

Orkney

Naturetrek Tour Report

22nd – 26th May 2022



Gannets

Tour report by Glen Cousquer



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Tour participants: Glen Cousquer (leader) with six Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Sunday 22nd May

Rerwick Head, Tankerness

Four members of the group were met at the reception of the Orkney Hotel at about 15h30 following late arrival of the ferry and other logistical challenges. The taxi arrived as planned at 15h45 and we departed for Rerwick Head, for an easy introductory walk, a little before 16h00. This was chosen to allow a walk in the shelter of the SW and S weather systems (60-70% chance of rain) on an easy flat and dry coastal path.

We arrived at Rerwick Head around 16h20 and arranged for the taxi to come and pick us up shortly after 17h30. On the drive to Rerwick we saw Redshank and Oystercatcher and Starlings on the fence posts beside the road. Swallows and House Martins were in evidence flying low over the fields. On emerging from the cars we were greeted by a Skylark singing overhead, who later sang us on our way, making for a magical welcome and goodbye to this quiet part of Tankerness.

We started by observing the Rock Doves nesting in the ruined outbuildings with their roofs of Caithness stone, and then proceeded to follow the coast path round to the WWII installations. The coast path was level and dry and made for good going. We watched a pair of Ringed Plover foraging on the beach, one of whom was missing a right leg and hopping to forage. We speculated as to how this might impact on their breeding success. Both flew off a short distance flying strongly. Further along the beach we watched nine Turnstone foraging among the seaweed and were amazed by how well their summer plumage blended into the background. One individual appeared to still be in winter plumage.

A number of Fulmar flew by along the coast and we saw Common Tern flying in search of fish. On the rocks at the point we saw two Cormorants beside a Shag, allowing for a comparison of identifying features to be made. Other Cormorants were evident on the water beyond the rocks together with Black Guillemot and Guillemot. We took advantage of one of the lookout towers during the rain and were treated to an amazing shift in the light as the sun appeared through a break in the clouds. This evolved into a further treat as a rainbow arched across the water. A Grey Seal put in an appearance at about the same time, perhaps drawn by the light show.

Other birds seen during this time included Curlew, Gannet and a Lesser Black-backed Gull. As we headed back, we saw Lapwing dancing overhead and then came to realise they were mobbing a female Hen Harrier who dived and wheeled to try to avoid them. Oystercatchers and Jackdaw joined in the mobbing and it turned into quite a spectacle with the Hen Harrier at one point being driven towards us for even better viewing. As if the rainbow and Hen Harrier were not enough of a treat, we were able to listen to and watch a Snipe drumming overhead. Magical.

On the drive back we had fantastic views of Lapwing and Common Tern, as well as Rock Dove feeding in the fields. There were Rabbits and Brown Hare in the fields. As if this was not enough of an introduction to Orkney birdlife, we were treated to not one but two Short-eared Owls perching and flying beside the road and were able to watch them for several minutes. Altogether, we returned feeling very fortunate indeed with several of the group having seen Short-eared Owls and Hen Harrier for the first time.

Day 2

Monday 23rd May

Mull Head RSPB Reserve, Italian Chapel and Churchill Barriers

The wind turned to the NW overnight, but the forecast was good (10% chance of rain throughout the day) making for good conditions to walk at Mull Head. We met with the taxi at 9am and drove to Deerness, parking up in the reserve carpark before walking to the Gloop. As we did so we heard Snipe drumming overhead accompanied by Skylarks and Meadow Pipit.

We reached the Gloop and were able to take in the full majesty of this cave whose roof has collapsed leaving the inlet open to the sky. On arriving we spied a Stoat running, with great athleticism, through the grass on the cliff edge opposite us. Swallows were darting around, dipping into the depths of the Gloop where the rock walls were host to Rock Doves and several pairs of Black Guillemot. These latter were later declared a highlight of the visit by several members of the group. We particularly enjoyed watching a male showing off his brilliant red feet as he paddled them on the back of his mate.



