

# Isles of Scilly

Naturetrek Tour Report

17 - 24 May 2014

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Report compiled by Paul Dukes

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Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour Leader: Paul Dukes

Participants: Glyn Stanton  
Ruth Stanton  
Tessa Wilkinson  
Christine Allan

## Day 1

Saturday 17th May

*Scillonian 111* departed on time at 0915 sailing into a wave-less Mounts Bay which was as calm as the proverbial duck pond after a week of fine windless weather. This was good news for the passengers but many seabirds relish windy conditions and it was notable that we saw very few Gannets during the crossing, no doubt because these large birds would prefer to glide than expend energy flapping their wings. Fulmars made the best of the conditions and we encountered a few Manx Shearwaters although one flock of approximately 100 birds glided by as we neared Scilly. Occasional Guillemots and Razorbills were passed on the sea and more surprisingly, at least four Puffins.

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 shop 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. Tree Echiums towered to nearly 3 metres in many of the gardens, their blue flowers acting as a magnet for flies and bumble-bees which swarmed around the spikes.

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. A Spotted Flycatcher briefly appeared above the footpath, a newly arrived summer migrant to begin our week, whilst Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps sang from the Garrison Elms.

At morning Point we telescoped a small flock of Razorbills at the entrance to Porthcressa Bay and watched a Grey Seal struggling to consume a very large fish which we decided was probably an eel although it was difficult to be sure. A number of Kittiwakes joined the inevitable Herring and Black-backs hovering overhead to snatch scraps from the seal's lunch. One or two Wheatears were encountered along the Garrison walls and Linnets in pristine breeding plumage were a pleasure to watch. 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 north. Carpets of fleshy Hottentot Fig added further botanical interest and we saw a number of black rabbits as well as plenty of the usual form.

It is rumoured that these black rabbits were introduced from a population on Samson but whatever their origin they seem to be increasing on the Garrison and a few other places on St Mary's. 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 18th May

Despite an overcast 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. The landing point was New Grimsby on the north of the island which enabled us to enjoy the scenery as our boat sailed past Samson, Bryher and numerous islets of varying sizes, all crowded with gulls. A small number of Common Terns were fishing these waters and we also saw a few Razorbills in the 'Roads' between St Mary's and Tresco.

Stepping ashore on the island we filed along the track leading to the Abbey Gardens, pausing briefly to quickly scan the north end of the Great Pool where many Gadwall were evident along with Mute Swan, Canada Goose and Coot. As everyone was keen to visit the Abbey Gardens we did not linger here but continued along the concrete road to the Abbey hearing Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs singing from both sides of the road and stopping for a few minutes to enjoy telescope views of both species. We also had to walk around a magnificent male Golden Pheasant waiting to mug visitors carrying anything edible and heard a distant Cuckoo.

Two ancient aircraft were parked on the former heliport eliciting interest from the Garden visitors but it transpired that these were not a new visitor attraction and belonged to friends of the Dorien Smith family who had arranged a fly-past to mark a significant family birthday. While the group entered the gardens I wandered off to see what birds I could find and almost immediately struck lucky with a lovely immature Iceland Gull preening and bathing among other gulls on the Abbey Pool. After about ten minutes it flew off towards New Grimsby and sadly was not in view when we looked after lunch. Moving on to the lower section of the Great Pool I saw two Herons circling over the reeds and a distant male Pochard before returning to meet the tour group in the Gardens restaurant. Christine was already there and we were soon joined by the others as they returned from their visit with tales of exotic plants and Golden Pheasants! We were entertained during lunch by the antics of the recently introduced Red Squirrels demolishing Hazel nuts at feeders in an adjacent clearing, and by the shameless piracy of the garden Song Thrushes and House Sparrows never missing an unguarded opportunity to rush in and snatch a morsel from our plates. The birds are always tame here but I had to almost physically push a thrush away to prevent it diving into my pasty!

When everyone had finished eating Christine who had a sore foot went for her own tour of the gardens in a mobility scooter kindly supplied by the lady at the ticket office and the rest of us set off on a birding walk around the eastern side of the island. Unfortunately the Iceland Gull was not on the Abbey Pool but the assembly of gulls gave us an opportunity to study the differences between Herring, Greater and Lesser Blacks in various plumages. From here we gradually made our way past the lower section of the Great Pool where Reed Warblers were uttering their repetitive songs from deep in the reeds, and along the shore of Pentle Bay as we headed north towards Old Grimsby.

