

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

### GRAMPIAN & SPEYSIDE

17-27 SEPTEMBER 2011

**Leaders:** Simon Eaves.

**Guests:** Angela Mackersie, Patsy Kettle, Penny Overton, Dave Thompson.

**Day 1** Sunshine and heavy showers greet us as we arrive at the steading so there's not much chance for birding before dinner. Dave has already had a good start to his holiday though, stopping at a nature reserve on his drive north he has already seen a Long-billed Dowicher and an Otter!

Simon collects Patsy and Penny from the train station and we spot a Roe Deer on the way back close to the Steading. Angela arrives a little later by train and before long we are enjoying dinner and discussing our plans for the holiday ahead.

**Day 2** The rain has continued through the night but it has slowed to light showers this morning so by the time we leave it's not too bad. We start the day with a local walk through some woodland. We glimpse a couple of Goldcrests as they flit through the canopy and a few Meadow Pipits fly around the forest clearings but it appears quite quiet this morning. At last after about half an hour walking we come across a mixed flock of birds, Blue, Great and Coal Tits with several Goldcrests and nice views of a Treecreeper, then to top it off a Crossbill flies overhead calling.

Walking on we find another flock moving through the trees close to the main track everything is very close and at eye level so we get some brilliant views of Treecreepers and Goldcrests as a result.

We drive on from here stopping briefly by the bridge over the River Spey where we add Goldeneye to the list before the rain sees us back into the van. We were hoping to explore an upland valley today but with the showers and low cloud we decide to leave this for a better day.

A few miles up the Spey Valley we drive up a little side road with a view over some moorland on the edge of some scattered Scots Pine woodland, it's good habitat for Crested Tits so we stop here for a cuppa and a listen. We have not even had chance to break out the shortbread when Simon

hears a Crested Tit calling from a nearby tree. There's a small mixed flock of birds mostly Coal Tits but we eventually get some nice views of a Crestie with its little crest silhouetted against the sky. Patsy and Penny are very pleased as they missed seeing one of these special little birds on their last visit.

We drive again from here birding from the van as it's still a bit showery. A little single track road winds through some farmland and as we drive, several Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtails flit along the roadside fences. Flocks of Rooks and Jackdaws are feeding in the fields and we find a small group of Greylag Geese as well. A Rainbow indicates a brief spell of sunshine and we spot two Buzzards and a flock of Goldfinches before we meet the main road again.

We stop again and jump out to look at the River Spey from an old wooden road bridge. This is normally a great spot for Dippers but the river is very high from all the rain and there is no sign. We do, however, get some great scope views of a little flock of Lesser Redpolls and Siskins that are feeding on some seed heads just below us beside the bridge. Angela spots a Dipper flying low over the water but it's gone before she can say anything and it doesn't reappear.

We find shelter in the ancient pine woods of Abernethy to have lunch and actually the rain has stopped for a while. We go on foot from here walking out though the forest in hope of some of the pinewood specialities like Crossbills and Crested Tits. At the top of a hill the forest opens to a clearing near a small croft and we find a Dunnock and a distant Roe Deer then suddenly a male Black Grouse flies off from the edge of the field and into the woods it's a brief tail end view but a tricky bird to see at this time of the year.

As we reach the furthest point in our walk the heavens open and we get a bit of a soaking but it does add to the wilderness experience of the views over this ancient landscape of Scots Pine trees stretching out into the distance. Some distant calls of Crested Tit and some frustratingly just out of sight crossbills calling from the tree tops entertain us on the walk back.

We drive back across a little area of moorland and grab another cuppa while we search for Black Grouse on the surrounding hills. Several Swallows are making the most of this dry spell as the rain has stopped swooping low over the moor feeding up before their long migration. Simon finds a nice male Black Grouse feeding on the distant hillside and we see it pretty well in the scopes as it moves around on some short vegetation, there's a little herd

of Red Deer on the hillside here as well. We are just about to pack up when Dave spots a large bird flying straight towards us over the birch trees across the moor at first we can't tell what it is then suddenly it turns a little and we realise it's a juvenile Gannet! We are over thirty miles from the sea here and there have only been a couple of records of Gannet in Speyside before so it's a very pleasant surprise and a great end to the day.

