

Islay & Mull...in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

14th – 20th October 2020



Report and images compiled by Andy Bunten (Otter image by client Val Jones)



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Andy Bunten (leader) with five Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Wednesday 14th October

Three of the group arrived on schedule at Glasgow's Central Station and we negotiated our way out of the city and on to the central motorway with no real issues.

Sadly, the Covid virus had struck as the other two group members had been contacted by track and trace as they were on their way up to Scotland and they had to turn round to go home and self-isolate.

Rain bounced off the windscreen but then the weather gradually cleared and became perfectly pleasant.

After crossing the Erskine Bridge, we travelled the beautiful route along the west side of Loch Lomond with the rich golds, reds and amber colours of autumn shining in the sunlight. The loch itself is of course famous for the Jacobite song but as a physical feature is a record breaker in several categories – largest stretch of inland water by area in Great Britain and containing Inchmurrin, the largest fresh-water island in the British Isles.

Our route then took us up to Crianlarich where, at around 14.30, we stopped for a delicious cup of tea and some delightful biscuits which a local Robin seemed very keen to share with us.

Fully refreshed we pressed on with the final leg of journey heading west now and past the head of Loch Awe and under the brooding majesty of Ben Cruachan's near 3,700-foot peak. There wasn't a great deal of wildlife to see as we sped along, but we saw Hooded Crows, Grey Heron, Buzzards and, sadly, a dead Pine Marten on the road.

We boarded the ferry which left on time but unfortunately Covid regulations meant we all had to remain in our vehicles – rules that the ferry employees were strictly enforcing. Consequently, we only had a restricted view of any birds on the crossing catching only glimpses of Shags, Black-headed, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls together with a lurking Grey Heron.

Landing at Craignure we had only a few hundred yards to drive to arrive at our hotel where we received a specially Covid secure welcome before heading to our rooms to freshen up.

Some of us met for a pre-dinner drink at the tables outside before we all made our way to the dining room for our evening meal.

Day 2

Thursday 15th October

For our first full day on the exciting island of Mull we met for as early a breakfast as possible at 07.30 and discussed the plans for the rest of the day.

The omens seemed good as a juvenile White-tailed Eagle drifted past the dining room window, interrupting our delicious porridge with cream.

We left the hotel and travelled a short distance north to a small bay at the edge of the local golf club.

This proved a productive area with a number of waders feeding busily on the exposed mud. Common Redshank, Greenshank, Eurasian Curlew, Oystercatcher as well as European Golden and Common Ringed Plovers. Out in the Sound of Mull there were Red-throated Diver and Black Guillemot both in their much-altered whiter winter

plumage. Nearer to the shore we found some very smart Red-breasted Mergansers and a slightly unexpected White-throated Dipper in the small stream running down to the bay.

Star of the show though was a beautiful male Hen Harrier flying along the Sound and expertly found by one of the group.

Although sunny, there was a cool wind so we left our small bay to head towards the nearby Loch Don area calling in to the local Spar for such lunch items as we could forage.

We drove towards Duart Castle stopping first at the Kilpatrick war graves site. The woodland opposite was a known White-tailed Eagle spot and a bird was briefly seen flying behind the trees. Better views were to come of these wonderful birds.

We started seeing the first of the very plentiful Buzzards – often perched on telegraph poles and trying their best to convince unsuspecting tourists they were Golden Eagles.

Goldfinches and Fieldfares were flying around the cemetery site and we had very nice views of Song Thrush, Redwing and Reed Bunting on the telegraph wires.

We then headed too the Duart Castle site where we heard the marvellous, atmospheric, deep croaking calls of three Northern Ravens as they flew along the low cliff beside us and past a lone tree containing a Common Kestrel.

We next drove along the north side of Loch Don where we found our first Red Deer quietly feeding down in some rough grassland. Along the south side we were in the process of crossing a small humpbacked bridge when an explosion of splashes in the small stream alerted our presence to a female Red-breasted Merganser engaged in a very energetic pursuit of a fish.

