

# Isles of Scilly

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 - 29 September 2012

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Report compiled by Paul Dukes

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	Fred Wickens	
	Pat Warner	
	Rob Warner	
	Derek Harbottle	
	Lizbeth Harbottle	
	Judith Brown	
	Diane Gee	

## Day 1

Saturday 22nd September

The weather was relatively benign as we boarded the *Scillonian III* although a gusty wind was blowing and after a bright start, extensive clouds gathered later in the afternoon. Everyone arrived on Penzance 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 a claustrophobic overnight on the sleeper train from London! Diane had travelled to the islands by air the previous day and we were to meet her later for the afternoon walk. The crossing to Scilly was fairly uneventful but as usual 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!

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 Co-op to more substantial meals in the various cafes, pubs and hotels.

We gathered again soon after 3pm, complete with Diane to undertake a birding walk around the Garrison headland following a clockwise circuit around the coast. Although lacking the bright colours of spring, the exotic Scillonian flora was still much in evidence including *Geranium maderensis*, fleshy looking *aeoniums* and the tall spikes of Tree Echium. In places there were carpets of invasive Hottentot Fig, many plants bearing flowers, and we found twenty or more Autumn Lady's Tresses growing along the top of the Garrison walls. This pretty little orchid has usually finished flowering by late September but thanks to the unusual summer weather many were still in pristine condition. Only a few species of orchid occur on the islands and thanks to its late flowering this is perhaps the one least seen by visiting botanists. It is plentiful along the walls of the Garrison but much harder to find elsewhere.

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 a familiar sight throughout the islands with residents augmented in autumn by even more birds from the Continent. Wrens and Dunnock are also abundant adding their own vocal contributions to almost every habitat. The north westerly winds had clearly put a brake on migration but one or two Wheatears were encountered along the Garrison walls and some Swallows were hawking insects in sheltered corners. 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 brisk wind, birdlife was a bit sparse but we did observe a number of Linnets, one of the commonest little birds on Scilly, Rock Pipits, and a large flock of Shags offshore.

Later we enjoyed a tasty meal at the Pilot's Gig restaurant near the Quay and 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 23rd September

It is my usual practice on Scilly tours to offer an optional pre-breakfast birding walk but with weather forecasts warning of strong wind and heavy rain for much of the day I thought a little lie in would be more popular! It certainly looked pretty bleak outside as we ate breakfast but undeterred we set out at 10am for a day to be spent on St Mary's. Despite the predictions it turned out to be rather less wet than anticipated and we managed to avoid getting soaked although it was not the kind of introductory day I had hoped for.

We began by walking to Old Town which I thought would give us the chance to test the conditions without venturing too far from shelter. A number of Swallows were skilfully using the shelter of a thick Pittosporum hedge to swoop after insects, perfectly demonstrating the way these tough little travellers adapt to whatever prevailing conditions they encounter on their migration. First stop was the churchyard at Old Town which can on occasions harbour migrant birds but is rather more reliably the site of Harold Wilson's grave. There is no doubt that the late Prime Minister did a great deal to raise the public profile of Scilly and it was his wish to be buried on the islands rather than his native Yorkshire. After paying homage to his rather modest grave we moved to a bramble hedge at the top of the churchyard where I have seen Stick Insects on previous occasions. These interesting insects arrived on Scilly with plants imported to the tropical gardens on Tresco and originate from New Zealand. Three or four species have been identified and there are three other species on mainland Cornwall, the difference being attributed to nurseries in Cornwall importing their plants from another part of New Zealand. After a little searching I found evidence of distinctive Stick Insect damage to some Ivy leaves and just below these discovered a sizeable Prickly Stick Insect trying very hard to convince us it was part of the hedge. This was the largest individual I have ever seen and whilst not everyone's favourite insect I certainly enjoyed the encounter!

