



Bird Watching in Cornwall – The very best of breaks.



A Chough on a Cornish Cliff and in Flight

Cornwall is wonderful any time of year.

Out of season can be a wonderful time in Cornwall with lots going on! With the rugged cliffs, moorland and lush farmland it's a fantastic county for Bird Watching.

There is plenty else to do as well, perhaps an enjoyable walk on the many golden beaches or admiring the stunning views when strolling along the cliff tops. A warm cup of tea or coffee by a roaring fire, a lovely lunch, perhaps a stroll around a wonderful garden or National Trust property, why not enjoy the experience and visit whenever you can.

The Cornish Holiday Team – Alec and Helen

Cornwall is a paradise for birdwatching. The county's position, stretching out into the Atlantic, surrounded by hundreds of miles of beautiful coastline, means that not only is it an ideal stopping off point for many migratory species but it often has unusual visitors. Birds that have been blown off course or over-shot their intended destination end up staying in Cornwall for a while. Cornwall also boasts a milder climate than the rest of the UK and a surprisingly wide range of habitats.



Hayle Estuary

Hayle Estuary is the most south westerly estuary in the UK, a Site of Scientific Interest and an RSPB reserve. It is home to a wide variety of wetland birds including Oystercatchers, Curlew and Little Egret.



Winter is one of the best times for birdwatching here, when you can see large flocks of Teals and Wigeons and maybe even the odd vagrant Ring-billed Gull from North America.

Lizard Point

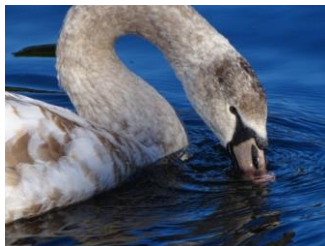
Much of the Lizard peninsula is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and for good reason. There are several reserves here too including Goonhilly Downs. The Lizard Point is the most southerly point in Britain and is a stunning place for a walk with a good chance of sighting some unusual visitors.



In early 2019 a Black-browed Albatross paid a visit and importantly the area is home to one of the UK's rarest birds – the Cornish Chough. Other sightings here include the odd passing Puffin and Razorbill, also Guillemot, Chiffchaff, Wagtail, Wheatear, Hen Harrier and Peregrine.

Argal Reservoir

Argal reservoir, and the nearby College reservoir, is another great place for a walk . A circuit of Argal lake is roughly 2.5 miles and there is a bird hide at the furthest end which offers great views across the water.



Well stocked with fish, the lake is also home to ducks, coots, moorhen, swans and lots of other visitors including Herons, Egrets, Great Chested Grebes, Teal, Canada Geese, Pochards and various gulls as well as many woodland birds.

Argal lake is very popular with dog walkers and fishermen and it is quietest early in the morning, at dusk and on rainy days.

Isles of Scilly

The incredible species list for this group of sub-tropical islands now stands at over four hundred. That is more than any other single site in Europe. These islands are probably so popular with birds because it is the first and last landfall for thousands of miles. It has therefore become one of the best locations in Europe to spot rare migratory birds.



The island of Annet, one of the islands, is home to one of Britain's last remaining colonies of Puffins. The island has long had a reputation for being a haven for breeding populations of birds.

There are regular birdwatching boat trips from St Mary's to Annet but it's important to remember that the island is closed to the public between April and August to protect the bird life during breeding season. All of the Isles of Scilly offer great birding opportunities all year round.

Marazion Marsh

With the stunning backdrop of St Michael's Mount the marshes close to Marazion are a perfect place to watch spectacular murmurations in autumn and winter.



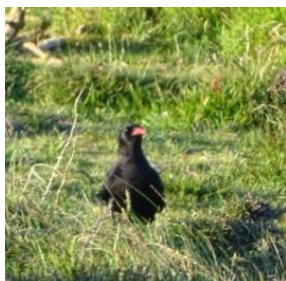
As well as the gatherings of Starlings the reedbeds here also make an ideal habitat for lots of wetland birds. There have been sightings of Bittern here in the winter.



More regular visitors are the Grey Heron, Chiffchaff, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Swallow and Little Egret. It is also a known stopover spot for the globally threatened Aquatic Warbler.

Cudden Point

A lovely place, especially for an evening walk in the summer, Cudden Point is owned by the National Trust. It is a place where you can regularly see one of Britain's rarest birds – the Cornish Chough.



There is nothing quite like seeing this illusive bird swooping across the sky and hearing its distinctive call. And this headland also is one of my ultimate sunset spots too.

Rame Head

This unspoilt, idyllic corner of Cornwall with its 14th century chapel has an impressive list of feathered visitors. A walk here, could include Polhawn Cove and Penlee Battery, and some of the birds that can be spotted along the way draw 'bird watchers' from all over the county.



You can hope to see: Red-flanked Bluetail, Chimney Swift, Black Redstart, Goldcrest, Firecrest, Golden Oriole, Red Kite, Ring Ouzel, Sparrowhawk, Marsh Harrier, Ravens, Peregrin and Turtle Dove.

Bodmin Moor

Bodmin Moor is a wonderfully isolated part of Cornwall and is an ideal walking and birdwatching habitat. Miles and miles of peace and quiet with a mixture of grassland, woodland, lakes, rivers and high rocky tors.



You can hear the call of the Skylark but you can also find many different birds of prey, woodland and grassland birds. Buzzard, Raven, Peregrin Falcon, Kestrel, Woodpeckers, Cuckoo, Golden Plover and Great Grey Strike to name but a few of the possible birdwatching delights!

Other places worth a visit for bird watching are:-

Camel Estuary.

Stithians Reservoir.

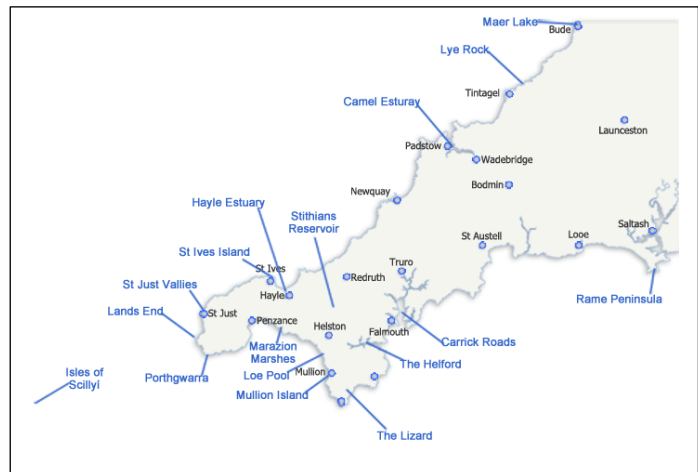
Pendarves Wood Reserve, not far from Cambourne.

Looe Island.

The Helford River

Loe Pool.

Or a walk along the creek at St Clements near Truro



Some useful websites to help you enjoy and plan your stay are:-

Cornwall Birding <https://www.cornwall-birding.co.uk/>

Cornwall Birding and Preservation Society <https://www.cbwps.org.uk/cbwpsword/>

RSPB <https://www.cornwalls.co.uk/wildlife/birdwatching>

Lots of information is courtesy of Cornish Bird Blog.