

# Orkney

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 10 June 2016



Atlantic Puffin



Stones of Stenness



Scottish Primrose *Primula scotica*



Oysterplant *Mertensia maritima*

Report and images by Stewart Woolley



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Tour participants: Stewart Woolley (leader) with four Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Sunday 5th June

The Orkney 2016 tour started with us meeting in the St Magnus lounge of the Orkney hotel at 5.30pm. After introductions and a brief chat about the next few days, we decided to head out straight away, as we had a couple of hours before dinner and meeting up with Peter, our final group member. Driving through the town of Kirkwall, we passed the magnificent cathedral and ancient buildings in the centre of town.

Our first stop was the odd pool in Kirkwall known as the Peedie Sea, reckoned to be the best place in the UK to watch Long-tailed ducks in winter. Today it was home to a few Tufted Duck, preening Herring Gulls and a couple of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Moving on, we went east, just a little way out of town, and took the dead-end road to Inganess Bay, ending up at the fresh water pool at Heatherquoy. This small pool gave Moorhen and our first singing Sedge Warbler of the trip. The bay was quiet with just a small handful of Eider, and about a dozen pairs of Fulmar were on the low cliffs to the North of the bay. Inganess Bay is dominated by the wartime wreck of the Juniana, a small tanker that came to grief in 1940 and moved to the bay in 1948 for breaking. She still lies here, untouched, as a reminder that money was tight in post-war Britain!!! She does, however, now provide safe roosting opportunities for Arctic Terns and Shag!

With time marching on, we soon set off back to the hotel for dinner and a chance to talk about our plan for tomorrow.

## Day 2

Monday 6th June

A glorious, bright, sunny but cool morning greeted today's early risers. As we were booked on the morning sailing to the northern island of Westray today, we did not venture too far from "home" before breakfast. So a short drive out past Kirkwall Airport to the expanse of low-tide mud at Sandi Sand was just enough. The beach at Tarraciff Bay, just south of the very narrow dune strip that is all that connects Deerness with Mainland Orkney was stunning in the morning sun. A few Black-Headed gulls sat on the beach and two or three Sandwich Terns overhead made quite a racket! Just offshore, one seal, probably a Grey (also known as Atlantic Grey), spy-hopped and gave brief views. Crossing the road, we hoped for plenty of waders on the mud, but a couple of Ringed Plovers proved to be the highlight, with two Linnets perched on Dog Roses nearby. Trundling back towards Kirkwall, we took one of the small roads to Tankerness, heading for Mill Sand. Here, several Mute Swan and Hooded Crows shared a freshwater stream running to the bay. Oystercatcher, Lapwing and a few Curlew were vocal, as were the first of many Skylark today.

Once breakfasted, we set off for the quay in Kirkwall, arriving in plenty of time. Walking along the quay, the lack of seabirds was indicative of a once-thriving fishing harbour that is now turned over to commercial workboats and a marina. It is during the winter that the waters around Kirkwall Harbour come alive with Gulls and various sea duck. Boarding the MV Viraggen, we set sail on very calm waters, and headed out past the islands of Shapinsay to starboard, and Gairsay to port. Pretty soon we saw our first Auks of the trip, with small groups of Common Guillemot and a few Razorbill being noted. Numbers of both species soon increased, with much bigger groups apparent, and at least two Puffin early on in the trip were unexpected. Continuing north, four Gannet overtook us past Egilsay, and a huge feeding flock of Arctic Terns off Muckle Green Holm made us

look very carefully for surfacing Cetaceans, but alas, not to be! The rest of the journey gave us plenty more of the “common” species, with a small party of passing Greylag Geese heading north.

