

Autumn in the Cairngorms

Naturetrek Tour Report

25th September – 1st October 2021



River Spey



Badger



Meadow Waxcap



Tour report by Chris Rose and Greg Smith
Images courtesy of Chris Rose



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Tour participants: Chris Rose and Greg Smith (leaders) with ten Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 25th September

Moray Firth, Insh Marshes

Soon after picking up four clients from a bright and breezy Inverness Airport we made a short stop at Alturlie, just east of Inverness on the Moray Firth for our first taste of Highland birding. The muddy shoreline produced Greylag Geese and Wigeon in reasonable numbers and we were treated to good views through the telescope of Black- and Bar-tailed Godwits, Redshank, Curlew, Oystercatcher and Lapwing. A lone Heron stood patiently on the mud and our first views of Hooded crow gave a flavour of being in the Highlands.

After picking up three more clients from Aviemore Railway Station we headed for the RSPB's Insh Marshes reserve, encountering a Brown Hare on the road in front of us *en route* – our first mammal of the trip. Meeting two more of our group at the car park we headed for the viewing platform where we were able to see Roe Deer feeding in the marsh below, along with Mallard and Teal dabbling in the pools. Buzzards circled in the distance while Chaffinch (no longer a regularly seen bird for some of our guests) were plentiful at the feeders alongside Blue, Great and Coal Tits. A walk along the Glentromie Trail gave us views of Black Darter dragonflies and, at the end of the path, views of Ruthven Barracks, the last stronghold of the final Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. Returning to the viewpoint a very distant Goshawk was seen circling over the pines and then a female Merlin dashed over the marsh and settled on a dead pine stump, where some were able to watch it through the 'scope.

Leaving the marshes we drove a short distance to our exclusive accommodation for the week - the beautiful Ballintean Mountain Lodge, tucked away in the woods of Glenfeshie. We met our second leader, Greg Smith, and, after a delicious dinner, chatted over what we could look forward to during the week.

Day 2

Sunday 26th September

Loch Garten, Cairngorm car park, Green Lochan

We were woken by the mournful song of a Robin outside our window, while the splendid breakfast gave us a further insight into the culinary delights in store for us in the week ahead.

Sorting the seats in both minibuses was like a challenge from the Crystal Maze while Siskin, Chaffinch, Swallow and Goldcrest mocked us from the treetops. As we piled into the minibuses, a Treecreeper called and offered us the briefest of glimpses as it went on its way. Little did we know that this was to become a motif for the whole trip – a calling Treecreeper only glimpsed as it flew away.

The morning continued well with one of the minibuses being given a classy performance by the first Red Squirrel of the trip as it leapt between tree trunks on the roadside. Unfortunately, the denizens of the second minibus missed the show but any disappointment was short-lived as this was by no means the last we were to see of this delightful resident of the Cairngorm National Park.

Our first stop of the day was at Loch Garten – the iconic location where Ospreys returned from extinction as a British breeding bird in the 1950s. But the Ospreys had long since left for the year and we had come here after a

rather smaller but equally charismatic Highland bird, the Crested Tit. The feeders in the car park were dominated by confident Coal Tits, belligerent Blue Tits and greedy Great Tits, but of the cresties there was no sign. Then, all of a sudden, a Crested Tit darted in, hastily grabbed a seed and fled. It proved to be a much more skittish and cautious creature than when observed in its pomp during the breeding season when it can be feisty and bold. Some of us put bird seed we'd brought with us on our outstretched hands and enjoyed the thrill and privilege of having Coal Tits land our hands and take the seed. Coal Tits are Europe's smallest tit, weighing only a third of an ounce, and their presence on our hands was barely felt as they clung to our fingertips. We went up to the reserve centre (now closed for the season) in hope of better views but (as is often the way) the car park had all the best birds and we spent some time there ensuring that everyone had the chance to see the birds well.

A Common Hawker around the pond in the carpark reinforced how mild the season was.

