

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

WEST WALES

15-22 JUNE 2018

Guides: Darren Rees and Roy Atkins

Guests: Megan Howells, Sue Aldam, Christine and Max Maughan, Joy and John Chalk, Sue and Keith Waldron, Hazel and Steve Cullum

Travel day We all meet up at our rather nice hotel at Wolfscastle in the evening before our evening meal where we get to know one another – though in honesty a lot of us know each other already! Then we chat through what we are hoping to do for the coming week and in particular tomorrow, before heading to bed.

Day 1 We wake to find steady rain and strong winds - not a good start! The forecast is for it to stop mid-morning however, so we enjoy a leisurely breakfast before loading up and heading out to our first destination at Bosherton Pools, part of the National Trust's Stackpole Estate. It is still drizzling but improving as we arrive and we start our walk noting flocks of House Martins and Swallows hawking for insects, low over the adjacent fields.

This is not a particularly birdy place but it is very beautiful and we start strolling down through the trees. There are masses of ferns as we walk down - Harts-tongue and Soft-shield Ferns, and we find a rather showy family of Blackcaps. The lakes themselves are covered in lily pads with lovely white flowers but are remarkably empty of water birds other than a single Grey Heron.

As we come out of the trees the day is brightening with lighter skies and no more rain. We find our first damselflies, a Common Blue and a Blue-tailed and also a freshly emerged Ruddy Darter. On the far side a Buzzard is being mobbed by a Meadow Pipit and a flock of Swifts are hawking over the trees. The path continues down to the beach where we find a family of Whitethroats and spot Gannets and passing auks out to sea. There are lots of orchids as we walk up the headland, Common Spotted and Pyramidal Orchids and a single large Twayblade. The turf is tightly cropped here by sheep but there is Wild Thyme, Birds-foot Trefoil, Common Centaury, Sea Campion, Thrift and then another orchid species, Southern Marsh Orchid. As we walk up the path two Choughs fly

by at speed and looking out to sea Manx Shearwaters are passing out at sea. With the sun coming out we spot our first butterfly - a Common Blue.

We walk on to the end of the headland where the view east looks out towards a superb cliffy headland stretching away to Stackpole Head with several large cave-like arches in the rocks. Below us is a small beach and on the slopes above we find more Choughs with a few Jackdaws. We get great scope views of them before finding another one even closer. We decide to stop here for lunch and watch a hovering Kestrel, a Rock Pipit singing and a couple of Oystercatchers going frantic down by the beach. After we have eaten we walk on finding another Rock Pipit, Pied Wagtail, a superb male Wheatear, a singing Skylark and a Small Heath butterfly somehow flying against the strong wind.

Walking on we pass lots more orchids, mainly Pyramidal including some that are truly stunning in colour, then as we walk down past some large areas of rough bracken we spot a nice male Stonechat, then Max brilliantly spots a Silver-studded Blue!! This is a scarce butterfly and an excellent find. Over a short distance we spot a few more finding perhaps five in total - delightful little things and remarkably tame perhaps due to the wind and cool weather.

As we walk back the clouds break up until large areas of the sky become completely blue and now, as we walk past the lily ponds, it is very different with lots of damselflies and even a few dragonflies on the wing. Common Blue and Blue-tailed Damselflies are by far the most common but we find a few Azure Damselflies too. Four-spotted Chaser is the commonest Dragonfly but we also spot a couple of Emperor Dragonflies and Max picks up a brief Hairy Dragonfly.

We walk on pausing to identify a very scarce plant at the side of the track - Ivy Broomrape --which seems surprisingly abundant here, but then tragedy strikes when the strong winds provide the chance for the local geese to wear Keith's Tilley hat from now on!!! We pass a few Speckled Woods and an early Meadow Brown before we finally get back to the car park.

It has been a superb walk around a very beautiful estate, but we are ready for a cup of tea so we head round to a local café where we enjoy the sunshine sat outside and a good chat and a laugh. This still leaves us plenty of time to head on round to Stack Rocks, a particularly scenic section of coastline nearby. Here there are more Southern Marsh Orchids by the paths as we walk out to the coast.

As we arrive at the cliff edge a flock of Choughs appears and soars around putting on a wonderful show then, wow, what a scene is waiting for us!