The day may be over but the night is just beginning and after dinner we head out again down to the mammal hide to see what we can see.

We have only been in the hide for about ten minutes when a Badger appears at the edge of the spotlight. It's a little wary but very soon comes into the light to feed on the peanuts we have spread out on the grass. Soon after a second Badger joins the first one in front of the hide it's great to see them so closely. Suddenly out of nowhere a Pine Marten appears but it's wary of the Badgers and so it scrambles up a nearby silver birch tree and we can see it peering round the trunk watching what the badgers are doing. A few minutes pass and the Badgers wander round the other side of the hide allowing the Marten to scamper down the tree and onto the bird table that we have baited with sultanas. The Pine Marten feeds in full view for several minutes allowing us a really close look and some photos before it slinks off back into the forest.

The Badgers remain at the hide snuffling around till the very last peanut has been found then they scuttle off back into the night. We stay a while longer but nothing returns again apart from a little Wood Mouse so after a great evening we head for home.

### Day 3

It's a much better day today with sunshine and light winds so after breakfast we drive a short way north up the A9 to a highland glen to search for some upland birds and mammals.

A narrow single track road winds up the valley following a shallow fast flowing river and after a couple of miles we stop beside a little bridge and jump out for a scan. There's a Grey Heron on the river bank up stream and several Mistle Thrushes rattle overhead. A Kestrel drifts by followed by a couple of Ravens and Simon picks out some Mountain Goats on the hillside which we view through the telescopes.

We move on stopping at a higher view point overlooking the valley the Ravens are on the opposite hillside and look as if they may be feeding on something so we hang around for a while to see if any other raptors come along. A Bullfinch calls from the trees below us and eventually shows

in the open. Several Common Buzzards and another Kestrel pass by and we get a closer look at the Mountain Goats and some Red Deer from here. Suddenly a whoosh of wings behind us alerts us to a Peregrine chasing Mistle Thrushes, it's a young bird and it misses everything before powering up the valley out of sight.

A Grey Wagtail shows nicely as it bounds along the road in front of us then lands right in the middle of the road! We reach almost the end of the drivable road and stop by a bridge over the river. From here we have a great all round view of the surrounding hills and this is often the best place to look for raptors so we break out the coffee and start to scan. Several Buzzards are cruising around along the ridges and Kestrels and a Peregrine put in several appearances while we watch. While watching a herd of red deer on the hill side an adult Golden Eagle appears cruising back and forth along the hill top, it's a fair way off but with a head wind blowing when it turns into the wind it's almost stationary in the sky at times, allowing us easy viewing through the telescopes. Brilliant!

We take a short walk from here across the valley floor enjoying the sunshine and spectacular views and as we reach the opposite hillside we scan for Mountain Hares. It takes a while but eventually Simon finds a single hare tucked in a bit of a dip on the hillside among the short heather. Wary of predators like Golden Eagles, Mountain Hares are very good at sitting still and that is exactly what this one does but it's a nice view nevertheless.

Back at the vans we drive on alongside the river, Angela spots a Dipper and this time we all see it, as it perches on a rock on the far bank. We watch as it bobs along the waters edge feeding along the riverbank. We have lunch at the end of the road surrounded by hills with Buzzards and Ravens flying across the valley.

We walk again after lunch keeping half an eye out for another eagle but the skies have gone quiet, we do get some closer views of some Red Deer though. We drive slowly back down the valley and try another road stopping to watch two Roe Deer by the road side that freeze when we stop the van and are not sure whether to stand or run, we watch them for a while before they decide to run off into the woods. We add Red-legged Partridge to the day list before heading back towards Aviemore.

One last stop and we are searching a crag on the edge of the village where a pair of Peregrines nest. A few minutes later and Simon picks out one of the adults perched on a branch on the cliff side. It looks content to just sit

and after a little while watching it in the scopes preening we suspect it has done all its flying for today so we head on home.

