

# Scotland – Alladale in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

15th – 22nd May 2023

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Green Tiger Beetle



Red Squirrel



Ptarmigan



Highland Cattle

Tour report by Cassie Mercer, photos by Peter Archdale

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Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Cassie Mercer (Leader) with 11 Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This week at Alladale Wilderness Reserve is somewhat difficult to summarise as so much is packed in and there is much to be learned about life from unique perspectives! The fantastic rangers and lodge staff always provide a valuable, memorable experience, and this week they were exceptional in giving. Alladale Lodge is a home-from-home, yet a luxurious experience of warm Highland hospitality.

We were also fortunate to have good weather, for the Highlands, and very few midges in May. Our day trips to both west and east coasts were highlights, with amazing natural scenery and exciting views of iconic species such as Puffin, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Ptarmigan, Osprey and more.

Alladale reserve is a peaceful, restful, wilderness retreat, but most importantly a pioneering example of the results of ongoing hard work for ecological restoration benefiting nature and people. The present details and old stories of its vast landscapes illustrate impactful human-nature interactions through hundreds of years, encouraging us to think big. Alladale has it all in a spectacular, dynamic show-and-tell, making a most memorable and meaningful holiday.

## Day 1

Monday 15th May

### Inverness – Arrival at Alladale

An enjoyable drive from Inverness to Alladale in mild, sunny weather took 1½ hours. On the way, Grey Seals were seen basking on rocks in the Cromarty Firth, and some of the group reported seeing Common Sandpiper.

After everyone's safe arrival at the lodge by 4pm, followed by tea and biscuits in the palatial living-room overlooking a beautiful landscape, we took a short stroll around the lodge loop-track to stretch our legs. Immediately we found two Red Deer stags with a few hinds, grazing close to the buildings and looking rather odd with their moulting winter coats hanging like thick rugs from their backs. Their young velvet antlers were looking pristine. Many Common Swift zoomed overhead, while abundant Siskin, Chaffinch and Goldfinch covered the bird-feeders, and the song of many Willow Warbler filled the air. We spotted Goldcrest, Blue Tit, Song Thrush and Great Spotted Woodpecker in the dense native tree cover. In wetter boggy areas by the track, we admired tiny bright-red Sundews, purple-flowering Butterwort, Bog Asphodel and Vetch plant species.

Arriving back at the lodge we were surprised to identify two female Crossbill on a chimney top above the bedrooms! After a minute they flew carrying nesting material gathered from the mossy stones.

Dinner was superb as expected, a great start to a week of first-class dining and excellent hospitality for which Alladale is renowned. A Tawny Owl was heard overnight in the otherwise silent peacefulness.

## Day 2

Tuesday 16th May

### “Safari” Glen Alladale – Glen Mor

A few intrepid explorers crept quietly from the lodge around first light at 4:30am, for a 30-minute hike to a Black Grouse lek and viewing platform on the hill at the rear of the lodge. Half-way there we flushed a Roe Deer, closely followed by a male Black Grouse flying from the track to tree cover!

The weather forecast was dry, but an unexpected shower arrived as we hiked up the hill, making it windy and wet at the lek. Unsurprisingly no birds showed in those conditions. We would try again tomorrow. Whilst enjoying our return walk, Meadow Pipits and a pair of vociferous Stonechat gave us close views, while hearing two distant Cuckoos calling, their voices echoing through the glen.

A filling buffet breakfast with the rest of the group was most welcome once we had changed into dry clothes. Cassie then delivered a short presentation on Alladale in the boardroom, sparking interesting discussion on “re-wilding”, which would continue throughout the week.

Our Ranger guides introduced themselves at 10am and we piled into the Land Rovers for our morning drive through the reserve into stunning Glen Alladale. The woodland areas were looking especially lush and vibrant with life. We stopped at various river viewpoints seeing a pair of Ravens, Wheatear, Willow Warbler, Wren, a Kestrel, Meadow Pipits and hearing the song of Ring Ouzel. We were entertained further by the ranger’s stories of the impressive ecological regeneration resulting from their hard work over the past 20 years.

We found Alladale’s small herd of Highland Cattle grazing by the river. They walked within arm’s length as we stood by the vehicles – great for photography of these Highland icons – and we learned of their ecologically important role within this habitat.

Near the lodge, hidden amongst trees, we visited large outdoor enclosures of captive Scottish Wildcats, part of a multi-centre breeding program to save the species from extinction in the wild. The cats gave us great close-up views and we learned much from ranger Ryan about their conservation and individual characters. On the path were two iridescent Violaceous Ground Beetles, a pair of mating Green Tiger Beetles, and a Magpie Moth caterpillar.