On the pristine white beaches were noisy Oystercatchers 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 two 'resident' Common Buzzards obliged with some distant aerial displays over Tean. Once a Scilly rarity, this widespread Cornish raptor is now a regular sight on Tresco and this year the presence of a second bird encourages hope of nesting success.

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 once again found plenty of Gadwall and over 50 House Martins were feeding with Swallows over the water, one of the largest influxes thus far in the spring. The return pick-up was from Carn Near at the southern end of Tresco so we were obliged to leave the pool behind and walk in a fairly brisk fashion along the road which leads along the western edge of the island back to the heliport and then on to Carn Near. En route we saw a family party of Stonechats and scores of Oystercatchers feeding on the sandy islands exposed by the low tide. An enormous Brown Rat on the heliport was a new mammal species for the trip!

We returned to St Mary's at 1645 after a very enjoyable and mostly sunny day. Christine was also on the boat and reported a successful visit to the Gardens. Although conditions for butterflies had been quite favourable we recorded only two species for the day, the ubiquitous Speckled Wood and a few Holly Blue. Later we dined once again at the Pilot's Gig giving another opportunity to try something new from the menu.

## Day 3

Monday 19th May

An overcast morning and forecast of showers during the day persuaded us to stay on St. Mary's and concentrate on the central and eastern portion of the island. To maximise our time we caught the Community bus from outside the Town Hall and travelled to Holy Vale. I was amused that the usual taciturn driver had been replaced on this occasion by an equally lugubrious individual - it must be something to do with driving a bus on Scilly! 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 narrow track through the largest tract of Elms on the island passing clumps of Hemlock Water Dropwort in the boggy areas below the trees. The freshly opened leaves created a canopy of green above our heads from which several Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps could be heard singing as well as residents such as Robins, Wrens and Dunnocks. The distinctive crooning of a Stock Dove drew our attention to a pair of these handsome doves sitting on a branch only visible from one particular angle on the path and unfortunately they flew off before everyone managed a view. We continued our slow progress through the trees and 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! Many Swallows and quite a few House Martins were hawking insects above the marsh as further evidence of the protracted migration of these hirundines which first appear in Britain during April but carry on arriving well into June.

A brief look from the hides produced very little apart from a few Gadwall, Moorhen chicks and several large eels disturbing the water in the shallows. Reed Warblers were singing from the *phragmites* and occasionally offered flight views as they dashed from one spot to another. An immature Kestrel perched on top of some low pines above Porth Hellick beach and proved to be our only sighting of the week.

Glyn, Ruth and Tessa made their way to the coastal footpath from here and continued on towards Old Town, negotiating the end of the airfield runway where a red light heralds the arrival of flights. Christine was still being troubled by a blister so I accompanied her along a somewhat flatter route to Old Town where we met the others at the Tolman's Café overlooking Old Town Bay. They had enjoyed sightings of Wheatear and Cuckoo on their walk and even had photographs of the latter being mobbed by a Rock Pipit on a large boulder. Christine and I had heard one calling but failed to see it. After a leisurely meal we went to view Harold Wilson's grave in the nearby church yard and despite it being rather early in the season I looked unsuccessfully for Stick-Insects in the church yard.

Glyn and Ruth headed back to town at this point whilst the rest of the group ambled through the Lower Moors Nature Reserve with ever increasing cloud cover eventually producing the heavy shower that had seemed inevitable. A number of Eels gave reasonable views in the stream beside the footpath and more were disturbing the water surface as we looked out from the first of the two Lower Moors hides. Reed Warblers could be heard singing from the marsh but it was a Sedge Warbler that offered us the best opportunity for study as it worked around the edge of the pool catching insects at the base of the reeds. We arrived back into Hughtown slightly earlier than usual giving time for a little relaxation before dining for one final night at the Pilot's Gig.

