

Ardnamurchan – Wild Scotland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

9th – 16th May 2022



Ringed Plover at Sanna Bay by Susan Jarrett



Puffin on Lunga by Kim Simkins



Shag on Lunga by Susan Jarrett



Early morning at Aperitif Point by Kim Simkins

Tour report by Chris Rollie



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Summary

The first spring group of the season visiting Ardnamurchan had a most enjoyable week despite rain on every day save one. Remarkably, we managed to dodge the showers and largely avoided getting wet at all. A major benefit of a generally cool and fairly windy week was that midges were never really an issue. A wealth of birdlife was seen, including both White-tailed and Golden Eagles, Hen Harrier, Greenshank, Whimbrel, Arctic Tern, Great Skua and close views of Puffins, Razorbills, Guillemots and Shags on their breeding grounds.

Perhaps the highlight for most was the boat trip to the Treshnish Isles, including Staffa, with Fingal's Cave, and two hours spent ashore on Lunga, the largest of these islands with its wonderful Puffins. As we approached Staffa the boat became surrounded by a huge pod of over one hundred Common Dolphins and everyone felt blessed as these remarkable cetaceans leapt and dived all around us, riding our bow wave as we proceeded on. Later, as we left Lunga, three much larger Bottlenose Dolphins came in close to have a look at us, and vice versa. We also saw two Otters well in one of the bays, and each evening we saw up to three Pine Martens, which even visited our window sill on several occasions!

All this, together with excellent catering, good company and those unforgettable views of mountains, lochs and Atlantic oak woodlands, made for a truly memorable week.

Day 1

Monday 9th May

Respective pick-ups were successfully made at Glasgow Central Railway Station and Glasgow Airport, then on to Duck Bay Marina for the final uplift before continuing towards Ardnamurchan. The rain was relentless and so much for spectacular Loch Lomond and the towering Ben Lomond behind, both of which were barely visible as we headed north. Dreich was the operative word, and not for the last time this week. A veritable Niagra appeared opposite Ardlui, prompting mention of savage scenery and even Sir Walter Scott. So it was that Pied Wagtail, Jackdaw and Carrion Crow were the only bird species recorded by the main party all the way to the comfort/refreshment break at the Green Welly Stop.

On then over wild Rannoch Moor with its huge expanse of heathery moor, blanket bog and lochans, to Glencoe and the grandeur of its craggy mountains, hanging with mist and punctuated by silvery white tumbling torrents and one or two lingering patches of snow in high shaded nooks. After the short ferry crossing to Corran the rain eased off at last and we picked up Greylag Geese, Heron and various gulls, but stopped to admire a lovely Mavis (Song Thrush), which hopped up onto a moss-draped oak limb, wiping its bill clean as if to say hello. Presently we reached Ardnamurchan Bunkhouse, where Kate and Nathan welcomed us with a hearty meal, and where we also met those who had travelled up by car, one of whom had seen some nice birds on the way, including Goosander, Arctic tern and Black Guillemot. Outside, Red Deer ambled past here and there.

After dinner, first one and then a second Pine Marten came to the feeding station and partook of specially provided nuts and peanut butter, enthralled the group who watched admiringly from the adjacent lounge.

Day 2

Tuesday 10th May

On the bay beneath the bunkhouse early morning walkers were rewarded by Common Sandpipers mating on a foreshore rock, whilst a pair of Ravens nibbled each other on a distant islet. An agitated Oystercatcher harangued a Herring Gull suggesting it had more than a passing interest in a large vegetated rock in the bay. On the walk back the local bird choir included Willow Warbler, Chaffinch, Wren, Dunnock, Blackbird and Mavis.