We stopped back at the lodge for lunch at the picnic tables, with beautiful views of the hills, Redpoll flying overhead and Red Deer grazing the lawn.

Driving now into the larger Glen Mor, we enjoyed the undulating journey amongst healthy young trees along the river. At various points we scanned the grassy flood plains, spotting six Mallards with ducklings, three Hooded Crows, Greenshank, a lone Common Gull and many Sand Martins in flight. Further on we heard the see-sawing call of Snipe, saw two foraging Dippers, a lone Teal and Common Sandpiper. Following the song of Ring Ouzel led us to great views of a pair of them foraging along the river bank. We scanned the high hillsides counting 14 Red Deer.

We made a comfort stop at Deannich Lodge, deep in the centre of the Highlands and one of the most remote dwellings in the UK. Standing by the river here gave us a refreshing sense of quiet isolation in this vast green glen. Around the lodge were a pair of Oystercatcher, Chaffinches, Wheatear, Willow Warbler, and a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly.

Back at Alladale Lodge a short walk along the tree-lined river gave us good views of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Song Thrush, Goldcrest, Redpoll overhead and a Treecreeper taking food into its nest and removing a faecal sack. Before another impressive dinner we gathered in the boardroom to watch the fantastic short film “Riverwoods – A Salmon’s Journey”, in which we recognised Alladale’s Head Ranger and wonderful aerial images of the glens we had driven today. It gave a fascinating insight into the importance of Salmon and riverside trees in upland ecology, the urgent need for healthier river environments, like those improving at Alladale, and in a comparable global context.

At dusk a male Woodcock was seen from a bedroom window performing “roding” display flight, in circles around the lodge!

## Day 3

Wednesday 17th May

### Loch Fleet – Littleferry – Embo Beach

A 4:30am second-try hike to the lek in calm weather gave us five female Black Grouse in flight to tree cover. We heard much calling from both male and female Black Grouse. A scan of the hillside revealed 27 Red Deer. The hill walk was very enjoyable, seeing Tree Pipit, Raven, Chaffinch, Wren, Willow Warbler, and a pair of Coal Tits (and the sound of their chicks) nesting in a hole in rocky ground next to the track. At least two Cuckoo were calling in the adjacent glen, with Swallows, House Martins and Redpoll overhead as usual and a Vole dashing for cover. On our way back down the hill, two Black Grouse males suddenly flew from trees at the lower hillside, heading up towards the lek from where we had descended! In Birches next to the lodge we watched a pair of Goldcrest taking material from a long-abandoned large nest to use elsewhere. After this two-hour sunny stroll, a large breakfast was very welcome!

Our day-trip to Loch Fleet started with a 45-minute drive to Skibo Castle ruins, overlooking the large tidal loch. Close to us were many Eider duck pairs with juveniles, Oystercatchers, gulls (Herring, Black-headed and Common), Cormorants, Redshank, Mallards, numerous Common Seals and an unusual Striped Ladybird. Further around the loch seen from The Mound were many Greylag Geese, Red-breasted Merganser pairs, at least 10 Grey Herons (one of which attempted for a long time to swallow a large flatfish, much to our amusement), Shelduck, Swallows, Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Teal and a pair of Pink-Footed Geese. Most impressive was an Osprey very distant on its nest, watched through our scopes for a long time.

We enjoyed a tasty picnic lunch and hot drinks (provided as usual by our excellent chef) on benches at Littleferry beach on the north side of Loch Fleet. A chance for botany-minded folk to wander among the grassy dunes and discover Wild Pansy, Bitter Vetch, Heath Milkwort and a puzzling unidentified orchid species. At the shoreline were small groups of Dunlin, Sandpiper, Ringed Plover, Turnstone and Sanderling. Overhead or in adjacent woodland were Buzzard, Starling, Willow Warbler, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Goldfinches and Greenfinches as we walked towards the old pier. A couple of seals bobbed by on the strong tide into the estuary. A stroll through the

native pine woods overlooking the turquoise water gave beautiful wide views of the loch, and we heard Crossbill in the canopy. Yet another Osprey flew above the beach!

As we were leaving Loch Fleet we drove past a long-deceased Humpback Whale carcass (known to relevant conservation groups) on the mudflat, with Curlew feeding nearby.

A short stop at Embo beach on our return journey gave us some interesting birds to identify through scopes - a Velvet Scoter and a Great Northern Diver resting at sea. At the rocky shoreline were Rock Pipit, Linnet, Oystercatchers, Jackdaws and a Red Kite above.