#### Day 4

It's clearly the best day so far as the forecast had promised, so today we are heading into the Cairngorm Mountains. Close to the end of the ski road above the tree line Dave spots a male Black Grouse as it flies low right in front of the van!

The sun is shining but there are a few distant showers threatening our walk, however, with waterproofs to hand and visibility good all the way to the top of the mountain we set off from the ski centre car park. Some Meadow Pipit flit ahead of us and we find some Red Grouse a few metres from the track about halfway up the mountain trail. At first we think there are only three grouse but when they decide to take off several more flush from the heather.

We walk a bit further and pause for a breather just short of the area in which we hope to find our main target for this mountain day, the Ptarmigan. Angela's sharp eyes pick out a couple of white wings flying across the scree slopes ahead of us in the bottom of the corrie. With the scopes we can pick out a flock of at least a dozen Ptarmigan feeding among the boulders it's great to see so many at once and some of them are already quite white in preparation for the winter.

We decide to try and get a little closer so walk out as far as we can across the bottom of the corrie until it gets too rough underfoot. A late Wheatear bounds away from us as we settle down to try and relocate the Ptarmigan. Their camouflage is very boulder like and it takes us a while to find them again among the boulders but it's nice to get a little closer to this hardy grouse. We have made good time getting up the hill and decide to get back to the van for lunch which is a good decision as the heavens open just as we get back. Lunch in the Van!

We spot some of the local reindeer herd as we drive back down the hill then we head on into the sheltered pine woods for a short walk. We are hoping to find some Crested Tits and get some better views of them here. Sure enough we have not gone far when we hear the distinctive trill of a Crestie, it shows well in a Pine Tree before flying on. We come across a tit flock in the birch trees and enjoy several species including Long-tailed Tits as they move through the wood.

We wander down to the sandy shores of Loch Morlich that are very peaceful at this time of year and we find a couple of Goldeneye on the water. On the walk back we spot a Red Squirrel running through the trees, we get some nice views as it leaps from branch to branch. The local Cafe is calling after all the walking we've been doing and it has the added bonus of peanut feeders outside the windows. Within a few minutes there are several Red Squirrels scampering around the feeders vying for our attention!

## Day 5

Simon can't come out with us today but Chrissie has kindly stepped in to guide the group around Speyside for the day.

Unfortunately it's set to rain a lot today and sure enough it's pretty wet as we set out so we head down the road a short way to the RSPB reserve at Insh Marshes. There are a couple of Roe Deer grazing out in the open and Dave spots a Marsh Harrier which is great as it's getting quite late in the year for seeing them here and even in the summer they are a scarce bird this far north. A quick dash through the rain back to the main hide and it's a good chance to enjoy a cuppa in the dry!

We head back up the valley towards Loch Garten where we brave the weather and walk a short trail through the pine forest towards Loch Mallachie. A few Coal Tits call from the trees as we walk but it's almost too wet to look up for them! We come across a carpet of pine cones scattered all over the track and Chrissie explains this is the work of Crossbills feeding up in the trees and then dropping the cones once they have extracted the seed, sadly there is neither sight nor sound of any actual Crossbills.

We find a little shelter in some woodland near Carrbridge for lunch and then move on for a drive over some moorland on the northern edge of Speyside. Amazingly the sun is breaking through and the heather moors look stunning in the autumn light still with a soft glow of purple. This is the almost exclusive realm of Red Grouse at this time of year and before long we find some of these cryptic birds sneaking through the heather by the roadside, we get some nice views of them using the van as a hide.

It's a pleasant drive back to the steading but with the weather turning wet again and a long day ahead tomorrow we call it a day a little early.

## Day 6

Today we leave for the Grampian Coast but we have all day to get there so we decide to spend some more time looking for Capercaillie before leaving Speyside. After a short drive we enter a small area of woodland, this is a good place to start so we head out on foot in search of this elusive grouse. There is a flock of small birds in the treetops and with a bit

of “pishing” they come a little closer, a Crested Tit perches out on a low branch and we spot our first Wren of the week which have really declined with the last two cold winters. A Crossbill flies over but in typical Crossbill fashion perches somewhere out of view.

