

# Scotland – Alladale in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

22nd – 29th May 2023

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Ptarmigan



Wildcat



Red Deer



Scenic

Tour report by Cassie Mercer, images by John Forester and Cassie Mercer

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Tour participants: Cassie Mercer (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

## Summary

Alladale Wilderness Reserve never fails to deliver on superb hospitality, luxurious accommodation and dining, inspirational ecological regeneration and fantastic wildlife, this week being no exception.

A rare visit from Alladale's founder and owner, Paul Lister, was a special addition, giving us various relaxed opportunities for Q&As with Paul and Head Ranger Innes, which were highlights for many.

Successful days off reserve at both east and west coasts gave us fantastic experiences of bird life including many Osprey and a variety of fascinating habitats to explore. Alladale's beautiful glens delivered memorable Golden Eagle sightings, and walking with the Rangers taught us much about ecology and what is needed to restore healthy biodiversity, at all scales.

This holiday left guests with a sense of physical achievement, life-long (bird) dreams fulfilled, deeper connection to others and nature, learning something new and meaningful each day, whilst resting in peaceful luxury and warm hospitality that is truly unique.

## Day 1

**Monday 22nd May**

### Arrival at Alladale

With all guests given a very warm welcome and settled into their beautiful rooms at Alladale Lodge, we shared stories of our journey over a fabulous evening meal and met our personal chef for the week. The dining room with open fire was a luxurious setting overlooking five Red Deer stags grazing the lawn, with a backdrop of lush native woodland and heather covered hills.

During individual journeys from Inverness guests saw a Red Kite, Greylag Geese, Hooded Crows (a Scottish first for many), and on arrival, the lodge's resident Swifts, Swallows and House Martins, seen feeding chicks in nests by bedroom windows. All guests commented on the stunning surroundings and the fantastic hospitality received this first evening, setting high expectations for the rest of the week.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 23rd May**

### Glen Alladale – Glen Mor

Making use of the long hours of daylight, four of the group plus leader Cassie took a pre-breakfast stroll around the loop of the lodge's service track via the river. Many Redpolls were seen overhead throughout the hour, but didn't alight for a closer look. We also saw a pair of Hooded Crows, a pair of Ravens, many Siskins, Robin, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Great Tit, Willow Warbler, Tree Pipit, Dunnock, Starling, a Cuckoo calling in the glen and busy nests of Scottish Wood Ants by the track.

After a superb buffet breakfast, Cassie delivered a short presentation in the boardroom of Alladale’s ecological regeneration work, giving thought-provoking context for the day’s forthcoming activities.

At 10am Alladale’s rangers introduced themselves and we piled into their Land Rovers for a safari-style drive into Glen Alladale. As we looked out for wildlife we learned much from our Head Ranger about the history of the land, the work done to restore ecological health including essential management of deer populations, and the importance of river-side trees for the benefit of many species. It was a rare and special opportunity to learn from this unique perspective of many years leading Alladale’s important rewilding work. We stopped at various viewpoints overlooking beautiful river falls and the vast glen, with interesting contrasts of tree growth (or lack of it) between fenced areas and those grazed by many more deer. We saw Red Deer and a few Sika Deer grazing the hillsides.

Birdlife here included Dippers foraging in the river, a Kestrel, many Meadow Pipits, Mallard, Pied Wagtails, Goosander, Song Thrush, Blue Tit and the species seen during our morning walk.

Alladale’s small herd of Highland Cattle came to greet us as we arrived in the grassy flood plain surrounded by high heather-covered hills. We learned why the cattle’s presence is important ecologically and took the opportunity for some up-close photography of these charming characters.

We visited large outdoor enclosures of captive Scottish Wildcats, part of a multi-centre Scottish breeding program to save the species from extinction in the wild. Two cats gave us great views of their distinctive markings and blue-green eyes, and we learned much from ranger Ryan about their conservation and individual histories. What a treat to see such a rare and beautiful wild-cat up close!

