

Manx Shearwater



A medium sized shearwater, with an **all over plain dark back and head** contrasting with a white underside.

Best place to see: Take a 'Shearwater Special' trip on a summer's evening and see a 'raft of birds' sitting on the water off Annet, waiting to go in to their nests at night. Also a few occasionally shear past headlands such as Peninnis St Mary's, a few hundred metres offshore.

Best time to see: From May to August with peak numbers in June and July.

Numbers: The rafts off Annet can number up to 300 birds, but otherwise typically four or five birds will be seen together when flying past headlands. Although very difficult to count it is thought that there are around 200-300 pairs breeding in Scilly, making the islands *Regionally Significant* for this species with the only other breeding colony in England being on Lundy Island.

Similar species: *Great Shearwater* (page 121) which can be seen on pelagic trips.

European Storm-petrel

A very small seabird looking like a House Martin, with an all black body and **white rump**.

Best place to see: Normally only seen near the islands at dusk when it flies into its nesting burrows on Annet or Round Island and even then can be very difficult to see. However an autumn pelagic trip (see page 4) may be more productive when birds can be seen at sea a few kilometres offshore.

Best time to see: Late May to end of August.

Numbers: On a pelagic trip you can often see 10 to 20 birds in loose groups feeding around the boat. However the total numbers breeding in Scilly are estimated at over 1500 pairs making the islands *Internationally Important* for this species, and Scilly remains the only breeding colony in England.