Following breakfast, we headed west to the raptor watchpoint at Camas nan Geall where we saw no raptors but picked up a fine cock Whinchat singing on a wire, then a Yellowhammer on Gorse, while all around we heard plaintive songs of Willow Warbler. A little farther on we saw our first proper herd of Red Deer and then a smaller bird diving at a much larger one with distinct 'fingers' at its wing tips. The first was a Raven, no doubt with a nest in the waterfall gully below, while the other one was unmistakably a magnificent White-tailed Eagle, which was soon joined by another, this time an immature with a dark tail which came swooping in with lowered talons at the end of its long, drooping legs. On to Kilchoan for snacks and a cracking Great Northern Diver in full summer plumage a little way out in the bay, just off the slipway at Mingarry pier.

Ardnamurchan Point was very atmospheric in sun, shade and squally showers in the teeth of a south-westerly wind blowing white horses towards us. Hundreds of Manx Shearwaters and good numbers of Kittiwakes and Guillemots flew past with several Gannets and Shags. A Common Seal reached above the green creamola foam in the bay, whilst the café provided a welcome cuppa and shelter for some, but the sun was never too far away. On to Sanna Bay with its gorgeous white sands, black gabbro rocks and aquamarine blue sea racing onshore. Oystercatchers, Common Sandpipers, Ringed Plovers and two Dunlin in summer plumage were about the shore, but the highlight for many was half a dozen or so Twite calling to us in the dunes with their distinctive nasal wheeze. We even managed (eventually) to get the telescope onto one on the ground and so managed some cracking views of this elusive little beauty.

Back to Kilchoan through a huge volcanic crater, thankfully extinct for some 60 million years but still easily discerned. Wheatears were plentiful along the way and a Kestrel was glimpsed briefly by some. We finished the outing at Aperitif Point near the bunkhouse, but no Otters seen. A lovely dinner was followed by the daily log session and a Pine Marten extravaganza. Early to bed after a great day.

Day 3

Wednesday 11th May

A calm early morning walk down to the bay delivered a Greenshank, which unusually flew off silently, followed by an equally quiet Whaup (Curlew). Then a magical moment as a big Red Deer stag wandered into the middle of a wee burn, stopped and turned his head to look back at us, his developing antlers cupping bright golden early light as it played on the bay behind. As if on cue, a huge White-tailed Eagle flapped over the sea and on over our heads. We walked on out to the point, accompanied by birdsong, but no Otters. However, the eagle returned.

After breakfast we headed west to Kilchoan and Mingarry Pier, our embarkation point for a boat trip to the Treshnish Isles. A White-tailed Eagle was seen up towards a wind turbine beyond the raptor viewpoint, but we didn't stop. Linnets took off from the road as we dropped off the moor, while a Common Buzzard showed above forestry. Sedge Warblers sang loudly from reeds opposite the Ferry Stores. The substantial Staffa Tours boat (twin-decked with toilet), out from Tobermory on Mull, called at Mingarry at 1000 and we were soon on

our way in bright sun towards the romantic Treshnishes. Common Terns and Razorbills flew past, and some saw Manx Shearwaters once we'd cleared Loch Sunart. Atlantic Grey Seals and Eider Ducks were about the rocks as we came through the sound of Carna. Towards Staffa the skipper announced that he'd been alerted by other boats to an unusually large pod of dolphins, and presently we were amidst over one hundred Common Dolphins, which leapt and dived all around us and just took our breath away – the smiling faces all-around said it all. What a spectacle! The boat idled for a bit, allowing us all to just admire in awe. When we edged on to Staffa many of the dolphins rode the bow wave and shot beneath and in front of us. A three-metre swell prevented us from landing on Staffa, but did provide a special treat in watching the sea rushing into and exploding up the walls of the geometric basaltic cave against the musical backdrop of Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture, inspired by his own experience of the cave. All the while Dutchman's Cap (island) sat serenely out to the west, with Coll and Tiree beyond.