For our delicious home-made picnic lunch, we stopped at the comfortable “Badger Hide”, an almost-hidden grass-roofed shelter complete with log-stove and large window overlooking the river. We watched freshly dug badger-set holes in the far hillside, as Sand Martins whizzed alongside the riverbank and Common Sandpiper foraged. Driving through Glen Mor now deep into the centre of the Highlands we took a comfort stop at historic Deannich Lodge, one of the UK’s most remote dwellings. Here were pairs of Oystercatcher, Coal Tit, Buzzard, calls of Snipe, Cuckoo, and a pair of Ring Ouzel singing loudly from atop a fence!

Our return journey gave us the fantastic sight of a pair of Golden Eagles in flight! We watched amazed at the massive size of the eagles, dwarfing Hooded Crows mobbing them.

Back home and after time to refresh we gathered in the boardroom to watch a highly-recommended short film featuring Alladale, called “Riverwoods – A Salmon’s Journey”, in which we recognised Alladale’s Head Ranger and aerial images of the glens we had driven today. It gave a fascinating insight into the urgent need for healthier Scottish river environments, like those improving at Alladale, and in a European context. Greatly enjoyed by all and very thought provoking.

It was a packed first full day to discuss over another excellent evening meal. After dinner, we stood outside the front of the lodge watching the most astonishing 10pm sunset sky of stacked lenticular clouds evolving from what looked like pink hoverboards into something resembling the spaceship Enterprise, accompanied by two male Woodcock roding in flight for around 20 minutes! A truly memorable experience!

## Day 3

## Wednesday 24th May

### Split group to Shin Falls, Croick, Amat / Glen Alladale “Two-coast view” hill top

A few guests elected to take a pre-breakfast walk close to the lodge, finding a vociferous pair of Stonechat, many Willow Warbler, Redpoll overhead, and heard two Cuckoo calling.

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. Today’s Argocat group joined Ryan to head into Glen Alladale for an exciting off-road drive to the top of one of Alladale’s highest points known as “Two-coast View”. The aim was to find species only seen on high ground such as Ptarmigan, Mountain Hare and Dotterel. A strong breeze made the hilltop walking challenging, but they were rewarded with decent views of Ptarmigan and Black Grouse. Almost clear skies gave great views of the vast Highland landscape and northern mountains.

The rest of the group accompanied their leader for a minibus adventure off reserve. The journey was fruitful, starting with a great view of a Red Squirrel feeding in trees near Alladale’s border. Further on at Bonar Bridge’s waterside toilets, a scan of the Dornoch Firth estuary gave us an amazing three Osprey hunting together! We watched them diving at a distance, two of them apparently settling amongst stranded seaweed to feed on their quarry. A large group of approximately 50 Goosander passed on the ebbing tide and settled on distant mudflat. We were surrounded by many Common Gulls sitting on grassy nest mounds, along with Mallards, Herons, Swallows in flight, Herring Gulls, Goldfinches, Blackbirds, Pied Wagtails, Carrion Crow, a Red Kite low overhead, and Sedge Warbler singing in the reeds. Orange-tip and Speckled Wood butterflies were abundant.

We took a scenic drive alongside the River Shin to the beautiful Falls of Shin, seeing a glimpse of Atlantic Salmon lingering at the foot of the heavy falls but not leaping this time. A Grey Wagtail pair foraged amongst boulders. We ate our picnic lunch in sunshine watching Swallows nesting at the closed visitor centre, a Bullfinch pair and a Two-Banded Longhorn Beetle at the picnic tables. We strolled through native woodland admiring many wildflowers including Water Avens, Bluebells, Wood Anemone, Sorrel, Carpet Bugle, Greater Stitchwort, Yellow Pimpernel and Salad Burnet amongst others. We found Goldcrest, Robin, Willow Warbler, Wood Ant nests, Violaceous Ground Beetles and most notably a rare Moss Carder Bumblebee. We watched a Spotted Flycatcher hunting for some time and a too-soon-fledged young Chaffinch on the ground being fed by its parents.