Arriving at Rapness, in the south of Westray, and with the sun beating down, we set off for the seabird cliffs of Noup head, in the far north-west corner of the island. Curlew, lapwing, Oystercatcher, hundreds of Starling, and several Lesser Black-backed Gulls sat in roadside fields. Turning west at the village of Pierowall, and continuing on, we soon ran out of road and took to the rough track that was once the service road for the Stevenson-designed lighthouse on the head. Started in 1896, this light was revolutionary, being the first in the world to have its light array, floating on a mercury bed. The cliffs here rise to 76 metres and provide “digs” for up to 20,000 pairs of Common Guillemot. Stewart, being terrified of heights, was certainly not as “brave” as some group members, but we were all able to enjoy the sight and sound of countless Kittiwake, Fulmar, Guillemot, Razorbill, Gannet, Shag and several Puffin, with each species having its own place on the cliff-face. I certainly would not want to be a Guillemot under a Gannet here!!!

A little while later, our first Great Skua, or Bonxie patrolled the cliff, giving us opportunity note its power of build and attitude! Hoped-for here, but not expected, was its more athletic cousin, the Arctic Skua, but one very close-in, dark-phased bird, soon after the Bonxie, gave great contrast. A second dark bird and a fly-by pale-phase were very welcome too. We had seen a few Grey Seals in the waters below the cliffs soon after we arrived, but having had lunch near the lighthouse, and with the tide falling, Peter noted a large group now hauled out on an exposed rock, a quick count showed at least 76 with more in the water.

With a limited time on the island, we set off south. Having picked up the predated remains of eggs from most of the cliff-face residents, we soon found another Bonxie, perched on a moorland tuft, surely a culprit egg thief! Our next stop was at Noltland Castle, just outside Pierowall, a very interesting, and equally curious C16 building, well preserved and well worth a look round. The castle overlooks a small pool and marshy area. Here, a colony of Black-headed Gulls, many with chicks, shared limited space with Tufted Duck, ever-present Greylag, a few Mallard and a pair of Shoveler.

In Pierowall, the super little heritage centre was our next stop, with the main focus being the Venus of Orkney, locally known as the Westray Wifey. This tiny figurine, barely two inches tall, is thought to be the first archaeological representation of the human form in Scotland. The other exhibits, mainly from the Viking period, were stunning, so well preserved and intricate. Out in the bay of Pierowall, two Grey Seals and a Harbour (Common) Seal out on rocks gave a good but distant opportunity to compare species.

Conscious of time, we slowly made our way south, stopping off near Rack Wick, and going for a nice stroll along cliff tops to the Castle o' Burrian, a low sea stack, home to many pairs of Fulmar, and usually several Puffin. These were few and far between to start with, but soon started to appear in good numbers, with at least 50 being seen a little further on. Always great value, and in a gorgeous setting, we stood and watched their comings and goings, with lots of pair bonding evident. Raven, Shag, plenty of Razorbill and a very smart pair of Twite on a nearby fence, plus one more Great Skua, made this a very productive visit.

Our last stop on Westray could be described as a twist of fate; with half an hour spare, and close to the ferry slip, we took a small road to the Bay of Tafts, wandering down to the beach, which today looked like any in the Indian Ocean! We saw a couple of Shelduck, two female Eider and a few Arctic Terns. With the peace being

broken by the spinning of wheels, we turned around to see an unfortunate driver bury his campervan on the sand track to the beach, the same track we had decided to avoid!!! With sleeves rolled up, and plenty of effort from all of us, he was soon on his way, very thankful and relieved.

The return sailing was bliss, the sun now warmer than at any point during the day. One more Bonxie, driving a young Gannet unceremoniously into the sea off our starboard bow, was great to see, but the chance to just sit and bask was most welcome, too.

## Day 3

Tuesday 7th June

Tuesday dawned with little promise; thick fog prevailed for the early start, so some close-in birding was required. The pier at Scapa allowed us to watch, at close range, a preening group of Eider with a mix of males and females. Scapa also gave us an opportunity to do a bit of ship spotting, with several impressive tugs and working boats alongside.

