

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015



Wildlife Travel Mull 2015

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LIST OF TRAVELLERS

Leaders

Charlie Moores

David Greenhalgh



- **13th June: Oban-Craignure - Tobermory – Aros Park**
- **14th June: Grass Point – Duart – Garmony/Fishnish**
- **15th June: Staffa/Lungha**
- **16th June: Mull Eagle Watch – Loch Na Keal – Ulva**
- **17th June: Garmony – Dervaig – Old Byre Heritage Centre – Calgary Arts Centre - Calgary Bay – Lip na Cloiche**
- **18th June: Garmony – Pennygheal – Fionnphort – Iona**
- **19th June: Fishnish – Craignure/Oban**

Photos courtesy David Hooker and Charlie Moores

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

Just as last year, suggestions of a breakdown in the good weather meant that on a number of occasions our trips around the wonderful island of Mull would be effected by the forecasts given by various media outlets every morning. However the weather will do what the weather will do, and the trick is just to enjoy the spectacular scenery and the fantastic wildlife – and the wonderful company of course – and not worry too much about what can't be changed...

While the end of our week on Mull was a little 'dreich', I hope I'd be right in saying that overall the holiday was hugely enjoyable for all of us. I know that we each had our own particular wish-lists for the trip (including seeing Otters, White-tailed and Golden Eagles, Corncrake, orchids, visiting Fingal's Cave, the seabirds of Lunga, and the Iona Abbey) and we pretty much cleaned up over the six days, thanks in no small part to the sharp eyes of Sue 'The Spotter' Weatherhead who not only brought us our first flight views of White-tailed Eagle but pulled the rabbit out of the hat (as it were) by spotting an Otter right by the Craignure Ferry on our penultimate day!

But as usual I'm getting ahead of myself so let's go back to Day One and the ferry from Oban to Craignure...

Charlie Moores, Wiltshire

(NB: the first mention of a species in the report is highlighted in bold)

Day One

Our crossing to Mull began at the ferry terminal at Oban. The wonderful scenery on the way to the island gives a good indication of what is to come, and we saw a large number of birds. We enjoyed good views of all four of Mull's breeding-plumaged auks (**Black Guillemot, Common Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin**) and discussed the first of a succession of hints and tips on separating **Kittiwakes, Common, Herring** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (relatively small, round head, 'soft' expression', wing tips 'dipped in ink'; round headed, small eyed, greyish mantle, large wing mirrors; large, pinkish legs, pale mantle, 'fierce expression'; large, yellow legs, slate-grey mantle). About two-thirds of the way across we sailed past an islet in the middle of the Sound of Mull which was packed with **Arctic Terns** (which would have just spent our winter months in Antarctica – this species sees more daylight per year than any other bird species on the planet). Our first surprise of the trip was finding two skuas in the same area (**Arctic** or **Pomarine**, they were just too distant to identify with absolute certainty): klepto-parasites these birds were presumably attracted by the terns and really should have been up on their Arctic breeding grounds this late in the season.

With some low cloud around the views from the 45 minute ferry ride to Craignure weren't perhaps as stunning as they can sometimes be, but we could still appreciate the sweeping coastline of the Scottish mainland to our right, Duart Castle (which we visited during the week) to our left, and the rocky hills forming the spine of Mull in front of us

David Greenhalgh, our driver for the holiday, met us at Craignure with his soon-to-be characteristic smile and we were soon on our way north to the Salen Hotel, our base for the holiday. Gerry and Claire, our hosts, quickly checked us in, and soon afterwards we were out again on our way up to Tobermory (which as anyone with kids or grandkids or nephews and nieces will undoubtedly know is the beautiful seaside town immortalised in the CBBC programme 'Balamory'). Along the way we picked out a number of common bird species we would become very familiar with over the next six days: **Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Common Sandpiper, Oystercatcher, Grey Heron, Mallard, Shelduck, (Barn) Swallow, Meadow Pipit, Collared Dove, and Hooded Crow** (a greyer bird than the southern Carrion Crow many of us are perhaps more familiar with).

While Tobermory's lovely harbour front was a strong draw, we were more interested in getting our wildlife-viewing underway. A path which climbs through mixed oak and beech woodland to Aros Park from the harbour car-park was where the holiday 'proper' really began.

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

With the path recently rebuilt and in good condition we had a very enjoyable walk with a good introduction to a wide selection of Mull's more widespread late spring/early summer plants. Amongst others we saw **Primrose, Ramsons, Tormentil, Water Avens, Woodruff, Wild Strawberry, Sanicle, Bugle, Wood Violet, Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrell, Yellow Poppy, Tutsan, Heath Speedwell, Bitter Vetchling**, the lovely pink **Common Lousewort**, some remarkably tall **Butterwort**, and the first of many **Foxgloves** and **Bluebells**. Less common (and found off the track in a boggy area alongside a stream) were **Wood Horsetail, Common Cow-wheat**, and **Yellow Pimpernel**. A good find (using Lynne Farrell's very useful '*Wildflower Walks on Mull*') was **Common Wintergreen**, a scarce plant on the island.

The birding here is also quite good, and we picked out the first of many **Willow Warblers, Song Thrushes**, and **Chaffinches** (all ubiquitous on Mull), and had good looks at **Great, Blue**, and **Coal Tits**, **a Great Spotted Woodpecker**, and a pair of **Bullfinches**. A prolonged view of a **Spotted Flycatcher** was a highlight, as was a flyover **Curlew** calling loudly, whilst unfortunately – try as we may – a singing **Wood Warbler** just wouldn't show and was a 'heard' only.