On our return we visited Croick Church, nestled in a beautiful wide glen neighbouring Alladale, and read of tragic historic events, illustrated by people’s names and dates etched into its windowpanes. A small group of Sika Deer grazed the hillside and a pair of Ravens’ deep call echoed in the glen.

A quick stroll at Amat “Gardeners” park by the River Alladale showed us some tiny Atlantic Salmon smolts and a large adult Salmon resting in a pool. A juvenile Dipper foraged at the river’s edge while Chaffinches hopped around the boulders and Common Sandpiper challenged the groups observation skills! Back at the lodge we were welcomed by the usual Swifts, Swallows and House Martins, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker at the front lawn feeder.

This evening Alladale's owner Paul Lister joined us for dinner which was a rare treat and opportunity to hear his perspective as a pioneer "rewilder" and true nature lover.

## Day 4

Thursday 25th May

Split group to Shin Falls, Croick, Amat / Glen Alladale "Two-coast view" Hill top.

Calm weather this morning, so a few guests keen to see Black Grouse headed out with their leader at 4:30am, just past first light. We strode up the track to the rear of the lodge and followed a steeper faint path through boggy heath to a hilltop viewing platform/hide overlooking a lek. A few midges found us on the way and plenty of Redpoll passed overhead. As we crept silently towards the lek we were delighted to find three male Black Grouse, two on the ground, one on the fence top. They flew to tree cover pretty quickly but it was great to see them active. On our return were a Stonechat pair with fledgling, along with a Wren and Willow Warbler all alarming loudly on the fence; also a Snipe in flight, Meadow Pipits, two Ravens, and through the scope we watched a distant Cuckoo perched on the tallest pine, its call echoing through the glen. Interesting carnivorous bog-loving plants were abundant track-side including Butterwort and Sundew. A Common Frog hopped amongst Sphagnum Moss. On one young pine next to our path were two Song Thrush and two Great Tit, all with bills full of food ready for their young.

After a filling breakfast, while waiting for everyone to gather for the day's outing, we watched a Red Squirrel on the front lawn, with five Red Deer resting nearby and an awesome view of a pair of Crossbill who alighted briefly in a birch next to us!

Today's excursions meant all guests got a chance to do what the other group had done the day before. The Argocat group headed off with rangers Ryan and Kate, having what was later described as a "Rollercoaster ride" and a "great, fun day". At the top of "Two-coast View" misty cloud spoiled the view but there was no wind, making walking easier. After a long walk observing beautiful alpine habitat, the group saw two Golden Plover, a Wheatear, and suddenly found themselves a few feet away from a motionless Ptarmigan female whose camouflage almost fooled even the Rangers. She was then joined by her mate, giving the group great close-up views of the pair, very confiding. Back at the vehicle they observed a Red Grouse male walking around them and joining his female with chicks in tow!

The rest of the group off reserve in the minibus saw a Red Squirrel during the drive out of Alladale, and another with a notably blonde tail in the same spot as yesterday's sighting. Hoping for a repeat of yesterday's amazing Ospreys at Bonar Bridge, we were not disappointed, with two Osprey over the water nearby! Around 20 Goosander rested on distant mudflat, 10 Common Gull females sat on their grassy nests nearby while others mobbed approaching Carrion Crows. A Grey Heron fished, and the resident Sedge Warbler sang non-stop. There was a nice surprise at the toilet building as four Crossbill called and flew from adjacent birches.

At the Falls of Shin visitor centre information, we learned much about Atlantic Salmon migration and conservation, linking to the Riverwoods Film seen on day two. We watched Dipper foraging at the falls, and Orange-tip butterflies laying eggs on Lady's Smock/Cuckoo Flower, the caterpillar's main food plant. A lovely stroll through woodland here showed us a large variety of common bird species including Great Spotted Woodpecker, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Siskin, Greenfinch, Redpoll, many more Orange-tips and Red Damselflies in wet areas.