By now we were seeing lots of Puffins flying back and forth for we were approaching Lunga, the largest of the island group and home to many breeding Puffins and other seabirds. We spent two special hours and had lunch on Lunga, enjoying the Puffins as they came and went from their burrows at very close quarters. Razorbills were near neighbours in several places, while Shags occupied various recesses beneath rocky slabs. At least a couple of Great Skuas or Bonxies pirated about as a reminder that not all breeding attempts would prevail. Just as we left the island and looked over several Eider, the skipper alerted us to a group of three much larger Bottlenose Dolphins and presently they were all around us, diving under the boat and breathing through their blowholes as they surfaced. Superb. The sunny journey back was wind assisted and relatively calm, with isolated showers well in the distance. We paused at Ardmore Point, where the skipper pointed out a pair of adult White-tailed Eagles perched near their eyrie. Apparently, one of the pair is a recent arrival and it appears they may not have laid this year.

After a quick stop for Magnums in the sun at Kilchoan Ferry Stores, we motored back east to Glenborrodale Bay, where we had good views of Greenshank and Great Northern Diver but still no Otter. A much better day brought out a few Green-veined White butterflies. We had just finished another fine dinner when, at 1953 in bright daylight, a Pine Marten appeared on the picnic table outside – before we'd even put food out! It seemed as much in disbelief as we were, but soon reverted to one of the bird feeders. Food was then provided and normal service resumed, with a second animal arriving as darkness fell. Many photos and videos were obtained in the good light and so ended another fantastic day.

Day 4

Thursday 12th May

By morning all food put out for the martens has gone, including peanut butter smeared on bricks and posts. While the martens themselves take much of this, undoubtedly Red Deer and various birds also tuck in. Great Spotted Woodpecker was on the feeder first thing as we set out for our pre-breakfast walk down to the bay, where a Greenshank probed exposed mud and weed. An Oystercatcher incubated atop its nesting rock in the bay, whilst the non-sitting bird eyed-up passing gulls angrily. Further out, a number of Common Terns were feeding. A light breeze kept midges away and the light across the bay was just stunning.

After breakfast we headed east towards Salen then north to Acharacle and Moidart, where Bonnie Prince Charlie arrived to pursue his destiny all those many years ago. We drove alongside the swollen River Shiel and then along the coast road to ruined Tioram Castle, situated handsomely on its rocky island overlooking Loch Moidart

and to which we took a pleasant stroll across a causeway at low tide. The charm of the castle was rather spoiled briefly as a drone emerged incongruously from its roofless interior to hover high above us, the pilot having cheekily crawled under an iron grill to gain entry. A couple of Shags fished offshore, and a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers were just about telescope objects awaiting the tide on the seaweed encrusted shore of Riska Island. Back across the causeway a Ringed Plover came off a shallow scrape containing four beautifully camouflaged eggs, which we hastily left in order that the plover could return. Out above the tideline an immature White-tailed Eagle was spotted and it was presently persuaded to land by the annoying attentions of Herring Gulls. This gave us a perfect opportunity to scope the big bird, its striking yellow beak seen very clearly. An earlier roadside Heron overlooking a pond proved to be a plastic one on reviewing. Lists can never be too rigid, but never plastic!

Following refreshments in Loch Shiel Hotel, it was on to Kentra Bog, but no Red Squirrels at the surgery feeders. A few Common Redpolls were about gardens on the edge of the hamlet and an odd Wheatear and Whaup (Curlew) were spotted on the drive out past the old peat workings to the jetty, with its magnificent views back across Kentra Bay to Ben Resipol. Much better views of mergansers, too. In heavy rain, lunch was taken in the vehicle by the pier on Loch Shiel, but this gave us stunning views of Black-throated Diver and even a pair of Tufted Duck to provide both ends of the avian black, white and grey spectrum.