Further along, on a higher area of ground, we looked down into the fields to see some very fine Red Deer specimens and spent some time admiring the spectacular antlers of the stags as they relaxed, quietly ruminating and surveying their harem of hinds around them. Quite the potentates.

We parked up at a very small car park and walked the few hundred yards down to Grasspoint. Out in the entrance to Loch Don there was another winter plumaged Red-throated Diver and an equally pale Razorbill which flew in from the Firth of Lorn.

We walked a little further along a rise, past some locals launching their humble fishing craft, where we found a pod of around 10 Harbour Porpoises steadily making their way feeding along the edge of the firth.

We retraced our tyre prints past the impressive herd of Red Deer and moved south east to travel around Loch Spelve. A small field contained a close Red Deer stag and also an excellent collection of thrushes. Indeed, all the British thrush species (except Ring Ousel) were busy feeding and gave us excellent views – their beautiful plumage shining in the winter sunshine.

We drove slowly along the south shore of Loch Spelve, the road hugging the water's edge, where there were almost countless numbers of Grey Heron spaced out like so many predatory garden ornaments.

Our quarry, of course, were Otters and we had a few false alarms with very convincing 'otter rocks' before sharp eyes found a real one! We had excellent views of this beautiful mammal swimming and fishing close to the shore. Marvellous. This was not the only mammal though as a Harbour Seal's head also made an appearance bobbing around in the water – we assumed the body would have been attached.

Reaching Croggan and the end of the road it was a perfect time for lunch gazing out onto this lovely sea loch with the impressive Carn Ban rising steeply behind it.

As we munched away a majestic Golden Eagle appeared over the sound into the loch giving us wonderful views as it soared overhead. After a while it was joined by what at first appeared a tiny little bird but which on closer inspection turned out to be a female Hen Harrier. The two birds then swept around the sky as the Hen Harrier buzzed and dive bombed the eagle. A perfect lunch accompaniment.

After lunch we drove back along the loch shore and found our otter again swimming close to the shore. This time it came out into the rocks just beneath us and gave us some fantastic views as it struggled to contain and subdue a very feisty crab before settling down for an extended period of grooming. We watched it for nearly half an hour before it decided that it was time to get back into the water and perhaps find a less vigorous item for lunch.

We drove further east along the very impressive Glen More with hills towering either side. With Loch Skuabain to our south we scoured the hills to the north where we picked out a Golden Eagle soaring along the side of the valley before landing and allowing good views through our telescope. Once again, a local Hen Harrier had taken exception to the eagle's presence and was mobbing it. Eventually the eagle became bored of this impertinence and relocated onto a different rock where we, once again, admired it through the telescope. To add to the wonderful atmosphere of this area the Red Deer stags were roaring away on the horizon.

At Loch Beg, the head of Loch Scridain, the wetland area was fairly quiet with a few Common Gulls and a Greenshank as well as local fishermen.

We continued a little way along the south side of the loch and were rewarded with more otters. This time two animals swimming along side by side. At first fairly distant they gradually came closer and started rolling, tumbling and playing in the water. Delightful!

Then it was back along the majestic Glen More to our hotel with the light starting to fade.

We were due to meet with the RSPB Officer for Mull at 18.00 but sadly we'd not been aware of the Covid laws which were firmly enforced by the hotel staff and so we had to agree to postpone our meet up until the following day.

So, it was back to the usual pleasurable task of doing the day's list before settling down to an excellent dinner and then retiring for the night!

Day 3

Friday 16th October

Another beautiful day dawned and after a nice breakfast we left the hotel to set off on our day's birding. Even before we could get onto our bus we looked up and saw that three White-tailed Eagles were soaring over the hotel. An amazing start to the day and we watched the eagles, which looked like two adults and a young one, until they disappeared in that odd way that large raptors seem to do even in a clear sky.

As with yesterday we initially headed to the bay just north of the golf club and once again were rewarded with views of various waders – Common Greenshank, Dunlin, Turnstone and Ringed Plover. This time though there was also the rather unusual sight of a somewhat late Common Sandpiper – we'd have expected this species to be on its way to Africa by now. Red-breasted Mergansers were seeking fish just off the edge of the coast, Eurasian Teal dabbled in the shallow water and a flock of eight Common Eider, including one very smart drake bird, flew past.