David kindly drove around to Aros Park to meet us by the park's lake (Lochan a Ghurrabain) where we found both **Yellow** and **White Water Lilies**, and by late afternoon we were headed back to the Hotel for dinner

Was that it for the first day? With the sun not slipping behind the hills before around 23:00 there is always plenty of après-dinner daylight left on this trip, and a good option for those with energy left is to walk down the road a few hundred metres to the loch shore and the 'ruined boats'. Otters are sometimes seen from here, but not today – though we did see a few **Common Seals** hauled out on the rocks and our first **Red-breasted Merganser**. Never mind, we would try again...

Day Two

Mull is a remarkable island, and there are a huge number of different habitats to explore. Today we spent time along the east coast. Flatter than the north of the island, one area in particular gives access to a wonderful bog and coastal turf: the very beautiful Grass Point, which is where we headed after breakfast.

This area is excellent for insects – though that does of course depend somewhat on the weather. Fortunately today was forecast to be beautiful and probably the best day of the trip to visit the Point. With the sun high in the sky we set off in excellent spirits...

The turning to Grass Point is not far south of the Craignure ferry terminal (and just beyond the turning to Duart Castle). A single-track road winds through low hills and oak woodlands to the Point itself, crossing a low bridge over a tidal inlet which is often good for Common Sandpiper, Grey Herons, **Mute Swans** *et al.* The first **Red Deer** of the trip are often seen here. **Hen Harriers** are sometimes seen too but not on this occasion, though we did happily have prolonged (if a little distant) views of a hunting **Short-eared Owl** (and some very friendly Highland Cattle!).

The 'bridge' is a lovely spot, but is just a taster for what awaits further along. The final 800m or so out to the tip of Grass Point is flanked by bog which is dotted with **Cotton-grass, Cuckoo-flower** (Lady's Smock), and various sedges (**Star Sedge** is common here). The Point itself (upon which stands two renovated cottage-type farm houses with fantastic views across to the Scottish mainland and a distant Ben Nevis) is short turf and excellent for plants like **Birds-foot Trefoil, Tormentil, Yellow Irises**, orchids, and **Bog Myrtle** – plus there's always a chance of spotting passing cetaceans.

Re-reading last year's Trip Report for Grass Point I found that I had written that '*I'd rarely seen so many orchids in one place. **Heath Spotted-orchids** (ranging from almost all-white to strong pink) were all along the roadside in their hundreds*', but this year (like 2012) they were much less common, and we really had to work hard to find them. We found them though, and other plants included thick piles of **Thrift** on the point, **Sea Plantain, English Stonecrop, Ragged Robin, Germander Speedwell**, and **Marsh Ragwort**.

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

Grass Point is an excellent spot for birds too. There's always the chance of birds of prey (we only saw **Buzzards** this time around), **Tree Pipits** are usually reliable here, and it's an excellent spot to hear and/or see **Cuckoos** (using the many Meadow Pipits here as brood hosts).

The boggy countryside either side of the road is as mentioned good for insects. After some effort a striking **Green Hairstreak** (the most widespread of the UK's hairstreak butterflies) was seen, along with a small number of **Small Heaths**. We also found a very fresh **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** which posed very well for us, several **Large Red Damselflies**, and both **Mother Shipton** and **Cinnabar** (two diurnal moths). The highlight was a mating pair of **Marsh Fritillary**: a relatively small fritillary this beautiful species has declined massively in recent decades, believed to be the result of inappropriate habitat management, coupled with insufficient habitat for the butterfly to form *meta populations*, where local extinctions can be reversed by recolonisation from neighbouring colonies. These were the only two we saw here, but all of us had excellent views as the butterflies were 'otherwise engaged' and oblivious to us!

Our next stop would be lunch (and restrooms) at Duart Castle.

The excellent tea rooms at Duart are worth a visit in themselves (the little streamlet that runs outside the toilets here are a good site for **Northern Marsh Orchid**), but of course for those interested in history the real attraction is the Castle. Home of the Clan Maclean. This fabulous building (which is still occupied) stands on a clifftop guarding the Sound of Mull and enjoying one of the most spectacular and unique positions on the West Coast of Scotland. It's a wonderful place (perhaps a bit bleak in winter!) and a tour takes about an hour.

For those determined to keep looking for wildlife, alternatives are offered by the plants and turf swards in front of and below the castle (which can be good for butterflies and Rock Pipits) and the recently-planted Millennium Woodland by the tea rooms. Several of us opted for the woodland and while it's clearly not mature yet, it is a lovely and very relaxing spot. A selection of rare trees (including very range-restricted whitebeams) has been planted, and a smallish circular pond will undoubtedly attract dragonflies.

In the meantime several of the group checked the turf swards – finding another Marsh Fritillary and Green Hairstreak! Useful back-up if Grass Point lets us down perhaps. A second 'tour' of this area produced more Small Heaths and a superb **Speckled Yellow**, another diurnal moth that should challenge any misconceptions that moths are dull and brown... While not especially notable for many visiting birders, the tall pines outside the tea rooms here attract **Greenfinches**, which are not always easy to find on Mull.

With the weather still glorious, rather than go back to the hotel I felt that we should make the most of the sunshine 'just in case' and added a walk along the coast between Garmony and Fishnish (which is not very far from the Salen Hotel anyway).

The coastal path follows the shore of the Sound of Mull and crosses through the forestry plantation at Fishnish. Excellent views of Arctic Terns followed, more Buzzards, Rock Pipits, and plenty of geese and ducks. New was a small flock of **Ringed Plover**. The walk crosses some interesting saltmarsh pungent with the coconut scent of **Gorse**. A small pond here with very shallow edges is an excellent spot for **Round-leaved Sundew** and sedges, and the long grasses here hide **Common Heath** moths (which just one or two of us saw). There is always a good chance of seeing an Otter, but while we drew a blank the scenery more than made up for that – and besides we still had many opportunities to come over the next few days...