At Croick Church cemetery neighbouring Alladale, a Stoat ran at top speed for cover in an ancient stone wall. One Sika Deer stag browsed in the glen, Sand Martins zoomed about the river banks and a Buzzard flew overhead. Distant movement along the skyline alerted us to a total of three (!) Osprey flying away from Alladale lodge into the glen.

A pleasant walk through the large park-like gardens at Amat showed us Atlantic Salmon adults and smolts in the river pools, occasionally leaping to catch insects. Birdlife here included Common Sandpiper, Grey and Pied Wagtails, Chaffinches, Song Thrushes, Willow Warblers, House Martins and Jackdaws. Peacock and Speckled Wood butterflies flitted around the woodland.

This warm and sunny evening, Crossbill were heard from the open living room window as we watched the moulting Stags grazing the lawn during pre-dinner drinks. It really is a luxurious way to end each day, with fantastic food from our skilled chef and discussion of the day's adventures.

## Day 5

Friday 26th May

### Handa Island

Today we had an early breakfast at 7:15am for a whole-group day out to the West coast with mild, sunny, calm weather – always a bonus. The two-hour drive to the tiny dock at Tarbet took us through some of the most beautiful Highland scenery via many lochs and hills. Alongside one of the many rivers we spotted an Osprey alighting in a treetop – we watched for a short time through scopes and stretched our legs enjoying the peaceful glen scene.

We arrived at Tarbet in good time and the on-demand ferry (a RIB seating around 14) was ready to take us after a short break. The 10-minute crossing to Handa was choppy but enjoyable, past a lone Black Guillemot and Eider Ducks. At Handa's beach we were greeted warmly by Scottish Wildlife Trust rangers with a mobile pontoon for a dry disembarkation onto sand. We followed the rangers across grassy dunes to the visitor hut for an informative prep-talk and stomp on a boot-disinfectant mat, before heading off on our four mile walk across the island. The varied island habitats were full of birds which had (fortunately so far) not been affected by avian influenza yet this year, but everyone is careful to disinfect their boots as a precaution.

Following the well-maintained boardwalk around the island as instructed, we saw many nesting Great Skua (locally known as Bonxies), and took opportunities to compare them to Arctic Skua, often having excellent views of the two species close to our heads (but not dive-bombing us)! At least two male Snipe in flight gave their courtship display. At times the sky (and heathland) seemed full of Arctic Terns, Wheatear, Skylarks, Meadow Pipits, Stonechats, a Kestrel, a Buzzard and Song Thrushes. A Red-throated Diver in a cove and Gannets flying low over the sea were a real treat. The highlight of the island walk is undoubtedly arriving at the far western high cliffs, seeing thousands of birds on Great Stack and in the surrounding air and sea. The smell of guano and the bird's loud cries fill the air.

Those who especially wanted to see Puffins were in luck, as around a dozen stood outside their cliff-top burrows, ready for the photographers with zoom lenses. Alongside them were Great Black-backed Gulls with recently hatched young. Below them on the cliff face crowded row upon row of Razorbill, Kittiwake, Common Guillemot,

Fulmar and Shag. Lots of nests had visible eggs. Here we ate lunch on the grass admiring the view and being thankful for the great number of birds. The walk back to the visitor centre included sightings of Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Common Lizard and Grey Seal in a bay. Plentiful Heath-Spotted Orchids grew by the boardwalk. Back at the visitor hut guests had a chance to buy souvenirs and chat with the rangers during a short wait for our return trip to the mainland. We really didn't want to leave such a wild and abundant place! A scenic mountain route home via Lochinver was a stunning addition to the day.

After another fabulous dinner we heard a surprising story from Paul Lister who had today seen a Pine Marten adult with a kit in woodland close to the lodge! He was thrilled and we were enthralled!