Heading further north towards Salen, we had a Hen Harrier fly above the bus and a little later a slightly less majestic Long-tailed Tit did the same.

We turned west at Salen towards Loch Na Keal and as we drove through areas where the sun had yet to penetrate, we saw significant frost and noticed that, despite the beautiful sunshine, the temperature still hovered around freezing point.

At the east end of the loch we parked on a slight rise by a camping site and spent some time scouring the loch and the woods that lined its banks. The nearby gorse bushes held Reed Buntings, Eurasian Wrens and Robins and a small damp area had a pair of Grey Wagtails scampering around. Overhead a skein of around 100 Greylags flew over and there was a flash past of three speeding European Golden Plovers – a blur of spangled gold and white.

Hooded Crows, looking quite resplendent in the bright, crisp winter sun, were beachcombing along the edge of the loch when suddenly we saw a fantastic adult White-tailed Eagle flying out from the north and gliding around with the sunshine picking out the gleaming white tail. A magnificent sight.

We watched this bird as it flew back to the coast and landed next to another eagle. It didn't take long before a Northern Raven also flew in to join the fun and start its customary tormenting of these raptors eventually causing the eagles to separate and one to fly off across the loch.

Just out on the loch from where we were standing, a group of Red-breasted Mergansers were obviously feeling hormonal with the males contorting themselves into some wonderful geometric shapes as they sought to intimidate their competitors and impress the females. Their gymnastics certainly impressed us.

We headed a little further along the north bank of the loch and parked again in small gravel lay-by parking area. Just out on the loch we found a couple of Great Northern Divers and scanning round a little further found another three of these very impressive birds.

Turning around to look north, we saw that a huge White-tailed Eagle had landed in a pine tree only a few hundred yards away. We had lovely extended views of this bird as the sun picked it out and as Hooded Crows did the same, lurking behind the bird like catcalling urchins taunting a dignified schoolmaster.

In the lovely sun the temperature now had risen to very comfortable sixteen degrees and we made a move to the south side of Loch Na Keal where we quickly found a group of four Slavonian Grebes including one which still retained a little of the breeding season red around its neck. Lovely birds.

A Harbour Seal lounged on a rock in the loch before we noticed another White-tailed Eagle flapping by and landing on a neighbouring rock. Again, the eagle gave us some lovely views and again it had its normal retinue of disrespectful Hooded Crows. As we watched this wonderful bird a dashing flock of around 15 Rock Doves shot past showing the white rumps and wing bars of 'real' Rock Doves.

Another small flotilla of Red-breasted Merganser cruised along by the shoreline and three more Great Northern Divers made an appearance as we decided it was time to head off for lunch and made the decision to go up to Tobermory to find both a café and some open toilets.

At Tobermory we had five Common Buzzards soaring overhead as we sat outside to enjoy some lovely tea and cakes before heading back to the south side of Loch Na Keal.

Our eagle was still perched calmly on its rock -probably waiting patiently for an otter to come up trumps with a fish which it could then attempt to purloin.

A little further on we were met by our patient RSPB Mull Officer and we parked up to chat for about Mull, the eagle re-introduction project and conservation on the island. It was a fascinating meeting and we all learned a great deal from Dave's experience and deep knowledge.

The re-introduction project was inevitably never going to be totally uncontroversial and we heard of the trials and tribulations it went through - especially in the early days.

It was illuminating to hear of a study done some 10 years ago indicating that the eagles contribute around 5 million pounds to Mull's economy. It would be interesting to hear what the value is now.

Bidding him farewell, we continued our drive westwards along the loch passing by the island of Inch Kenneth and into a very impressive sunset.

We rounded into the north shore of Loch Scridain where a Dabchick dived before once again going through the ever-impressive Glen More.

At Loch Don, a Red Deer stag caught our attention and commanded more photographs before we made the last part of our journey back to the hotel and prepared ourselves for more lovely food.

Day 4

Saturday 17th October

Today we were saying farewell to the lovely island of Mull and making the short journey across to Islay 'Queen of the Isles'.