Having three rangers with us today was a real treat and another opportunity to chat and learn from their experiences in nature.

## Day 4

Thursday 18th May

### Split group to Shin Falls / Glen Alladale “Two-coast view”

Today and tomorrow would involve splitting the group into two halves and alternating activities between the days. The reason for this was that the extreme-terrain-vehicle aka the “Argocat” seats six maximum. The Argocat group joined Ranger Ryan to head into Glen Alladale for an exciting off-road journey to the top of the highest point known as “Two-coast View”. The intention was to see species only found on high ground such as Ptarmigan, Mountain Hare and Dotterel. It was successful, with very close views of a Ptarmigan pair, including a female on her nest less than 6ft away from the feet of surprised observers, camouflaged perfectly amongst the lichen-covered rocks. They saw at least six other Ptarmigan, plus a Golden Eagle overhead! A Hen Harrier was seen from the vehicle; also noted were Wheatear, Red-tailed Bumblebee, and plants such as Alpine Azalea, Alpine Alchemilla Molis, Cloudberry and Clubroot Moss. The three-hour trek was most appreciated by all who took part, some taking a real sense of achievement home with them.

Meanwhile, the other group travelled in the minibus off reserve to Shin Falls, north of Lairg. The beautiful wild river did not reveal any leaping Salmon today, but was a sight to behold nevertheless. From the falls viewpoint we watched a pair of Dipper who seemed to be investigating an old nest in the rocky cliff above the water, moving nesting material and foraging in pools close by.

The adjacent woodland walk was great for botanising with hundreds of wildflowers in bloom. It also gave us our first Chiffchaff, many Chaffinches, Willow Warbler, Wren, Great Tit, Robin, Goldcrest and a pair of Bullfinch at the picnic tables. Here a pair of Pied Wagtails gave a fascinating courtship display entertaining us during lunch, along with a large Click Beetle (*Ctenicera pectinicornis*) and a common Two-banded Longhorn Beetle (*Rhagium bifasciatum*) on the tables. At the pond, tens of Orange Tip butterflies used abundant flowering Lady’s Smock, where Ranger Kate captured a great photo of a butterfly laying an egg on the plant which is the caterpillar’s usual food source.

A pitstop at Croick Church, in a glen adjacent to Alladale, satisfied historical and archaeological interests in a beautiful setting, with many Sand Martin feeding by the river, a pair of Raven, Oystercatchers, Cuckoos heard and around 40 Red Deer with 8 Sika Deer grazing together nearby.

At Amat gardens, along the road into Alladale, we strolled among huge labelled specimen trees by the river, and saw a Salmon leap from a calm pool! Two Grey Wagtails and a Common Sandpiper among the hundreds of small river boulders let us practice our observation and location-description skills! Ranger Kate found a lichen “beard” providing much laughter.

After yet another fabulous dinner, at 9:30pm we stood outside the lodge to watch Swallows and Pipistrelle bats in flight as we waited for roding Woodcock to appear. To our delight, three male Woodcock gave us a great show for 30 minutes, repeatedly flying around the building and in wider circles through the glen and overhead, making a memorable sunset experience.

## Day 5

Friday 19th May

### Peter Cairns presentation / Split group to “Two-coast view” and Shin Falls

After a leisurely breakfast we walked the loop-drive track to the river and back, quickly finding an Osprey in flight overhead – what a thrill! Tree Pipits sang and “parachuted”, a pair of Song Thrush cleaned bills full of slugs, while Common Sandpiper, Dipper and Wren foraged by the water. We observed millions of Wood Ants on their large, very old nest by the track.

At 11am we were very fortunate to enjoy a presentation from conservationist Peter Cairns, Co-Director of the Riverwoods film, and Co-Founder of charity *Scotland: The Big Picture*. It was a great opportunity to ask him questions, and Peter’s presentation on rewilding work was superb and engrossing. This was a once in a life-time opportunity for guests with a vested interest in this subject.

Today’s excursions meant everyone got a chance to do what the other group had done the day before. Many wonderful experiences were shared, seeing much the same species as the other group had yesterday. A few additional species seen near Shin Falls included a White-faced Darter dragonfly and Common Lizard in the woodland, and Tufted Ducks in the strath during the journey.

As a result of their fun Argocat drive up to “Two-coast View” hilltop in Alladale, this group were amazed to find three Dotterel eggs in a ground nest amongst heather, which was quickly left alone for the parent bird to return. They also saw Mountain Hare droppings and fur, and a surprising Peacock butterfly at high elevation.