There, almost at eye level, are two stacks, one very thin and tall and pointed, and the other broader and completely smothered in Guillemots all over the top of it! It looks quite amazing through the telescope with the entire view just filled with birds, and the noise is fabulous with them calling constantly. Hundreds of birds are flying in and out all the time and the sea is peppered with them. Part way down the side of the stack are a few Razorbills and Darren sets the challenge to try and find a 'bridled' Guillemot with the white lines round the eyes. He explains they are a lot scarcer this far south compared to the north of Scotland and can be very hard to find. But Hazel takes the challenge on and long after the rest of us have long given up she shouts, "Got one!!" We take turns at the scope enjoying this special bird amongst the crowd.

From here we walk round to a nearby viewing platform from where we can enjoy a stunning view of 'The Green Bridge of Wales' - though we are not too sure why it is called the green one given it seems to be grey rocks! This natural archway of rock is quite spectacular and we take plenty of photos before heading back to the vans.

With the day now drawing to a close we head back to base for a bit of a break before meeting up again for our fabulous evening meal and run through the checklist.

Day 2

Today we have a morning with a rainy forecast so decide somewhere with hides might be a good idea - and so we head to Cardigan and the Teifi Estuary where a very nice Wildlife Trust reserve can be found at Teifi Marshes. It is just light drizzle as we drive there, spotting two Red Kites on the way, and even the drizzle has just about stopped by the time we start walking.

It is a lovely reserve with a nice mix of habitats from reed-beds, scrub and woodland plus the estuary itself and some pools too – it is just a shame it seems so quiet for birds! We do see some – and soon after we set off we pause to look at Blackcaps, Chiffchaff and a nice view of a Goldcrest. There are lots of baby birds like Blue Tits and Great Tits and a baby Robin hops onto our path - a Robin-brown-breast!

We arrive at the Kingfisher hide where we get very good views of a Reed Warbler feeding close to the hide. A Heron is feeding here too but there is no sign of any Kingfishers and the poor weather means there are no dragonflies in what looks like great habitat for them.

From here we move on to the Creek Hide and we are thrilled to spot the local race of Giant Badger on the far hillside!! It is close to the visitor centre and we hope to get closer views later of this mythical beast. There are few

birds here though some Swifts fly through, we pick out a couple of Reed Buntings and another Reed Warbler and Buzzards plus Lesser and Greater Black-backed Gulls fly over.

At the hide overlooking the estuary we see lots of Mute Swans and a few Canada Geese but again it is pretty quiet. However, walking on we find a couple of Red Kites and more Buzzards. Flowers include Common Meadow-Rue, Yellow Flag, Meadowsweet and Pale Toadflax which is unusual. As we continue our walk the sun finally comes out and draws out a single male Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly and several Speckled Wood butterflies. Then from the final hide we find another Grey Heron and a pair of Mute Swans with cygnets - but there is no denying the birding has been a bit tame this morning...

Back at the visitor centre we get a real close up view of the Giant Badger - an absolutely superb sight and a beautifully made willow construction that is uncannily accurate. We enjoy lunch at the picnic tables here before having a look round the visitor centre and then moving on.

Our next stop is a lovely bit of woodland beside the slow-flowing River Teifi at Cilgerran, and we arrive to find a Grey Wagtail at the edge of the car park. Moments later we realise it has the cutest little baby here and we watch the male feed it on a huge green caterpillar! It is a ball of fluff but even with its tiny tail it is constantly wagging it up and down!

We walk down the river pausing to admire a gorgeous Banded Demoiselle, then through the woodlands where we find a mixed flock of birds including Blue, Great and Coal Tits with young ones all mixed in. We get a brief glimpse of a Marsh Tit and better views of a Nuthatch. A Treecreeper is calling, a Grey Squirrel runs through the branches and further on we watch a group of three Jays but there is no sign of the Pied Flycatchers we hoped for.

From here we drive out to the estuary mouth and eventually stop at a spot from where we can scan the exposed bars of sand. A Curlew is feeding very close by and out on the mud we spot several Shelducks and a few more Curlews plus a mixed flock of gulls. Roy is excited to find a Mediterranean Gull - a very nice find! After we have all seen this and we have scanned the area thoroughly we drive back a little way and make a stop for a coffee, sitting at the tables outside so we can continue to scan the estuary. From here we find more of the same species but also a big flock of Canada Geese with a single Greylag, and a bird of strange origin - we suspect the fact that one Canada Goose definitely seems to be attached to the Greylag suggests perhaps they were the parents! Roy has always known these hybrids as Granada Goose!