After our accustomed substantial breakfast, we left the hotel at 08.30 to make the very short drive to the Craignure ferry terminal in the pleasant, if cool, sunshine.

The crossing to Oban was a fairly quiet one with a couple of Kittiwakes and Great Black-backed Gulls among the large numbers of Common and Herring Gulls. A few distant seals were seen as was a Guillemot, shining in its white winter attire.

Around 50 minutes later we pulled in to Oban harbour where European Shags, Eurasian Oystercatchers and Common Redshank were present to greet us.

We were quickly on our way south to Kennacraig, once again savouring the beautiful burnished brass colours of the turning leaves offering different aspects at every twist and turn of the road.

Various corvids enlivened our drive including many Rooks, a few Carrion Crows as well as flocks of Western Jackdaws and some Hooded Crows. Common Buzzard sightings were regular and we also found small groups of Greylag and Canada Geese.

We arrived at Lochgilpead around 11.00 and had a brief break there before continuing along on the west shore of Loch Ryan. Just a little way after Ardrishaig, where the road touched the loch side, we noticed a very distinctive humpbacked shape on a rock close to the shore edge. Otter!

Fortunately, there was layby close to hand and we were able to scramble out of the bus and creep back to view the otter more closely.

On the rock it was wrestling with its brunch, which it finished before sliding into the water to continue its relentless quest for food. It swam and dived among the glistening rocks and eventually clambered onto a rock crowded with European Shags and a few smart male Common Eiders which took fright and flew rapidly off.

A wonderful sighting and one was perfectly topped off as a Kingfisher suddenly shot past in front of us like a blue and orange bolt from a crossbow.

A little while after this excitement we arrived at Kennacraig and settled for our short wait until we could board.

With around a two-hour crossing involved, we were permitted to leave our cars and some of the group wedged themselves into a sheltered spot to do some sea watching. Before leaving port we found a few Eurasian Curlew, Common Redshank, plus a couple of Eurasian Wigeon and a nearby Red-throated Diver.

A little after pulling away from shore we found three more divers; this time a family party with two adults feeding a young bird.

Not much further along we added to our already very impressive Otter tally with another couple swimming along near some protruding, black rocks and indulging in the regular play that these lovely amphibious mammals do so often.

A little later yet, another Otter was seen swimming resolutely through the water and a couple of Little Grebes were also welcome additions to our list.

Both Grey and Harbour Seals were hauled out on the rocks as we sailed past before we started to encounter groups of wonderful Great Northern Divers. In total we saw 34 of these extremely impressive birds.

Groups of Kittiwakes and Northern Gannets were appearing now as were small pods of Harbour Porpoises – three different sightings in all.

Our ferry sailed up the Sound of Islay giving us a great opportunity to see the impressive and famous Paps of Jura and to make the inevitable George Orwell connections with this island.

Arriving into Port Askaig, we made our way west towards Loch Indall where we drove along the north shore. Parking up in a small layby we surveyed the vast and spectacular flocks of the beautiful small black and white Barnacle Geese which had flown from distant Greenland to winter here.

The sound and sight of these massive goose flocks is something very special and we had lovely illuminated views as the sun started to creep down the sky.

Then we noticed a small motionless shape on a distant upright post which on inspection turned out to be a Merlin. As we watched, this pint-sized raptor took off causing consternation amongst the many small waders which exploded into the air. We followed the Merlin as it twisted and turned in hot pursuit of a small wader - possibly a Dunlin – before we lost both from sight into the low sun.

Out on the mud flats after the excitement of the hunting Merlin we saw hundreds of European Golden Plover their golden plumage picked out by the sun.

Back where the Merlin had been a couple of Common Buzzards were behaving in an odd sort of way flapping and apparently tussling over something. We never did resolve what.

After all this excitement we drove north to see the fields below Loch Gruinart where there still more cackling, chattering Barnacle Geese grazing away in the carefully RSPB managed grassland. Amongst the black and white throng were smaller groups of larger, darker Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese – their white face blazes and dark striped bellies very prominent. We noticed the different sizes of the bills of these birds - the Barnacles with small grass-nibbling beaks and the White-fronts with larger beaks also used to extract roots from the ground.

