

Scotland's Mammals & Highlights of the Highlands

Naturetrek Tour Report

1st – 8th August 2025



Scotch Argus by Glyn Evans



Pine Marten by Andy Nayler



Common Dolphin by Andy Nayler



Round-leaved Sundew by Andy Nayler

Tour report by Glyn Evans



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Summary

The Ardnamurchan peninsula has an island feel about it, which may have something to do with getting there via one of the shortest ferry trips anywhere (the Corran Ferry across Loch Linnhe), but also that it is remote. Remote from the relative hubbub of Fort William and other populated parts of mainland Scotland but also sparsely populated with human beings – a major plus for people who wish not only to find wildlife on their holidays but also to find sanctuary in silence and detachment from the rat race.

Apart from the wildlife featured on our checklist, it should be remembered that Ardanurchan is one of the best examples anywhere of Atlantic Rainforest – a spectacular set of habitats that gives one a sense of gratitude that it exists where almost everywhere else is compromised.

Being based at the Bunkhouse, the sense of detachment is also apparent. It is your “come and go as you please, eat sleep do whatever you please, when you please” home for the week. And some of the wildlife performs for you right outside your window.

Read on to see what I mean.

Day 1

Friday 1st August

Transfer day

Some great communication between HQ and the clients gave us the opportunity to get away from Glasgow by 12.45, nearly two hours ahead of schedule! Under most circumstances, this would have given us three hours of field time to enjoy before reaching Strontian for dinner, but today...?

Well, today, we stopped briefly at Loch Lomond to allow people time to unpack optics and have a look over the loch. However, a Friday during the summer holidays meant that there was much frivolity on the water: wild swimming, boating, jet-skiing...

We decided to cut and run, making for the prettier parts of Scotland beyond. A notice on the A82 informed us of a closure but was otherwise unspecific. By the time we reached Crianlarich, however, we were told to turn back all the way to Tarbet and use the A83 as a detour! It was quickly obvious by then that, with the numbers of vehicles almost tripling the usual traffic on this road, that most of it would be at something of a crawl...

And so it proved. A blockage in a 5-mile stretch of road required a detour amounting to more than four hours. We unashamedly took a wild loo stop when we couldn't wait any longer. Wildlife compensation came in the shape of Gannets in Loch Fyne, Eiders and Red-breasted Mergansers in Loch Linnhe and after a comforting dinner at Ariundle, served at 8pm by the ever-flexible and capable team there, we saw a Badger and a Red Deer on track to Bunkhouse!

Day 2

Saturday 2nd August

The early morning walk, for everyone but Andy who had already made for Apertif Point, was a simple amble to the bottom of the drive, to the edge of the loch. There, the tide was most of the way out, which enabled us to stand on the exposed shore, where midge spray was quickly shared and applied generously, followed by a bout of ad-lib scratching of real and imaginary bites.

Whilst Andy found a couple of distant Otters, we were less fortunate, finding a Greenshank, a flock of hawking hirundines and a family of Grey Wagtails nearby. A single Little Grebe seemed reluctant to move from a clump of floating seaweed. The hirundines were momentarily disturbed by a half-hearted swoop from a female Merlin which sneaked away to the back of the loch after aborting the chase. A Raven called but didn't show, while a Bullfinch did likewise and Siskins were high above while they betrayed their presence. Common Terns loped around the back of the loch and a single Buzzard gave a squeaky greeting from its unseen perch.

Breakfast was dispatched in good time for 9am getaway, where we headed for the lighthouse, intending to call in at Kilchoan via the Camas nan Geall viewpoint.

At the viewpoint, there was still barely a puff of wind. We watched a young Common Seal swim in the shallows below us while observing several flypasts from Linnets, Meadow Pipits, Redpolls and a Yellowhammer. A Common Whitethroat scolded unseen from a clump of bracken.

With little breeze to go on and no significant sign of thermals, we moved on after 30 minutes to Kilchoan jetty, noting that the new coffee shop at the community centre was now open under new management!

After sampling the avian delights at the jetty – namely Kittiwake, Raven, numerous Manx Shearwaters, Rock Pipits, Common Terns and Common Gull – we sampled coffee, tea and other sweet comestibles at the café before heading to the lighthouse, which we reached at just after 12.30. We took lunches to a pair of picnic benches out of the strengthening wind and enjoyed views of Common and Black Guillemot, Gannet, Manx Shearwater, Shag, and Kittiwake. A couple of dolphin sightings were so distant as to prove too difficult for some to see, so after lunch we climbed back up to the bench by the foghorn for several scans without much luck.