## Day 4

Tuesday 20th May

Fairly heavy rain persisted until mid-morning but then gave way to a fairly bright day with spells of sunshine. Undeterred by the initial showers we met on the quay at 0945 to catch a tripper boat to St Agnes, the most southerly island in the archipelago and my favourite holiday destination for the last 48 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 there are now 20+ pairs! They are a welcome sight and we spent some minutes watching them through my telescope.

Continuing around the shoreline we focused on the seaweed covered Porth Killier bay and located a Curlew standing beside a Whimbrel on the rocks. Many gulls and a pair of Shelduck were also present and Rock Pipits foraging with Starlings and House Sparrows amid the seaweed deposits. The winter gales had scattered hundreds of rocks from the beaches onto the footpaths creating a paved effect where last autumn it had been muddy track. The pool on St Agnes was similarly ringed by small boulders and diminished in size. We crossed the camomile scented cricket pitch 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.

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 postings in the days when it 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. Our morning walk had produced few migrants apart from one or two Wheatears although Ruth and Glyn arriving at the Coastguards just ahead of the rest of the party managed to yet again photograph a Cuckoo calling nearby!

For the afternoon we concentrated on Wingletang Downs, the gorse and heather moorland leading to Horse Point, the southernmost 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. Christine opted to take a more leisurely route back to the quay and we met her later for the return boat to St Mary's. Sadly there were no more Cuckoos for us today, although we did hear one or maybe two calling, but we did enjoy views of a Stonechat family in the gorse and encountered several Wheatears. Whilst at Horse Point we telescoped some Razorbills on the sea and noted a steady trickle of Manx Shearwaters past the headland along with Gannets and a few Fulmars. Returning to the quay for the return boat to St Mary's we saw more House Martins among Swallows over the island and had fine views of many more Linnets. 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. Back on St Mary's we had a change of venue for our evening meal with a visit to the Kavorna Restaurant which despite a rather unattractive exterior serves very fine food.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 21st May

Overnight showers 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 'Sea King' and en route we passed large rafts of Shags in a communal hunt for fish and a few Razorbills. After dropping St Martin's passengers at Higher Town quay our captain, the legendary Fraser Hicks, 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 Fraser giving his unique, but often inaudible, commentary on the history and wildlife. Plenty of Fulmars, Shags and gulls were observed at close range on the rocks but strangely no auks which might possibly reflect winter mortality in the gales. The popular Atlantic Grey Seals were plentiful but because of the high tides few were hauled out ashore. Dozens bobbed around following our boat's progress and ever-inquisitive, approached to within a few metres to get a closer look. In total we probably saw almost a hundred seals during our tour with sizes varying from last autumn's young to massive bulls.

We returned to St Martin's and landed at Higher Town quay for the next stage of our day excursion. Skirting the edge of the pristine white beach stretching from the harbour to Chapel Head Downs, we made our way around the headland facing the Eastern Isles and eventually headed for lunch in Higher Town crossing fields above Little Arthur Farm. It was a pleasant walk during which we saw several Small Copper butterflies and found a plump Oak Egg caterpillar but birds were sparse apart from the now familiar Linnets and a few Stonechats.

We ate lunch in the sunny garden of the Polreath café in Higher Town where entertainment was provided by the visits of Red Admirals and a Hummingbird Hawk Moth to the flowers of an Echium nearby. Batteries suitably re-charged we were soon on our way along the central spine of the island with gorse heathland and a glorious coast to our right and cultivations to the left beyond which acres of sand were exposed by the retreating tide. A few Meadow Pipits were disturbed from the footpath and we admired more freshly emerged Small Copper butterflies looking very orange in the sun. 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. Earlier 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. With the afternoon embarkation being from Lower Town at the northern end of the island we had plenty of time to reach the quay and spent a little while looking for migrants around the Middle Town pine belt which often attracts unusual visitors. Today it was rather quiet but the stop enabled everyone to have a moment to admire the scenery. Pressing onwards to our objective we had a fly-over by one of the island Peregrines which caused panic among the gulls and Oystercatchers on the beach below.

We still arrived at Lower Town Quay with plenty of time in hand, and relaxed with others on the strip of beach near the former hotel which is currently closed. It had been another lovely day and although migrant birds had been in short supply we were happy to have seen the attractions of the Eastern Isles and toured St Martin's in hot sunny conditions. Our dinner venue tonight was Spero's Restaurant overlooking Porth Mellon beach.

