

## The Jurassic Coast, Dorset

### *Autumn Birding, Flowers, Butterflies & Mammals*

*“In Comfort & Style”*

*Sept. 20-24*

**The Habitat?** Geology underpins the biodiversity, beautifully exemplified along this coastline. The Isle of Portland protruding 4 km. into the English Channel with its myriad of quarries, the spectacular 18 mile Chesil Beach, stunning chalk/limestone cliffs, stacks and grasslands, extensive white sands and vast acidic dune systems, picturesque bays, lowland heathland, inter-tidal mudflats, lagoons, reedbeds, harbours & Brownsea Island. It's just one huge, beautiful World Heritage Site!

**The Wildlife?** Perfect timing for migrant seabirds, raptors, waders & passerines! Sea-watching for Gannets, Manx/Balearic Shearwaters, Common & Sandwich Terns, whilst passing Sparrowhawk, Hobby and Osprey are regular. Flocks of Black-tailed Godwit & Curlew are to be expected with maybe Curlew Sandpiper, Greenshank & Little Stint. Hirundine movements can be massive, whilst warblers, chats, pipits & flycatchers will hopefully be in evidence, especially Wheatear, Spotted & Pied Flycatcher, Willow Warbler & Redstart, with unusual species always possible - Melodious Warbler, Wryneck or Ortolan Bunting perhaps? Resident species include Raven, Peregrine, Little Egret, Shag, Avocet, Cetti's Warbler, Bearded Tit and the elusive Dartford Warbler. Sunny weather induces the fabulous Adonis Blue butterflies to fly, along with Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Grayling and with luck, the rare & localised Lulworth Skipper. Botanists can enjoy Autumn Gentians, Sheepsbit, Harebell, Dorset Heath & Yellow-wort. Not forgetting the isolated population of Red Squirrels along with Sika Deer and maybe Water Vole, plus superb dragonflies & damselflies.

**The itinerary?** Full days out exploring Portland Bill [inc. the Observatory] along with Chesil Beach, Radipole & Lodmoor RSPB Reserves, and Brownsea Island with Studland NNR. Also visiting Durlston Head CP, the Purbeck Hills, Lulworth Cove and Arne RSPB Reserve.

**The Accommodation?** 4 nights based at the 16<sup>th</sup> century *Mortons House* Hotel situated in the picturesque village of Corfe Castle, the fairytale capital of the “Isle of Purbeck”. Offering the history & charm of a private country house, the hotel proudly boasts traditional English cuisine and fine wines, the perfect venue to relax, whilst affording easy access to all the major wildlife sites in the area.

**Cost:** £835 [s/s 125]

**Deposit:** £200

**B/L due:** Jul. 20

**Included in the cost:** 4 nts. dinner, bed & breakfast at the *Mortons House* Hotel, return ferries from Studland to Brownsea Island via Sandbanks, entrance to Brownsea Island & Dorset WT guide, all transportation and guidance throughout. [NB: Since space is limited in the minibus, guests will be requested to assist in driving on a rota basis].

**Not included in the cost:** Travel insurance, lunches, drinks, gratuities & items of a personal nature.