David again drove around to meet us and we were back in the hotel by early evening.

Was that it for the day? Not a bit of it. Mike and Anne (bat recorders on the Isles of Scilly) had kindly brought bat detectors with them, and a small group of us gathered outside as the sun began to dip to a) feed the local midges, and b) see what bats were flying around! At this time of the year it barely goes dark this far North, but eventually some bats appeared. All were **Common Pipistrelles**, but it was fascinating

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

to extend our 'wildlife watching' in this way and my thanks go to Mike and Anne for being so willing to stay awake so late. An added bonus was the sighting of a **Woodcock** flying out of woodland near the hotel (which, yes, I originally excitedly called out as a Noctule bat – if you'd been there you might have done the same...). Mike and Anne both made several sorties throughout the holiday, which while not always noted below were very well-received.

Day Three

Today we were booked to visit the islands of Staffa and Lunga (the latter the largest of the Treshnish Isles), so after yet another excellent breakfast we climbed into David's minibus and made our way to the tiny hamlet of Ulva Ferry on the west of Mull and our rendezvous with Turus Mara ('Tours of the Sea').

There are always things to see en route, though, and David knew of a good site for **Dipper** from a narrow bridge – on cue we stopped briefly and there just thirty yards away was our target (the only one of the trip we saw). Excellent and most welcome.

The Turus Mara team have been running boat trips for over forty years. Our 'at sea' itinerary today would be a circular loop: a 40 minute sailing below Ulva out to Staffa and Fingal's Cave, then a similar length journey on to Lunga and its world-famous Puffin colony, and finally a 45 minute or so sailing back to the ferry dock via Loch Tuath and the north coasts of Gometra and Ulva.

Our first stop would be Fingal's Cave, a deep hollow surrounded by extraordinary basalt columns (and immortalised by Mendelssohn in *The Hebrides*, Op. 26). It's a remarkable 'natural wonder' but of course there were other natural wonders to be looked out for as we crossed open sea to get to it. Seabirds (especially very close Puffins sat on the water near the boat and Guillemots/Razorbills) became more and more numerous the closer we got to Staffa. **Manx Shearwaters** are often seen racing low over the water in typical rakish style on this trip, and we saw good numbers.

Occasionally boats don't get to dock on Staffa because of swells that can form out to sea, but with a very calm sea we docked with no problem at all. Visitors get to spend a little over an hour on the island, giving them time to make the walk along the rocks to the cave and safely manage the vertiginous shuffling to get into position inside. It's only when you're inside the cave that you can really appreciate it, and it's not to be missed. It's worth keeping an eye out for **Sea Slaters** (which look a little like a woodlouse on steroids) on the rocks here too.

Most of us gathered for a picnic lunch at one of the island's highest points, not too far from the landing point. Views here are fabulous, and on a clear day you can see as far as Rum to the North and Tiree and Coll to the West. It's a good spot to watch for **Great Skuas** (or Bonxies as they're widely known) as well, and we soon picked up a pair which were patrolling the cliffs looking for unguarded eggs or chicks. Large, fierce, and as much a top predator out on these islands as Peregrines or Otters, these skuas can be difficult to see away from their breeding colonies.

We were soon back on the boat (finding **Buck's-horn Plantain** and **Sea Campion** by the steep steps up and down the cliff) and heading for nearby Lunga (en route we saw possibly the same Bonxies again, harrying gulls around a fishing boat). The seabird colonies at Lunga really make this small island a very special place, Online descriptions talk about 'Puffin Therapy' and how incredibly close visitors can get to the nesting Puffins, Guillemots, Razorbills and Shags on the island. Normally getting so close to nesting birds would be inadvisable, but here the theory is that while humans are close by predators like Great Skuas and Ravens keep their distance. The nesting seabirds are actually safer because we're around.

That makes good sense; even so little can prepare you for just how close you can actually get to a Puffin when it's not watching its back for a Bonxie attack. On a broad, grassed area high above the rocky (and slightly difficult to traverse) beach, hundreds of Puffins are literally within touching distance. Visitors (myself included) are awestruck, and the temptation to stow a Puffin or two into a rucksack must be strongly fought! Other locations around the UK may offer similarly close views of nesting seabirds, but none I've visited feel so isolated yet so accessible. Truly a reason to visit Mull again.

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

Lunga also gives fantastic views of Razorbills and Common Guillemots (including the 'bridled' form) which crowd the ledges at Harp Rock, a stack in the southwest of the island permanently watched over by **Ravens**. There is a large colony of Kittiwakes here, which provides an excellent opportunity to learn how to separate these gulls from Fulmars (which are petrels and named for the foul-smelling fish oils they vomit onto anyone or anything that gets too close!). Arctic Terns usually fish in the same bay the boats docks as well, and here we also saw our first **Common Terns**, which are far less numerous than their Arctic cousins.

Lunga is also renowned for plants. We all had good views of **Wild Thyme**, **Milkwort**, and Sea Campion. Heath Spotted-orchids were growing in fair numbers on the short grass near the Puffins. **Roseroot** grows in dense clumps on the open cliffs, and a nice surprise was **Spring Squill**.

The drizzle arrived as we left the island, and the trip back to the dock on Mull was rather quiet (though more Manx Shearwaters were seen). That evening food and rest seemed high on everyone's agenda, and (I have to say thankfully) a walk out after dinner was not...

Day Four

For many visitors to Mull going to the famous Mull Eagle Watch, which all but guarantees good views of **White-tailed Eagles**, is a must. Once widespread across much of the UK, this huge raptor (nicknamed the 'flying barn door' because of its massive eight foot wingspan) was persecuted relentlessly by gamekeepers and sheep farmers throughout the 1800s and was finally wiped out in Britain when the last bird was shot on Shetland in 1918.