I had a message from Andy to request a call to discuss weather for the forthcoming boat trip. A storm was due in on Monday – the day between the two scheduled trips.

After chatting, we agreed to go ahead with the trip on Sunday with the probability that we wouldn't go too far out into the open. In any case, Andy had a number of reported sightings of dolphins and even Minke Whales in the loch in recent days.

For this reason, I aborted the stay at the lighthouse and suggested that we head for Fascadale, further around the peninsula and a more sheltered place to watch the sea.

This paid off as, after a while, we started to notice dolphins – mostly Common, including a pod of 20+, but also Bottlenose – and a huge number of feeding Manx Shearwater, with over 2,000 in one flock, where we found the larger Sooty Shearwater flying in the opposite direction.

While trying to pinpoint another pod of dolphins and then an unidentified large bird by a fishing boat, I realised everyone else was looking at a large bird Andy had found almost overhead – a second summer White-tailed Eagle! Thus, the hunch of heading back some way “inland” from the lighthouse paid off. A light drizzle came in and threatened something wetter, so we called it a day and got back to base at 17.10. Two hours later we had been sated by another excellent, fulsome meal from Kate and her team. A good start to the week!

Day 3

Sunday 3rd August

Today was the (long) boat trip with Andy Jackson. The weather forecast was good, with little or no threat of rain, but with a strengthening breeze, we had discussed and agreed that going beyond the mouth of Loch Sunart would be an uncomfortable experience. Moreover, there had been plenty of sightings of dolphins in the Loch over the last fortnight.

We arrived at 09.30 sharp, having skipped the early morning walk after a fruitless vigil for (nocturnal mustelids) the previous night!

The morning was bright and fairly calm after a deluge woke some of us at around 02.30, but that front had now all but cleared.

The outward journey through the middle of the loch didn't require too long before telltale splashes in the water betrayed the presence of a pod of Common Dolphins, which swam steadily towards us, so we waited a short while for them to swim past. This was the first of many encounters with dolphins that day, with one period of 15 minutes where it seemed, we were surrounded by several small parties of them, with a minimum aggregate count of 30 animals. The calves were leaping clear of the water with such stiff bodies as to suggest they enjoyed splashing the rest of the group. Occasionally, one or two would come close and play peek-a-boo beside the boat, wasting large amounts of memory on camera disks...

Once we had enjoyed the dolphins for at least 45 minutes, during which time we sheltered from a short squall which was the only precipitation that day, we pressed on towards the end of the loch, bending across to the isle of Mull to check out a known nesting site for White-tailed Eagles. Here, one of the adults was waiting for us, perched on a grassy-topped basalt dyke. It lost the staring match with us as we got to within 100m, whereupon it flew a short distance around the corner out of sight. The other eagle-shaped outcrop nearby was then re-identified as the other adult bird (to my shame, having dismissed it earlier), which then was tempted by a fishy offering thrown over by the occupants of the diving vessel nearby. Andy managed to take some cracking shots of this in the bright sunlight that would now persist for the next couple of hours.

On the way to these more obliging eagles, we had picked out two others at such distance as to require some trust in the leader, but super-zoomed record shots were presented nevertheless to clinch the ID.

All the time on the water, we were seeing adult male Guillemots with their squeaky offspring, Manx Shearwaters in small flocks, Kittiwakes, Common and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Once we got close to the end of the loch, the boat was rocking, perhaps a little uncomfortably for some.

So we turned back and followed a line just inside the north shore of the loch, stopping once at another known site for White-tailed Eagle where an adult bird left its perch and climbed up and away on a thermal.

Another highlight came with a big feeding frenzy just inside the south shore in a sheltered corner, where Manxies, Kittiwakes, Common, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, Common Terns and a Red-throated Diver were all tucking in.

We stopped briefly by Oronsay where Andy regaled us with another anecdote (of which more to come on Tuesday) while we took turns observing the Red Deer on the shore through his thermal scope!

We arrived back in Laga Bay feeling like we'd had a lucky day with some splendid sightings of eagles and dolphins and some very fine weather.

Tomorrow, we were prepared for the worst. Full breakfasts were supplied in the fridge in preparation...