On Old Town beach we spent some time looking at the resident Rock Pipits, Oystercatchers and Ringed Plovers, whilst Turnstone and several White Wagtails were visitors from further afield. Many of the Continental 'White' Wagtails pass through Scilly in September, several weeks ahead of the British Pied Wagtails which begin to appear in October when both races are often present on the beaches.

A short excursion to the nearby Lower Moors Nature Reserve provided excellent close up views of a Greenshank in front of the hide but of equal interest were the Eels observed swimming in a shallow ditch running beside the entry footpath. Several of these enigmatic creatures were present along with a small shoal of unidentified fish. Encouraged by having salvaged an enjoyable morning we adjourned for lunch at the Tolman's Café before emerging into a slightly rainy afternoon.

The Community Gardens at Carreg Dhu occupied us for a while as we marvelled at the work entailed in converting a former quarry into a delightful little public garden often described a 'mini Tresco' From here we followed the main road to Porth Hellick Nature Reserve but saw little from the hides although five or six Greenshank, Ringed Plovers and a single Dunlin were feeding on mud exposed by the tide in Porth Hellick Bay. Rather than brave the gale blowing along the coast we returned to Hughtown via the main road which we accessed by walking through Salakee Farm rather than re-tracing our steps. Along the way we heard Goldcrests and had a few fleeting glimpses but observing small birds in these conditions was not easy.

We had almost arrived back at the Santa Maria when some other birdwatchers informed us about a very tame Ortolan Bunting which had been found feeding along a narrow footpath along the edge of Porthcressa Beach. Unfortunately it had been frightened off by a cat, only minutes before we arrived, but we spent a little while in the area hoping it might return. Sadly it failed to do so and everyone drifted away but as I made my way to the Santa Maria in fading light I came upon this incredibly confiding juvenile bird hopping around a garden, just metres from the guest house. It was clearly exhausted and when it vanished beneath a parked car I left it in peace wondering if it could possibly survive the night.

## Day 3

## Monday 24th September

Fortunately the storm drifted away overnight to afflict some other part of the country and we began the pre-breakfast walks with a visit to Peninnis Head. I was joined by Derek and Lizbeth but whilst the walk stimulated appetites for breakfast we did not find any unexpected rarities grounded by the storm. A few Wheatears flicked from granite boulder to boulder and flocks of Meadow Pipits flew up from the rough ground but we failed to connect with the Wryneck seen by others on previous days although it was still pretty dark when we walked past where it had been seen!

As many of the group wished to see the famous Abbey Gardens I decided to make Tresco our destination today. 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. It seemed that every holidaymaker wished to take advantage of the better weather and several full boats headed to Tresco. We were on the first of these; the 'Sea King' captained by the legendary Fraser Hicks, one of the 'stars' of the BBC 'Island Parish' series. As we negotiated the shallow waters of Tresco Channel between Tresco and Bryher we counted 11 Little Egrets standing on the seaweed covered rocks exposed by the tide and one or two Herons with them. As in the rest of Britain, Little Egrets were formerly only rare visitors to Scilly but since the 80's they have become increasingly frequent and bred a few years ago. They can now be seen in almost every month but autumn is a good time for larger numbers. Also present in the channel were Sandwich Terns and mention should be made that up to 20 of these large terns were regularly to be seen or heard around Hughtown harbour with birds pausing to rest at favoured spots such as Porthcressa Bay.

Stepping ashore at New Grimsby we filed along the track leading to the Abbey Gardens stopping to look at some Turnstones on the beach soon after landing. At the top end of the Great Pool we interrupted our journey to make a brief telescope scan of the water which revealed the usual Mute Swans, Canada Geese, Gadwall and Coot, all new birds for the holiday list. A host of Greenshanks and a smaller flock of Redshank were crowded onto the narrow fringe of mud and a Common Snipe made a couple of appearances. Also present were three Dunlin and two tall Black-tailed Godwits probing the shallows. We were ready to move on when Anita drew our attention to a very pale looking wagtail weaving in and out of the reeds on the opposite side of the pool. At first it was frustratingly difficult to obtain clear views but initial suspicion that it might be a Citrine Wagtail were eventually confirmed when it emerged into the open. Although still a very rare bird, Citrines have occurred much more regularly in Britain over recent years reflecting an extension of breeding range in Asia. This was the third recorded on Scilly this autumn but nonetheless a great find for our group.