A re-introduction programme was started in the early 1970s using birds sourced from Norway. The (former) Nature Conservancy Council released 82 chicks on the island of Rum (less than 30 miles north of Mull) between 1975 – 1985, and in 1983 the first 'British' White-tailed Eagle chicks for around a hundred years were hatched. Birds looking for new territories wandered along the coast and discovered Mull, where the Eagles are now breeding in good numbers and are thought to be worth more than £5million a year to the island's economy!

And we, of course, were happy to make our small contribution this year via the small charge to visit the watchpoint tucked miles out of the way in Forestry Commission pine trees at Glen Seilisdeir on the North shore of Loch Scridain.

Of course en-route we kept our eyes peeled for other wildlife, and we first tried a spot along Loch Na Keal for **Golden Eagles**. Unfortunately the eagles, which are far more wary of people than the larger and more bold White-taileds, had moved the nest this year, and low cloud over the distant hills meant we were out of luck. We did get very good views of **Wheatears**, Meadow Pipits, and Linnets, and had a minute or two of puzzlement as 'something' was slicing in a dead straight line at rapid speed just below the water surface: surely our first Otter? No, two Common Seals heading to the outflow pipe of a seafood factory. Oh well...

We arrived at the Eagle Watch right on time and met our guide for the morning, Rachel French (who works with the Forestry Commission). Two years ago the eagles had nested about 800yds from a cabin which doubled as an office and exhibition centre, but this year the eagles, as Rachel explained, were nesting in a far less accessible location way across the valley and we'd be using telescopes to see them. The views were not be as good as we'd hoped (especially in the shifting and misty conditions) but Rachel (who is moving on to another job at the end of this season) worked very hard to give us as much information on the Eagles as we could possibly want.

With no birds of prey flying (we watched a female shielding her chick in the distance but sadly didn't see the male bringing in food) we kept eyes open and ears peeled for other birds. The watchpoint is a great location to see **Siskins** and **Coal Tits**, which constantly visit a well-stocked feeder and we had good views of a Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

We hung around perhaps a little longer than usual, hoping for the male White-tailed to fly over - but as our afternoon was to be spent on the island of Ulva, and the Ulva Ferry was quite some drive away, we needed to move on. Saying our farewells to Rachel we headed along the high, winding road that tracks along the other side of Loch Na Keal back to where we'd left to visit Staffa and Lunga the day before.

Wildlife watching on Mull is all about keeping a constant alert and hoping for the unexpected. While we didn't see any eagles in flight at the Eagle Watch (and perhaps several of us were relaxing and thinking of lunch!), Sue 'The Spotter' suddenly called out that she'd seen a large bird of the prey just to our left. David managed to find a pull-off almost immediately, and jumping out of the minibus we found ourselves looking at a very tatty but unmistakeable juvenile White-tailed Eagle! Remarkably this juvenile was joined by a sub-adult, then a Buzzard, and to top everything off nicely a **Golden Eagle** appeared from behind us and arrowed almost without deviation high straight across to the other side of the loch spread out way below us!

A wonderful few minutes which summed up everything about Mull that makes it so exciting and enjoyable. With a great sighting 'in the bag' (and now about an hour behind schedule and hungry) we got back in the minibus to head on to Ulva Ferry.

The passenger 'ferry' across the narrow strait to Ulva is little more than a small converted motor boat which takes just twelve people and chugs back and forth across the narrow channel that separates Ulva from the mainland. It took just a few minutes to arrive and a few more minutes to zip across the water to the slipway.

We were soon at the very welcoming Boathouse tearoom on the harbour front, where we refuelled with an excellent late lunch.

Ulva is a compact island (too large to comfortably walk around in an afternoon, but small enough to cover some good habitat quite quickly) and offers amazing views across to Ben More and the Ardmeanach peninsula. Intersected by loop trails it has woodland, bogs, beaches, and plenty of wildlife (including the extremely rare **Slender Scotch Burnet Moth**).

Right next to the Boathouse is 'Sheila's Cottage', a well restored traditional thatched cottage which serves as Ulva's museum and heritage centre. The cottage was last lived in early this century by Ulva resident Sheila MacFadyen, and an eerily lifelike wax figure of Sheila still sits in the gloom near her hearth and bed. Well worth a quick look (the short grass outside is always worth checking for Heath-spotted and Northern Marsh Orchids as well as many other plants too, and the nearby rocks are carpeted in Thrift and Birds-foot Trefoil).

On a good day, Ulva is a very beautiful place – and even on a grey day like this one there is plenty to see. We had less time than we might have liked on Ulva because of our happy delay watching the Eagles (and requests to consider making Ulva a full day have been noted!), but we did explore – most of us heading up to the lovely little church about a mile away (which dates back to 1828). Interesting plants are everywhere but most we had seen before – though stands of **Bistort** and **Greater Stitchwort** near the church were new. The bracken-faithful geometer moth **Brown Silver-lines** was seen several times, as was the tiny **Satyr Pug**. Willow Warblers and **Skylarks** were calling everywhere and Cuckoos are common on the island, however many of the hoped-for insects weren't on the wing – maybe next time...

The last ferry leaves Ulva at 17:00, allowing us plenty of time to drive back to the Salen Hotel (about 30 minutes away) and freshen up for our meal. However with a few minutes in hand we made a stop to try to pick up our first Otter: yet again no luck, but a breeding-plumaged **Great Northern Diver** was a nice bonus.