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Black Guillemots

After allowing a coach group from one of the cruise liners docked in Kirkwall to overtake us, we proceeded to take in the Fulmar colonies on the cliff edges and enjoy the breath-taking scenery. We saw large numbers of Shag at various points and were able to enjoy a leisurely walk at a pace that suited everyone. The group saw Green-veined White butterfly and a number of flowers including Sea Squill and Scurvy Grass. The latter was in flower, but the leaves were surprisingly small, perhaps a reflection of the exposed clifftop environment. A further close

encounter with Black Guillemot was had with the group enjoying listening to the pairs calling vocally to each other.



A line up of Shags silhouetted against the glistening waters

We turned back on reaching the point at which the path (now closed) descends to cross to the Brough of Deerness, taking in some further views of the nesting Fulmar and Shag. Starlings were also noted nesting on the cliff face and one was seen flying with a faecal sac that was dropped into the water. There were Guillemots and Razorbill aplenty on the water, but they did not take a direct hit.

As we headed back, the group enjoyed some five minutes or so listening to a male Twite singing from a barbed wire fence. A second Twite was seen nearby. The real highlight of the walk back though was a Short-eared Owl on a post. This was viewed through the scope I had until then been carrying without having an opportunity to use it. There is something about the way an owl takes in the view that is, dare I say it, “all-seeing, carefully considered, discerning and even wise”. A discussion about the merits of critical anthropomorphism arose at several points during the week.

With the rain coming in shortly after we left the carpark, we repaired to the Sheila Fleet Gallery and Café for lunch. This was much appreciated by the group who thought the food and service excellent. With the rain set in for the early afternoon, we drove south to visit the Italian Chapel. This felt very poignant given the current conflict in Ukraine for the altarpiece is a beautiful tribute to peace. On exiting the chapel, we were treated to views of a Great Northern Diver 20 metres offshore in the bay.



Black Guillemots



A male Twite singing from a barbed wire fence

After our visit, we headed to Churchill Barrier Number 4 and parked up beside the toilets to walk into the dunes in search of the Little Tern colony. As we made our approach through the dunes, we saw a male Whinchat in the reedbed – a lifer for some members of the group. On the beach, we saw large numbers of Ringed Plover foraging in the seaweed. Their behaviour suggested they might have been nesting there too and so we decided against proceeding along the beach. On the tideline we saw large numbers of Dunlin with a few Turnstone and Oystercatcher and an unidentified greyish wader. The terns were visible flying up from the sand towards the further end of the beach. We therefore chose to drive there in the hope of getting under the shelter (it was raining) of a WWII lookout above the beach. This was not particularly accessible given the long-wet grass and indistinct path. The shelter was good though and we were able to put up the scope and view a second Great Northern Diver. The Little Terns proved elusive however and we were unable to view them as clearly as we had hoped. Feeling a little bedraggled and with an early start scheduled for the next day we headed back to Kirkwall and supper. I had picked up some glass bottles on the beach and after dropping off the group at Tesco, in the town centre, went in search of recycling bins, eventually finding these (not at the supermarket) but on the street, near St Magnus Cathedral.



Great Northern Diver on the sea below the Italian Chapel



Ringed Plover among the seaweed

Day 3

Tuesday 24th May

Westray – Noup Head Nature, Noltland Castle, Castle o' Burrian

We met this morning at 06h15 in order to catch the early 07h00 ferry from Kirkwall to Westray. The forecast had stayed golden and this felt like the best weather window within which to visit the “Queen of the Isles”. We had managed to secure the services of Stewart, who owns the island shop and has a VW transporter available for hire. This meant we were able to travel as foot passengers. The car would have had to go on standby and this represented a complication we decided to do without, as we would still have needed an additional vehicle. Stewart met us at the ferry as it docked at 08h35. He had originally proposed to drop us off at the Puffins but was only going to be able to pick us up some time after 11am as he had several other commitments. This did not feel like it would have made best use of our time on the island (eating into half of it) and so I asked him to drop us off at the Noup Head Lighthouse so we could explore the cliffs on foot. Noup is old Norse for “steep headland” – a menace to shipping but safe harbour to many seabirds. The Noup Head cliffs rise some 76m above sea level and are home to one of the largest seabird colonies in Orkney, with thousands of seabirds nesting upon every rocky ledge.

