ringed Plovers were disputing territories, we crossed the camomile scented cricket pitch where two White Wagtails attracted our attention, and slowly followed the coast past the picturesque island church, skirting what can claim to be one of the most spectacularly sited camp sites in Cornwall.

Tradition dictated that we called at Troytown Farm, which now supplies milk, dairy products, meat and even ice-cream by way of diversification and in this capacity ensured we all had multi-flavoured ice creams to cool us down. It was from here that I telescoped the seabird breeding island of Annet in the hope of seeing one or two Puffins but instead chanced upon three summer plumaged Great Northern Divers which seemed to be different birds to the ones seen off Inisidgen. Masses of shags were streaming along the coast of Annet and heading to join a big flock fishing offshore. A little further along our walk I again scanned Annet and this time the surprise was a crowd of over 70 Grey Seals hauled up on the west of the island looking through binoculars like so many rocks!

After the ice-cream and diver break we soon 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. Several orange-yellow Grass Eggar caterpillars were noted beside the path here and later in the day we found many more around Horse Point. We continued to follow the cliff path, stopping en route to look at the often pictured Troytown maze (labyrinth) and as it was by now approaching 1pm, adjourned for a pleasant lunch in the nearby Coastguard Café. Our arrival caused some consternation in the kitchen as they were expecting the imminent arrival of another group but everyone was soon accommodated and I was able to swap bird notes with an old friend Dave Rossair who was leading the other group.

For the afternoon we concentrated on 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. Sadly there were no Cuckoos for us today but we did enjoy views of a Stonechat family in the gorse and encountered several Wheatears. Whilst at Horse Point we experienced a moment of visible migration when a dozen or so Whimbrel arrived from off the sea, possibly making landfall after crossing from France or maybe just island hopping! Whatever their origin it was exciting to see them pass overhead calling.

Returning to the quay for the return boat to St Mary's we saw a Sand Martin among Swallows at Covean and a few more Willow Warblers bringing our day total up to 25+ although other observers on the island counted over 60 together with 40+ Blackcaps. Thus ended another enjoyable visit to this delightful island and I was pleased that I had been able to show it off in pleasant sunny conditions.

## Day 7

Friday 27th April

A planned full day on Bryher was thwarted by tides restricting a visit to the morning only but there would be a 1245 transfer to Tresco so a day excursion was still possible. We arrived at the Church Quay on Bryher in overcast showery conditions but the weather brightened during our stay and was sunny by mid-morning. With time at a premium we were keen not to waste a minute so promptly retired to the very comfortable Hell Bay Hotel for a morning coffee ensuring that we had our priorities in the correct order! From the lounge we could see a Greenshank and Little Egret on the 'Great' Pool and a Sedge Warbler was singing nearby.



A shower soon passed over and fortified with caffeine we meandered to the short turf above Rushy Bay, the habitat for the rare Dwarf Pansy. Usually it requires a long search to find these tiny flowers but we had some keen-eyed tour members and within minutes of looking half a dozen or more pansies were located beside the path. Although one of the botanical specialities of Scilly it cannot be denied that they are not the most spectacular of flowers and can only really be appreciated through a magnifying glass or inverted binoculars!

Sea Holly nearby was not yet in flower but added another species to the flora list. As we followed the coastal footpath below Samson Hill we found more evidence of the migrant arrival in the form of Willow Warblers and Blackcaps flitting around the hedges and fields. Another Sedge Warbler was also chattering away from cover and we briefly heard a few snatches of reeling from a concealed Grasshopper Warbler. It might have been rewarding to spend longer in this sheltered corner but time was against us so we were obliged to continue along the track, albeit enjoying the superb views towards Samson and then Tresco as we turned to the north. A few Whimbrels flew up from the exposed expanses of seaweed and a Common Sandpiper flickered low over the sea.