Walking on Simon points out some Capercaillie droppings on the track it's a good sign that there has been a bird around quite recently. A Buzzard flaps off through the trees and several more Crested Tits are calling in the distance. Suddenly a male Capercaillie leaps into the air from the heather only about a hundred yards away and flies low away from us. Amazing! As far as Capercaillie sightings go it's a pretty good one so we are all more than pleased.

Another flock of Crossbills tease us calling in the distance somewhere out in the forest but we just can't locate them from the track we are on. A Jay calls as we wander back towards the van and another Crossbill flies overhead again out of sight through the canopy.

It's a fine day and we enjoy the warmth of the sun down by the river Spey as we have a coffee and watch some Goosanders feeding in the fast flowing river. We drive down the Spey valley from here heading north-east following the river to Aberlour where we stop for lunch. Some handy benches are a great place to picnic and watch Dippers. At least two Dippers are flying up and down the river dropping into the water to feed as the river is high with nowhere to perch.

We press on as we still have a way to go but the scenery is nice with the river valley giving way to hills as we drive east and then into the gentle rolling farmland of Aberdeenshire it's a nice drive.

The sun is shining and the sky is blue as we arrive at the coast so we head down to the Ythan river mouth. As we jump out of the van a huge skein of Pink-footed Geese pass over heading south. We soon realise there are more in the distance as several waves of geese are on the move south today with the fair weather.

A short walk through the dunes and we are at the estuary mouth and there are birds everywhere. We are all calling and spotting birds in different directions it's hard to know which way to look! There are hundreds of Eiders on the water, several different species of wader scattered along the shore, gulls, terns and much more what a great start to this part of the holiday. We wander down the beach closer to all the Eiders and we get very close to these stunning sea ducks and their comical cooing calls. There

are dozens of Grey Seals hauled out on the beach it looks like a scene out of a nature documentary! Some Knot come very close to us along the tide line it's great to see all these things in such good light.

We hear a report of a White-rumped Sandpiper which has just been seen about quarter of a mile up the estuary so we dash back to the van and to the little bay where it had just been seen within the last half hour. We are greeted to the sight of hundreds of Dunlin feeding in the muddy bay but the light is good so we meticulously scan through them looking for this rare little American wader. We all search several times through the flock but no luck there is no sign of it anymore and no other birders there have seen it either. We do find a few Curlew Sandpipers though which do have white rumps and does make us a little suspicious of the original sighting. Still we have all had a good chance to study Dunlin one of our commonest but most variable waders in various plumages.

We make one last scan of the same bay from the other end but still no funny waders so we head to our hotel for the next few days adding Little Egret on the way which is still quite a rare bird up here.

## Day 7

Yesterday evening a Sandhill Crane from America had been seen just north of where we are staying near the Loch of Strathbeg RSPB reserve which we were planning on visiting anyway so today we start the day with a bit of Twitch!

The Crane was in a stubble field yesterday north of the reserve so that is our first stop as it's been seen again this morning. As we arrive there is a small group of birders gathered and after walking across a muddy field we find the crane strutting around the field. It's a bluish grey colour with a red cap and it shows well through the scopes while skylarks and finches flit overhead. A small flock of Lapland Buntings fly over calling and they settle in the field we have just crossed so we walk back to try and see them on the ground. The stubble is too high though and we only see them as they fly round again. Simon meets an old university friend so we wander back with him to view the crane again and we are lucky enough to watch it fly off, it looks huge in flight. What a great start to the day it's only the second ever mainland record of Sandhill Crane, time for a celebratory cup of tea!

We watch Tree Sparrows at the RSPB visitor centre before having a look from the main hide. The pools and wet ground are alive with birds there's a Spotted Redshank and a Greenshank on the near pool with couple of Dunlin too. Thousands of Pink-footed Geese are grazing in the fields and on the water we find lots of wildfowl including Gadwall and Shoveler.