## Day 6

Saturday 27th May

### Loch Fleet

Windy and wet conditions at Alladale meant today was just right for our trip to the east coast. Loch Fleet National Nature Reserve is a large tidal basin with a mosaic of coastal habitats and native pine forest. After 45 minutes' enjoyable drive through empty country roads, we stopped at our first loch viewpoint adjacent to the ruins of Skibo Castle. Approximately 30 Common Seals basked on exposed sand banks alongside large flocks of Eider Duck, Oystercatcher, Shag, Red-breasted Merganser, Carrion and Hooded Crows, Mallards and Jackdaws.

Further round the estuary, two Osprey flew low overhead! One dived and caught a small fish, and we watched as it flew to a distant nest where we could just about see through scopes a large chick awaiting this meal! Perfect timing! Other birds here included a single male Wigeon in a flock of Eider, many Grey Heron, Greylag Geese with five goslings, Shelduck pairs and Common Sandpiper.

Further round the estuary after our comfort stop at Golspie, we passed a Red Kite and many Common Gulls sat on the golf course. We parked at Littleferry beach and found a Cuckoo perched high on a wire, though it flew before we got a scope view. We walked to check the estuary mouth, reading signs about the local history at the old ferry slipway. A Yellowhammer sang from the top of a large domed ice-house. As we watched Redpoll in flight another Osprey glided overhead! Around the native Scots Pine woods were Goldfinch, Siskin, Greenfinch and Chaffinch. Looking out across the turquoise water of the estuary we saw Oystercatcher, Rock Dove, Grey Heron, Shag and Seals.

Back at the beach picnic tables for lunch we could see Ringed Plover, Pied Wagtail, Coal Tit, Willow Warbler, and in the water two first-summer Eider with Seals bobbing past. A heavy shower sent us into the vehicles to finish eating, but overall, the weather had been very good to us for exploring this beautiful place.

On our return close to Alladale we saw a Red Squirrel feeding on a peanut feeder in trees at Mission Hall. Back home at 4:30pm and after tea & biscuits in the living room, we took a two-hour stroll around the lodge grounds to the waterfall at Alladale's entrance. It was a beautiful walk, seeing six Red Deer stags, a pair of Starlings at their nest-box, a pair of Coal Tits entering their ground-burrow-nest and feeding their chicks, a Cuckoo flyby, three Grey Wagtails and Common Sandpiper foraging at the river, a gang of Long-tailed Tits, a Great Spotted Woodpecker and many of the "usual suspects".

After a fabulous dinner full of conversation about the day's wonderful wildlife, one guest joined Cassie for another walk into the surrounding woods to find the elusive Pine Martens. Unfortunately, we found only a tick in long grass, a good reminder to keep trousers tucked into socks when off-track, and to always check skin for ticks after venturing into their environment!

## Day 7

Sunday 28th May

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

Our final full day at Alladale took us on “safari” through the reserve with the rangers in their Land Rovers. First stop, we took a lovely riverside walk to a viewpoint above Glencalvie Falls. As we watched the tumbling water a large silver-coloured Atlantic Salmon leapt from a pool although not attempting the high falls just now. Our rangers told us fascinating tales of the natural history and vital importance of these animals in upland ecology.

A quick tour of Alladale's aquaponics gardens close to the lodge showed us how much of our delicious food had been produced using this resource-efficient system using captive 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 ethical environmental approach.

A stunning drive into Glen Alladale followed, showing Wheatear and Common Sandpiper along the river, and many young native trees planted by rangers over recent years. We stopped for lunch at the much-loved Badger Hide, again making the most of a chance to talk about the ranger's vital work.

Heading now into Glen Mor we saw Mallard, Grey Heron, Wheatear, Common Gull, Snipe, Willow Warbler, Wren, Robin, Great Tit, and a pair of Stonechat with fledglings. We stopped at hills known as “South-side” and scanned the vast open landscape, spotting many Red Deer. After a while our patience was rewarded with the appearance of two Golden Eagles soaring along the skyline, occasionally alighting on the hillside, then moving on slowly out of view. If we saw nothing but this, it would be worth the journey!