Day 4

Monday 4th August

The Tempest!

I emerged from my room at 7am after something of a lie-in, listening to the howl of the wind. As I entered the lounge, much wind-blown green matter was laying on the back patio. Some clients were sat on chairs staring into the midst and greeted me with the enthusiastic news that they had seen a Pine Marten! Hurrah! It had been worth putting the sweet treats out after all!

Kate had kindly supplied eggs, bacon, mushrooms, beans and tattie scones for a possible cooked breakfast so, given that the promised storm was now with us, I made a cuppa and put on the frying pan, having found a food warmer and plugged it in.

Clients helped themselves to all that was cooked, with enough left over for the cook to have a plateful of leftovers. Andy had kindly offered a photography tutorial to pass some of the time, which featured some of his stunning photographs. By the time this had been delivered and questions answered, it was already noon and the rain had become much less frequent. Although we were hunkered down and protected by tall trees, it did seem apparent that it was not so stormy as we what been prepared for, so I suggested going out.

Ockle, tucked away on the northwest of the peninsula, would have given us reasonable shelter from the wind. Perhaps also, a visit to Kilchoan Pier, as the wind would surely be blowing sea birds into Loch Sunart.

We left shortly after 1pm and drove straight to Ockle. Shortly before arriving, we pulled up to see a lone Roe Deer feeding amongst brackens. The wind was still billowing around the treetops but down in the hollow, we comfortably enjoyed the delightful site by the bridge over the babbling brook, which was babbling quite vigorously having been swelled by the recent rain.

The walk down to the cove featured sightings of Raven and Stonechat. Other small birds which may have tweeted from the bushes were drowned out by the wind. We reached the old (roofless) house and set up for a sea watch,

where we enjoyed a carnival of sea birds, with Arctic Skuas heading determinedly south, three or four Great Skuas chasing all and sundry, hundreds of Manx Shearwaters, several Gannets and Kittiwakes, a single dark morph Arctic Skua and a couple of Black Guillemots. A Lesser Black-backed Gull settled on a rock and leaned into the wind.

The hunch I had about Kilchoan grew into a compulsion to visit – especially when Alison asked if the store might be open.

Noting a couple of Ravens and another family of Stonechats on the return to the van, we got to the Kilchoan store where pocket money was spent, and a Whimbrel was observed alighting on a nearby shore where it stayed below the eyeline.

We parked right by the pier at Kilchoan, confident that we would not be interfering with any ferries or passengers and enjoyed a wonderful; 45 minute session with the sea birds, with Gannets and Kittiwakes flying close to the pier and a couple of juvenile Arctic Terns passing close. A single Grey Seal showed its long snout as it “bottled” 150m offshore. Manxies were patrolling in mid-channel and then rounded into the north bay, with Gannets following and then plunging voraciously on the shoal below.

We had to leave for dinner but many of us could happily have stayed longer, having been grateful for a half day where the expectation that morning was for a write-off. Just a couple of branches had fallen on the road that afternoon but had been cleared before we set out. We waved gratefully at the guys who had done the job, allowing us to enjoy what felt like a bonus afternoon.

Dinner featured the finest slow-cooked venison you would ever have tasted.

To add to that, while it was still fairly light, a Pine Marten showed to eat some of the sweet treats we had put out earlier.

Day 5

Tuesday 5th August

Our leader carelessly reported a weather forecast that was for Northeast Essex (not Ardnamurchan), so the expected bright, calm morning that tempted everyone into the early morning walk at 6am was instead a rude awakening, with rain hammering onto the roof of the bunkhouse as alarms went off!

Nevertheless, (it would be inaccurate to suggest undaunted), we strolled down the drive and along the road to Aperitif Point. Almost as soon as we arrived, an Otter appeared in the middle of the loch, still some 100m away, but in open, calm-ish water. It surfaced a couple more times before disappearing, giving views to most, if not convincing. We set in for a vigil, which was partially rewarded as a White-tailed Eagle flopped its way through to an island to the rear of the loch to the consternation of all the nearby birds, who eventually flushed it. So we were able to watch it disappear into a curtain of rain. At last, another Otter appeared just to the left of a headland to our right. It swam for five seconds before it was out of sight. OK. Two Otters, but surely we would want to try for better...?