A walk along the cliff path would take us out of the wind and into the sun and allow us to view the gannetry and the layers of sedimentary cliff on which not only Gannets, but also Guillemot and Fulmar were nesting. Interestingly, the local name for Guillemots is “aak” and this is also the Orkney nickname for Westray people. Whilst the birdlife was astounding, there were also areas of cliff path with extensive carpeting of Squill and Tormentil that many of us enjoyed, especially during our two stops. We were also rewarded with several sightings of Wheatear – the first of our trip.

Stewart had promised to pick us up at Backarass at 11h30 as, without any phone signal in the area it was not going to be possible to call him. We were able to avoid all but one of the stiles on the way to the road by finding one fence to step through and three gates. This allowed us get back to the road eventually and Stewart kindly came down to the cliff edge and was able to help me reconnoitre the last field and confirm that the two cows (and calf) in the last field were not bothered by our presence!

The coast at Backarass has an impressive rock arch sitting on a reef of shelving rocks. Stewart told us that as a member of the local Coast Guard he had attended a stricken ship that had stranded on the reef. The two crew members were taken off by the attending lifeboat as the tide came down. On the rising tide, however, the boat was smashed against the rocks that made short work of breaking up the unfortunate craft.

After being picked up, we called in at Noltland Castle, in the hope of hearing Corncrake calling from the fields beyond the castle. On this occasion we did not hear them, but we did hear Starlings calling and making what may have been an impression of Corncrake calling. How appropriate! The Loch of Burness had a lone Curlew and several Oystercatcher as well as a pair of Tufted Duck and one additional male.



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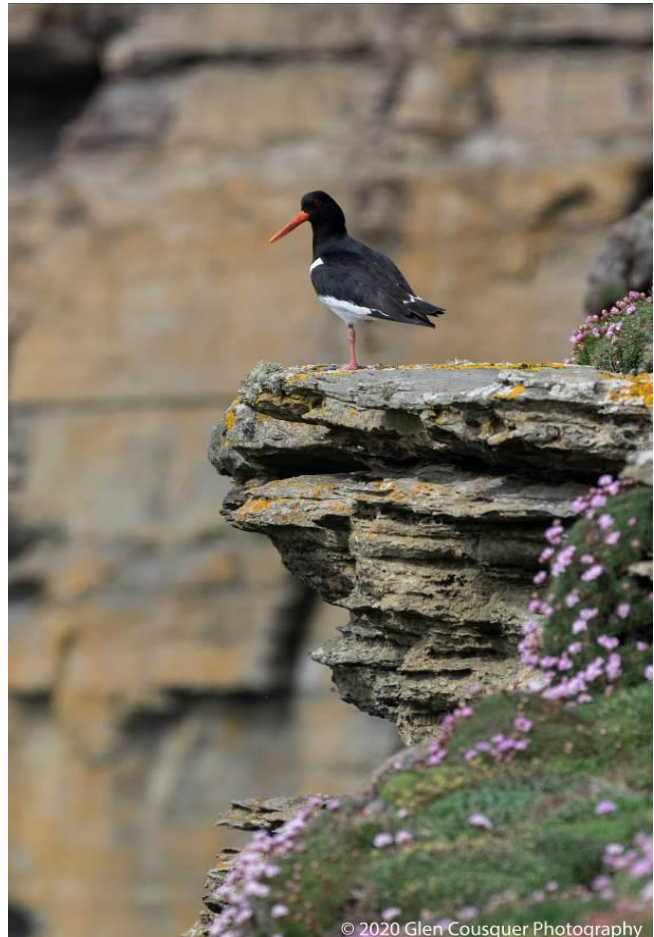
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After our brief visit to the Castle, we continued back to see the Puffins and, leaving two members to wait at the picnic table, enjoyed the easy clifftop walk to the Castle of Burrian. Plants encountered included Red Campion and Sea Campion as well as the ubiquitous Thrift. The views of the Puffins were a real highlight and it was delightful to be able to listen to them calling and to study which parts of the cliff they had chosen to burrow into. They were nesting with Fulmar and Starling were again present and in close proximity. Wren and Blackbird were also heard singing. There were some sheltered grassy hollows out of the wind from which to watch the Puffins and Fulmars both flying in and out of the area, but (in the case of the Fulmars) also wheeling overhead as curiosity got the better of them and they came over to investigate.