A short walk to the next hide and Simon spots a Whinchat on the power lines it must be a migrant passing through. From the hide we get some great views of Golden Plover and Snipe along with hundreds of Lapwing and loads more Pink-footed Geese it's quite a spectacle when something spooks them and clouds of birds take to the air.

We have lunch back at the centre and add Goldfinch and Great Spotted Woodpecker to the list. Then we drive round to the next hide finding a nice Northern Wheatear on the way. This hide looks over the main loch and we find Tufted Ducks and Whooper Swans here. Angela finds us a Little Grebe which is new for the trip list. We sit or is that doze for a while in this tranquil spot watching the comings and goings of the geese.

We drive on from here a short way towards the headland just south of the reserve and we spot Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting from the van plus several flocks of Greenfinches and Linnets. Refreshed with a quick coffee to wake us up from being cosy in the van we find several Wheatears and a couple of Whinchats along with a few Robins along the field edges it's hardly a fall of migrants but they are all birds that have dropped in on their way south so it's still nice to see.

From here we walk out over the dunes seeing a couple more Wheatears along the way. We sit on top of one of the dunes to look out to sea. There are loads of Shags loafing on the lighthouse and a constant stream of Eiders flying south. Gannets are diving just out to sea and Kittiwakes are on the move with a steady movement of them flying by and an occasional Arctic Skua chasing them for food. There are several Red Throated Divers on the sea and many more also flying South past the lighthouse. With the sun on our backs lighting the seabirds perfectly it's a great way to end the day.

## Day 8

We start the day by just walking from the hotel and straight away in the little channel we find a Little Egret showing very nicely in the sunshine. There are lots of waders along the muddy shoreline with numerous Redshanks and Dunlin and we also find Turnstone and Ruff along the way. It's great to see so many birds in the low morning sunlight as the tide rises and pushes them closer and closer.

We walk back to the hotel to jump in the van and drive a couple of minutes upstream to another part of the Ythan. There's some real warmth in the sun as we walk along the shore of the estuary and as we round a corner and get out of the breeze it's very pleasant. We find a couple of Greenshanks wading in the shallows and further out there are scores of Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Redshank starting to roost as the tide reaches its high point.

Patsy picks out a Black-tailed Godwit which is still in breeding plumage and as we wander back a little flock of Grey Plovers fly over head.

We move on to a viewpoint looking over the upper part of the estuary but the tide is very high now and the high water has pushed the waders mostly out of sight. It's a nice spot for a cuppa though and we do spot nine different Buzzards in the air at once enjoying the fine weather and a Peregrine which spooks a huge flock of Lapwings.

We find a couple of Little Grebes on a roadside loch before we reach the visitor centre at Forvie nature reserve where we see a few Yellowhammers which are new for the list. We are very close to the coast again here so we head down to the harbour for a look out to sea. There's a Rock Pipit flitting around the rocks below us and out to sea we watch Arctic Skuas chasing Kittiwakes and several Red-throated Divers flying south. The Guillemots are tricky to spot as the waves are pretty big but some are quite close so we get some nice views of these hardy little seabirds.

Although the sun is warm the wind is still chilly so we move on to find a more sheltered spot for lunch. Cruden Bay has the perfect spot with shelter sunshine and benches we even get some close views of a Grey Wagtail on the river as we munch.

A little further north up the coast overlooking a rocky headland with a scattering of little rocky islands we scan the area from a high vantage point. Simon picks out an Arctic Tern on the rocks as we watch Gannets, Shags and Cormorants. Walking down onto the headland we watch seabirds streaming by with countless Kittiwakes and Gannets flying through. There are Guillemots and the odd Razorbill scattered over the surface of the sea and Angela finds a single Guillemot sat on a rock which is much easier to see than the ones bobbing about on the water!