Venturing a little further west, and in very thick fog, we stopped for a short time at Waulkmill Bay. Very few birds were present in the gloom, with a singing Sedge Warbler, Wren and one or two Stonechat being the highlights seen, and a distant calling Cuckoo, the first of the trip. Standing and taking in the quiet, we saw one Moss Carder and several Northern White-tailed Bumblebees going about their business, feeding on the flowers of one of the wild peas.

After breakfast we all set off west again, making a bee-line in the fog for the cliffs at Yesnaby. As we arrived, we saw a Common Gull struggling to swallow a Ringed Plover chick as the adult looked on. Our target here was not so much the seabirds but the diminutive Scottish Primrose, only surviving at a few sites here and elsewhere on the Scottish north coast. We were soon all admiring, even the non-botanists amongst us, a single flower on a stem barely two inches tall, but several “gone-over” stems and even more plant rosettes were located once we got our eye in!!! On the cliffs, the seemingly ever-present Fulmars called, and a fly-over Great Skua was the first of the day.

Once satisfied, we turned north and drove along the north shore of Loch of Skail, heading for the world heritage site at Skara Brae. A very obliging Common Sandpiper at the roadside sat long enough for everyone to appreciate its cryptic plumage and odd tail-bobbing behaviour. Skara Brae is truly impressive, and gives a speculative idea of what life may have been like here five thousand years ago.

At the site, a Painted Lady butterfly did not settle, a Great Northern Diver showed offshore briefly, and a few Sand Martins hawked over the beach. A wander around Skail house followed: an interesting building, owned by the family of the man who stumbled upon Skara Brae on his land one morning after a great storm. Another Bonxie passed overhead and the second singing Sedge Warbler of the day gave voice in vegetation between the two sites.

After stopping for a coffee and a look around the gift shop, we then made tracks for the promontory of Marwick head near Birsay. Upon arrival, and with the fog finally lifting, we took the track up to the imposing Kitchener memorial. It was built to remember Field Marshall Lord Kitchener who, with over 600 men, perished on June

5th 1916, when HMS Hampshire struck a mine laid off the head. The tower was built to remember one man, but a new memorial wall was unveiled on Sunday, giving the names of every man who lost their lives on that day.

From Marwick head, a very short drive south found us at the bay of Mar Wick, an RSPB-managed site, with a large area of rough meadow and a shallow tidal lagoon called the Choin. A late lunch was taken here, in glorious sunshine yet again. Listening out for birdsong, we were very surprised to hear the rasping of a Corncrake coming from the yellow flag irises in the meadow. This is a bird always hoped for on Orkney, but certainly never expected. Out on the lagoon, a female Eider with four ducklings picked her way through the kelp, and a noisy group of c200 Kittiwake sat on nearby rocks. Dennis picked up a female Wheatear on the beach, a species we were surprised to have seen so few of this week.

Fed and relaxed, our next stop was the RSPB reserve at the Loons. The comfortable hide here looks out over reed beds and marsh, with small areas of open water. Soon noted were two Coot, each with two chicks, Sedge Warbler and a single Little Grebe. Greylags with broods disturbed the peace and two calling Reed Bunting were welcome additions. The marsh held countless Curlew, plenty of Lapwing and a few Oystercatcher. Seemingly out of place, two or three House Sparrows fed on the reeds and beds of Bogbean. So used to seeing them in an urban environment, we enjoyed watching them in a truly “wild” state. A few hundred yards down the road lies the Listening Wall, a curved concrete structure designed to focus our hearing, and draw sound from the reed beds. Working well, a drumming Snipe put on a show before landing on a fence post, a typical snipe summer pose!

As the day was wearing on, and with plenty more to see, we tore ourselves from the suntrap and drove the short distance south to the heart of Neolithic Orkney at Stenness.

Passing some birders looking out over a roadside loch, a big surprise followed: at least four, stunning, male Ruff displayed in long grass. These were a mixture of colour forms, with a cracking red-ruffed bird really standing out: such a rare treat for any of us to see. Pressing on south and passing the still-busy Ring of Brodgar stone circle, we went for a wander around the standing stones of Stenness. Laying our hands on five thousand years of history in the form of huge ceremonial stones, once numbering twelve or thirteen, does give a sense of our fleeting time, so much more birding please!!!! Nineteenth century graffiti on some of the stones was interesting too.