The final treat was still to come however, with our wait at the harbour rewarded with the appearance of an Otter swimming close to the shoreline. He repeatedly came up after some lengthy dives, but we never saw him with any prey.



Gannet



Oystercatcher

Day 4

Wednesday 25th May

Skara Brae, Cottascarth and Hobbister Hill RSPB Reserves

Hungry for a dose of history and with a poor weather window running through the morning, we headed to Skara Brae, having booked a visit for six members of the group. The other member had elected to visit Maeshowe, having discovered that it had just opened and found and secured a single ticket (a little bit like Charlie and the Chocolate Factory perhaps).

On the way to the visitor centre, we saw many of the usual suspects including Swallow, Oystercatcher and Black-headed Gull. We passed by the Stones of Stenness and saw several Mute Swans from the causeway, including one pair with newly hatched chicks. The visit to both Skara Brae and Skaill House were very rewarding, and the group found both the exhibition (including the replica of house 7) and the excavated remains themselves fascinating. It was noted that the exhibition distinguished between facts that are relatively well established and other questions that remain unanswered whilst having good provisional / suggested explanations available from other sources. These details were italicised through the exhibition. After completing their visit of the Skara Brae site, the group repaired to the on-site café for some much-needed refreshment before continuing on to visit the neighbouring property of Skaill House that is included in the ticket price.



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Neolithic dwellings of Skara Brae, now inhabited by sparrows and starlings!

The exhibits in Skail House focussed more on the life of the family of the house and only minimally on the discovery of the site. The family who still own the site had exhibited many of the relics in their home. It was noted that with the current move towards decolonising society, there might (in time) be other stories to tell about the history of Skail House and the estate. There may therefore be a need to revisit how the history of the house is presented in view of the various abuses of power and privilege lurking beneath the exhibited material.

A birdwatching highlight or two were to be had here too: these included several male Eider out in the bay and the spectacle of numerous House Sparrows and Starlings exploring the roped off exhibits. The dry-stone walls were inhabited by both birds and we enjoyed watching the parents flying in to feed their broods who piped up excitedly from deep in the bowels of the wall every time food was delivered.

With the visits completed, we proceeded to the Orkney Brewery, where we had booked a table for lunch. This allowed members of the group to sample some of the brewery's fine ales (including the Corncrake) and enjoy a filling lunch. The seafood platter was popular with some members of the group who found it hard to decide which component of the platter was the best.

The afternoon was a mix of sunshine and showers. We headed first to the Hen Harrier hide at RSPB Cottascarth. The walk into the hide is along a rough track and relatively short. The hide itself is spacious and sheltered with a fascinating old Sycamore tree in the grounds beside some ruined farm buildings. The Sycamore's buds were just breaking open to release the fresh green leaves and flowers inside and Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage was found growing under the tree. Our time in the hide was rewarded with sightings of three Great Skuas but no sign of harriers. We therefore carried on to Hobbister Hill, on the south coast. This too is an RSPB reserve with the potential for Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl and Merlin. There is no hide however and our visit consisted of a short walk along a rough track to some peat workings. There we found freshly cut peat stacked for drying. We saw no birds of prey, but our walk was rewarded by a sighting of a Brown Hare sprinting away from us down the track before disappearing into some scrub willow. When we reached the willow, we had a number of bird songs to listen to and differentiate including Song Thrush, Willow Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Wren. Back at the carpark we discovered there was some Bistort growing behind the cars. With the rain coming in strong again, we headed back to Kirkwall for an evening back at the hotel.