Most of the party went off to visit the world-famous gardens and soon after midday the group gradually returned for lunch in the garden restaurant enthusing about their visit and reporting encounters with one of the very tame Golden Pheasants which solicit tit-bits from visitors. 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. A Small Copper had been sighted during the garden visit and as we began the afternoon walk another was sunning itself on a wall by the heliport.

When everyone had finished eating we made our way past the Abbey Pool and along the shore of Pentle Bay as we headed north towards Old Grimsby. Sandwich Terns announced their presence with rasping calls as they fished offshore. 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 once again a lot of Shag on the sea. A distant flock of Curlew also added interest. Butterflies enjoying the sunshine included a lot of Speckled Woods plus a single Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell. The island form of Speckled Wood looks different in several respects to the mainland form which not infrequently leads to confusion!

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 later 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!

Returning to the Great Pool we scanned again from the Swarovski Hide from where we enjoyed much closer views of the Citrine Wagtail still inhabiting the same stretch of mud in the corner of the pool nearest the hide. From this different perspective we were able to see more of the wader flock estimating 40+ Greenshank and 12 Redshank. At least 20+ House Martins were present with a larger number of Swallows hawking over the pool and a female Wigeon swimming with Gadwall was a new addition to our duck tally.

We returned to St Mary's from New Grimsby at 1645 after a very enjoyable and successful day. Before hanging up binoculars for the day we diverted to look again for the Ortolan Bunting which to my surprise had survived the night and was back on Porthcressa Beach. This time there was no feline problem and we had extremely close views as it munched away on seeds just below the wall. Ortolans are regular on Scilly but rarely as obliging and I could not help feeling concerned that such a lack of fear would prove fatal. At least four White Wagtails were also on the beach.

Dinner at the Pilot's Gig gave another opportunity to try something new from the menu or repeat a favourite from the previous day - why is life always full of such dilemmas?!

## Day 4

## Tuesday 25th September

By way of a change we headed to Lower Moors for the pre-breakfast walk but the reserve was disappointingly quiet with barely a Moorhen to observe in front of the hides. Old Town bay did however produce a Kingfisher for us and two Blackcaps were in the Elms near the new Five Island School.

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 along Watermill Lane to the cove which faces the Eastern Isles and is one of the most picturesque spots on the north coast of St Mary's. From here we joined the coastal footpath and walked towards Bar Point and the Telegraph with Juliet's Garden Café as our goal for lunch.

At Innisidgen Burial Chambers we paused to inspect the 2000 year old tombs and watched a couple of Grey Seals offshore along with the ubiquitous Shags. An interesting find along the footpath was about ten freshly hatched Small Coppers, evidence of a late brood for this pretty little butterfly. 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. After an excellent meal we scanned Porth Loo beach where four Sanderlings and three Greenshanks competed for attention with several Wheatears and 20+ Sandwich Terns offshore.

An Aquatic Warbler had been seen at the nearby duck pond but we soon realised that a repeat showing was unlikely and moved on to visit Lower Moors and Peninnis Head before returning to Hughtown. A single Common Snipe at Lower Moors was an improvement on the pre-breakfast visit and a Peregrine over the Health Centre added some excitement to the walk. Back at Porth Cressa we joined a group of birders telescoping a Little Stint on the beach and after enjoying this wader bonus it took only a few paces to once again watch the Ortolan feeding at a few metres range! The 'history' day had also produced some interesting birding and we now looked forward to the next three days exploring the 'off-islands' of St Agnes, Bryher and St Martin's.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 26th September

We had another change of pre-breakfast venue, as Derek and I followed the Garrison Walk, this time beginning at the Star Castle and diverting to check the trees surrounding the Camp Site.