Heavy rain prevailed and so it was on to the hide overlooking Loch Sunart at Garbh Eilean, which was just what we were after: shelter and a wealth of wildlife to view before us, including a dozen or more Red-breasted Mergansers, three Common Seals, several Common Sandpipers and an active heronry with several nests in view. Two of the group briefly spied a White-tailed Eagle over a distant ridge. We waited through high tide for a while but saw no Otters, and, as the rain intensified, we retreated to the Bothy Bar in Strontian for a pre-dinner drink. A fine meal was served up by Kate and Nathan et al at the nearby Ariundle Centre, and then it was back to the bunkhouse for the Pine Marten display – we weren't disappointed (two this night). All were too tired for a night drive in the rain, but retired content with another good day.

Day 5

Friday 13th May

The early morning walk to Aperitif Point was largely dry with only a few spits of rain now and then. A strong wind held the tide in and the bay was still nearly full, so there were few birds around inshore. Oystercatchers were still incubating on their rock, as were a pair of Great Black-backed Gulls a little west of the point. Woodland birdlife was still relatively quiet for the time of year, probably on account of the cold weather. Blackbirds, Mavis, Wrens and Willow Warblers did their best to show the way, and an occasional Blackcap and Chiffchaff too. The high-pitched whine of Treecreeper betrayed its position as it circled up a roadside trunk.

Following breakfast, we drove the short distance to RSPB Glenborrodale Reserve and spent the rest of the morning on the trail up through its oak woodland to the moorland edge. It was very quiet bird and butterfly-wise in the dull, windy conditions, but the woodland shelter allowed us to enjoy Bluebells, Wood Anemones, Bog Myrtle, Blaeberry, Lousewort, Tormential and insectivorous Butterwort. Many were surprised that Primroses were still in full bloom in many places. A few Red Deer were seen, one clearing a significant fence from a standing start with ease. Buzzard, Tree Pipit, Meadow Pipits and Willow Warbler were all seen well, but the highlight was a super Wood Warbler, which sang its distinctive spinning coin song, punctuated by melodic pew, pew, pewing. Just in from Africa and our first (and last!) of the trip, this bird was seen very well as it moved

through the canopy, feeding and singing on quivering wings as he went. Bullfinches were also nearby and offered fleeting views here and there.

Then it was on to the Natural History Centre at Glenmore for late morning refreshments, checking bays as we went. Just as Otters were beginning to attain mythical status, we came down the road to Port na Croisg and there in the bay, not far from the jetty, were two of them! Wooahoo! Although everyone saw them quite well, they didn't hang around but rounded the point and out of sight. We spent a bit of time on the next bay at Camas Fearna, a favoured haunt, but no more sign of them. Lunch was in the van at Camus nan Geall viewpoint on account of the strong wind, but we soon picked up an adult White-tailed Eagle, together with a few Hooded Crows and a Raven.

On the way to Swordle Bay, beyond Kilmory on the northern coast of the peninsula, our first Reed Bunting was called, plus a few Siskins, Wheatears and Meadow Pipits. Respecting the private road sign, we parked off the main road and walked down the track to the delightful bay with its chambered cairns and Viking grave. Cuckoos called against the wind, while House Martins and Swallows did their best to swoop on any insects that were about, but today was the day of the Common Whitethroat; none all week, now everywhere. At the cairns we picked up some gen on the location of a White-tailed Eagle's eyrie, which we were able to scope from a very safe distance on the way back. An adult was perched on the eyrie beside what looked like the rear end of a Flamingo, but which clearly wasn't – most likely a blood-stained gull or some other prey/carrion. We then picked up a second White-tailed Eagle, which was being harried in the distance by a male Hen Harrier, which soon broke off and flew characteristically along the skyline before skydancing briefly. On the eyrie we saw at least one downy head of a chick bobbing about next to the adult.

Back on Loch Sunart it was much cloudier and an altogether different afternoon, with light smur or mizzle descending as we ate dinner. It didn't last, though we had already decided against a night time drive for mammals. At 2130 the Pine Marten show began, with three different individuals seen at once – the newcomer being much darker than the usual two. For some reason we decided it was a male and he came in left field very briefly to be immediately dispatched whence he came by the (we thought) older, larger and dominant resident. By now the light had improved and we were able to watch both original martens feeding in virtual daylight, with much phone footage secured.