Day 5

Thursday 26th May

Ring of Brodgar, Stones of Stenness, Birsay, Earl's Palace, Loons and Moor of Birsay RSPB Reserves.

Thursday's weather forecast promised rain between 10h00 and 12h00 and I therefore suggested we try to have an earlier lunch so that we could make the best of the afternoon sunshine. We headed back down to the Ring of Brodgar and parked up there with the intention of walking through the standing stones and on to the Stones of Stenness and the village of Barnhouse. As we approached and walked along the road, we were greeted by the protests of the sentinel of the marshes – the Redshank and then watched two Redshanks in some sort of face off. The Redshank's ire was very much directed at passing Herring Gulls who were driven off with noisy determination. Lapwing and Reed Bunting were also in evidence as were Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Curlew and Whimbrel. A sign at the entrance to the stones politely asked dog walkers to keep their dogs on leads in order

not to disturb ground nesting birds. It was therefore disappointing (distressing even) to see two dog owners with a total of five dogs all off lead and careering around.

The Ring comprises a ring of 36 stones, from an original 60 placed in a perfect circle measuring 104 metres in diameter. After admiring the stones and the Meadow Pipit foraging among the stones and resting among the lichen that covers much of these stones, we continued on to the outlying single standing stone and the grassy footpath that runs along the road.

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A Meadow Pipit among the lichen on top of one of the standing stones at the Ring of Brodgar

We saw a pair of Goosanders that were hard to identify at a distance because the male's usually green head was still moulting and had a moth-eaten look. Further on we saw common tern nesting on a small island and a large number of mute swans. Several Green-veined White butterflies were also seen at this point.

Beyond the second set of standing stones and the ruins of the village, we took shelter in the hide overlooking the Loch of Harray. Approaching the hide, despite the heavy rain we were able to enjoy the sound of a Sedge Warbler in full song. He was hidden up in the willow trees that surround the hide but was eventually seen and filmed by one of us. Glen returned to the carpark to fetch the car, while the group visited the Barnhouse Hide, village and the standing stones. The group were then transported up the west coast to the village of Birsay where a table had been booked at the Birsay Tea Rooms for 12h30. This location offered excellent views across to the Brough of Birsay, out over the vast Atlantic and back to Marwick Head where the Kissinger memorial could be

seen. We allowed the worst of the rain to pass through and treated ourselves to cake and coffee after our bite of lunch. The Thai coconut soup was particularly popular.

Upon leaving the tearoom, two members of the group with a hankering for more history visited the Earl's Palace and were then driven to the carpark from whence the path climbs up onto Marwick Head. This allowed them to read the information panels about the tragedy that saw the loss of HMS Hampshire (on the 5th June 1916) that was transporting Lord Kitchener, Secretary of War under Prime Minister Asquith. Over 700 lives were lost after the ship struck a mine laid by German submarine U-75 the previous week.

The rest of the group proceeded to call in to visit the RSPB reserve referred to as Loons and Loch of Banks. We found the hide very comfortable and spent a rewarding hour or so there observing a number of birds we had yet to set eyes on that week. These included Coot and Moorhen. The former had chicks whose reddish heads made them look remarkably like moorhens. The Mallard pairs also had young chicks who delighted us as they propelled themselves across the water. Other birds included Swallow, Reed Bunting, Curlew, Oystercatcher and Redshank.

The real highlight was without doubt a sighting of a male Black tailed Godwit. He was resplendent in his best breeding plumage, and we were able to study identifying features including the beak shape and colour and the beak : head ratio. A male Gadwall also appeared, placing himself on "a pedestal" so that we could study his breeding plumage, including the rich colours on his secondary feathers, that included a bright white patch and a rich chestnut patch. Time was also spent studying the head and beak of Whimbrel and Curlew to try to learn some of the features that allow these two species to be distinguished from each other.