Yes, we would; unanimously so. It was decided to spend the morning sheltering from the forecast rain in the Garbh Eilean hide, which would not be sheltering us from the westerly breeze blowing right along the loch!

No matter. Almost all of us (sorry, Alison!) donned as many layers as we could for the vigil and determinedly set up stall in the hide. A half an hour passed while we ticked off all the other “usuals” in the hide – Grey Heron, Common Seals... Actually, that was it.

Andy had previously visited the hide (while we were held up by the detour around the A82 on the first day) and scored a couple of Otters, albeit not very close, so this was getting a little irritating... “Otter!” I cried at last, probably waking at least a couple of people. It was just beyond the right-hand end of one of the islands...behind which it promptly disappeared! Another shout went up a few minutes later when it ran over the rocks and into the water behind the island, unseen.

For at least a couple of minutes, that is, before it eventually emerged and caught a rather large lumpfish which it brought ashore and consumed, allowing zoomed-in, scope-filling views of it feasting. Not content, it re-entered the water and gorged on shellfish for the next 40 minutes, undisturbed by another Otter passing within a few feet to another fishing spot elsewhere.

Four Otters before lunch. Not at all bad! Some wished to layer up a little more before the boat trip, so we headed back to the Bunkhouse after a brief stop at Salen Jetty Store for a cuppa and more clothing. Some ate lunch in the half hour we allowed, whilst I chatted with Kim, our host.

Andy was ready by the time we reached Laga Bay at 1pm, so we embarked on “Andy’s Tour”, in which he provides commentary on some of the history and current projects around the loch. The wind was gusting fresh at times, reminding us of the stormy conditions of yesterday which corralled some of the seabirds into the loch...

Storm Petrel! I shouted from the cab from where I saw the diminutive, little glider, but rushed out and pointed it out to make sure no-one missed it! A lovely surprise, albeit an acknowledged possibility given those storms.

Then Andy N spotted some Harbour Porpoise – at least four animals in the end which performed uncharacteristically, coming close to the boat on more than one occasion!

Red-throated Divers, Common Terns, a creche of Goosanders, Shags, Common Seals all featured in the tour, until there was further excitement when a chunky male Otter was spotted by Mary on the bank near the channel past Carna. Later, an eagle loomed from the valley where last year, we had seen a pair of Golden Eagles down a Canada Goose.

This eagle stayed determinedly head-on for a tantalising amount of time until it came alongside, to show a short, white tail and broad wings...

Never mind. Another White-tailed is no bad thing.

Wind got up and squalls came every now and then, but we had a good innings. We thanked Andy gratefully and returned to the Bunkhouse at 17.30 whereupon I dutifully put out sweet treats on branches Andy and I had pulled out of the woods to create a semi-natural setting for any Pine Martens that may care to visit. An hour later, one did, in really good light. One of the photos will no doubt come with this report.

Kate's excellent fare was again gratefully consumed and there were some early retirements soon after. The suggestion of early morning walks received a less enthusiastic response.

Day 6

Wednesday 6th August

Fun in the sun

Some days we like to save Kate a journey to Glenborrodale when possible. She chose Wednesday this week and we duly obliged with an itinerary that ended with the Ariundle Forst walk.

Before that, we made for Tioram Castle for another of Ardnamurchan's more picturesque venues, with some stops on the way to and from.

Our first stop was at Loch Shiel, where we found a party of Little Grebes, trilling Redpolls, Tufted Ducks, Grey Herons, and Red-breasted Mergansers. Dragonflies were seen around the hedges on the way in, but were elusive at the lochside, despite the early warmth.

We went on to Kentra Moss in the hope of finding the long-stemmed Round-leaved Sundew and perhaps some dragonflies. The former was found first some way down a very wet old track and then in abundance around the van! The latter, in the breezy open space, was laying low. We checked out Kentra Bay but could only add Oystercatchers and a single Redshank to the list. So, to the castle!

The drive to the castle is a delight, passing over a picturesque road bridge over the river Shiel, a delightful millpond with lovely old wooden jetties for fly fishing, a riverside drive and some unspoilt meadows with copses every so often – one of which had a late staying Spotted Flycatcher seen by me at distance but which disappeared whilst giving clients directions.