## Day 6

Saturday 20th May

### Handa Island

A special trip to the West coast today meant an early breakfast at 7:15am. Our two hour drive from Alladale to Tarbet (for the 10-minute passenger ferry to Handa Island) took us via Bonar Bridge. Here we saw Roe Deer, Eider Ducks, various corvids and gulls, Oystercatchers, Herons and Rabbits.

We enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the central and western Highlands as we drove alongside various lochs. A gull performing mobbing behaviour at Loch Merkland alerted us to a very large bird sitting on the near loch side – our first White-tailed Eagle! We watched for a few minutes through scopes as he simply sat and took the aggression

from the gull, until his huge form took flight away over the hill. Also on the loch was a Black-throated Diver in resplendent breeding plumage and two Red-breasted Merganser. The loch water was as still as glass, perfectly reflecting the hills and sky above.

The crossing to Handa on the RIB ferry was relatively smooth considering the stiff breeze here. As we zoomed towards the landing beach we spotted a Black Guillemot, more Eider, Razorbills and Common Guillemot bobbing on the swell.

At Handa Island's beach we were greeted warmly by Scottish Wildlife Trust rangers with a mobile pontoon for dry disembarking. We then followed them across pale-sand dunes to the visitor hut for an informative prep-talk and boot-disinfectant stomp, before heading off on our 4-mile walk across the island. The varied island habitats were full of birds who had fortunately not been affected by bird flu so far this year. At least 30 Arctic Terns flew around the hut and beach. We were thrilled by close views of Great Skua (locally known as Bonxies) and Arctic Skua on nests among heather, including a pair in the act of mating. Arctic Skuas whizzed low overhead but did not divebomb us. We heard the distinctive see-sawing call of Snipe and saw two drumming in flight. A Buzzard and plenty of Meadow Pipits, Willow Warblers, Skylarks, Wheatear, Sedge Warblers and a Garden Tiger moth caterpillar were seen from the boardwalk.

Notable flowering plants next to the path included Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, Heath Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*, Bladder Campion *Silene vulgaris*, Red Campion *Silene dioica*, the medicinal succulent *Rhodiola rosea*, Sea Thrift *Armeria maritima*, Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis*, carnivorous Butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, and Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre*.

Reaching the highest point on the grassy plateau and overlooking the stunning ocean view at Great Stack was a highlight of the day for many. Here the thousands of birds perched on the cliffs included a handful of Puffins around their burrows, Kittiwake, Fulmar, Razorbill, Common Guillemot, Shag and Cormorant further down to the clear blue water. Also present were five species of gull with chicks – Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-backed, Common, Black-headed and Herring Gull, and Rock Dove. We caught a downpour on the return walk which did not dampen our appreciation of the beautiful coastal scenery, with Grey Seals, Curlew, Ringed Plover and Ruddy Turnstone foraging, plus Red-throated Divers and a Great Northern Diver at sea. More Grey Seals bobbed around the ferry on our reluctant return to port at 4pm.

Our return drive along the mountainous scenic route via Lochinver was spectacular, complemented by Hooded Crows and a Red Kite against a moody sky. After another superb evening meal back home, recalling all the day's species over the checklist was a satisfying end to a truly memorable day.

## Day 7

Sunday 21st May

### Glencalvie Falls – Aquaponic Gardens – Glen Alladale – Glen Beag

Our final full day at Alladale took us deep into the glens with the rangers. A large ex-military exploration truck (new kit for Alladale) was trialled as our wildlife-viewing transport and although much fun to be high up and with wide-open views, we decided it needed some comfort tweaks before officially becoming our new vehicle! First stop was a viewpoint above the falls at Glencalvie, seen from both sides of the river as the group split into two,

one for the “easy” walk, and one for the fence-climbing route to get closer to the action. A beautiful silver adult Salmon leapt from the river, though not up the falls, seemingly waiting for preferable conditions. We had a lovely surprise as a Cuckoo flew fast over our heads.

A tour of the recently-constructed Aquaponics vegetable gardens close to the lodge showed us how much of our delicious food had been produced using this resource-efficient system rearing trout in large timber-framed greenhouses. The aim is to minimise food waste and carbon-footprint for food production as an important part of Alladale’s environmental approach.

A stunning drive into Glen Alladale followed. Two Snipe and Common Sandpiper showed along the river. We stopped for lunch at the comfortable “Badger Hide”, complete with log-stove and a large window overlooking the river, showing freshly dug badger-set holes in the far hillside.