Day 6

Saturday 14th May

The day began dull but soon brightened and by the time we reached Aperitif Point on our pre-breakfast walk the light was lust magical as it played on the bay and the lush vegetation on the braes and islands. Several Common Terns foraged noisily in the outer bay and two screeching Sandwich Terns flew through them and on out to the west. A Red Deer was spotted on the island just off the point. Seals bobbed here and there.

After breakfast we headed west to the raptor viewpoint and walked down the track to the shore at Camus nan Geall. Yellowhammer, Wheatear, Whitethroat and Linnets were all seen well, while Common Redpolls trilled over happily. Ringed Plovers were on the shore and a Great Northern Diver in the bay as we examined the various historical features including the Neolithic standing stone, with a later carved Christian cross on its seaward face. Cuckoos called constantly and two flew past quite close, whilst hundreds of bees hummed in Sycamore blossom over ancient cairns. A great start to the morning but no eagles over Ben Hiant. On to the

Natural History Centre for refreshments, checking bays as we went – more Great Northern Divers and the usual waders. We then continued on to Garbh Eilean hide for lunch overlooking the seals. By this time the sun was in charge and there was a welcome sprinkling of butterflies about the car park and tracksides, including Peacocks, Green-veined Whites, Orange Tips, Speckled Woods and a single Meadow Brown. With the tide out some 40 Common Seals were hauled out on various rocks and islets here and there. A constant to-ing and fro-ing of Herons to and from their nests kept us alert and presently a few Red-breasted Mergansers arrived and commenced displaying. Continuing east along Loch Sunart we stopped by a wee hump-backed bridge to see Common Sandpipers, Greylag Geese, Pied Wagtails, Mallard and a Blue Tit feeding young in an open-topped pipe from a road sign – all within 30 yards or so of us in a delightful wee cameo scene.

On to Ariundle National Nature Reserve, where the loop walk is still not possible due to FLS's failure to repair the lower bridge (three years now according to Kate). Undeterred, we walked up to the top bridge, admiring the superb Atlantic Oak woodland habitat as we went, but which was still strangely devoid of expected warblers and Redstart. However, there were lots more of the earlier butterflies, Tree Pipits, Whinchat and Reed Bunting, the latter singing his heart out on top of a birch in full sun. Something of an avian ventriloquist, they are always further away than one thinks! Alerted by a request for information at RSPB Glenborrodale, we found a Violet Oil Beetle *Meloe violaceus*, complete with insect passengers. A rest by the upper bridge over Strontian River failed to deliver Dipper and neither did we see one on walking a favoured stretch between the two lowest bridges in Strontian village. Pre-dinner drinks were taken outside in the Bothy Bar's sunny garden, overlooking the magnificent Strontian Bay in the full glory of a four-metre tide. The early evening sunlight across the flat calm bay was quite serene and contrasted appealingly with a very small lady with a huge Deer Hound in harness who stopped to give us her dog's life story. However, tranquillity returned and we sat enthralled as Mallards moved over the water, a Greenshank ghosted in to land on an exposed grassy spit, and a (real) Grey Heron stood statue-like and staring into the water on the far side of the bay. The Mallards were all checked for the far-famed American Black Duck which frequented Strontian for some 15 years, but we didn't see it and perhaps it's gone after all these years.

Up at the Ariundle Centre Kate et al gave us a lovely dinner and we drove back to the bunkhouse in the gloaming alongside a flat calm Loch Sunart, stopping here and there to check out ripples, including some which revealed a lovely wee Black Guillemot swimming towards us very close inshore. The fading light was really special and created magic between the far hillsides and the water. Back at the bunkhouse there were two Pine Martens this evening.