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

Day Five

Changing our itinerary (we were supposed to be going to Iona but weather warnings suggested we'd be better heading elsewhere), we spent the day in the north and west of Mull – and enjoyed some spectacular and utterly beautiful scenery. And of course wildlife!

The back road through to Dervaig in the north of the island takes us through the beautiful, wide valley of Glen Bellart with some wonderful views. **Stonechats** and Wheatears are common here, and Buzzards soar over the ridges. Red Deer are often seen. The roadside holds many interesting plants but with low clouds and a chilling wind we made just the briefest of stops before moving on. Abandoning an earlier planned stop in a clearing off the road for dragonflies (which wouldn't have been flying) we headed to the coastal village of Dervaig. A quirky bookshop enjoyed by earlier Wildlife Travel groups closed a few years ago after the owner died, and the main draw now is the peculiar rounded steeple of Kilmore church (which was built in 1905). The saltmarsh and river mouth can be good, but with the rain threatening again (and well ahead of schedule) we decided on an unplanned visit to the nearby Old Byre Heritage Centre.

Wildlife Travel hasn't stopped here before, but the tea shop is welcoming, the displays and information interesting, and the grass near the car-park studded with plants (**Common Mouse-ear**, clovers, and **Self-heal** for example) and the walls covered with **Maidenhair Spleenwort** and **Ivy-leaved Toadflax**. We also saw **Treecreeper** and **Mistle Thrush** here, but more importantly (with my Leader's hat on anyway) this seems to be a site for **Whinchats**, which are supposedly common breeding visitors on Mull but not always easy to find. A pair gave us great views – as I may well include the Old Byre in future itineraries let's hope they come back next summer!

Lunch was by now on everyone's mind so we drove on to The Calgary Arts Centre about 20 minutes away. The Centre is renowned for three things: an excellent tea-shop/restaurant, its beautiful art gallery, and the large colony of **Narrow-leaved (Sword-leaved) Helleborines** that grow on a single woodland slope behind the main buildings. Quite an attractive combination when all is said and done.

An absolutely beautiful orchid, the Narrow-leaved Helleborine has declined a great deal in the last 30 years. Populations are now only found in scattered locations, particularly in north Wales, west Scotland and Hampshire, but almost half of these have just two or three plants left and may die out. Here they survive in very good numbers considering the limited habitat – but finding them can be difficult as they are pretty much the same colour as the abundant ivory-white Ramsons they grow amongst. Once you get your eye in they're fairly obvious though. Some years the orchids are abundant, others they seems to have gone over by mid-June.

After lunch we tramped out to have a look: thankfully while not flowering in large numbers we quickly found some very nice spikes indeed. Beautiful plants! While the entire woodland could comfortably be walked around in far less time than it has taken to write the above few paragraphs (if you don't spend too long looking at the sculptures and oddly arranged welly boots halfway up trees anyway), it does repay careful observation. Northern Marsh Orchid grow here, and even in the showery weather we found **Thyme-leaved** and **Wood Speedwell**, **Enchanter's Nightshade**, Yellow Pimpernel, Dog's Mercury, Pignut and more of the commoner plants we'd been seeing in earlier days. Two lovely moths - **Buff Ermine** and **Silver-ground Carpet** - were found sheltering from the rain, but – understandably – few other insects were flying.

With afternoon progressing, we made our way across the road below the Arts Centre to Calgary Bay, a beautiful sweep of machair, sand and sea framed by low, wooded hills. The most interesting habitat here is the machair - low-lying arable or grazing land formed near the coast by the deposition of sand and shell fragments by the wind. An increasingly rare habitat, famed for its plant community machair is said to depend on grazing, but there seems to be a limit to just how much grazing machair can stand. And the machair at Calgary Bay does appear to be almost grazed flat: however there are many plants to be found including **eyebrights**, **Common Storksbill**, **Wild Thyme**, **Bulbous Buttercup**, **Doves-foot Cranesbill**, and **Common Whitlowgrass**. Buzzards are usually seen here (and it looks excellent for

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

Peregrines), and several of the group found an **Eider** crèche off the beach, and we also had excellent views of a Rock Pipt. A small colony of Sand Martins in a bank by the car-park that had been quite active in previous years seemed, however, to be deserted sadly.

Calgary Bay is a lovely spot, and were this a 'beach and flip-flops' sort of holiday somewhere you could easily while away an afternoon at Calgary Bay. However, while I like to relax as much as anyone else, we had other sites to visit before the day was done!

The scenery in this part of the island is absolutely spectacular and the single road out of the Bay that winds right along the coast. One of the best viewpoints is by a cairn at a high point overlooking miles of lochs and bays, with Ulva Ferry and Ben More in the far distance. Not only is the view superb – whichever way you look – but the damp, boggy ground up here is also good for plants. Heath Spotted-orchids, Butterwort, and Tormantil are common, and in the exact same patch as I found it last year was our only **Mountain Everlasting** of the trip.

Far more impressive though was the sudden appearance of what had to be the same two young White-tailed Eagles we'd seen the day before (certainly the 'ragged juvenile' looked very familiar) – with what was almost certainly an adult. Unfortunately the presumed adult was the one bird that disappeared before we could all get proper looks, but even in the very brief views I had it did seem to have a white head! Even against grey skies, though, the youngsters looked stunning this high above the loch, soaring with total ease on the updraughts gusting up the slopes until they drifted away. A great way to (almost) end the day.

Returning to the vehicle Carol and I flushed yet another interesting moth: the **Small Purple-barred** (which is typically found near Milkwort), but time was against us now (especially with David having to make his way all the way to southern end of the island again) and we drove on to our last stop: the private garden of Lip na Cloiche.