Once we've finished our drinks we drive a little way for a final stop and one more scan finding more gulls – and is this the same Mediterranean Gull or a new one? There is a Red Kite hunting over a field on the other side of the estuary with a Buzzard, plus a single mermaid on the shore! We head for home after what has been a nice day, perhaps a little frustrated that the wildlife was not really behaving as well as we had hoped. At least the Badger showed up!

Day 3

We have a booking for a trip to the out-lying island of Grassholm today but with the forecast for strong winds we phone the office early to try and find out whether it is still on. We are surprised when the lady says that she thinks it might still be happening but she would check with the skipper and let us know - then when we speak to her again, a short time after, she makes us sound as if we are crazy - have we not seen the forecast!?! So, with no boat trip today we decide to go to St David's Headland instead and take a coastal walk.

We arrive at Whitesands Bay and set off along the coast path, heading north. It is a superb walk with great views out across the sound to Ramsey Island and beyond to the small rocky islets known as the Bishops and Clerks. The flowers along the way are superb with lots of species including Sheep's Bit, Thrift, Southern Marsh and Heath Spotted Orchids, Kidney Vetch, Bell Heather (in flower) and a puzzling little plant we later identify as Brookweed. On one patch of flowers we are delighted to find several beautiful, iridescent green and bronzy looking Rose Chafer Beetles. We pause to check the scrubber areas as there are apparently a small number of Dartford Warblers here, but there is no sign and we wonder if they made it through the harsh winter. However, we get great views of Whitethroat, Stonechat, Linnet, a family of Ravens and we are thrilled when a Peregrine cruises overhead following a pigeon in a rather relaxed kind of way, then banks away and back past us over the sea.

We follow the path up and over one headland, then down into a dip, then up the other side to St David's Head, enjoying the views and the birds and flowers - adding Wheatear and several wonderful Choughs. They fly so fluidly they are just a joy to watch, and we get good views of them feeding on the ground too.

We reach the end of the headland and sheltering behind some rocks out of the wind we scan the sea as we enjoy lunch. There are Gannets drifting by regularly and we are very pleased to see a few Manx Shearwaters passing too. This is a new bird for some people so it is nice that they are close in, giving nice views. There are plenty Guillemots passing and a small number of Kittiwakes.

After lunch, we walk back to the vans before driving to St David's where people have the chance to enjoy the smallest city in the UK. There is the rather beautiful Cathedral here and also St David's Bishops Palace - a medieval palace beside the cathedral - very impressive. The town is nice too with a particularly good ice-cream shop - allegedly!

Day 4

Today is Skomer day, and Roy and Darren start the day queueing for tickets as the trip is not bookable! Then with tickets in hand we all meet after breakfast and set off for the boat at Martin's Haven. We head down to the jetty and are soon on board and on our way, passing across the narrow strait between the mainland and Skomer, noting our first Puffins and Razorbills as we go.

Arriving at the island at the sheltered North Haven we pass lots of auks as we walk up the steep landing steps. At the top we are made welcome by one of the assistant wardens, and he goes over what we should look out for on the island and the routes we might take - emphasising not to leave the path as the entire island is a maze of holes with nesting Manx Shearwaters and Puffins and Rabbits! We take the path towards the visitor centre in the middle of the island hoping for one of the Short-eared Owls that nest here but perhaps the drizzle is putting them off flying. We find Wheatear, several Linnets, a singing Whitethroat and Swallows that are nesting in the buildings. As we walk on, we find Reed Bunting and pass a colony of Lesser Black-backed Gulls before arriving at the cliffs on the north side of the island. We can look down from here to some rocks below on which a Shag is perched looking out to sea, and the sea is dotted with Puffins, Guillemots and Razorbills. A Rock Pipit flies up and song flights back down below the cliffs.

We pause here to eat our lunch and the weather improves a little though the wind is still strong. As we walk on, we pass some very close Puffins that seem completely unbothered by our presence, then onwards through huge beds of Red Campion, a few Bluebells that are remarkably still in flower, and sheets of Sea Campion here and there. It is an enjoyable walk down the west side of the island to Skomer Head but the fog prevents us from scanning the sea for any sign of cetaceans, so we move on spotting a couple of Ravens that pass by at eye level. Over the next section there is masses of Thrift in flower and sheets of Silverweed which is covered in flowers which some have rarely seen before.