Just along a short grass path, lies the Barnhouse settlement, an intriguing array of partially reconstructed buildings from the same time as the standing stones. Right next to the Loch of Harray, and just a few metres from the settlement, is the Barnhouse bird hide. There was nothing much of note here this evening, apart from a smart pair of Red-breasted Merganser very close in, and two Common Sandpipers on nearby rocks. A quick look out for Otter from the causeway separating Clestrain Sound from the Loch of Stenness yielded two distant Bar-tailed Godwit and many more Curlew. With the day nearly done, a slightly earlier finish than yesterday seemed like a good plan, so we trundled back to Kirkwall in plenty of time for dinner.

## Day 4

Wednesday 8th June

The weather forecast had been accurate all week, and today was no exception: cool and overcast with a few spots of rain in the morning. With just two takers for an early start, we set off for the viewpoint and chambered cairn

on Wideford Hill, just four kilometres west of the town. The vista here is truly impressive, giving a good idea of the geographical positions of the Orkney northern islands. Birds were few and far between, with just a handful of Meadow Pipit, and a gang of young Ravens feeding on animal feed scraps. Walking clockwise a little way around the hill, we came upon the well preserved burial cairn, which is accessed from above by a sliding hatch cover and a short descent via a ladder. The internal dimensions were compact at best, with four tiny sub-chambers off the main “room”. With odd spots of rain now falling we made our way to the bus, noticing some Red Grouse droppings on the path; unfortunately no grouse were seen.

After breakfast we set off south, heading towards south Ronaldsay, the most southerly of the Orkney Islands. Before crossing the first of the Churchill Barriers, a couple of small Lochs, of Ayre and of Graemeshall, were worth a look, Wigeon, Red-breasted Merganser, several Gadwall, Reed Bunting and Sedge Warbler were all noted, along with the ever present Arctic Terns. Tufted Duck seemed to be on every area of fresh water, with a dozen or so here too.

The Churchill Barriers were constructed as a reaction to the sinking, in Scapa flow in 1939, of the Battleship HMS Royal Oak. She fell victim to a German torpedo, resulting in the loss of 833 lives. The four barriers are made up of concrete block causeways, cast and placed primarily by Italian prisoners of war, set between Lamb Holm, Glimps Holm, Burray and South Ronaldsay. The tiny island of Lamb Holm is home to the Italian Chapel, a wartime Nissen hut that was decorated by Italian POW's. We all took time to appreciate to amount of work put in to create such a beautiful place.

Pressing on South, our route took us directly to the small harbour at Bur Wick, on the southern tip of South Ronaldsay, an unassuming place, but home to one of the speciality plants we had hoped to see. The Oysterplant has stunning silvery soft leaves with delicate blue flowers. We were expecting to have to search for a while, but one was found within seconds of arrival. The first Great Skua of the day passed overhead, no doubt eyeing up the diminutive Ringed Plover chicks on the beach. Northern Marsh-orchids, well found by Malcolm, and a close-in Grey Seal were welcome too.

With lunchtime approaching, the beach at Sand of Wright near Hoxa, just west of St Margaret's Hope, was a worthwhile picnic spot. Two Great Northern Divers preened and displayed the classic wing flapping, described in the books. A short circular walk after lunch took us initially along a lightly wooded path, then close to a small freshwater lochan. Here, four Dunlin allowed very close views, as did a couple of Arctic Terns perched on rocks. Twite are always nice to see, and the four or five present gave Stewart the chance to show the salient features that separate them from Linnet. A Curlew, posing on a post, and raucous Black headed Gulls completed the scene as we walked back to the bus.