Arriving back at the so-called Anneka's Quay in good time we noted a few Sand Martins among the Swallows over the channel before boarding the 'Sea-Horse' for a short trip across to New Grimsby on Tresco. Charles and Sue decided to return to St Mary's on the vessel for a spot of museum visiting while the rest of us made our way to the New Inn for lunch. First stop after the break was the top of the Great Pool to see what we might find on the water but upon reaching a telescoping position we were diverted by a large dark bird striding into view at the bottom of Simpson's Field. It was unmistakably a Glossy Ibis, a summer visitor to parts of southern Europe which had taken a wrong turn to end up on Scilly. Although there had been an exceptional number of ibis records in Britain during the winter and early spring, this was an unexpected encounter for us and we were fortunate with our timing because after posing perfectly for us in front of the bird hide it was attacked by one of the Canada Geese and flew off towards the far end of the pool.

Elated by this rare find we continued along the Abbey Drive, our progress interrupted by more Blackcap and Willow Warbler sightings as well as two hungry male Golden Pheasants, one of which almost mugged Brian when he sat on a tree stump to eat his sandwiches. The image of this exotic bird flying up to try and snatch the food from Brian's hand is one that will last in my memory! On reaching the smaller Abbey Pool we again accidentally disturbed the Ibis which seemed rather uncertain where to go next and after being mobbed by a gull vanished over the pines towards St Martin's. The Common Buzzard also put in an appearance and the numerous Swallows over the pool were accompanied by several Sand and House Martins.

The return boat to St Mary's was due to depart from Carn Near and we made our way slowly to the quay passing a few Wheatears and a pair of Stonechats in the bracken. It had been one of those occasions when a change in plans had worked to our advantage and we felt pleased to have been on the right island today!

## Day 8

Saturday 28th April

Our final day dawned bright and sunny although later in the afternoon clouds rolled in as a precursor to a stormy Sunday. Sadly we had to bid farewell to three of our party; Yvonne, who was catching a morning Skybus flight to the mainland, and helicopter departees Linda and Jackie.

After we had vacated our rooms and sorted out the luggage for collection, we made our way to the Town Hall for another trip on the Community Bus. Gill decided to stay behind for a relaxing morning while the rest of us travelled to Pelistry Lane leading down to the sandy cove on the north coast which is a popular spot with holidaymakers on sunny days. From here we walked around the coast to Porth Hellick thus completing the one section of St Mary's coast not visited thus far. Continuing the trend of the last few days, Willow Warblers and Blackcaps were frequenting the hedgerows beside the path and I had brief glimpses of one or two Whitethroats. A possible Water Rail was also glimpsed in an unlikely situation at the base of a stone wall but it vanished into a tangle of bracken.

Crossing Porth Hellick Downs we were startled by a loud burst of 'cuckooing' from a pine tree beside the path and fortunately the caller remained in the tree long enough for me to set up the telescope for some excellent close up views. The bird was clearly pumped up with territorial vigour and continued calling for several minutes despite our close proximity. Having searched unsuccessfully for Cuckoos all week it was a nice reward on our last day!

Dropping down to the pools at Porth Hellick we found plenty of hirundines over the water including once again Sand and House Martins among the Swallows. A lone Greenshank was also present. From here we walked to Old Town but chose to follow the main road rather than take the coastal footpath. A fine lunch at the Tolman's Café was a suitable finale to a week of tasty lunches but was not quite the end of the birdwatching as a last circuit of the Garrison produced several Wheatear, more Willow Warblers, a reeling Grasshopper Warbler and the first Swift of the spring arrowing overhead off the sea. It only remained to pick up hand luggage left at the Santa Maria then board the *Scillonian* for the return sailing to Penzance.

I hope everyone enjoyed their stay on Scilly as much as I did. Spring migration is always unpredictable and winds had not been favourable but I think the islands had exuded their usual charm and we had been extremely fortunate with the weather.