Small but absolutely crammed with plants and navigated by a circular path, the garden has been developed by the impressive Lucy Mackenzie, who has single-handedly hewn it from a bracken-covered hillside. Clearly a determined woman, the gardens are quite extraordinary, and are described on the Lip na Cloiche website as: *"an eclectic and comprehensive collection of small trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, including some Chilean and New Zealand rarities. The garden was planned for long-season interest, providing a pattern of good planting ideas all year round. A picturesque burn is planted with primulas, meconopsis, gunneras and other damp-loving specialities"*

Entrance to the garden is free (though donations are requested) and it's another beautiful spot. While the plants are the main draw for most people, it is also superb for insects (perhaps the latter was of more interest to some than others, but anyone going to Mull who is interested in bees and the like needs to make a stop here). **White-tailed** and **Red-tailed Bumblebees** were both on the wing, and **Common Carder bees** are impossible to miss. There are usually hoverflies, and best of the bunch was a **Pellucid Hoverfly**, one of the large and distinctive Volucella flies which despite its size and slightly fearsome appearance is of course absolutely harmless!

The hills around the garden are also a reliable place for **Yellowhammer**, and we heard them singing (and caught quick glimpses as they flew up the hillside). Buzzards appear to be regular over the house and we also saw them fly overhead. From here it was back towards Salen and the end of another remarkable day, full of wildlife and spectacular views.

Day Six

Our last full day saw us leaving Mull – but only temporarily. Today we planned to visit the small island of Iona at the southern tip of Mull, home of the Iona Community, the Iona Abbey, and perhaps the most accessible place in the UK to see **Corncrakes**. Once common in damp grasslands across Britain this elusive (and surprisingly small) rail has declined hugely following habitat loss and changes in farming practice. Difficult to see at the best of times, they can be near-impossible in rain when they (sensibly) tend

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

to remain in cover in Iris beds or long grass...What would the weather bring today? Not heavy rain, but not the sunshine we'd hoped for sadly...

However there is much more than Iona to enjoy. The drive from Salen to Fionnphort (where the ferry to Iona leaves) is long but on a clear day incredibly beautiful. It also offers a chance to see another sought-after bird: the Hen Harrier. A beautiful but much maligned raptor that still survives in Scotland after being all but eradicated from the English grouse moors it was once so common over, a small number of harriers breed on Mull but can be very difficult to see. The road winds through miles of spectacular hillsides and a deep glacial valley that looks perfect for harriers and other birds of prey, but unfortunately it is also a funnel for low cloud – and, sadly, on this occasion very little was flying.

In a concerted attempt to see a Hen Harrier we drove around the open moorland to the north of Pennyghael (where we saw **Lapwings** and plenty of Oystercatchers and Curlews), and before catching the ferry drove the back roads at Fidden above Fionnphort. At Fidden, as the rain suddenly lashed down with unexpected ferocity, a greyish low-flying raptor was seen that had to be a Hen Harrier – though it was hardly the views we'd hoped for...

Oh well, time to catch the ferry...and just time to catch a **Cormorant** (far scarcer here than the ubiquitous Shags) flapping heavily over the dock.

The crossing to Baile Mor takes about ten minutes, and the dock is itself just a short walk from the world-famous Abbey. Corncrakes on Iona tend to use Iris beds (thick cover from the perspective of observers, but plenty of room to scoot between clumps if you're a laterally compressed rail) and - after making plans to meet up at the quayside restaurant for lunch for those who wanted to 'do their own thing' during our stay on Iona – the whole group headed off towards the Abbey and the hills beyond.

We'd already been advised that very few males were still calling, but that one was still active at the foot of the path that climbs up to the viewpoint at Dun I. This meant a walk past all the famous buildings and shops (!), which some of our party was understandably reluctant to do. However, with some of the group determined to see a Corncrake, my role was clearly to find one.

As we approached the Iris beds the rasping 'crek crek' of a calling Corncrake could be heard. A good start! Two years ago I'd been to the exact same spot, and found that by perching in the rocks above the beds, the occasional head or tail could be seen as the bird moved around below. So we settled down, and waited.

And waited. And waited some more. Perhaps the late date, meant that most males were paired up and 'our' bird was beginning to realise that there weren't any single females left. Unfortunately only two of us saw anything at all, and only very briefly. Kudos to Sue K for sticking the cold out for so long, and I still feel bad that we didn't get the views we wanted...

There are of course other bird species on Iona, though none as sought-after as the Corncrake: a **Snipe** feeding in the open by the Iris beds was overflown by Linnets and Meadow Pipits (as well as two very pure-looking **Rock Dove**/Feral Pigeon), and we also caught up with both **Rook** and **Jackdaw** (the former breeds mainly on Iona with a few on Mull and the latter only on Iona oddly).

Meeting up at the ferry again, we decided that given the conditions we would leave the island and not delay. At this point we were still missing out on good views of Hen Harrier, but David had been talking to local contacts and thought that we might stand a chance of finding a pair that were nesting and viewable (albeit at distance) about 40 minutes up the road back towards Salen and dinner.

We again first checked Pennyghael (with no luck), and finally pulled into a layby opposite a magnificent vista of hills and bracken-clad moorland to give ourselves one more chance – but while we did see another Short-eared Owl braving the gathering rain there were no harriers. Presumably as their prey (mainly

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

Meadow Pipits here) were sheltering, the harriers had decided that wasting energy flying around the sodden hills was a little pointless...

After about twenty minutes we headed back to the hotel for another excellent dinner. Only 'The Spotter' wasn't quite finished with us yet...