From here we walk to the area above an inlet known as The Wick and this can safely be described as 'Puffin Central'. We are absolutely thrilled to find Puffins everywhere - but especially delighted to find so many, so near the path!! You rarely get to see any birds this close and you really could reach out and touch them if they would let you - they'd probably bite your fingers!

They peer up at you quizzically, as if trying to work out just what you are. They are so incredibly charismatic and lovable, and we spend a while here just enjoying their funny antics and watching their delightful behaviour – a magic moment for sure! Most are just standing around and occasionally disappearing down a hole but now and then one flies in with a beak full of sand-eels and these birds dash down a hole in the wink of an eye. Amazingly, even then a Herring Gull manages to grab a sand-eel from the beak of one as it disappears - and we guess this is the reason a few Herring Gulls are constantly scanning the flock and wandering amongst them, making the Puffins look a bit uneasy. After a while the fog lifts a little and we realise there is actually a big cliff the other side of the inlet - covered in Kittiwake nests, Guillemots on ledges and even a few Fulmars, none of which had been visible! A couple of Choughs fly through enjoying the updrafts - it is all wonderfully entertaining and we spend a long time here before finally realising we really do have to get on our way and start walking back to the boat.

The only addition on the return is a baby Short-eared Owl that is hissing loudly from cover, very close to the path – sadly, we never actually see it. Then it's back to the boat where we enjoy some very close Guillemots and Razorbills by the steps, before we finally get on the Dale Princess and head back to shore. A great day on magical Skomer.

Day 5

We wake to pouring rain and wind, and have to admit it does rather dampen the enthusiasm - but it is forecast to improve a little later so we still hope our trip to Ramsey Island won't be cancelled. As we eat breakfast the phone call is made and we are told that our planned 10:30 trip will be postponed to 12.00 noon as the wind should have eased by then. We will miss the trip around the island and instead enjoy just a landing on this RSPB managed island. This gives us a bit of time to fill so we decide to head to Fishguard Harbour to search for Black Guillemots, a species that has started nesting here fairly recently.

We arrive at the harbour and head first for the breakwater but, before we even get there, Hazel spots a superb breeding plumage Mediterranean Gull. What a smart bird this is with its jet-black head and white wing tips, and its sporting a yellow leg-ring (more later on that..) There are other gulls on the beach but just the usual species, and out on the water are Cormorants, with one very confusing bird jump-diving like a Shag!!! A Rock Pipit is song-fighting, then suddenly Darren shouts, "Got one!" He has seen a distant Black Guillemot flying out over the water - it circles around then flies up to the sea wall and we watch for a while getting birds in flight and on the water. They are distant so we check the map to work out whether we can get closer, and conclude we should be able to drive round.

In no time at all we are enjoying much better views of birds on the water and even perched on the sea wall!

Delighted with our sightings we now need to get going and drive round to St Justinians where we are getting the boat. Here we are soon on our way for the short crossing over to Ramsey and we are greeted by a very friendly RSPB member of staff called Fran, who welcomes us to the island and talks us through where we might go and what we might see. She does a particularly good Chough impression!

We walk up the slope and across the fields finding several Choughs feeding, families of Stonechats and Wheatears, and a male Red Deer with velvet covered antlers. A few of these unlikely animal residents were left over from the shooting days and the RSPB is still unsure what to do about them - if anything. A Red Kite appears flapping lazily overhead and drifting over towards a field where a few Ravens and Great Black-backed Gulls are feeding. We are surprised to find a selection of different coloured Rabbits - normal, sandy-coloured and black ones! Then Christine says she has a Little Owl! There on top of one of the dry-stone walls is a lovely Little Owl peering at us and a moment later it vanishes. We then get a few more brief views as it appears and disappears again. We decide to have lunch here and watch and wait in the sun - this pays off well with some lovely further views.

From here it is then a short walk up to the viewpoint over the bay where we scan the water below finding Guillemots and Razorbills. We know that Peregrine is a possibility here but we are very impressed when Max brilliantly spots one on the cliff face and we enjoy incredible views through the scopes of this gorgeous bird at eye level.