Remote Deannich Lodge provided a comfort stop before even further into the glen we reached the end of the track at a large Victorian-constructed weir. Here we set up scopes to spot potential raptors. With time and patient effort, eventually two Golden Eagles came soaring across the hillside, much to our delight – and making a lifetime-dream come true for some guests. One eagle settled on a distant ridge, silhouetted at the skyline with what looked like prey under its talons, which it plucked as we watched. Our eagle-eyed Ranger then spotted a Merlin, perched in a distant hillside birch – so distant we thought it was part of the tree until it moved its head to preen.

Throughout the route home we enjoyed the riparian woodland including sightings of two Dippers, Common Sandpipers and a Raven, and more tales from the Rangers about the continuing ecological restoration of the glens and their exciting plans for Alladale’s future, provoking constructive thinking about our own lifestyles and environmental impact.

Over our final luxurious meal this evening we discussed everyone’s trip highlights, which were, in no particular order:

- The achievement of climbing to the top of “Two-coast View” hill and finding Dotterel eggs.
- Alladale Lodge accommodation and warm hospitality throughout the week.
- The entertaining/honest/authentic company of Alladale’s rangers.
- The whole experience of Handa Island and seeing Puffins for the first time.
- The Argocat/hill day, with close views of Ptarmigan.
- Unexpected upgrade to a spectacular room with marvellous views; the relaxed atmosphere, amazing Ptarmigan encounters and many treasures to take away!
- Close experiences with Arctic Skuas on Handa Island.
- Golden Eagles on our final day and drumming Snipe flying around us on Handa.
- Q&A with Head Ranger Innes talking frankly and sharing his experiences; also Handa Island.
- The surprise of Crossbills on a chimney! And “can’t choose from so many more including Ranger Ryan’s input”.
- Leader’s highlight: delightful company including visiting conservationists, all staff at Alladale and some very special clients full of enthusiasm to learn and share their nature-loving experiences.



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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			✓			✓		
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓	✓					
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					✓			
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>			✓			✓		
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>			✓					
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>			✓					
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>			✓			✓		
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>			✓			✓		
Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus scoticus</i>								H
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus muta</i>				✓	✓			
Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>		✓	✓					
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>						✓		
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>						✓		
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>			✓			✓		
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>						✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>						✓		
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>						✓		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						✓		
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				1				2
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			✓			✓		
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				✓				
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>						1		

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓		✓			
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				✓				
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			✓		✓			
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		H				✓	✓	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓			✓		
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓			✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓					
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			✓			✓		
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			✓					
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			✓					
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>						✓		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						✓		
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>						✓		
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>						✓		
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>						✓		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>						✓		
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>						✓		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>						✓		
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>						✓		
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>						✓		
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>						✓		
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>						✓		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>						✓		
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>			✓					
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			✓			✓		
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	H	H	✓	H	✓	H	✓	
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H	H	✓				
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	✓	✓	✓					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓						
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>							✓	
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓					
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			✓			✓		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				✓				
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						✓		
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	H	H	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		H	
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	H	✓			
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓		✓	✓				
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		✓					✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓					
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓		✓		✓		
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓		✓			
Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>			✓					
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				✓	✓			
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		H	✓	✓	✓			
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>					✓			
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓					
Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		H	
Crossbill sp.	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i> / <i>Loxia scotica</i>	✓		H					
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

## Other fauna

Scientific name	Common name	May 2023							
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>MAMMALS</b>									
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>			✓					
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>			✓		✓			

Scientific name	Common name	May 2023							
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>		✓						
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Harbour (Common) Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			✓					
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>						✓		
<b>FISH</b>									
Atlantic Salmon	<i>Salmo salar</i>							✓	
<b>REPTILES &amp; AMPHIBIANS</b>									
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>					✓			
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				✓	✓			
<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>									
Orange-tip Butterfly	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>				✓	✓			
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓						
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>					✓			
<b>OTHER INSECTS</b>									
Four-spot Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>					✓			
Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>				✓				
Whirlygig Beetle	<i>Gyrinus substriatus</i>				✓				
Scottish Wood Ant	<i>Formica aquilonia</i>					✓			
Striped Ladybird	<i>Myzia oblongoguttata</i>			✓					
Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>		✓						
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>		✓						
Woodland Dor Beetle	<i>Anoplotrupes stercorosus</i>		✓						
Garden Tiger Moth (caterpillar)	<i>Arctia caja</i>						✓		
Magpie Moth (caterpillar)	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>		✓						
Two-banded Longhorn Beetle	<i>Rhagium bifasciatum</i>				✓				
Click Beetle	<i>Ctenicera pectinicornis</i>		✓						
Bog Beacon (fungus)	<i>Mitrla paludosa</i>					✓			
Orange Moss Agaric	<i>Rickenella fibula</i>		✓						