Remnants of the ancient Caledonian pine forest were evident among the plantation trees and we soon got our eye in distinguishing the gnarled, multi-stemmed specimens of the first from the regimented, straight lines and too perfect straight stems of the latter. Among the Scots Pines we got our first glance of the characteristic understorey Heather, Juniper, Bilberry, Cowberry and Hard Fern.

The two species of birch growing here (Silver and Downy) provided opportunities for several species of fungi – the most distinctive being Birch Polypore on their dead limbs and Fly Agarics on their roots.

We walked down to the lochside where we enjoyed distant views of Goldeneye (identifiable from their relatively large heads and small bodies) and rather closer views of a family of wild swimmers, untroubled by what must have been chilly waters. We all agreed that we would have been unable to do it without much squealing and puffing!

We found a conveniently long log for the dozen of us to rest on while we devoured our picnic lunches. And then returned to the minibuses to head up Glen More ('the big glen' in Gaelic) into the heart of the Cairngorm massif. Sadly, the base camp for the temporarily defunct funicular railway is getting more and more industrialised, resembling a large construction site but we headed up and out onto the lower flanks of the mountain itself where we saw the small herd of free-ranging Reindeer which have made this area their home since being introduced 70 years ago. Lots of interesting factoids were flung around: the bones in Reindeer's toes crack when they're walking in order to enable the herd to stick together in a blizzard; both male and female Reindeer have antlers, but the males shed theirs in the autumn, while the females lose theirs in the spring so, since Santa's reindeers are always pictured with antlers, they must be female; reindeer (known as caribou in north America) undertake the longest migration of any terrestrial mammal, thousands of miles longer than that of the Serengeti's wildebeests. We had fewer facts to share about the micro-moth *Coleophora alticolella* whose larval capsules were in abundance on the flowers of the Heath Rush on the hillside around us.

On our return back to the minibus we came through the delightful arctic-alpine garden, showcasing specimens of some of Britain's rarest plants which flourish in the Cairngorms, including: Dwarf Birch, Sibbaldia, Woolly Willow and Mountain Avens. Here we also cranked the dial on the bird list for the trip, but only by adding Goldfinch and Pied Wagtail rather than any of the hoped-for montane specialists such as Ptarmigan and Golden Eagle.

We ended the afternoon with a walk up to the beautiful an Lochan Uaine (the Green Lochan) situated high up on the Ryvoan pass. As we set off, the mournful piping of a party of Bullfinches drew our attention and we got lovely views of these chunky finches in the nearby birches. A damp shady dell close to the path was home to a large stand of the delicate Wood Horsetail and, to our great surprise, high up in a veteran Scots Pine, a rot-hole played host to a substantial Rowan tree. A large mixed party of Long-tailed, Blue, Great and Coal Tits accompanied us on the last few steps up to the lochan, which sat resplendent and peaceful.

The walk there and back took a couple of hours and demonstrated the difference in walking speed between 'bird/mammal/plant spotting' pace on the way there and 'we can't be late for dinner' pace on the way back!

Thankfully we weren't (late, that is) and back at the Lodge enjoyed another fantastic and sustainably-sourced meal.