A longer walk had been planned for the afternoon, in an area not previously explored on this tour. Crossing over the narrow sand bar that connects Deerness with Mainland Orkney, we made our way to Skail, then along a narrow road taking us to Mull head. This road gave an unexpected sighting of a herd of Buffalo, quite different from traditional bovine breeds. The walk here, of about four kilometres, took us firstly past the Gloup, a collapsed tidal blow hole with a viewing platform that is not for faint-hearted! The low sea cliffs held several Shag, many nesting Fulmar and lots of Guillemot offshore. Strolling onward through clifftop grasslands, a Bonxie patrolled the nesting colonies and lots of meadow pipit and skylark sang overhead. The Brough of Deerness holds a tenth century ruined chapel, perched upon a grass covered stack, accessed via a very narrow

path with a chain bolted to the rockface as a “grab rail”. With some of us overcoming our fears, we all climbed up and wondered about life over 1000 years ago.

A female Eider with one duckling kept a low profile, many Auks and Shag fed and collected nesting material in the bay, and another, or the same Bonxie drifted overhead. Continuing on, we soon found ourselves in an expanse of heather moorland, a contrast from the maritime scene a few hundred metres behind. A confiding Bonxie sat close by, looking decidedly menacing, the group clearly able to see how powerfully built they are. The path then took us past a series of small lochans, with several Greylags obvious. Stewart had just commented that we had so far not seen any Teal, when a scan immediately turned up two birds on a distant pool. Getting quite excited, Stewart summoned the group, as a third teal was in fact an American Green-winged Teal, a bird not infrequent in the winter, but certainly unexpected in June. Pleased with our find, we moved on a little and were soon watching a stunning pale phased Arctic Skua. About 80% of this species on Orkney are of the Dark phase, so this one was a treat. Its mate was a very vocal dark bird, and more than willing to attack its much bigger cousin. This assault saw the Great Skua unceremoniously dumped into the water!!! The moorland edge was soon reached, and the path carried on through plant-rich agricultural land. The number of Northern Marsh-orchids, and the occasional Heath Spotted-orchids were noteworthy.

Suitably exercised, we set off for Kirkwall, some opting to be dropped in town before the rest of us made a bee-line for the deciduous woodland at Binscarth. This area is an intriguing spot, like a large sunken garden, very lush and with a good mix of plants and mature trees, but with few birds today. Chaffinch, Robin, Wren, Blackbird and a couple of Woodpigeon were the only birds found.

Another busy day done, an after dinner trip out for Otter, following a “tip off” proved fruitless for Malcom and Stewart.

## Day 5

Thursday 9th June

As there were no takers for the pre-breakfast outing this morning, Stewart set off by himself in search of “new ground”, travelling only a short distance from the town centre to a small promontory called the Head of Work. It looked like a promising spot and, with the sun shining, he walked the two kilometres to the point. With the tide well in, and plenty of exposed kelp, a keen eye was kept for Otter, never as easy on Orkney as on some of the other island groups. Narrowly avoiding contact by a dark Arctic Skua, Stewart soon picked up on a small wake in the water, just managing to contain the excitement when he saw two Otter fishing together, eventually hauling out on a nearby rock. Sitting quietly not fifty yards away he managed to get a couple of record shots using a mobile phone camera through his binoculars! Breakfast beckoned, with just a Grey Heron, a second Arctic Skua, and a small flock of Arctic Tern being added to the daily total.

After a leisurely breakfast, (for some!), we pointed north and made our way to the Eddie Balfour hide at the RSPB's Lower Cottascarth reserve. This excellent facility, in the form of a converted farm building, gave us comfortable viewing, looking up at a heather-clad hillside. The star of the show took a while to arrive, but we all revelled in the superb views we had of a male Hen Harrier, as he quartered the slopes, eventually descending and crossing the track just a short distance away. Just before we got to the bus, a Short-eared Owl put in a brief appearance on a nearby ridge, harassed by a mob of young Hooded Crows.