Day 7

Sunday 15th May

On a dry early morning walk Glenborrodale Bay was tranquil with the tide well in and the sea smooth as glass in the soft morning light, all framed by verdant surrounding woods, crags and islands. It was like a fairytale scene from a lost book of youth, with several Canada Geese and Mallard sailing around the freshwater inflow to the east. Common Sandpipers flickered low over the water like ballerinas on ice and all was mostly silent except for distant honking of Canada Geese and the piping of Oystercatchers now and then as something or other upset them. Out at Aperitif Point there were at least a dozen Common Terns to-ing, fro-ing and diving into the still water. The early sun in the east was initially shrouded by an isolated gossamer-thin cloud, which cast a dappled light that contrasted yet blended with the full sun on the hills across Loch Sunart. No Otters, but this spot is always worth a visit and the birdsong chorus there and back was a glorious accompaniment.

After breakfast in the bunkhouse it was on to the raptor viewpoint at Camas nan Geall, where we, at last, picked up first one, then another, Golden Eagle above and out from the craggy skyline of Ben Hiant. The first bird was carrying prey or carrion of some kind, and they both successively disappeared and reappeared behind and in front of the seaward crags, with one of them perching up just behind a distant rocky bluff. Not great views but enough to confirm the species and the overall majesty of their slow effortless flight, and crucially to illustrate the different shape and overall jizz of this species from their white-tailed neighbours.

We then scoped the eyrie of the latter species, where an adult, we presumed the female, perched a bit higher up and looking down on her chick(s). Every now and then we saw a downy head bobbing and once a downy wing, too. Presently, we picked up a second White-tailed Eagle, possibly the mate, over a distant ridge and soon a male Hen Harrier came into view as he glided characteristically back and forth low over the heather. A pair of Common Buzzards floated over the eyrie, but the guardian eagle never stirred, and neither did it when light rain smur came in from the east. Throughout all this a fine cock Whinchat sang from the top of a nearby Willow just below us, offering stunning views. Cuckoos called constantly and a Grey Wagtail was spotted on a wee roadside burn as we dropped down to the Puffin tearoom at Kilchoan. By this time the sun had returned and Magnums were called for.

On then to Fasdale on the northern coast of the peninsula. Four Whimbrels came in and landed briefly in a wet field beside the road and various small passerines were seen along the way including Skylark, Wheatear, Stonechat and Meadow Pipit. A heavy rain shower descended as we reached the car park, but by the time we'd eaten our packed lunches, the rain stopped and we were able to walk out to the point and enjoy fine views of Muck, Eigg, Rum and the far Cuillins of Skye. Offshore there was a bird feeding frenzy involving Kittiwakes, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, Gannet and Manx Shearwaters. Many of the latter were swimming on the sea, and the transformation from their sedentary form on the water, to long-winged scythes in the air, was impressive. Six Great Northern Divers, some still in transition plumage, were seen closer inshore before we walked back over the wee bog with its insectivorous Sundews and Heath Spotted Orchids.

The un-forecasted rain returned with a vengeance but we did manage to spot our first Lapwing as it flew across the road and landed near Achateny Water. Back on the eyrie the female White-tailed eagle was now sheltering her offspring but we continued on to the bays on Loch Sunart where we saw lots of Common Terns, Common Seals, several Great Northern Divers and three Harbour Porpoises, before heading back to the bunkhouse for a cuppa, a chorus of Happy Birthday and a slice of cake! Our final flurry of the day was on a short walk back down to Glenborrodale Bay and out to the point, but rain stopped play and we returned for a bit of packing, preparation and a final lovely dinner from Kate and Nathan, who had looked after us so well all week.

The younger (?) Pine Marten with the light ear tips appeared around 2100 in broad daylight, the rain having ceased, and it ate, leapt and became the star of many home movies this night. The other, older (?) individual arrived soon after and systematically set about the remaining nuts and peanut butter. At 2315 a Tawny Owl hooted loudly outside and so ended another good day and our super week in Ardnamurchan.