It was barely light as we reached the football pitch but soon brightened and we found a few birds in the trees including Chiffchaff, Goldcrest and a nice Pied Flycatcher. The infamous 'Black Rabbits of Doom' were grazing the grassy areas as we returned for breakfast via the Elm-lined walk on the eastern side of the Garrison.

We ticked 'Osprey' for the day by boarding this member of the Boating Association fleet on a day trip to Bryher. The weather was showery with a strong wind blowing but we hoped for the best and crossed our fingers! Once again Little Egrets and Herons were in view along Tresco Channel and Sandwich Terns dashing about over the water. Alighting at the 'Aneka Rice' quay I made the questionable decision to walk anti-clockwise around the Shipman Head side of the island, a choice that exposed us to the strongest gusts of wind and several drenching showers. It did show the magnificence of Hell Bay in adverse weather conditions but birding was difficult in the strong squally wind and I crossed Shipman Head downs without seeing any birds at all! Back in more sheltered areas near the centre of the island we fared rather better with several Wheatears, Meadow Pipits and a flock of four or five Yellow Wagtails feeding in a grassy field. A single Dunlin was also feeding on the shore of the brackish island pool. Feeling somewhat wind-blasted we sought temporary refuge in the very comfortable surroundings of the Hell Bay Hotel where once again I marvelled at the tolerance of the staff permitting wet, muddy birders to invade their gracious lounge.

Our exploration continued by heading to Rushy Bay and taking the coastal footpath below Samson Hill. This affords wonderful views of Samson and the jumble of small islands to the west of Bryher as well as the coastline of Tresco. Migrants were sparse but we saw numerous Oystercatchers on the beaches and at least four Grey Seals offshore. Before catching the return boat to St Mary's we had a little time to fill and wandered back along the road to the Hell Bay Hotel where we shamelessly used the rest room facilities without further indulgence in coffee! Highlight of this extra excursion was a Spotted Flycatcher hawking insects from the fence of the tennis court.

## Day 6

## Thursday 27th September

Reports of a Buff-bellied Pipit on Peninnis encouraged us to return to the headland for the pre-breakfast walk. Fred joined regular Derek and myself for the walk but all we could find were several Wheatears and a lot of very mobile Meadow Pipits! It was frustrating to draw a blank especially as the Buff-bellied was seen again later in the day but such is birdwatching!

The squally conditions had passed over the islands by dawn, leaving another warm but mostly overcast 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 'Kingfisher' captained by Alec Hicks who gave us his own distinctive commentary as we toured the cluster of rocks which form the Eastern Isles. These uninhabited islands are rich in both wildlife and history although of course the breeding seabirds leave in late summer. As he guided the vessel around the islands we were treated to very close views of Shags and for a change we also had 20+ Cormorant as we passed one of their main breeding sites on Scilly. As always on any Eastern Isles tour Grey Seals were the star performers for the passengers. At first we encountered only a few bobbing in the sea but soon Alec found us more animals characteristically draped over exposed rocks and took the boat as close as possible for the photographers. Many huge bulls were among the seals we passed but there were also plenty of females and young from recent seasons.

In total we probably saw 150-200 seals, which exceeds the number I have seen on any previous trip and probably illustrates a steady increase in the local population. As a dedicated fisherman Alec was clearly not the biggest fan of the seals but he did a good job in providing us with close-ups! After touring the islands we headed to Higher Town quay on St Martin's where we just about managed to beat the retreating tide. First stop on St Martin's was the area bordering the island cricket pitch which is often a good spot for migrants. Here we found a Blackcap, a Spotted Flycatcher and an elusive Whinchat plus a number of Meadow Pipits and White Wagtails on the Chamomile scented pitch. Moving on along the edge of the long curve of white sand leading from the quay we encountered another Chiffchaff and a Goldcrest beside the footpath and a large Sparrowhawk circled overhead before drifting away towards the Eastern Isles. Continuing around Chapel Downs, the nearest headland to the Eastern Isles, we eventually headed back to Higher Town along the centre of the island, enjoying the pleasant conditions but seeing little of note apart from the usual Linnets and small numbers of Swallows feeding over the fields. We ate lunch in the garden of the Polreath Café where crowds of sparrows waited for their chance to snatch morsels and Speckled Woods visited the garden flowers.