Today was to be a mix of interest areas, and our next port of call was the Iron Age site of the Broch of Gurness. It stimulated our imaginations into what life must have been like here three thousand years ago. Back to natural history again, we moved on just a little way, to the RSPB hide at Lowrie's Water, hoping to see good views of Red-throated diver. Sadly none were present, but plenty of Greylag Geese with broods, three distant Great Skuas and a second male Hen Harrier made the rough track worthwhile.

The tea room at Birsay was a pleasant spot for lunch, and a good deed earlier in the week rewarded us all with free ice creams from the village shop!! A visit to the sixteenth century Earl's Palace, an imposing ruin, once in the tenure of a pretty dysfunctional family followed. This huge ruin gave ample nesting opportunities for the local Starlings and Hooded Crows too! The beach here can be a magnet for birds, with a small stream running to the sea at the southern end. Looking out, a small group of Sanderling fed on the weed, and a cracking brick-red Knot was an unusual find. With the sun beating down, we just sat for a while and watched the comings and goings of the nearby waders, not really appreciating that even with weather as good as today, every day is a struggle for survival for these birds.

Fully relaxed and ready to move on, we travelled a little way south for another stop at the RSPB Loons reserve. The comfortable roadside hide here once again played host to a smart Little Grebe and a single call from a Water Rail was not expected. Sedge Warbler, Greylag and Lapwing acted as backing vocalists with Curlew the "lead singers"!

As we still had plenty to fit in today, we set off south once more, and soon found ourselves in Stromness, the second town of Orkney. Our vehicle was small enough to allow us to drive along the very narrow, cobble-centred street through the old town. Part way down this road lies Login's Well, the last watering spot for the ships of the Hudson's Bay Company heading north between 1670 and 1891; also replenished here were Captain Cook's Resolution and Discovery in 1780, and Sir John Franklin's Erebus and Terror in 1845.

At the point of Ness, we took a stroll past the lighthouse marking the Skerry of Ness, a treacherous shoal at the entrance to Stromness harbour. Although quiet birdwise, we did pick up one or two Great Skuas close in, and several Black Guillemots passing by. The sound of Hoy had huge strategic importance during the war, and the remains of gun emplacements here acted as a unique memorial to events of the near past. This spot also gave great views over to Hoy, a fabulous island and an adventure for another day!

The main historical points of interest on Orkney can be very busy with cruise ship passengers at this time of year, so we had intentionally left our last site of the day until they were all getting stuck into their five-course meals on board! The Ring of Brodgar is an imposing Neolithic stone circle, originally made up of around 60 standing stones with a diameter of 104 metres. So many questions about the significance of these stones remain unanswered, giving us all the chance to work it out for ourselves!! With our day done, we made our way back to Kirkwall, via Hobbister and the Loch of Kirbister, in time for dinner.

## Day 6

Friday 10th June

With our trip officially ending after breakfast, most of us headed out just after 6am to the spot Stewart had found the previous day. The tide looked perfect for Otter, with plenty of exposed weed and rock, but none appeared: the unpredictability of wildlife is what keeps us all looking, - next year maybe! The walk out towards

the point gave great views of two dark-phased Arctic Skuas, plenty of Arctic Terns and a few passing Bonxies. Wandering back towards the minibus, a distant fin in the stretch of water known as the “String” proved to be the first of at least six Harbour Porpoise, eventually moving quite close inshore to the bay of Carness. With another large cruise ship about to berth, we headed back for breakfast and our final farewells.

Our few days on Orkney had been varied to say the least. We enjoyed historic sites from 5000 years ago to the Second World War, and everything in between, stacks of wildlife, literally!, some superb plants and stunning scenery, along with the kind of weather you can only dream of. Thanks to you all for helping to make this such a trip of contrasts; your various areas of interest and knowledge in subjects such as botany and archaeology made for a great week. Thanks, Stewart.