It was time to go to our hotel to check in, but another delight was to come as a lovely shining Barn Owl wavered across the road in front of us suddenly startled by a Merlin which sped into it from below. It was all over in a flash but it seemed to us that the small falcon was attempting to take some prey from the owl's talons. What a cheek.

Our hotel made us very welcome and we quickly settled into our wonderful rooms before some of the group made the very short walk to the edge of Loch Indaal to watch the Barnacle Geese flying in to their roost site. Vast numbers of geese were feeding and cackling and a small herd of five Whooper Swans trumpeted their way across the sky – a magical sound.

We finally left the cacophonous geese around 18.50 and met up with the rest of the group for the first of many splendid meals in this excellent hotel.

Day 5

Sunday 18th October

A few of us met for a pre-dawn wander back down to the loch to see the geese awakening to a new day before heading off to various feeding grounds around the island.

On this dry, still and mild morning, the passerines were awakening too with European Robins ticking and Wrens rattling away from the surrounding gorse while 'chacking' Fieldfares flew overhead.

Then it was time for a very splendid breakfast before heading off south towards the Oa peninsula. Even before leaving the hotel grounds we added another carnivore to our list as sharp eyes spotted a Least Weasel watching us from the verge.

To begin with we drove a little way along the south side of Loch Indaal stopping at a few places to survey the geese and other waterfowl on view. As always there were thousands of Barnacle Geese on the loch plus a few Greylags as well. Hidden away in the flock was a partially leucistic individual Barnacle – always worth investigating in case it should turn into a Snow Goose!

We headed south along the narrow B8016 road towards Port Ellen which passes by the famous Eilean na Muice Duibhe where conservationists and peat extractors battled over the future of the site. Hooded Crows and Stonechats appeared as we drove along but we were searching for Hen Harrier as this area often turns one up. Sure enough, a little over half way down the road a lovely male harrier flighted over the road and we were able to watch it gliding away over the nearby undulations of the landscape to the accompaniment of Red Deer roaring from the fields. A little later we also saw Roe Deer, including a nice buck complete with neat antlers and a small group of feeding Greater White-fronted Geese.

We paused for a while in Port Ellen noticing the Harbour Seals in the bay before driving onto the Oa peninsular. At the RSPB car-park a flock of Goldfinches were busily feeding away before scattering to the four winds as a Eurasian Sparrowhawk appeared from nowhere and flashed past.

We left the bus for a walk towards the American Monument where we found a number of Northern Ravens around the cliffs and a few Gannets out to sea.

As we walked along the cliffs, we noticed a quite a few shaggy goats among the rocks; some of them Billies with impressive beards and horns. In the distance a Golden Eagle was soaring over the peaks while nearer to us a Peregrine Falcon shot past so rapidly in pursuit of a small flock of Rock Doves that it escaped notice from most of the group. We waited in vain for it to re-appear from behind the hill where it had vanished.

The footpath now led us back inland and we wended our way back to the car park and then drove slowly back towards Port Ellen past a small rough pasture redolent with Fieldfare, Redwing and a Mistle Thrush.

Our drive east past the famous Islay distilleries and beyond produced some lovely seascape views, a few Red Deer, some Harbour Seals and waders but nothing of great excitement so we returned to Port Ellen and back on the road towards Bridgend.

Stopping at a field full of Barnacle Geese a sharp-eyed member of the group picked out a different goose – a Pink-footed – tucked in with the rest. A little further on around 60 Greenland Greater White-fronts gave us excellent views as they concentrated on feeding away. Again, closer examination revealed there was also a Pink-footed Goose who'd decided to join this happy throng. We indulged ourselves with excellent views of this goose spectacle when, in mid indulgence, a flock of some 30 European Golden Plover sped rapidly by.

Then it was back to the south side of Loch Indaal where we found a handful of Whooper Swans and, roosting on the pier in Bowmore, around 20 or so each of Dunlin and Ringed Plover.