As we arrived, I picked out the White-tailed Eagle's nest in distant trees, but it looked rather dishevelled and vacant, with no eagles thereabouts. Some took early lunch as we wandered over to the Castle mound for an elevated view of the area, where we found more Oystercatchers and Curlews on the shingle and Rock Doves on the castle where they breed. But it was otherwise quiet. The 90 minutes I suggested we stay seemed more than most of us needed, so we started to head back to the van with discussions as to where we might head next on the way to the Ariundle centre.

Mary had gone for a wander... She had found solitude and tranquil around the back of the castle, sat on a rock. I gave her a gentle wave to indicate that we were leaving, but it was simply interpreted as a wave. As I rejoined the group, there was no sign of Mary. She emerged to dawdle along the shore, still deep in contemplation, so Richard kindly jogged over to let her know we were intending to leave.

We worked out that there would be enough time to reach Genuig to enjoy a fresh brew (and a nice view) with lunch, for those who still had some left...

Distant Manx Shearwaters and Gannets rode the wind on the far side of the loch at Glenuig, while Redpolls flew around. A Raven made off with someone's lunch and consumed it on the nearby ridge. Alison visited the smokery and came back with some fishy goods, just as we packed up to leave for Ariundle.

A brief stop at Loch Shiel yielded a very distant Black-throated Diver. So distant, in fact, that some didn't feel the need to scope it.

Back to Ariundle then, for the forest walk. We elected to get straight on with it and enjoyed a 150-minute dawdle along the woodland track, across the heath and taking two beautiful foot bridges across the burn. Until then, we had fleeting glimpses of the odd few Scotch Argus butterfly, but now they were everywhere, and posing nicely. Other butterflies found were Small White, Peacock, Speckled Wood and Comma. Common Darter showed occasionally, as did Common Hawker, twice seen chasing the much rarer Northern Emerald, which sadly never settled for a better look. Birds were few, with the occasional Willow Warbler issuing its "hu-eet" contact call and a couple of Buzzards wandering over. Siskins and Redpolls were occasionally calling overhead but on this occasion, no Crossbills materialised. Despite the quiet conditions, this is a lovely wild walk with beautiful scenery and an essential fixture in any Ardnamurchan trip.

Day 7

Thursday 7th August

Mop-up day

Well at least, that was the aspiration. The two biggies that were "missing" from the list were Golden Eagle and Minke Whale. Accepting that no tour of Ardnamurchan should miss a visit to Sanna Bay on a sunny day (as was forecast today), we put together an itinerary that gave us a bit of a chance of both.

This involved first, a visit to Camas nan Geall viewpoint, where we could see an expanse of sea and survey the crater for large-winged critters riding the ridges. The sea had Manx Shearwaters patrolling its channel out of Loch Sunart, with Gannets and Kittiwakes discernible, but around the viewpoint, we found a pair of Kestrels, two Twite that whizzed overhead calling, but little else, so we headed for the van and one or two of us had boarded by the time Alison found an adult White-tailed Eagle overhead! We watched it disappear around the opposite headland and boarded again, bound for Kilchoan via the toilets.

There was a fresh westerly blowing into the loch, with little in the way of life to be seen close to the pier, excepting the odd Gannet and Kittiwake. Then, some hope of cetacean activity when a large flock of Manxies were seen scouring an area of the loch. We waited for a few minutes to see signs of something surfacing, but alas not.

On to the lighthouse, then, which we reached shortly after 10.30. We agreed to meet at the van at noon and most of us decided to start at the picnic spot below the lighthouse, sheltered from the breeze. The usual fare ensued: Gannets (including a couple of "pre-historic" grey and white yearlings), Shags, a never-ending procession of Manxies, squeaky juvenile Guillemots begging from their parent, a single Cormorant, a flock of a dozen Oystercatcher past. I decided to scan into the teeth of the wind from under the foghorn, but to no avail cetacean-wise, with only a group of four Bar-tailed Godwits flying past.

We decided to head for Sanna and have our lunch there beneath the imposing but sun-trapping dunes. As we left the lighthouse, we came across a couple of bright, peachy-coloured Wheatears that looked like the Greenland *leucorhoa* race. Whilst lunching, we noticed that one Sand Martin nest still had a reluctant youngster in it, which was steadfast despite its parent offering a mouthful of insects to take on the wing. Maybe it was stuck...? A single female Wheatear lingered while we ate.