Day 3

Monday 27th September

Ballintean Lodge, Uath Lochans, Insh Marshes, Inshriach Forest

A wet morning greeted us, but in the comfort of the upper lounge we used the time to learn how to use the three different telescopes that we would be using during the week – important field skills when animals and birds frequently don't sit still for long! A Red Squirrel made brief appearances running up and down the track outside but then the rain relented sufficiently in late morning to allow a stroll from the lodge down to Uath (pronounced 'wah'!) Lochans. These tranquil lochans are owned and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland and here we found the beautiful 'Angel's Wings' fungus – a stunning, ivory-white, gilled oyster mushroom growing on a fallen pine trunk. This is very much a species of northern coniferous forests and in the UK is mainly found in the Scottish Highlands. Along the water's edge we found marsh cinquefoil and Marsh Pennywort, and in the water itself there was plenty of Bog Bean and our only native water lily; White Water Lily. We were also able to compare the three species of heather found in the Highlands; Ling – the common heather of hillsides; Bell Heather and Cross-Leaved Heath. Out on the board walk we walked through a small stand of Common Reed and looked at two common species of Sphagnum; *Sphagnum cuspidatum* with its distinctive 'drowned cat' appearance, and *S. rubellum* – the red-coloured moss often encountered in northern bogs and marshes. Birds were keeping a low profile in the rain, but a Song Thrush was seen devouring rowan berries and Goldcrest and Treecreeper were both heard. Meadow Pipits were present in the open marsh and Siskins called from the trees but remained very much hidden!

The weather brightened in the afternoon with sunny spells and light, south-easterly winds and we headed back to Insh Marshes for a few hours. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard in the trees close by and Rabbit was added to the mammal list as several were out on the warren in front of the viewpoint. Some late Swallows swooped over the marsh, heading south, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen close to the river. Having enjoyed a rainbow or two and the stunning view over the marsh to the Monadhlaith Hills we returned to the lodge for an early dinner, adding Sparrowhawk, Jay, and Whooper Swan to our list *en route*.

After dinner we visited the Speyside Wildlife hide at Inshriach to watch for nocturnal mammals. Less than ten minutes after our arrival the first Badger arrived at the feeding station and was soon followed by three more.

They proceeded to systematically clean the area of the peanuts and peanut butter our knowledgeable guide, Eve, had put out for them, affording us excellent and prolonged views. Wood Mice darted out from the logs that edge the platform, quickly scurrying back in again for fear of being spotted by a Badger or the Tawny Owl that was heard hooting in the distance. After over an hour the Badgers finally ambled off into the night. After a matter of 20 minutes or so a fifth Badger appeared – a new individual not previously seen by Eve, who she suspected was from another clan. By 8.30pm this last badger had left but was replaced by the flicker of Pipistrelle Bats as they darted in front of the windows, catching moths attracted by the lights. Sadly, no Pine Martens appeared that night but the spectacle of seeing Badgers so close and for so long will remain in our memories.

On our return to the lodge the clear skies and lack of light pollution gave wonderful views of the stars. The outer arm of the Milky Way stretched across the sky above us. The planets Jupiter and Saturn were both clearly visible, low in the sky and, with the aid of a birding telescope, we could clearly see four of Jupiter's many moons, lying in a straight line either side of the planet. Saturn's rings were also just discernible - a great end to the night!

Day 4

Tuesday 28th September

Spey Dam, Insh Marshes

This morning, we traced the course of the River Spey up towards its source to the south west in the Monadhliath Hills – following the course of General Wade's Military Road across the Highlands. Our first stop along the way gave us a view of a wild, tree-lined course of the river. Here we scanned the skyline above the hills to the north in hope of an eagle but only 'tourist eagles' in the form of Buzzards and Ravens showed themselves. Closer to the minibus, a party of Siskins worked its way along the riverside Alders, while Swallows, Skylarks and Goldfinches flew over. In the fields beside the river, a couple of handsome bulls drew our attention and, close to them, a Buzzard sat on a fence post and nearby, seemingly untroubled by the raptor's presence, a Brown Hare lay watching and sunning itself.

Next we drew up beside a large dam where three Goldeneyes and a Little Grebe were actively fishing against the reedy loch fringes, and the inevitable Buzzards circling over the hills were joined by 16 Ravens. Far off, at the other end of the loch, a single Whooper Swan swam sedately.

Our next stop was at Sherramore's Bailey Bridge. On the hills behind us, a herd of 30-odd Red Deer hinds grazed the moors while a couple of young stags rehearsed their bellowing and posturing for the coming rut. In a nearby enclosure a herd of farmed Fallow Deer had us discussing the rights and wrongs of putting them alongside Reindeer on our tour checklist!