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## Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

1	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	One near St Mary's 21 <sup>st</sup> , 3 Innisidgen 25 <sup>th</sup> 3 off Annet 26 <sup>th</sup>
2	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	A few during crossings and around islands; nesting Eastern Isles
3	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Seen on crossings
4	Gannet	<i>Sula bassanus</i>	Common on crossing and a few around islands
5	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Nesting Eastern Isles, small numbers elsewhere
6	Shag	<i>P. aristotelis</i>	Common around islands, rafts of several hundred
7	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	One over Rocky Hill 23 <sup>rd</sup>
8	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Singles Porth Hellick, Bryher & St Agnes
9	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Immature Tresco 27 <sup>th</sup>
10	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	5-6 Tresco
11	Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	Four plus Tresco
12	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Single Porth Hellick
13	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Mostly in pairs around coastlines, total 20+
14	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Tresco, Porth Hellick, Lower Moors, St Agnes, Bryher
15	Mallard	<i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	A few on each island, many Tresco
16	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Two males one female Tresco, female St Agnes
17	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Immature male St Mary's
18	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	One Tresco
19	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Four records during week
20	Peregrine	<i>F. peregrinus</i>	One Eastern Isles
21	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Tresco & Garrison St Mary's
22	Golden Pheasant	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>	3 males Tresco
23	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Introduced birds on Tresco
24	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Pairs, some with young, on Tresco, St Agnes and St Mary's
25	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Tresco, St Agnes and Porth Hellick.
26	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Common around coastlines
27	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Tresco, St Agnes, Bryher & St Mary's
28	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lappinica</i>	One St Mary's
29	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Singles Innisidgen & St Agnes
30	Whimbrel	<i>Numeniu. Phaeopus</i>	Seen or heard most days with 30-40 counted on Tresco & St Agnes
31	Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	Three Tresco one St Agnes
32	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	One Porth Hellick & Lower Moors
33	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	30+ St Agnes & Hughtown St Mary's (12+ Penzance)
34	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	One Bryher
35	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Common and widespread
36	Herring Gull	<i>L. argentatus</i>	Common and widespread
37	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>L. marinus</i>	Locally common
38	Black-headed Gull	<i>L. ridibundus</i>	Adult Tresco
39	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	A few during crossings and also around islands, several pairs

			St Agnes
40	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Several off St Martin's
41	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Some on crossing
42	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	Small numbers around islands esp Eastern Isles
43	Woodpigeon	<i>C. palumbus</i>	Common and widespread
44	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Seen in small numbers most days and on all islands
45	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	One seen well St Mary's
46	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	One seen Garrison on final day
47	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	20+ Tresco, smaller numbers St Agnes, Bryher & Porth Hellick
48	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen daily but only in generally small numbers but influx towards end of week
49	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	A few among Swallows on 3 tour days
50	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Two St Martin's, 1 25th
51	Rock Pipit	<i>A. petrosus</i>	Distributed around coasts in small numbers
52	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Two (White Wagtails) St Agnes
53	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Very common
54	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Common throughout
55	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Seen most days in small numbers
56	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Scarce- pair Garrison, family St Agnes, pair Tresco
57	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Small numbers only, no more than 15-20 birds in total
58	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Very common
59	Ring Ousel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Male St Martin's
60	Song Thrush	<i>T. philomelos</i>	Very common
61	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	One singing Bryher and one Garrison
62	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Singing Bryher
63	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	After big influx to islands seen daily from 23rd
64	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A few seen and heard around islands
65	Willow Warbler	<i>P. trochilus</i>	Heard on 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> then 25+ St Agnes 26 <sup>th</sup> 30+ on 27 <sup>th</sup> and 20+ 28 <sup>th</sup>
66	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	A few seen during week
67	Great Tit	<i>P. major</i>	Several seen and heard during week
68	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus. corone</i>	A few most days
69	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common
70	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common
71	Chaffinch	<i>Fringella coelebs</i>	Small numbers St Mary's & Tresco
72	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Fairly plentiful
73	Goldfinch	<i>C. carduelis</i>	Encountered fairly frequently
74	Linnet	<i>C. cannabina</i>	Common on all islands

## Mammals

- |   |           |                              |  |
|---|-----------|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Grey Seal | <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>    | 30+ Eastern Isles, a few around other islands, 70+ Annet |
| 2 | Rabbit    | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | Common   |