As we reached the end of the track at a large Victorian-constructed weir, we set up scopes to spot more potential eagles. Here a Grey Wagtail pair foraged riverside. Eventually we were again delighted by the appearance of a Golden Eagle, one this time, who settled on a distant hilltop ridge, silhouetted against the pale sky.

On our return drive we watched a male Ring Ouzel or “mountain blackbird” which was a real treat. We heard Twite passing overhead and found prints in mud which after some investigation we identified as belonging to a Stoat, although they were close to Pine Marten droppings by the track.

Our final dinner at the lodge was most appreciated with a round of applause for our excellent chefs. Every meal throughout the week, including picnic lunches and fulfilling buffet breakfasts, had all been superb, catering for all diets with thoughtful detail.

This evening we discussed the week's most memorable highlights, which were (in no special order):

- Close-up Ptarmigan at “Two-coast view” hill top
- The surprise of three fishing Osprey and a mass of Goosander at Bonar Bridge loo stop!



- The peace and beauty of Alladale reserve as a whole
- Wonderful sightings of Golden Eagles, Ospreys, Puffins... the whole experience!
- The “Riverwoods” film, combined with dinner/talking with Alladale’s owner Paul Lister
- The achievement and adventure of “hill-top day”
- Close encounters with Scottish Wildcats

## Day 8

Monday 29th May

### Depart Alladale for Inverness

Following a final great breakfast, we said reluctant “goodbyes” to guests driving themselves home or onto other adventures. Two rail-travelling guests joined staff with Paul Lister for their drive to Inverness station, and a couple joined Cassie in her car to Inverness. (Unusual logistics for this trip only, which worked well!)

On the way, in a meadow close to Alladale, we heard Sedge Warbler, and stopped briefly to watch a pair of Curlew slowly walking and calling three fluffy chicks following them, very close to us - a beautiful sight!

Crossing the long bridge over the Cromarty Firth we saw five Grey Seals hauled out on rocks, two Buzzards, and an Osprey in flight to end the week nicely!

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓				✓	✓		
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					✓			
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>						✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>					✓	✓		
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		✓	50+	✓				
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>					✓	✓		
Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus scoticus</i>				✓				
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>					✓			
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>					L			
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>		2						3
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓		✓			✓		
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>								L
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			3	5	1	3		1
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 Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>						✓		
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		H		✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								✓
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓		L			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					L			
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>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
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>					✓			

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>					✓			
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>					✓			
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>						✓		
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>						✓		
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H	H		H			
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</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>				H	✓			
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
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	✓	H	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			H	H				
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			H	✓				H
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H	H				
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			✓	✓		✓	H	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	H	
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			✓					
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>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			✓					
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</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>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dunnock	<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>		✓	✓					

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓	H			✓		
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				✓		✓		
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>							H	
Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Crossbill sp.	<i>Loxia curvirostra / Loxia scotica</i>				6				
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						✓		

## Other fauna

*Paul Lister only	Common name	May 2023							
Scientific name		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>					PL*			
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>							✓	
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nipon</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>		✓						
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>				✓				
Harbour (Common) Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>						✓		✓
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>					✓	✓		
<b>REPTILES &amp; AMPHIBIANS</b>									
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>					✓			
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>			✓					
<b>FISH</b>									
Atlantic Salmon	<i>Salmo salar</i>			✓	✓			✓	
<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>									
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>				✓				
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓				
<b>OTHER INSECTS</b>									
Scottish Wood Ant	<i>Formica aquilonia</i>		✓						
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>			✓					
Two-banded Longhorn Beetle	<i>Rhagium bifasciatum</i>			✓					
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>				✓				
Moss Carder Bee	<i>Bombus muscorum</i>			✓					
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>			✓					