On to the picturesque Garva Bridge, where the eagles had clearly been warned of our approach and made their excuses. But, by way of compensation, we all enjoyed great close-up views of a stunning male Stonechat and a little botanising revealed Bog Asphodel and the insectivorous Round-leaved Sundew.

By the end of the road we were well up into the Monadhliath Hills where the Red Deer herds were getting bigger and the stags friskier. Siskin and Treecreeper called from a small plantation of Norway Spruce and a cluster of Scarlet Elf Caps earned some admiring comments.

We slowly retraced our tracks back to the main road, and down river to the Insh Marshes where we had been the previous day. Here, our scanning from the elevated viewpoint platform revealed that the Mallard numbers had been swollen by new arrivals, with over 150 now apparent in the grazing marsh pools. They had also been joined by a small party of Pink-footed Geese, keeping themselves apart from the resident Greylags.

Then, one of our target species came into view – a stunning male Hen Harrier gliding across the back of the marsh. It circled round and returned coming ever closer to our position. Its presence in turn flushed a Merlin which also flew towards us. Ten minutes earlier, some of the party had decided to try the next hide along. As we were voicing our concerns that the others might not have seen the raptors, a phone pinged to say they had just had the best possible views and they were concerned that we might have missed out! All good!!

Day 5

Wednesday 29th September

Abernethy Forest, Strathdearn, Findhorn Bay

An early morning rise saw us in the minibuses at 6.15am heading up towards Loch Garten in the hope of seeing Black Grouse at their lek. Parking in a remote spot we walked for half an hour through scattered birch woods, pausing briefly to look at Chanterelle mushrooms, to a point overlooking flat moorland and marsh. The dawn was dry and cool with just a light wind. As we arrived at 7.20am two Blackcock were immediately spotted, their heads poking up above the heather, and before long they were joined by two more. With tails fanned and raised to show off their ruffs of white undertail coverts, lekking began. Birds jumped towards at each other, bumping chests and flapping wings as tensions rose, their peculiar bubbling calls drifting over the moor towards us. One bird perched atop a deer-fence post for a while, giving us excellent views. Unexpectedly, a group of Red Deer hinds emerged from some scrub and walked behind the lekking Black Grouse, while Ravens croaked, and the distant bellow of a Red Deer stag could be heard coming from nearby hills. Set against the backdrop of Abernethy Forest and the Monadhliath hills beyond this was a quintessential Highland scene. Returning to the vans we noticed the snout marks of Badgers in the grass as described by our Badger and Pine Marten guide, Eve, the previous evening.

A very welcome and very delicious nine o'clock breakfast back at the lodge was followed by a look at the haul from last night's moth trap. Only a few *Epirrita* moths had been lured by the lights, but we were able to closely observe the intricate grey and black markings of these delicate 'November' and 'Autumnal' moths.

Back in the minibuses we headed north towards Inverness and then turned west up Strathdearn, also known as the Findhorn Valley – a well know spot for raptors. Our first stop initially produced the usual collection of Buzzards, plus a female Kestrel, but soon a Red Kite was spotted, and then another, and then another. In total four individuals were seen from this spot, one giving superb, close views. Small parties of Crossbills flew tantalizingly overhead, calling, but failed to settle in view. However, just as we were about to leave, a male was spotted perched in the top of a tree but flew before telescopes could be deployed. Our next stop found us sitting on the riverbank in the sun, eating lunch and admiring the view up the valley. A Common Hawker dragonfly was found in the grass and being in an almost torpid, near-death state, it allowed us wonderful close-up views. A Goshawk suddenly appeared, flying low across the valley, and was joined briefly by a second one. A good addition to the raptor species count for the day! Sadly, no eagles were present today, so we headed back down the strath and on towards the coast where the Findhorn River meets the sea.