In the distant fields, beyond the reed beds, we picked out several Brown Hare hunkering down in the grass, their long ears flattened across their backs. They were not easy to pick out or differentiate from mounds of earth. The Lapwing who strode among them were far easier to pick out at that distance, despite their green colouration blending a little with the grass.

After enjoying this reserve, some of us walked up to the listening wall, enjoying the sound of the marshes to either side of the road. We again spotted the Black-tailed Godwit as well as Curlew, Redshank and Oystercatcher. We all gathered together at the listening wall to listen to the sounds of the marshes. The path down to this structure was in many respects a story line for it was dotted with tablets of stone on which we read evocative pieces of poetry to the various species whose voices bring this place to life. We learnt too of how this structure had been inspired by listening devices designed during the First World War.

Our last stop of the day was the RSPB's Birsay Moors Reserve. As we arrived there the heavens opened up once again and the loch in front of the hide was peppered with rain. One of the expert spotters in the group (whose lucky otter socks had perhaps helped us to see an Otter on Westray) quickly spotted a pair of Red-throated Divers on one of the far pools. We wasted little time in getting these two magnificent individuals in the scope and spent some time feasting our eyes on their incredible plumage. Joanne's spotting continued as she spied a wader fly in to take shelter under the overhanging peat bank on the water's edge. This bird was unfamiliar to many of the group and provided a good opportunity to run through some wader identification before confirming he was a Common Sandpiper.

On the drive back along the coast road to Finstown, we saw Gannet out over the water. In Finstown itself the sun at our backs broke through and we were treated to a magnificent rainbow across the bay. It was a great way to round off the trip for we had been similarly treated on our first outing at the start of the week. It was a reminder that every cloud does indeed have the potential of a silver lining if only we can discern it and that the rain clouds are always passing through even when at their most intense. One member of the group had chosen to take a comfort break just as the heavens broke and had reappeared with a great smile on her face.



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Double rainbow over the Bay of Firth from Finstown pier

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022				
			22	23	24	25	26
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓			
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			✓		✓
6	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		✓	✓	✓	
7	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>					✓
8	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓	
9	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			✓	✓	✓
11	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				✓	
12	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓
13	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓
14	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓
16	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	✓	✓			
17	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					✓
19	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓
20	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓
21	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓	✓	
27	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓			
28	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓				✓
29	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>				✓	
30	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	✓	✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022				
			22	23	24	25	26
31	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	✓	✓			
33	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		✓	✓		
34	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					✓
35	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		2			
36	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	✓	✓	✓		
37	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
38	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓				✓
39	European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>	✓	✓	✓		
40	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✓				
41	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	✓	✓			
42	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓	
43	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					✓
48	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>					✓
50	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				✓	
51	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					✓
52	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓			
57	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓		
58	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>		2			
62	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					✓

Others

Mammals		May 2022				
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26
Orkney Vole	<i>Microtus arvalis orcadensis</i>					✓
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			✓		
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	✓		✓		
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>		✓			
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>			✓		
Amphibians:						
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>					
Insects:						
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓		✓	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓			✓

Plants

Common name	Scientific name
Hard-fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
Marah Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
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>
Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>
Eared Willow	<i>Salix aurita</i>
Cuckooflower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>
Common Scurvygrass	<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Grass-of-Parnassus	<i>Parnassia palustris</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>
Changing Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis discolor</i>
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Common Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>
Spring Squill	<i>Scilla verna</i>
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Yellow Iris (Yellow Flag)	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Northern Marsh-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>
Dame's Violet	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Oriental Poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i>
Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>
Devil's-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>
Sea Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>
Branched Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinalis</i>
Common Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
Black Crowberry	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>
Opposite Leaved Golden Saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>
Bistort	<i>Bistorta sp</i>