It was time now to repair back to the hotel and get ready for another wonderful meal served by our be-kilted French waiter to add an extra layer of class.

Day 6

Monday 19th October

We had seen on the forecast that today was going to be a wet one but the morning didn't start too badly so, fortified by our excellent breakfast, we made our way out to the north side of Loch Indaal to watch the vast numbers of Barnacle Geese and hope that the stories of White-tailed Eagle from our optimistic bar man, and hotel factotum, would come true.

And within a couple of minutes they did just that. Suddenly we noticed the geese to our west surging up into the skies, their panic spreading through the flock until the air was a swirling mass of black and white and a wall of shrill barking. A White-tailed Eagle swept in through the chaos but did not seem to be intent on capturing anything but merely glided down to land on the ground looking rather disconsolate in the light rain. Almost immediately tormentors in the guise of Common Buzzards and Hooded Crows appeared like cruel court jesters teasing a rather grumpy, if regal looking, king.

After all this excitement, we headed north towards Gruinart and past more fields full of seething Barnacle Geese with smaller groups of Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese amongst them. In the far distance yet more geese surged into the air in such densities that they looked like a clouds of midges.

We arrived at the RSPB visitor centre around 10.00 where we met up with Jack the Area Manager who gave us a fascinating talk about the history of the island, the interactions between the farming community and the conservation programme and the many conservation successes that have been achieved. As is so often the case in these situations the key to resolving issues is good, consistent, open communication.

We bade farewell to Jack and drove up the west side of Loch Gruinart towards Ardnave Point and parked at Ardnave Loch. En route we stopped at a field planted up for finches that was certainly fulfilling its purpose as it was full of a large mixed flock of Linnets and Twite.

It was raining fairly steadily now but that didn't prevent us from getting some excellent close views of a handful of Red-billed Choughs stalking around on the ground in front of us exploring various nooks, crannies and cow pats in search of their insect food.

We set off for a gentle walk among the sand dunes and found a few other Choughs together with a good number of Northern Ravens.

Back to the bus, we made our way back down the road, parked at the RSPB car park and walked down to the hides that overlooked the southern part of Loch Gruinart.

The low woodland was wonderfully draped with luxurious lichens indicative of the cleanliness of the air here. A Eurasian Bullfinch called from the path-side bushes and lower down we stumbled across a Common Toad walking sedately across the path.

The first hide gave good views of Eurasian Teal, Wigeon and a handful of Common Snipe as well as Wood Sandpiper. Out in the channels we could various waders including numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits and European Golden Plover.

The second hide had a family of Mute Swans immediately to the front and numbers of Eurasian Wigeon, Teal and a nice female Northern Pintail feeding away in the shallow ponds as well as a few more Snipe camouflaged in the taller vegetation.

By now the weather had intensified so two of the group decided to go back to the hotel and explore the local area while the rump of group drove back to Gruinart – this time to explore the east side.

Here we found a lovely close flock of White-fronted Geese, near to inevitable Barnacles, giving us an excellent opportunity to study these most handsome of birds.

A drive up the rough track overlooking the lovely estuary produced the usual waders – calling Common Redshank, Common Greenshank and Eurasian Curlew with the most evocative call of all.

With rain intensifying and the light decreasing we started our return to the hotel finding a female Hen Harrier gliding around over the geese fields.

Back to the hotel it was only left to us to prepare for our departure the following morning and gird up our loins for another delicious repas.

Day 7

Tuesday 20th October

Our ferry this morning was leaving from Port Ellen and we once again drove down the narrow road between Bridgend and the port. We didn't have a great deal of time but were able to make a few brief stops to have our last fix of the very special geese for which Islay is rightly so famous.

Once on board, some of the group again wedged themselves into a good position for some sea watching during the two-hour crossing.

Despite the poor weather forecast, we actually had quite strong sun as we watched Grey Seals, Great Cormorants, Common Eiders and Kittiwakes. We had our last views of divers with both Red-throated and Great Northern riding the waves near the ship and numbers of Common Guillemots as well.

Nice views of Northern Gannets and Harbour Porpoises rounded off our trip and we arrived at Kennacraig in perfect time.