At Findhorn Bay we were treated to the spectacle of a few thousand Pink-footed Geese settled on the mud flats and flying in from surrounding fields, their high-pitched honking calls filling the air. These winter visitors from Iceland and Greenland congregate on our estuaries and feed in the nearby arable fields. A lone Greenland White-fronted Goose was found amongst the flock, its darker plumage, bright orange legs and white blaze around the base of the bill making it stand out from the crowd. Out of place amongst a flock of Pink-footed Geese this bird was probably separated from a flock of its own species on migration, possibly in bad weather, and swept up with the migrating 'pink-feet'. It is safer and more energy efficient for these large birds to travel in flocks. We looked at identification of the three most numerous gull species on this shore; Common Gulls with their 'gentle' faces, the smaller Black-headed Gulls with their distinctive dark ear smudge and red legs, and the larger, bulkier Herring Gulls with pinkish legs and hefty yellow bills. Many wader species were identified, including Curlew, Redshank, Oystercatcher and Grey Plover, together with a handful of Black-tailed Godwits that use the bay as a stopover on their way to coastal wintering grounds further south. A small flock of Whooper Swans was seen distantly and Wigeon swam just beyond the water's edge. A lone Guillemot was seen floating just offshore, being harassed by swooping gulls. After a full day out, we headed back to the lodge, crossing over the Dava Moor with its spectacular views of the Cairngorm range, for another delicious evening meal cooked for us by the wonderful Gilly.

Day 6

Thursday 30th September

Loch an Eilein, Coire na Ciste, Lochindorb/River Feshie

Our day started with another bravura performance by Ballintean's resident Red Squirrel, repeatedly crossing the garden as it cached nuts from the feeders. It took an effort to drag ourselves away and venture out to other local attractions.

We started our excursion with a very pleasant two-hour walk around Loch an Eilein with its picture-postcard island on which stands the ruin of a 14th Century castle. It's supposedly uninhabited, but the number of Jackdaws emerging from the castle's tumbledown walls suggested otherwise. Again we enjoyed the contrast of ancient pine forest and modern plantation – here the Scots Pines were supplemented by European Larches (our only deciduous conifer). It was around the ancient pines that we caught sight of a busy Red Squirrel with a ball of moss heading for its winter drey.

The leaves of the waterside Alder trees were testament to the number of species which prey on them. Many of the leaves had been skeletonised by leaf beetles, and one showed the depredations of three other abusers as well: the leaf-mines of a micro-moth or sawfly, the dusty staining of a fungal rust attack, and the bobbly galls of the Alder Leaf Gall Mite. All that on what was left of just one leaf – the wonders of biodiversity!

Like the Alders, the Downy Birch trees too were playing host to a variety of fungi, including (on one old stem) two different species of bracket fungus: Birch Polypore and the striking Hoof Fungus. But the pick of the mushrooms were, again, the Angel's Wings, growing on rotting Scots Pine stems – not that we did pick them, of course, as they have recently been found to be fatal if consumed! But they are nevertheless a feast for the eyes, a delightful pure white resembling alabaster folded into intricate scroll-like patterns.

The frequent Juniper bushes in the understorey of the pines seemed devoid of berries, but our guide explained that this was because, unlike most flowering plants, Juniper is dioecious, meaning that the male and female

flowers develop on separate plants. Here we were only seeing male plants and the berries grow on the female plants. But with a little searching we soon found a female plant and sure enough it had plenty of berries on – the taste of which transported us all to gin heaven.

A female Goldeneye was the only bird to be seen on the water but our perseverance through the woods paid off when we caught sight of a Nuthatch sharing the top of a pine with a lone Wood Pigeon. The Nuthatch is a relative newcomer to Scotland and a real rarity this far north. We followed its flight through the canopy of trees in the garden of a small cottage nestled in the forest where we caught sight of another Red Squirrel. As we lined up with bins and cameras at the ready, a chap working on a satellite dish in the garden suddenly found himself the centre of attention: “Sky engineer moving left!”