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only, dr = dropping)

	Common name	Scientific name	June					
			5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus scoticus</i>				dr		
2	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			✓			
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓	✓	✓		
4	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓	✓		
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓	✓		
6	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	✓		✓	✓		
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓		
8	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓	✓			
9	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓		
10	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>				✓		
11	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓	✓	✓		
12	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		✓	✓	✓		
13	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		✓	✓	✓		
14	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>				2+1		
15	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		1	1	2		
16	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		✓	✓	✓		
17	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓			
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					✓	
19	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
20	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		✓	✓	✓		
21	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓		
22	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>					1M	
23	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓			
24	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					✓	
25	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>			✓			
26	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓		
27	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
28	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
29	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	✓		✓	✓		
30	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			✓	✓		
31	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			✓			
32	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓	✓	✓		
33	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			4+			
34	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
35	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			3+			
36	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>					✓	
37	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				4	5	
38	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					✓	
39	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		✓	✓			
40	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
41	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
42	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
43	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
44	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
45	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		4				
46	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		✓	✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	June					
			5	6	7	8	9	10
47	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		6+		6+		
48	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		3+	3+	10+		
49	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓	✓		
50	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		✓	✓	✓		
51	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>		✓		✓		
52	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		✓	✓			
53	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓	✓		
54	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
55	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			✓	✓		
56	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			✓	1		
57	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>					✓	
58	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓		
59	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
60	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓		
61	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓		
62	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		
63	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓	✓	✓		
64	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓		
65	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓		✓		
66	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
67	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓		
68	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓		
69	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓		
70	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			✓	✓		
71	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				✓		
72	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			4			
73	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1	✓		✓	
74	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
75	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>		✓	✓	✓		
76	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		
77	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>			✓			
78	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				✓		
79	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓			
80	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>		✓		4+		
81	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓				
82	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			✓	✓		

## Mammals

1	Orkney Vole	<i>Microtus arvalis orcadensis</i>		runs		runs	✓	
2	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
3	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		
4	Harbour (Common) Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		c10		✓		
5	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>		100+		✓		

## Butterflies & Moths

1	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			✓	✓		
2	Northern White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus magnus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
3	Moss Carder Bee	<i>Bombus muscorum</i>			✓	✓		
4	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓			
5	Buff Ermine	<i>Spilarctia lutea</i>			✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	June					
			5	6	7	8	9	10
6	Angle Shades	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>				✓		

## Plants

Marah Marigold, <i>Caltha palustris</i>	Meadow Buttercup, <i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Creeping Buttercup, <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Orache, <i>Atriplex</i> sp.
Sea Campion, <i>Silene uniflora</i>	Red Campion, <i>Silene dioica</i>
Sheep's Sorrel, <i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Thrift (Sea Pink), <i>Armeria maritima</i>
Eared Willow, <i>Salix aurita</i>	Cuckooflower, <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>
Common Scurvy-grass, <i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	Heather, <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Primrose, <i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Cowslip, <i>Primula veris</i>
Scottish Primrose, <i>Primula scotica</i>	Meadowsweet, <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Tormentil, <i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil, <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
White Clover, <i>Trifolium repens</i>	Red Clover, <i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Sycamore, <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Bogbean, <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
Oysterplant, <i>Mertensia maritima</i>	Water Forget-me-not, <i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>
Sea Plantain, <i>Plantago maritima</i>	Greater Plantain, <i>Plantago major</i>
Ribwort Plantain, <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Lousewort, <i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>
Daisy, <i>Bellis perennis</i>	Sea Mayweed, <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>
Common Cottongrass, <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Reed, <i>Phragmites australis</i>
Spring Squill, <i>Scilla verna</i>	Bluebell, <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Yellow Iris (Yellow Flag), <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Three-cornered Leek, <i>Allium triquetrum</i>
Northern Marsh-orchid, <i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	Pink Puisse, <i>Claytonia sibirica</i>
Heath Spotted-orchid, <i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i> subsp. <i>ericetorum</i>	<i>Persicaria</i> sp

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