We return south from here back to the Ythan Estuary river mouth where we wander along the beach watching the waders before settling down to sit on the beach. As the tide runs out we watch hundreds of Eiders float down stream and Grey Seals doing the same thing before hauling out on the far side on the sand bank. It's really nice to watch birds moving through with terns, mergansers and waders flying up and down the coast in the late afternoon sunshine, it's a lovely way to end another great day.

## Day 9

Setting off south our first stop is a small country park on the coast with some cover for migrant birds just inland of the dunes. There are quite a few Curlew in the fields either side of the entrance track and as we search the

trees around the car park we find Robins and Goldcrests and a few finches all of which are likely to be migrants. In the dunes we find some Stonechats which are the first ones we've seen, after two consecutive cold winters they have disappeared in Speyside so it's nice to see them here.

A short drive south down the coast again and we stop at Blackdog a well known site for sea duck in late summer. The sea is a little choppy making it tricky but there are loads and loads of both Eider and Common Scoter here. There are also good numbers of Red-throated Divers on the sea and migrating south as well. Simon spots a drake Surf Scoter land on the sea with a flock of Common Scoters and with a little perseverance we all get to see it as it appears occasionally in and out of the wave troughs. Its bright white head patches and colourful bill are glowing in the sunshine this is one of the most reliable sights in Britain to find this rare American seaduck.

We make a quick stop at the River Don mouth just on the northern edge of Aberdeen which can be a good spot for gulls but the tide is too high so we quickly move on. The headland just to the south of Aberdeen harbour is a well known spot for both migrant birds and the best vantage point to look for the resident Bottle-nosed Dolphins so we stop to spend a little time here. The tide is high so lots of birds are roosting on the breakwaters with loads and loads of Shags and Cormorants posing side by side and gulls squabbling for the most sheltered spots to sit. A closer old pier has attracted the roosting waders with Redshanks, Oystercatchers, Turnstones and a Knot all resting while the rocks are covered.

The sea is calm on the leeward side of the headland but there is no sign of the local dolphins so we take a little walk to look for migrants. With the wind still in the south west we are not confident of finding much but we do find a small flock of Linnets and Goldfinches.

We walk from here after lunch towards the lighthouse on the headland looking for waders along the rocky shore. A little bay is normally a regular spot for Purple Sandpipers but no luck so far but we do find some terns on the rocks with Arctic, Common and Sandwich all sat together for direct comparison. Some Sanderling and Ringed Plovers are searching the rock pools as the tide starts to drop but still no sign of any Purple Sands.

We do some sea watching by the old foghorn building to shelter from the wind and the sea is alive with seabirds. Guillemots, Eiders and Red-throated Divers are peppered over the surface of the sea and Simon picks out a single

Puffin still with its colourful bill. Gannets are diving out to sea and countless Kittiwakes are flying through it's quite a spectacle watching so many seabirds in dramatic sea conditions.

As we walk back we spot a little flock of waders on the rocks below us and Dave finds us a Purple Sandpiper among some Dunlin and Knot, our perseverance has been rewarded!

The afternoon light at Blackdog is much better when we return for another look on the way back north. There's a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the beach which is nice as it is new for the trip. On the sea we add Great Crested Grebe among the many Common Scoters and Eiders. An Arctic Skua is chasing the terns and Kittiwakes along the shore. There has been a Black Scoter reported again here but with limited time we just enjoy the birds on this stretch of the coast to end the day.

## Day 10

It's another beautiful day at the coast and we start our last day at the upper reaches of the Ythan Estuary where the tide is low and the mudflats are covered in birds. The morning sun lights up a flock of Golden Plover close to where we stop. There are Lapwings everywhere on the mud and flying around in big flocks. There are various waders along the shore to look through and some of them are very close including some godwits. Even though it's our last day we are still finding new species as Simon finds us a couple of Shelducks on the far bank.

We make the most of the fine weather and drive back down the coast back to Blackdog again to have one last look at the sea. The little gully that leads down to the beach has some activity and we find Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Robins and a Whinchat in the bushes, the wind has become a little easterly today and maybe these are all migrants on the move.