Next to Coire na Ciste for a lunch with stunning views across Rothiemurchus and Glen More. Unfortunately, it seemed we had picked the wrong spot as before we could settle into the viewing point a helicopter appeared and proceeded to ferry construction materials back and forth between the car park and the defunct funicular railway. Unsurprisingly, and despite our determined efforts, there was little to be seen by way of birdlife on the hillside, and even the Reindeer had moved on. Before we did the same, we were grateful for the distraction provided by some tiny plants and some monumental geology (neither of which seemed troubled by the presence of the helicopter).

At this point, with rain threatening and a chill mountain breeze penetrating, the group agreed to split: one half returning to Ballintean and the other heading out to Lochindorb:

Ballintean; This contingent took a walk along the wild and wonderful Glen Feshie. Here the river has been left to its own devices and has carved a broad, braided channel through the landscape with gravel beds, low cliffs and small wooded islands. A pair of Goosanders flew up river and a Jay screeched from the bankside Alders, which again were being munched by iridescent chrysomelid leaf beetles.

Lochindorb; On our arrival at Lochindorb two Red Grouse (a male and a female) flew in to the heather close by, although only their heads remained visible. Walking around the north shore of Lochindorb three Pied Wagtails (two adults and a juvenile) flitted along the water's edge and were joined briefly by a Meadow Pipit – the commonest passerine (‘perching bird’) of these open moorlands. A female Kestrel gave lovely views as she flew at eye-level to us in the afternoon sunshine. Sunlit against the deep blue backdrop of the loch, she hung in the air, head-on into a stiff south-westerly wind.

Scars from the strip-burning of heather gave evidence of the intensive management for driven grouse-shooting, common in uplands in the Highlands, and we discussed the environmental issues surrounding this type of moorland management. Driving down the road on the loch's eastern flank we soon encountered more Red Grouse, although with the shooting season well underway the birds were more shy than usual.

Day 7

Friday 1st October

Spey Dam / Glen Feshie

Our final morning dawned bright and breezy. As we packed the vans, the Red Squirrel was, once more, hard at work on its winter nut store. On this occasion, it was joined by a second individual with similar plans. Again we

agreed to split up, with yesterday's Lochindorb group doing the Glen Feshie walk, while the rest headed up to Spey Dam for a final shot at the eagles.

The Spey Dam contingent were not far beyond Laggan when the sky suddenly filled with corvids from a nearby wood. The cause of their alarm quickly became apparent when a female Goshawk flew purposefully through the mayhem. Shortly, a Sparrowhawk joined the excitement and the now-ubiquitous Buzzards watched from on high. After this, the morning rather tailed-off for this group, although a few late Swallows and another spectacular rainbow did lighten the mood.

The Ballintean contingent took a relaxing stroll down to the River Feshie. This broad, meandering stretch of river is braided with shingle banks, many now colonised by birch and juniper to create islands. In the absence of deer, which were cleared from this estate nearly two decades ago, we saw that trees are regenerating and spreading up the valley sides – a living example of 'rewilding', and flagship for the Cairngorms Connect project that seeks to recreate the much larger Caledonian forest that once existed here.

A male Stonechat gave excellent views as it perched on a nearby fencepost, and Long-tailed Tits flitted busily through the birch trees. A Mistle Thrush and Meadow Pipits made brief appearances while a Buzzard – the bird of prey species seen every day of our week – drifted lazily above the hill tops. After soaking up the atmosphere of this idyllic Highland setting it was time to return to the Lodge and say our farewells.