We strolled out onto the beach via the deep ditch below the dunes, where Sticklebacks and Whirlygig beetles were the main aquatic distractions and a couple of Skylarks twinkled a greeting. No dragonflies were on the wing, however, so it didn't take long before we were on the sand. A pair of Red-throated Divers flew out of the bay, but I couldn't get the clients onto them. Sand Martins were still hawking along the beach but the only visible life in the water was human.

We walked over to the headland and settled in for watching the bay. A Ringed Plover finally settled on the top of the rocks and was then joined by another. All the seabirds were beyond the islands at the edge of the bay, so picking out anything different from the usual would be difficult. So we took a walk along the beach to the burn, where we found a family of Dunlin with more Ringed Plovers, a lovely pink male Linnet which perched briefly on a rock and another pair of calling Twite in a big hurry!

The Common Gulls on the greensward featured a couple of youngsters but the stroll back to the van was otherwise uneventful. Stonechats appeared regularly on the road back to Kilchoan.

We agreed a last hurrah at the watchpoint. Dennis this time was the finder of an overhead White-tailed Eagle; an immature bird with dark tail. But the wind continued to blow with more of a chill, and by the time most of the clients had boarded the van, I took the hint and were back shortly before 5pm. Red Squirrels entertained us up until dinner; I photographed a Common Hawker resting on the shed and finally, as we were completing the checklist, a small rodent showed itself at the foot of one of the pines by the shed. Andy somehow managed to get a shot of it to confirm it as a Common Shrew.

The Corran Ferry had broken down and not run for three days. In the absence of any update otherwise, we agreed to leave early for Glasgow the next morning, to allow an extra hour to go around the top of Loch Linnhe...

Day 8

Friday 8th August

Clients took a cautious stance in determining the time to leave, even though some had open return rail tickets, so it was at 8am when we bade a final farewell to the Bunkhouse, expecting a four-hour journey, sans Corran Ferry, to Glasgow, via the Glenfinnan Monument...

An Osprey perched behind trees on the north shore of Loch Linnhe was only seen by the leader and weight of traffic prevented us from stopping.

All was going well as we stopped in Ballachulish for a comfort break, but then we got stuck behind a duo of low-loaders with large, wide, police-escorted cargo onboard and so we crawled through Glencoe, Rannoch Moor and Bridge of Orchy, such that, by the time we reached Tyndrum, we were 90 minutes behind our original projected

arrival time at Paisley Gilmour. Really galling, such that the pair of Black-throated Divers seen at the top end of Loch Lomond did little to lift the spirits.

To make matters a little more tense, the fuel in the van had drained at such an uneconomical rate while crawling that we needed to refuel before reaching Glasgow, which required a 20-minute detour from Tarbet, exacerbated further by dysfunctional petrol pumps and the desperate need for toilets!

Thankfully, however, we reached Paisley Gilmour just in time for most of the clients to catch their intended trains, ushered through by friendly and understanding staff, such that messages came through of arrivals at quite a healthy hour of night.

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Species lists

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	August 2025							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
River Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>					5	✓		
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>				✓	✓			
European Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	✓							
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓							
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				✓	✓			
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		✓					✓	
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>								
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>								
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>		✓						
Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>		✓	30					
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>					✓			
Harbour (Common) Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>				✓			✓	
Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>			✓				✓	
Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>							✓	

Birds (h = heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	August 2025							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>						✓		
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	✓				✓	✓		
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>					✓			
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	✓					✓		
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>						✓		
European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>					✓			
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>		✓						
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓			✓	✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		✓	5		✓		2	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	August 2025							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>							✓	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				✓				
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓			✓	✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓	✓		
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓	✓			✓			
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							✓	
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	✓			✓				
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		✓		✓				
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>				✓				
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>			✓					
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>		✓		✓				
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓					✓		
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓						
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		h						
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>							✓	
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		✓						
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓							
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓							
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓					✓	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		h			h	✓		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		h						
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>							✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		h			✓		✓	
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			✓					
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	August 2025							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓						
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓						
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						✓		
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓						
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓		✓			✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓			✓	h		
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
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	✓		h			
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>						h	✓	
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>				✓			✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>		✓			✓	✓		
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		✓			✓	h		
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓						

Others noted

Common Toad
Stickleback
Whirligig Beetle
Scotch Argus
Green-veined White
Small White
Speckled Wood
Peacock
Meadow Brown
Comma
Common Hawker
Common Darter
Northern Emerald
Golden-ringed Dragonfly