With time running against us we soon set out along the one main road which runs from Higher Town to the site of the St Martin's Hotel at Lower Town, a distance of some 1½ miles. Along the way we noted some Stonechats before we left the concrete strip and followed a track up to the central spine eventually heading back eastwards with large tracts of gorse to our left and cultivated farmland to the right. 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.

Arriving back at Higher Town with time to spare before our boat to St Mary's we went in search of a Rose-coloured Starling reported from near the cricket pitch. Unfortunately there was no sign of the immature Starling but whilst looking for it we did have brief views of an adult male Redstart which vanished as quickly as it had appeared. Another excellent day drew to a close as we boarded the boat for our return and despite the relative paucity of unusual migrants I am sure everyone will long remember the close-up views of the Eastern Isles Seals.

## Day 7

## Friday 28th September

Once again the pre-breakfast participants were in position on Peninnis Head to see the sunrise. Unfortunately the Buff-bellied Pipit watched this from somewhere else but we did find three Skylarks and a fly-over Golden Plover as well as a host of flighty Meadow Pipits to search through.

A pleasant but overcast morning was ideal for our visit to St Agnes, the most southerly island in the archipelago and my favourite holiday destination for the last 46 years! Arriving on the quay at Porth Conger we set off on an anti-clockwise exploration of this small island devoting the remainder of the morning to the western portion. First stop was to inspect the seaweed covered Porth Killier bay where a number of Curlew and Oystercatchers were telescoped along with a few Turnstone and Ringed Plovers. 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 then, after scanning Periglis Beach on which a Greenshank was noted, we crossed the chamomile fringed 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. During this interlude six grey geese flew directly over our heads and continued purposefully towards Annet where they may have landed. Earlier in the morning Judith saw these geese over Hughtown and this is a familiar pattern whenever wild geese visit Scilly with appearances all over the islands as they search for a suitable feeding area. Identifying grey geese from rear views is never easy but to me the rather heavy flight and shape suggested Greylag even though this species is pretty unusual on the Scillies. Reports on subsequent days of seven Pink-footed Geese on Tresco would suggest that this was the same flock but I do wonder whether my impression might have been correct and there were in fact two separate flocks? Over 190 free-flying feral Greylags now frequent West Cornwall and it is not unreasonable for the occasional wanderers to investigate Scilly. Whatever the debate it was not possible to be certain about the St Agnes flock although they were definitely grey geese and not White-fronts! A little further along our walk I again scanned Annet and this time the surprise was a crowd of over 50 Grey Seals hauled up on the west of the island looking through binoculars like so many rocks! A big diver also flew past, almost certainly a Great Northern but it just kept on flying away to the west.

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. 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.

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 surprises for us today but we did encounter several Wheatears, Stonechats and two Ravens which noisily flew towards Gugh. Other birds seen during our day on St Agnes included one Willow Warbler, several Chiffchaffs and a Kestrel. As well as the numerous Speckled Woods we also found at least one Small Copper and a number of Peacocks. Once again St Agnes had provided the ideal setting for an enjoyable day's birdwatching and I hope the group shared my enthusiasm for the island. Ahead lay the very difficult choice of what to pick from the menu for our last evening meal at the Pilot's Gig.

## Day 8

## Saturday 29th September

Our final day dawned bright and sunny as witnessed by Derek and myself on our pre-breakfast walk to the Garrison. Our fairly meagre bird list included Kestrel, Willow Warbler and Goldcrest but the joy was being there to see the start of another day.

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. This time we alighted at Porth Hellick (for the Ann Summers party as Steve wryly announced) and headed to the hides. It was still quiet on the pool but we did telescope at least four Common Snipe on the far bank along with a Jack Snipe although all the birds were mostly inactive and asleep.