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Species Lists

Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	September/October 2021						
			25	26	27	28	29	30	1
1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>					✓		
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				3	1000		
4	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>					1		
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					✓		
6	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>			2	✓			✓
7	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	✓				✓		
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓			✓			
10	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		9		3		1	
11	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>						✓	
12	Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>					4		
13	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus scotica</i>						2+4	
14	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				✓			
15	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓			
17	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓				✓		
19	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>					4		
20	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓	✓			✓
21	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	✓				2		1
22	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				✓			
23	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓				✓		
25	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓						
26	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓		
27	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	✓				✓		
28	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	✓				✓		
29	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	✓				✓		
30	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓			✓			
31	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓				✓		
32	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓				✓		
33	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>					✓		
34	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>					✓		
35	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓				✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	September/October 2021						
			25	26	27	28	29	30	1
36	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓		✓				
37	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>					✓		
38	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
39	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓			✓		
41	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			✓				
42	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓				
43	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓				✓	✓	
44	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	✓			✓			
45	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓			✓		
50	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		✓					
53	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓			
56	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
57	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			✓				
58	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
60	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
61	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						✓	
62	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
63	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			✓			✓	
66	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				✓	✓		✓
67	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				✓			✓
69	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓	✓				
73	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓		
74	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>					✓		
75	Scottish Crossbill	<i>Loxia scotica</i>					✓		
76	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	

Other fauna

		September/October 2021								
	Scientific name	Common name	Trip	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	Mammals									
1	European Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>				6		signs	signs	
2	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓
6	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>				✓				
8	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>				✓				
9	Feral Goat	<i>Capra aegagrus hircus</i>						✓		
	[Reindeer]	[<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>]			✓					
	[Fallow Deer]	[<i>Dama dama</i>]					✓			
	Amphibians									
10	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				✓	✓			
	Insects									
11	Black Darter	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	✓							
12	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	✓							
13	Common Hawker	<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	✓							
14	Dor Beetle	<i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>	✓							
15	[a Chrysomelid Leaf Beetle on Alders]	<i>Chrysomela aenea</i>	✓							
16	Cluster Fly	<i>Pollenia rudis</i>	✓							
17	Noon Fly	<i>Mesembrina meridiana</i>	✓							
18	The Footballer Hoverfly	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	✓							
19	White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	✓							
20	[a case-bearing micro-moth]	<i>Coleophora alticolella</i>	✓							
21	November/Autumnal Moth	<i>Epirrita dilutata agg</i>	✓							
22	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓							
	The Dead List!									
	Pheasant		✓							
	Badger		✓							
	Hedgehog		✓							
	Brown Hare		✓							
	Common Frog		✓							
	Red-legged Partridge		✓							
	Badger		✓							
	Red Deer		✓							
	Roe Deer		✓							
	Woodpigeon		✓							
	Greylag Goose		✓							

Notable Flora

	Scientific name	Common name	Trip
	<u>Flowering Plants etc</u>		
1	Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	✓
2	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	✓
3	Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	✓
4	Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	✓
5	Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	✓
6	Cowberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	✓
7	Eared Willow	<i>Salix aurita</i>	✓
8	Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	✓
9	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	✓
10	Devil's-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	✓
11	Marsh Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	✓
12	Marsh Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	✓
13	Ling Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	✓
14	Bell Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	✓
15	Bog Asphodel	<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	✓
16	Cross-leaved Heath	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	✓
17	Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	✓
18	White Water Lily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	✓
19	Round-leaved Sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	✓
20	Sea Aster	<i>Aster tripolium</i>	✓
21	Common Scurvygrass	<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	✓
22	Mouseear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	✓
23	Sheep's Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	✓
24	Viviparous Fescue	<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	✓
25	Heath Rush	<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>	✓
26	Wood Horsetail	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	✓
27	Hard Fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	✓
	<u>Fungi</u>		
28	Birch Polypore	<i>Fomitopsis betulina</i>	✓
29	Hoof Fungus	<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	✓
30	Honey Fungus	<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	✓
31	Angel's Wings	<i>Pleurocybella porrigens</i>	✓
32	Chanterelle	<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	✓
33	Bolete	<i>Boletus sp</i>	✓
34	Russula	<i>Russula sp</i>	✓
35	Scarlet Wax Cap	<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>	✓
36	Giant Puffball	<i>Calvatia gigantea</i>	✓