Despite staring at hundreds of miles of loch edge and constantly scanning suitable areas over the week (off the golf course for example, and from Garmony), we still hadn't found one of the most iconic mammals on Mull: the Otter. Driving past the Craignure Ferry (so almost back in Salen), Sue W suddenly shouted that she thought she'd seen something in the water. David executed a rapid u-turn, and there about a hundred yards from the road was indeed something bobbing about. At last, an **Otter**.

We soon realised that were in fact TWO Otters in the water, but while one remained a little distant, the first performed superbly catching a fish and then climbing out on to the ferry piles to eat it. What a great way to spend twenty minutes on our final evening, and a memory I'll certainly treasure.

Day Seven

Our final morning on Mull Is always going to be a slightly sad affair – we're leaving one of the UK's top wildlife spots after all – and thoughts inevitably turn both to what we've seen and to not missing the ferry home! Have no fear, on that latter point we have things worked out and under control (David, has, after all, 'ferried' thousands of people of the ferry in his years on Mull).

There is always time for a few more hours in the field before we leave the island though, and some excellent sites lie between Salen and Craignure. With drizzle in the air though (and the midges starting to build) we had no plans to go far from the minibus, and our final stop was a new bird hide at Fishnish – a very solid structure held in place by some extremely tough restraint straps (the constructors perhaps grew up watching the Wizard of Oz and were concerned that a tornado might lift the hide and deposit it on Salen!).

Gazing out of a hide at Red-breasted Merganser and passing terns, drinking in the heady, unpolluted air of Mull, our ears filled with the sound of Oystercatchers and calling Common Sandpipers, seemed a perfect way to end our trip...

My thanks for everyone in the group for making my job so easy, and I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed the trip as much as I did. Thanks as ever to David for his input and safe driving, and to the folks on Mull that we met, stayed with, or were helped by, I hope I'll have the pleasure of meeting you all again.

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015



Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
Family Gaviidae (Divers)									
	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>				x		x	
Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters)									
	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			x				
	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>			x				x
Family Sulidae (Gannets)									
	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)									
	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	x					x	
	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x
Family Ardeidae (Hérons)									
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Anatidae (Swans, geese and ducks)									
	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	x	x		x	x		x
	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Accipitridae (Hawks and Eagles)									
	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				x	x		
	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				x			
	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						x	
	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Falconidae (Falcons)									
	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		x		x	x		
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)									
	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		H		H	x		
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)									
	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>						x	
Family Himantopidae (Oystercatchers)									
	Oystercatcher	<i>Himantopus ostralegus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)									
	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>						x	
	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		x					
	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					x		
	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					x		
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)									
	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			x		x	x	
	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>						x	
Family Stercorariidae (Skuas)									
	Arctic/Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus/pomarinus</i>	x						x
	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>			x				
Family Laridae (Gulls)									
	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				x			
	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	x	x	x	x			x
	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	x	x	x			x	

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
Family Sternidae (Terns)									
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			x				
	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x
Family Alcidae (Auks)									
	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	x		x				x
	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	x		x			x	x
	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	x		x				x
	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	x		x				x
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)									
	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x
	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		x				x	
	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)									
	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H		H		
Family Strigidae (Owls)									
	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	H	H			H	H	
	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		x				x	
Family Apodidae (Swifts)									
	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			x				
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)									
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	x	x		x	x		
Family Alaudidae (Larks)									
	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)									
	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		x	x			x	
	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	x		x	x		x	
	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails)									
	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		x		x			
	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x
	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		x		x	x		
	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	x						
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Cinclidae (Dippers)									
	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			x				
Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)									
	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Prunellidae (Accentors)									
	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>					x	x	
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)									
	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					x		
Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers and Chats)									
	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>					x		
	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>					x		
	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			x	x	x	x	
	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	x			x			
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)									
	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						H	
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)									
	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		x		x	x	H	
	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	x	x			x		

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)									
	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	H						
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	x					x	
	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Regulidae (Crests)									
	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				x			
Family Paridae (Tits)									
	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	x	x		x			
	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	x	x			x		
	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				x	x		
Family Certhiidae (Treecreepers)									
	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>					x		
Family Corvidae (Crows)									
	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>						x	
	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>						x	
	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			x	x		x	
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)									
	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)									
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family Fringillidae (Finches)									
	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		x		x	x		
	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		x			x		
	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x
	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	x			x			
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)									
	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>					x		

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
LARGER MAMMALS									
	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			x		x		
	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	x		x				x
	Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			x	x	x	x	
	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>						x	
	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	

Butterflies: Green-veined White, Green Hairstreak, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Marsh Fritillary, Small Heath

Moths: Mother Shipton, Cinnabar, Speckled Yellow, Clouded Border, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Satyr Pug, Brown Silver-line, Buff Ermine, Small Purple-barred, Silver ground Carpet

Dragonflies: Large Red Damselfly, Golden-ringed Dragonfly

Bees: Common Carder Bumblebee, Red-tailed Bumblebee, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Garden Bumblebee

Other interesting wildlife:

Common Frog, Common Toad, Pellucid Hoverfly (*Volucella pellucens*)

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

Mull plant list 13th-19th June 2015

Ferns and allied plants:

- *Asplenium trichomanes* Maidenhair Spleenwort
- *Blechnum spicant* Hard Fern
- *Equisetum sylvaticum* Wood Horsetail
- *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* Common Oak Fern
- *Pteridium aquilinum* Bracken

Grasses, Sedges, Rushes:

- *Carex echinata* Star Sedge
- *Carex nigra* Common Sedge
- *Eriophorum angustifolium* Common Cotton-grass
- *Eriophorum vaginatum* Hare's-tail Cotton-grass

Other flowering plants:

- *Ajuga reptans* Bugle
- *Alchemilla glabra* Lady's Mantle
- *Allium ursinum* Ramsons
- *Alnus glutinosa* Alder
- *Anemone nemorosa* Wood Anemone
- *Antennaria dioica* Mountain Everlasting
- *Anthriscus sylvestris* Cow Parsley
- *Armeria maritima* Thrift
- *Bellis perennis* Daisy
- *Betula pendula* Silver Birch
- *Betula pubescens* Downy Birch
- *Calluna vulgaris* Heather
- *Caltha palustris* Marsh Marigold
- *Cardamine flexuosa* Wavy Bitter-cress
- *Cardamine hirsuta* Hairy Bitter-cress
- *Cardamine pratensis* Cuckoo flower
- *Cephalanthera longifolia* Narrow-leaved Helleborine
- *Cerastium fontanum* Common Mouse-ear
- *Chamerion angustifolia* Rosebay Willowherb
- *Circaea lutetiana* Enchanter's Nightshade
- *Cirsium palustre* Marsh Thistle
- *Cochleria anglica* English Scurvy-grass
- *Conopodium majus* Pignut
- *Corylus avellana* Hazel
- *Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn
- *Cymbalaria muralis* Ivy-leaved Toadflax
- *Cytisus scoparius* Common Broom
- *Dactylorhiza purpurella* Northern Marsh Orchid
- *Dactylorhiza maculata* Heath Spotted Orchid
- *Digitalis purpurea* Foxglove
- *Drosera rotundiflora* Round-leaved Sundew
- *Epilobium montanum* Broad-leaved Willowherb
- *Erica cinerea* Bell Heather
- *Erodium cicutarium* agg. Common Stork's-bill
- *Erophila verna* Common Whitlowgrass
- *Euphrasia officinalis* agg. Eyebright
- *Fagus sylvatica* Beech
- *Filipendula ulmaria* Meadowsweet
- *Fragaria vesca* Wild Strawberry
- *Fraxinus excelsior* Ash
- *Galium odoratum* Woodruff

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

- *Galium saxatile* Heath Bedstraw
- *Galium verum* Lady's Bedstraw
- *Geranium molle* Dove's-foot Cranesbill
- *Geranium robertianum* Herb-robert
- *Geum rivale* Water Avens
- *Hedera helix* Ivy
- *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* Bluebell
- *Hypericum androsaemum* Tutsan
- *Hypochaeris radicata* Common Catsear
- *Iris pseudocorus* Yellow Iris
- *Lathyrus linifolius* Bitter Vetchling
- *Leucanthemum vulgare* Oxeye Daisy
- *Lonicera periclymenum* Honeysuckle
- *Lotus corniculatus* Bird's-foot Trefoil
- *Lychnis flos-cuculi* Ragged Robin
- *Lysimachia nemorum* Yellow Pimpernel
- *Meconopsis cambrica* Welsh Poppy
- *Melampyrum pratense* Common Cow-wheat
- *Mercurialis perennis* Dog's Mercury
- *Myosotis arvensis* Field Forget-me-not
- *Myosotis scorpioides* Water Forget-me-not
- *Myrica gale* Bog Myrtle
- *Nuphar lutea* Yellow Water-lily
- *Nymphaea alba* White Water-lily
- *Oenanthe crocata* Hemlock Water-dropwort
- *Oxalis acetosella* Wood Sorrel
- *Pedicularis palustris* Marsh Lousewort
- *Pedicularis sylvatica* Common Lousewort
- *Persicaria bistorta* Bistort
- *Pinguicula vulgaris* Butterwort
- *Plantago coronopus* Buck's-horn Plantain
- *Plantago lanceolata* Ribwort Plantain
- *Plantago major* Greater Plantain
- *Plantago maritima* Sea Plantain
- *Polygala serpyllifolia* Heath Milkwort
- *Potentilla anserina* Silverweed
- *Potentilla erecta* Tormentil
- *Primula vulgaris* Primrose
- *Prunella vulgaris* Selfheal
- *Prunus spinosa* Blackthorn
- *Pyrola minor* Common Wintergreen
- *Ranunculus bulbosus* Bulbous Buttercup
- *Ranunculus ficaria* Lesser Celandine
- *Ranunculus flammula* Lesser Spearwort
- *Ranunculus repens* Creeping Buttercup
- *Rhodiola rosea* Roseroot
- *Rubus fruticosus agg.* Bramble
- *Rubus idaeus* Raspberry
- *Rumex acetosa* Common Sorrel
- *Rumex crispus* Curled Dock
- *Salix cinerea* Grey Willow
- *Salix crepens* Creeping Willow
- *Sambucus nigra* Elder
- *Sanicula europaea* Wood Sanicle
- *Scilla verna* Spring Squill
- *Sedum anglicum* English Stonecrop
- *Senecio aquaticus* Marsh Ragwort

Mull trip report, 13th to 19th June 2015

- *Senecia jacobea* Ragwort
- *Silene dioica* Red Campion
- *Silene uniflora* Sea Campion
- *Sorbus aucuparia* Rowan
- *Stellaria holostea* Greater Stitchwort
- *Symphytum officinale* Common Comfrey
- *Taraxacum agg.* Dandelion
- *Teucrium scorodonia* Wood Sage
- *Thymus polytrichus* Wild Thyme
- *Trifolium dubium* Lesser Trefoil
- *Trifolium hybridum* Alsike Clover
- *Trifolium pratense* Red Clover
- *Trifolium repens* White Clover
- *Ulex europaeus* Gorse
- *Urtica dioica* Common Nettle
- *Valeriana officinalis* Red Valerian
- *Veronica chamaedrys* Germander Speedwell
- *Veronica montana* Wood Speedwell
- *Veronica officinalis* Heath Speedwell
- *Vicia sepum* Wood Vetch
- *Viola riviniana* Wood Dog Violet