With barely any wind to concern us we walked along the coastal footpath to Old Town, crossing the end of the airfield en route. At least ten Wheatears were present in the rough ground and a number of Meadow Pipits but we were unlucky to just miss a Wryneck which a couple had seen on the footpath only minutes before our arrival.

After a good lunch at the Tolman's café we went our separate ways for the few hours remaining before the *Scillonian* sailed. I would not be joining the group on the boat as I was prolonging my Scilly stay with a month sojourn on my usual October destination, St Agnes, but I did say goodbye as the group gathered at the quay check-in before boarding the vessel. Diane was also delaying her departure from the islands with a few extra days at the Santa Maria.

Although in some respects the volume of migration had been poor and rarities in short supply this year, I do hope the tour members enjoyed their week on these wonderful islands and perhaps the tour will have whetted appetites for a return visit in the future.

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## Species List

### Birds

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Sightings
1	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	One probable off St Agnes
2	Gannet	<i>Sula bassanus</i>	Common on crossing and a few around islands
3	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	20+ Eastern Isles- a few singles elsewhere
4	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Common around islands, rafts of several hundred
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen on 7 days, usually 1-2 but max 4+
6	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Up to 11+ Tresco Channel
7	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	5-6 Tresco, 2 Bryher
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Four plus Tresco
9	Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>	One Tresco
10	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Tresco
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	A few on each island, many Tresco
12	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Female St Martin's
13	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen on five days during week, 1-2 each day
14	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Three singles during week
15	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Tresco & Garrison St Mary's
16	Golden Pheasant	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>	Tresco
17	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Introduced birds on Tresco
18	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Tresco, St Agnes and St Mary's
19	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Tresco and Porth Hellick.
20	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Common around coastlines
21	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	One Peninnis Head
22	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Seen on each island in small numbers
23	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Two Tresco
24	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	30+ Tresco and 20+ St Agnes, odd singletons elsewhere
25	Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	20+ Tresco
26	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	40+ Tresco, up to 7+ St Mary's, also St Agnes
27	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Small numbers on most islands
28	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1 Porth Hellick, 1 Bryher 3 Tresco
29	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	4 Porth Loo, 8 St Martin's
30	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	One Porth Cressa
31	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	A few only- particularly St Agnes
32	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Common and widespread
33	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Locally common
34	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Fairly numerous around islands
35	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Small numbers around islands- 20-30 St Mary's
36	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common and widespread
37	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Seen in small numbers most days and on all islands
38	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo attis</i>	One Old Town Bay
39	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen daily and on all islands, generally small numbers but more towards end of week
40	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Up to 20+ among Swallows on four tour days
41	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Seen most days with up to 30+ at favoured sites
42	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	Distributed around coasts in small numbers
43	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	'White' wagtails seen daily with up to 15+ per day
44	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	4+ Bryher
45	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Juvenile Tresco 24th
46	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Very common
47	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Common throughout
48	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Seen most days in small numbers
49	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Unusually scarce- seen only on St Martin's & St Agnes
50	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Seen most days-small numbers only, no more than 20+ birds in total
51	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Very common
52	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Very common
53	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Singles Bryher & St Martin's
54	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	One Garrison St Mary's
55	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Heard fairly often, especially on St Mary's, but only occasionally glimpsed
56	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Two Old Town St Mary's and male St Martin's
57	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A few seen and heard around islands
58	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Three singles during week

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Sightings</b>
59	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	A few seen during week
60	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Several seen and heard during week
61	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	A few most days
62	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Two St Agnes
63	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common
64	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common
65	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Small numbers St Mary's & Tresco
66	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Fairly plentiful
67	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Encountered fairly frequently
68	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common on all islands
69	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Very tame juvenile Porth Cressa St Mary's

## Mammals

1	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	150+ Eastern Isles, small numbers around other islands, 50+ Annet
2	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Common