## Day 6

Thursday 22nd May

A second full day on St Mary's began with another ride on the Community bus to Maypole in the north of the island, a delightfully Scillonian travel experience with the usual sardonic driver back behind the wheel. It was a dull wet start to the day with dark clouds rolling over the islands and the threat of more rain to follow. From Maypole we made our way to Newford Duck Ponds and then through a shelter belt of pines at Trenowarth to the north coast. Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps were singing from the trees and several Goldcrests which showed reasonably well in the pines.

At Innisidgen Burial Chamber we paused to inspect this 2000 year old tomb before passing by the lower Innisidgen burial chamber and continuing along the coastal footpath towards the Telegraph. A Curlew attracted our attention but there was not much else to be seen apart from the usual Oystercatchers and Shags offshore. 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. It was by now far from the summery conditions of the previous day but as we walked back to Hughtown we did see the rather bizarre sight of a yellow bi-plane flying over the airfield with what appeared to be a person sitting on the wing. I later discovered that we were not mistaken and the wing-walker was 94 year old Tom Lackey who had established some kind of record by flying over to Scilly from Lands End! Rather him than me...

St Mary's Hall Hotel was our evening meal destination and received a mixed critique from the group although my own meal was fine.

## Day 7

Friday 23rd May

Our week of unpredictable weather continued with an overcast start, occasional showers and a cold, brisk wind. We sailed to Bryher at 1015 passing small numbers of Common Terns and Kittiwakes feeding in the waters off Samson. Once ashore at the Church Quay, we walked along the beach for a short distance, and then circled around the base of Samson Hill. The views across the sea towards Tresco and Samson were as usual, stunning although devoid of Great Northern Divers despite several being reported in the area. A few Grey Seals were loitering around the shoreline and plenty of vocal Oystercatchers. Two immature Black-headed Gulls also flew over, fairly unusual birds on Scilly in May. A Common Whitethroat gave frustratingly brief views ahead of us along the coastal footpath but was disturbed by walkers and flew off out of sight. Rather more obliging were scores of House Martins and Swallows exploiting the sheltered side of the hill as they swept low over the gorse. As we rounded the base of the hill we felt the full force of the cold northerly wind and this encouraged us to stride purposefully towards the comfort of the Hell Bay Hotel although I did undertake a quick, unsuccessful hunt for the diminutive Dwarf Pansy in the usual area behind Rushey Bay. Once again the winter storms had severely inundated this area but I understand that some of these rare flowers had been seen earlier in the month.

The hotel provided welcome refreshments and snacks in a warm, comfortable environment which made us reluctant to leave although we still had half of the island to explore. Tessa and I looked out of the lounge window just as a Heron on the adjacent pool caught a large wriggling Eel which it immediately flew off with before the rest of the group could stand up. We eventually forced ourselves to depart and while Christine opted for a slow walk back to meet us at the Fraggles Rock café the rest of us set off to follow the coast path around to Shipman Head and Hell Bay. The scenery was again splendid and it was easy to imagine what this stretch of coast would have been like during the winter storms. Few small birds braved the cold wind except for the hardy Rock Pipits but it was extremely interesting to find scores of Tiger-coloured Grass Eggar caterpillars in the grass and Thrift on either side of the footpath. I had expected to find these attractive caterpillars on St Agnes and feared they had experienced a population crash so it was very pleasing to see so many on this exposed headland.

As we left the coast and walked down towards the Fraggles Rock, a commotion among the Swallows preceded a short but fairly close view of a Hobby dashing over the Bryher camp site and disappearing towards the centre of the island. It may have been a brief encounter but it served to demonstrate how migrants can occur at any time during the spring on Scilly. We were reunited with Christine who was busy trying to prevent a friendly goat from eating her bag as she sat on a seat near the Fraggles Rock, and our arrival gave the animal a tempting new assortment of plastic and leather to snack on. After sitting for a while we decided to catch a slightly earlier boat back to St Mary's and as we walked towards the Church Quay the Hobby made another equally short appearance dashing over the shore. Twenty minutes later it showed for the third time hurtling past the boat as we headed towards St Mary's but this time disappearing over Tresco. Perhaps more than one bird was involved but we would never know. Our final evening meal of the week was at Juliet's Garden. Overall it was a pleasant experience and a fine conclusion to a week of good eating. The weather was not so enjoyable however with rain and winds causing the cancellation of the planned evening Gig race.