Day 8

Monday 16th May

After breakfast and the customary group photo out front, we gave respective farewells to our driving friends and headed east to the Corran Ferry at 0800. A few birds were seen along the way, but none new for the week,

although we did see our first Roe Deer. A brief stop at Forestry and Land Scotland's trail feeding station at Glen Righ failed to deliver Red Squirrel and it was on to Glencoe, where a bright break in weather facilitated a brief stop for scenic photographs of its rugged grandeur, the rowans and other scrub clinging to the crags illustrating just how much more magnificent it could be as a nature spectacle if sheep and deer were reduced or removed; not an easy one though. The rain continued across Rannoch Moor and indeed throughout our comfort/refreshment stop at the Green Welly Stop and on down Loch Lomond to our first drop off at Duck Bay Marina. We arrived at Glasgow Central Station a little before 1300 and then out to the airport for the final drop-off a bit after that, and so ended a most enjoyable week of wonderful wildlife, breath-taking scenery, good food and company in the UK's most westerly mainland peninsula.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; + = approximate count; h = heard only)

	Common name		May 2022							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓					
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓							
6	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				2				
7	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>			✓	✓				
8	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	✓							
9	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>						1		
11	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>				1	2			
12	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		1	3			2	10	
13	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			✓					
14	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		✓	✓				✓	
15	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓	✓				✓	
17	European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
18	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
19	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>							2	
20	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>					1		1	
21	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		2	4	3	4	1	2	
22	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	1	2	1	2	2	6	
23	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>							1	
25	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>							4	
27	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			1	3	✓		1	
28	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			1	1		2		
29	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		2						
31	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		✓	✓				✓	
32	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
34	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	✓	✓						
36	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				1		3	1	
37	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
38	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	✓	✓						
39	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>			2					
40	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓					
41	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		✓	✓					
42	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	✓		✓			1		

	Common name		May 2022							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
43	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>			✓					
44	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓	✓	✓			
45	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> 'feral'					✓			✓
46	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			h	✓	✓	✓	h	
47	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
48	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>							h	
50	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	✓	✓	h	✓		✓	✓	
51	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1						
52	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			1	2		✓	✓	
53	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓						✓
54	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓							✓
55	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
57	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
58	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
60	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓	✓				✓	
62	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
64	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				h		✓		
65	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			h	h	h	✓	✓	
67	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>					1			
68	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
69	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		h	✓	✓	✓			
72	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>					✓	h		
74	Common Starling	<i>Sternus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓					✓	
80	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
81	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
82	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
83	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
84	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						✓	✓	✓
85	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		h		✓	✓	✓	✓	
88	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

			May 2022							
	Common name		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
89	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>					3	✓		
91	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>		6						
92	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
93	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
94	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
95	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		h	✓		✓	✓	✓	
97	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoenicus</i>					✓	✓		

Mammals

			May 2022							
	Scientific name	Common name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	River Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>					2			
2	Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	
3	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>								1
5	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			3					
6	Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>			100 +					
7	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			1					
8	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>							3	
9	Harbour (Common) Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>				3		40	10	
10	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			✓					
11	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>		✓	✓					
12	Short-tailed Field Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>					1			

Other animal species

Scientific name

Common name

Butterflies

1	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
2	Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
3	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
4	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
5	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>
6	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>

Other Insects

1	Highland Midge	<i>Culicoides impunctatus</i>
2	White-tailed Bumble bee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>
3	Garden Tiger Moth (cat.)	<i>Arctia caja</i>
4	Speckled Yellow Moth	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>
5	Violet Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe violaceus</i>

Notable plants

	Common name	Scientific name
	Flowers	
1	Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>
2	Field Forget-me-Not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>
3	Yellow Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
4	Creeping Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>
5	Heath Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>
6	Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>
7	Common Sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>
8	Bog Myrtle	<i>Myrica gale</i>
9	Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
10	Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
11	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>



Violet Oil Beetle *Meloe violaceus* at Ariundle National Nature Reserve by Susan Jarrett