Offshore we scan through the Scoters and Eiders and find a couple of Great Crested Grebes on the water with them. The sea is quite calm so we get some nice views of everything but no sign of the elusive Black Scoter reported here over the last few weeks. We take a stroll down the beach in the now warm sunshine a little stream across the beach blocks our path but a stroke of luck in the form of an old drift wood railway sleeper makes a perfect bridge so we can walk a bit further. None of the other birders around have seen the Black Scoter so after a little while searching we make our way back stopping occasionally to scan the sea.

After lunch we head back inland to Speyside hoping to use this nice weather to look again for Golden Eagles this afternoon. A little single track road leads out to some low hills and here at the end of the track we scan for a local pair of tree nesting Golden Eagles. Several Buzzards are making the most of the fine weather and soaring round. Then Angela picks out something larger, it's a Golden Eagle! It's quite distant and it lands on the hillside making it almost impossible to see but we keep watching and eventually it takes to the air again and as it breaks the skyline its distinctive silhouette is obvious. A second eagle comes into view and we watch them in the scopes for a while as they cruise along the hill tops it's a really great way to end the holiday.

We spend the last night at a local hotel near Aviemore and after dinner we discuss our favourite parts of the holiday. From Crested Tits to Capercaillie in Speyside and Sandhill Crane to huge flocks of Geese in Grampian there has been a wide range of habitats and species seen this trip so there are many different memorable moments recounted by everyone over coffee there's no doubt we have seen and done a lot this trip and have lots of great memories to take home with us.

## BIRDS

Red-throated Diver

Little Grebe

Great Crested Grebe

Gannet

Cormorant

Shag

Grey Heron

Mute Swan

Whooper Swan

Pink-footed Goose

Greylag Goose

Shelduck

Wigeon

Teal

Mallard

Pintail

Shoveler

Tufted Duck

Eider

Common Scoter

Surf Scoter

Goldeneye

Red-breasted Merganser

Goosander

Marsh Harrier

Sparrowhawk

Common Buzzard

Golden Eagle

Kestrel

Merlin

Peregrine

Red Grouse

Ptarmigan

Black Grouse

Capercaillie

Red-legged Partridge

Pheasant

Moorhen

Coot

Oystercatcher

Ringed Plover

Golden Plover

Lapwing

Knot

Sanderling

Purple Sandpiper

Dunlin

Ruff

Snipe

Woodcock

Black-tailed Godwit

Bar-tailed Godwit

Curlew

Spotted Redshank

Redshank

Greenshank

Turnstone

Arctic Skua

Great Skua

Black-headed Gull

Common Gull

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Herring Gull

Great Black-backed Gull

Kittiwake

Sandwich Tern

Guillemot

Razorbill

Puffin

Black Guillemot

Rock Dove

Woodpigeon

Collared Dove

Tawny Owl

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Skylark

Meadow Pipit

Rock Pipit

Grey Wagtail

Pied Wagtail

Northern Wheatear  
Swallow  
Dipper  
Wren  
Dunnock  
Robin  
Stonechat  
Blackbird  
Fieldfare  
Song Thrush  
Redwing  
Mistle Thrush  
Chiffchaff  
Goldcrest  
Long-tailed Tit  
Crested Tit  
Coal Tit  
Blue Tit  
Great Tit  
Treecreeper  
Magpie  
Jay  
Jackdaw  
Rook  
Carrion Crow  
Hooded Crow  
Raven  
Starling  
House Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow  
Chaffinch  
Greenfinch  
Goldfinch  
Siskin

Linnet  
Redpoll  
Scottish Crossbill  
Bullfinch  
Yellowhammer  
Reed Bunting  
Corn Bunting  
Sandhill Crane  
Lapland Bunting  
Little Egret  
Blackcap  
Whinchat

**Total Birds: 126**

#### **MAMMALS**

Wood Mouse  
Red Squirrel  
Rabbit  
Brown Hare  
Mountain Hare  
Pine Marten  
Badger  
Mountain Goat  
Red Deer  
Roe Deer  
Common Seal  
Grey Seal

**Total Species: 138**