We walk back and then take the southern loop passing more Stonechats, Wheatears, Rock Pipits, and a few Red Deer hinds on the skyline as we walk. The flowers are lovely too, with lots of English Stonecrop, Rock Sea Spurrey, Eyebright and Wild Thyme. Grey Seals are poking their heads from the water in the first bay, and scanning the sea there are Gannets, plenty of auks and Manx Shearwaters passing by. The scenery is superb and some of the rocky outcrops and smaller islands offshore make for spectacular views. In the distance we can also see Grassholm Island which looks as if three quarters of it is made from pale rock - it is in fact tens of thousands of Gannets! Although the rest of the walk is not particular birdy is very enjoyable with superb scenery. Some of us arrive back in time for a drink back at the RSPB shop, then soon enough, comes the call to be back on the boat and we head across to the mainland and our drive back to the hotel.

Day 6

The day is sunny but with a strong breeze still, and though it looks great outside we are not at all surprised when we phone the boat company for

news on our re-scheduled Grassholm trip - it has been cancelled again... With 18 miles per hour winds forecast we may even be slightly relieved!

So, we decide instead to head to the Welsh National Wetland Centre at Llanelli where we feel there is a good chance of seeing more birds - and not just in the wildfowl collection there! Recent sightings have included three Spoonbills!

The journey is an hour and a quarter, and we are soon arriving at the showcase reserve situated on the edge of the large Burry Inlet. We pass through the visitor centre and head round to the hides where the Spoonbills have been seen recently, spotting exotic wildfowl on the way: Coscoroba Swans, Hawaiian Geese, Australian Shelduck, Red-billed Pintail, Yellow-billed Duck, Andean Duck, Puna Teal, Red-breasted Goose and Bufflehead with a smattering of European species including Wigeon, Shelduck and Eiders. It is great fun challenging ourselves to identify these out-of-context species before checking if we are right on the information boards!

Arriving at the first hide we gather that apparently the Spoonbills flew about half an hour before we arrived, so we hang around for a while hoping they might return. There are a few ducks here including Mallards, a lone Wigeon and a few Gadwall, and in the middle a flock of Black-headed Gulls we pick out two adult Mediterranean Gulls. There is a mass of Jackdaws feeding on one side of the pool and what a noise they are making! A few Lapwing are round the edge of the pool, at least three Little Egrets present, and some Greylags and Canada Geese. From the next observation hide we overlook the same pools and we realise that more Mediterranean Gulls were hidden from view from the first hide - looking out the front and back of the hide we find at least seven! There are lots of Gadwall here and buzzing round one of the ditches are several Broad-bodied Chaser dragonflies.

We decide to move on, and try another hide looking over 'the lagoon'. There is a big colony of Black-headed Gulls here, with many immature birds and fluffy fledglings. There are more Gadwall and plenty of Greylags, and strangely a single Whooper Swan that may or may not have escaped from the collection here - perhaps a wild bird that has not migrated due to injury as there doesn't seem to be any more Whoopers in the collection?

We enjoy lunch at the picnic tables nearby, then head round to a hide on the far side of this lagoon and here we are pleased to find three Black-tailed Godwits. There are also some fully-winged Teal here which would suggest they are wild birds. Also, amongst the Black-headed Gulls we find yet another Mediterranean Gull. We head back for a cup of coffee, passing the American Flamingos on the way and further interesting ducks in the collection such as Falcated Duck, Laysan Teal, Philippines Duck, and a flock

of Snow Geese with a couple of Ross's Geese amongst them which make for a nice comparison.

After coffees we still have enough time to try a hide or two on the far side of the stream where we find an incredible 150 or so Black-tailed Godwits! It is puzzling to know why they are still here and not in Iceland or somewhere, and many are in beautiful breeding plumage. Apparently, we have just missed the Spoonbills again which were out on the other side, just a few minutes before we arrived! There is another Little Egret, and scanning around the pool we find Pochard, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe and lots more Black-headed Gulls. We try the next hide as the glass in this hide is not ideal to look through and from this hide we are surprised to discover two Knot amongst the Godwits - a great find by Darren. We scan through everything else but add nothing new and with time running out we head back to the vans and head for home - we are eating early this evening and heading out after dinner.

After we have eaten we drive out to Strumble Head hoping to see the passage of Manx Shearwaters - birds are often making their way back to the nesting islands after feeding in Cardigan Bay and can sometimes pass this headland in large numbers in the evening.

