



Wheatear (© Tony Blunden)

### Caerthillian Valley and Kynance

**access road:** An early morning visit in May to Caerthillian Valley [SW695125] should be rewarded by singing Whitethroats and Sedge Warblers. Walking north from Caerthillian up the coast path or using the network of footpaths just inland you will reach the National Trust's Kynance access road. This can also be reached by road just north of the village, with good flat walking and easy access for all.

The Kynance road [SW695131] offers access to good reliable areas to see and hear Cuckoo in spring as they search the Downs to the north for nests to parasitise. Wheatears breed on the coastal cliffs in this area and can be a regular visitor on migration, feeding in the short flower-rich coastal grasslands. Flocks of Whimbrel often pause here on migration for a few days before heading north. The approach road is also a good place to see and hear Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Willow Warbler.



Sedge Warbler (© Tony Blunden)

Throughout the late autumn, winter and early spring, the Kynance access road can provide good views of the overwintering species that frequent the Downs, including Short-eared Owl, Hen Harrier and Merlin. Marsh Harriers are also regular of late. It is always worth considering that many of the birds of the open downs range over a huge area, including Goonhilly and beyond, and if there is a south-westerly gale with rain, birds often favour the eastern side of the Lizard peninsular.

### Farmland birds on Old Lizard

**Head:** The arable fields just inland from the Point and Old Lizard Head [SW695117] often feature barley stubble in winter. This provides food for wintering flocks of Skylark, Linnet and Chaffinch with occasional Lapland Buntings. These farmland birds have become a rare sight elsewhere but, thanks to the forward thinking National Trust, the over winter stubbles should continue to feed our birds.

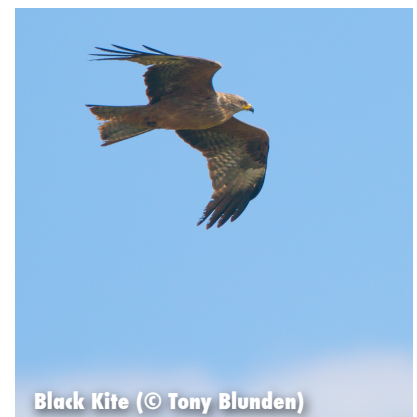
### Windmill Farm Nature Reserve:

No visit to The Lizard is complete without a visit to the nature reserve at Windmill Farm [grid reference: SW694153]. The reserve, owned by the Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society and Cornwall Wildlife Trust, has something for everyone - whether you want a long walk around the paths and boardwalks across the reserve, a quick visit to the pools for migrant waders or dragonflies, or to sit just beyond the car park to take in the views and wait for the birds to come to you.

The newly converted Windmill Watch Tower is a great place to watch visible migration, especially birds of prey, with far reaching views across the Lizard.

In spring, a few patient hours can be rewarded by a steady flow of swallows and martins, as well as wheatears flying in off the heath, to regroup and feed on the short insect-rich short turf before heading north as you watch. Occasionally this is punctuated with the bright peachy breasted breeding plumage of Whinchats and, on an almost annual basis, Hoopoe appear in early spring.

During a morning migration watch from Windmill in late May you are increasingly likely to witness Red Kites on tour. With the expanding UK population, they have become frequent visitors to the southwest, particularly during settled periods of high pressure when non-breeding birds have a west country break. Occasional spring overshooting Black Kites have also been known to join the party.



Black Kite (© Tony Blunden)