Our drive back took us past the shore of Loch Fyne where we'd seen the Otter on our trip south to Islay and we peered in hope in case by some chance it would make another appearance. Unsurprisingly it didn't but there was a very nice group of around 20 Red-breasted Merganser hunting for fish along the water's edge.

Our journey now took us through Lochgilphead and continued along Loch Fyne past some lovely scenery with trees displaying their autumn finery.

We drove into Inveraray where we took a brief break before passing the original oyster restaurant and also the impressive Inveraray Castle, seat of the Campbell Clan.

We'd heard about an issue with the 'Rest and be thankful' and indeed the upper road was closed and we had to join the queue to join the escorted lower military road.

Thereafter we had an uneventful journey which included a lovely flock of Pink-footed Geese in a motorway-side field.

Our negotiation of the various one-way systems and road closures in Glasgow went reasonably smoothly and the group were dropped off with plenty of time to spare to catch the various trains back home.

So, we said our farewells after a wonderful 'seven otter' trip together with great views of two eagle species and, of course, the amazing winter spectacle of thousands of wild geese from the exotic north.

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Species Lists

Birds

I=Introduced		Date: 14th-20th October 2020						
Common name	Scientific name	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor				4		5	✓
Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus				5	6		
Canada Goose - I	Branta canadensis		40	6	✓			
Brent Goose	Branta bernicla				25			
Barnacle Goose	Branta leucopsis				✓	✓	✓	✓
Greylag Goose	Anser anser		6	150	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pink-footed Goose	Anser brachyrhynchus					2		✓
Greater White-fronted Goose	Anser albifrons				40	60	60	
Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna				6			
Eurasian Wigeon	Mareca penelope		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta						1	
Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca		4	4	✓	✓	✓	
Common Eider	Somateria mollissima			6	✓			
Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator		20	20	✓	✓	✓	20
Common Pheasant - I	Phasianus colchicus			2	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-throated Diver	Gavia stellata		3	1	4			1
Great Northern Diver	Gavia immer			8	34			2
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis			1	2			
Slavonian (Horned) Grebe	Podiceps auritus			4				
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Gannet	Morus bassanus				20+	6		✓
European Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis			2	✓	✓		✓
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		Date: 14th-20th October 2020						
Common name	Scientific name	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos		2			1		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus					1		
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus		3	2		1	1	
White-tailed Eagle	Haliaeetus albicilla		3	6			1	
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus						✓	
European Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria		10	3	100's	30	✓	
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula		6	✓		20		
Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica						✓	
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres			✓				
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		1					
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola						1	
Dunlin	Calidris alpina			1		20		
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago					L only	8	
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia		2	3			1	
Black-legged Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla				✓			✓
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common (Mew) Gull	Larus canus		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common (Murre) Guillemot	Uria aalge				1			20
Razorbill	Alca torda		1					
Black Guillemot	Cephus grylle		1		1			✓
Rock Dove	Columba livia			12		30	30	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus		✓	✓	✓			✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Barn Owl	Tyto alba				1			
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis				1			
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus		1		1			
Merlin	Falco columbarius				2	1		
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus					1		
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius		1					
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica							H
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax						4	
Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	Corvus frugilegus				✓	✓	✓	✓
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone				✓			✓
Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	Corvus corax		6	✓	4	10	20+	✓
Coal Tit	Periparus ater		2					
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		H	H	1		H	
Great Tit	Parus major		1	1		1		
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus		✓	4	2			
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus		L only					
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		2	✓	✓	✓		
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		Date: 14th-20th October 2020						
Common name	Scientific name	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		✓			10		
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		✓			14		
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓		3	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		6	2		1		
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	1	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		1	1				
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			1		✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			2				
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>					4	6	
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>							
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>						H	
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>						✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		6	✓		20	1	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		1	1				

Mammals

I=Introduced		Date: 14th to 20th October 2020						
Common name	Scientific name	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
European Rabbit - I	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						1	
Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>		1					
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>		3		4			
Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>					1		
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>				1	1		
Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		2	1	6	12		
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>		10	6	12			
European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				1			
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		60+	40+				