We arrive at the car park in expectant mood and the sun is still shining, though the wind is a bit chilly as we drop down to the building from which we scan the sea. Wow! There they are - flying past in little groups one after another. The choppy surface doesn't make them obvious but once you get your eye in there are loads of them and as the evening progresses more and more pass through until it is a constant stream of birds. It is lovely to watch and we relax into the scene. There are also a few Gannets and one or two start plunge-diving. Clearly there must be small fish here too, as the shearwaters also start dropping in with a splash and vanishing under the surface. We enjoy the scene for a while before taking a short walk along the coastal path to look at the bay, where a Grey Seal is bobbing in the waves. With the sun setting we head back to the hotel for a drink in the bar and our traditional round up of the holiday - we go around the group asking for their favourite species of the trip, a favourite place and a 'magic moment'.

A few different species are chosen with Guillemot and Manx Shearwater, Black Guillemot and Peregrine all scoring one or two points, and even Rose Chafer getting a mention, but the run-away winner is, not surprisingly, Puffin - with those delightful little chaps on Skomer scoring five votes! Skomer also headed the list in the favourite-places vote, with Ramsey in second and Stackpole coming in third - Strumble Head and the headland at Bosherton also getting a mention. The Magic Moments are always less predictable and almost every one was different, varying from receiving a birthday cake, finding

Silver-studded Blue, watching the circling Peregrine, Choughs flying, the lovely river, the Ramsey Red Kite and even a pooing Puffin - but with three votes it is the surprise view when you arrive at Stack Rocks and are met by the mass of Guillemots which scores three votes and wins overall. Many thanks to everyone for their contributions and also for making it a fun week with lots of laughter!!

BIRDS

Mute Swan
Whooper Swan?
Greylag Goose
Canada Goose
Shelduck
Mallard
Gadwall
Wigeon
Teal
Pochard
Tufted Duck
Little Grebe
Fulmar
Manx Shearwater
Gannet
Cormorant
Shag
Little Egret
Grey Heron
Red Kite
Common Buzzard
Kestrel
Peregrine
Coot
Moorhen
Oystercatcher
Lapwing
Knot
Black-tailed Godwit
Curlew
Black-headed Gull
Mediterranean Gull
Herring Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Kittiwake
Puffin
Black Guillemot
Guillemot
Razorbill
Feral Pigeon
Woodpigeon
Collared Dove
Little Owl

Swift
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Skylark
Sand Martin
Swallow
House Martin
Rock Pipit
Meadow Pipit
Grey Wagtail
Pied Wagtail
Dunnock
Robin
Wheatear
Stonechat
Song Thrush
Blackbird
Blackcap
Reed Warbler
Chiffchaff
Goldcrest
Wren
Great Tit
Coal Tit
Blue Tit
Nuthatch
Magpie
Jay
Jackdaw
Chough
Rook
Carrion Crow
Raven
Starling
House Sparrow
Chaffinch
Linnet
Goldfinch
Reed Bunting

Total Birds: 82

Mammals

Grey Squirrel
Rabbit
Red Deer
Grey Seal
Giant Badger

Other

Large white
Green-veined White
Small White
Speckled Wood
Meadow Brown
Small Heath
Common Blue
Silver-studded Blue
Cinnabar Moth
Banded Demoiselle
Common Blue Damselfly
Azure Damselfly
Blue-tailed Damselfly
Hairy Dragonfly
Emperor Dragonfly
Ruddy Darter
Four-spotted Chaser
Broad-bodied Chaser
Rose Chafer

Flowers

Common Spotted Orchid
Heath Spotted Orchid
Pyramidal Orchid
Southern Marsh Orchid
Twayblade
Thrift
Sea Campion
Red Campion
Spring Squill
English Stonecrop
Biting Stonecrop
Brookweed
Common Meadowrue
Eyebright
Yellow-wort
Tutsan
Fairy Flax
Silverweed
Sea Heath
And many other common species

Total Species: 125

Extra Foot Note (or Leg Note):

We've checked the details on the ringed Mediterranean Gull at Fishguard Harbour (found by Hazel). It was first ringed as a chick at Lady's Island, Wexford, Ireland on 16.6.2015 (a breeding colony of about 60 birds). Subsequent sightings include the RSPB Bowling Green Marsh, Devon during May, June 2016. More sightings were from Cardiff Bay during March 2017, then it flew back to Co. Cork in Ireland for July 2017.

It had not been recorded again until Hazel spotted it at Fishguard on 20 June 2018.