## Day 8

Saturday 24th May

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. Christine 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. Several Grey Seals showed near Pelistry and as we passed by the rather bizarre animal collection at Mount Todden we heard a Wood Warbler singing from deep in the pines. I thought it was a new discovery but later learnt that it had been singing since early morning and had been seen by all the resident birdwatchers!

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 many 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 House Martins among the Swallows. A drake Teal was a surprise among the Gadwall and Mallard. 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 stroll through the Lower Moors Nature Trail provided more singing Reed Warblers and another showing by the Eels.

It only remained to pick up hand luggage left at the Santa Maria then board the *Scillonian* for the return sailing to Penzance. The voyage was fairly uneventful but as we travelled along the Cornish coast we saw reasonable numbers of Gannets, Fulmars and Manx Shearwaters heading west with the occasional flock of auks, the passage seeming to be almost continuous from Gwennap Head to the Tater Dhu lighthouse.

I hope everyone enjoyed their stay on Scilly as much as I did. Spring migration is always unpredictable but I think the islands had exuded their usual charm and we had been fortunate with the weather. It is always a case of being in the right place at the right time and it is interesting to note that whilst we were unlucky with rarities, Red-footed Falcon, Purple Heron, Golden Orioles and Hawfinch were all seen by other observers during the week but in most cases only by a lucky few who were in the right place!

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

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## Species List

### Birds

Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	A few on crossings & around islands, 20+ pairs Eastern Isles
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	100+ on crossing & 30+ off St Agnes, many on return crossing to Penzance
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Small numbers on outward crossing many more on return, seen most days around islands
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	A few around islands
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Numerous around islands
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Two Tresco, one Bryher
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	5-6 Tresco, 2 Bryher
Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	Tresco and 2 Porth Hellick
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Pairs present on most islands
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Tresco & Porth Hellick
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Drake Porth Hellick
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Present on most islands
Common Pochard	<i>Athya farina</i>	One Tresco (PAD only)
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Two over Tean
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	One Porth Hellick
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One St Martin's
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	One Bryher
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Tresco & St Martin's
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Tresco & St Mary's
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropsis</i>	Tresco & St Mary's
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Tresco & St Mary's
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Numerous around all islands
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	One St Agnes
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Singles St Agnes & St Mary's
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Two Bryher
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	c20 pairs St Agnes, small numbers around islands and
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Common
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Seen on all islands in small numbers but locally in larger numbers
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Common
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Imm Tresco (PAD only)
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Small numbers between Tresco & Bryher
Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Seen on crossings only
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	Seen on crossings and in small numbers around islands
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Four on crossing from Penzance
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Two Holy Vale St Mary's
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Seen St Mary's & St Agnes- others heard inc Tresco
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Two Tresco & one St Mary's
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Plentiful on all islands
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	c50+ Tresco, 25+ St Agnes, 25+ Bryher and up to

Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	50+ St Mary's- a noticeable passage
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	Singles on three days
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Small numbers around rocky coasts especially St Agnes & Bryher
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Widespread and common
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Widespread and common
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Very common
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Very common
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Small numbers on all islands
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Family parties on each island
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Singles St Mary's and 3+ St Agnes
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Single Garrison Walk
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Several St Mary's
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Lower Moors St Mary's
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Singing Tresco, Porth Hellick & Lower Moors
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Singing Tresco & Porth Hellick
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	A few heard or seen on each island
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Heard or seen on each island
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	One Bryher
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caruleus</i>	A few St Mary's Tresco & St Agnes
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Singles St Mary's & Tresco
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Small numbers each island
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Seen daily in small numbers
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common & widespread
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	St Mary's & Tresco
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Small numbers daily
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Seen most days

### Mammals

Grey Seal	100+ recorded during week
Rabbit	Common
Red Squirrel	2-3 introduced animals on Tresco
Brown Rat	Tresco

### Other Taxa

Holly Blue	Speckled Wood	Large White
Small Copper	Red Admiral	Hummingbird Hawk Moth