

Birdwatching at Badgers Sett

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have a much envied reputation for birdwatching. Rare birds are often blown off course during their migration and take an unscheduled break in Cornwall. Badgers Sett is centrally located in Cornwall allowing easy access to many sites of interest. Bird feeders are located near to the cottages and attract a variety of birds. There are also many birds to be seen in the wider garden or the local area. Birds commonly found in and around the grounds of Badgers Sett include Barn Owls, Green Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Buzzard and many more.

Local places to watch birds

Golitha Falls, 0.8 mile from badgers sett. A Natural England Nature Reserve with Woodland and fast river habitat. Often to be seen here are Dippers, Treecreepers, Nuthatch and Pied Flycatchers.

Siblyback Lake. 3 miles. Lake Habitat with some surrounding woodland. Many wildfowl can be seen and there is a hide available. Park on site (fee required) and walk round the lake to one of the hides or vantage points. This lake is quite busy with water sports and other South West Trust lakes offer greater bird watching opportunities.

Colliford Lake. 4 miles. Lake Habitat surrounded by open moorland. Many waterfowl and much quieter than Siblyback lake. The Loveny reserve is managed by the Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society. Membership costs from £17 and may be worth considering. Whilst the lake and reserve area are easily viewable from the road, members can access the hide on the Loveny reserve. Wildfowl use the reserve and reservoir in winter and among those present there are likely to be Pochard, Wigeon, Goldeneye and in cold weather Smew. Golden Plover, Lapwing and Snipe are regular in the area and raptors include Peregrine, Merlin and Buzzard. In some years Short-eared Owls and Hen Harriers winter. Sand Martins, Hirundines, Warblers and Black Terns can all be found on spring passage. Breeding birds include Great Crested Grebe, Canada Goose, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Teal, Black-headed Gull, Cuckoo, Whinchat and Reed Bunting. In late summer and early autumn large numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls roost overnight on the reserve. Common and Green Sandpipers start a steady flow of autumn waders that will in most years include Redshank, Greenshank, Dunlin, Ringed Plover and Little Stint. Pectoral Sandpiper, Stone Curlew, Phalaropes, Montagu's and Marsh Harrier, Bluethroat, Corncrake and Skuas are a few of the rarer species that have occurred at the site.

Lower Tamar Lake. 38 miles from Badgers Sett, is an important wetland site for bird life, with recordings including: Kingfisher, Great Crested Grebe, Common Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sanderling, Grey Plover, Ringed Plover, Grasshopper Warbler, and Reed Bunting. Due to this fact the bird hide at Lower Tamar Lake is well-used and regarded as a useful resource. Over the last decade however, reeds and scrub have been colonising the lake fringe, and this had spread to an area of about a hectare of reed and scrub which, although it does have its own inherent biodiversity value, has led to concern because the view from the bird hide was distinctly reduced.

Other Notable bird watching sites in Cornwall

Porthgwarra and many of the valleys on the Land's End peninsula; Stithians Reservoir; the creeks of the Truro and Fal Rivers; the Camel Estuary with the

Walmsley Sanctuary near Chapel Amble, Wadebridge; Goss Moor; and Dozmary Pool. North Cornish Coastal areas ~20 miles in particular attract many seabirds; areas such as Tintagel and Polzeath are good places to see many different seabirds. Tintagel, for example, is home to what may be the largest colony of razorbills in the county, and the coastline around Polzeath is a great place to find many types of coastal birds, including puffins and Peregrine falcons. The South Cornish Coast, 10 miles, has many cliffs, headlands and beach areas such as Rame Head and Penlee Point. Good for spring and autumn migrants, sea watching and winter seabirds. Hosted Britain's one and only Wilson's Warbler, whilst recent rarities include Red-flanked Bluetail and Gyrfalcon. Par Beach is an excellent winter gull site. Also good for waders and terns.

RSPB reserves. Hayle about 50 miles, Estuary habitat and Marizon Marsh about 55miles.