

Wildlife Travel

Mull 2017



Mull trip report, 6th to 12th June 2017

LIST OF TRAVELLERS

Leaders

Mike Russell
Mike Symes

Sussex
Devon

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Tuesday 6th June

A cluster of Sunvil tags at the Oban Ferry Terminal coalesced to form the group going to Mull for the next 6 days. Introductions made, Wildlife Travel tried to simplify matters for you by having both leaders called Mike and then to compound matters we met up with another Mike in the form of one of our driver/guides, leaving the other driver Dave completely outnumbered on the name front. Inclement weather on the crossing made birding difficult but plenty of **black guillemots** were around and a few unmistakable **gannets** sailed elegantly by in the wind.

A short drive to the Salen Hotel and a quick turnaround before heading off to Tobermory but not before a ritual was established that was to last all week of choosing one's evening meal hours, if not days in advance. This accomplished off we went to town, a short stop at the Aros Waterfalls and a very obliging pair of **grey wagtails** taking food to chicks behind the tumbling water. It was here that we heard just a snatch of **wood warbler** song, the only one we heard all week. At this point, half opted to get back on the bus to drive to Tobermory while the others decided to take the footpath, thought to have taken about half an hour which ended up taking nearly three times that much, largely due to the floral interest. To Nigel's delight he found someone else that was actually interested in plants in the form of Mike S, and on the last night vouched for this being his abiding memory of the trip.

Everyone was left to their own devices in Tobermory, some enjoying the delights of the museum, others taking one of the only opportunities for shopping in the week, while those that took the walk, there was just enough time to grab a coffee and cake. Back to the hotel for our first evening meal followed by a walk to Salen Loch to look for what Dave calls the mythical sea monsters, but alas there were none, but there were plenty of **oystercatchers** and **common sandpipers**, birds we came very familiar with over the next week.

Wednesday 7th June

Fine weather greeted the morning but sadly this didn't encourage any otters to appear for us on the early morning walk, so post-breakfast we set off on our first full day of adventures on Mull, stopping first at Knock Bridge where the sun brought out such a dazzling display of wildlife that Charles remembered it as his most memorable moment of the trip. Here the song of the **willow warbler** was ever-present, as it was the whole time we were on Mull and we managed to get good views of a **spotted flycatcher**, our only sighting.

This was by far the best day for butterflies and a number of **small pearl-bordered fritillaries** had just emerged which were a lovely spectacle. **Small copper** and **small heath** both put in an appearance as well while on the dragonfly front, **common darter**, **golden-ringed dragonfly** and **4-spotted chaser** were noted. Plant enthusiasts were rewarded by finding **lesser meadow-rue**. One of the reasons for stopping at Knock Bridge was to look for a dapper little bird that lives in and around water and eventually the cry 'dipper' went out as one was seen on the opposite bank. By the time I got back to see it, the bird shot off upstream so I missed it, but I suppose there was enough of you that saw it to have it ratified.

Our hunt to re-find the dipper was interrupted by Dave moving purposefully towards us and then stopping abruptly. For seconds nothing happened, then he suddenly pointed to the sky and shouted 'Goldie!' Sure enough, circling high in the sky was a beautiful **golden eagle**, again our only one of the week. A splendid start to the day, so we then set off for Ulva but not before a little stop at the edge of Loch Na Keal where amongst other familiar species we managed to locate a **ringed plover**. On the way to the Ferry, one bus was lucky enough to see 2 **great northern divers** on the loch.

Summoning the Ferryman to transport us over to Ulva we then spent a wonderful couple of hours on this island including a splendid lunch at the Boathouse Inn. A walk only took us around a small part of it and was particularly good for plants where the botanists found amongst many **cut-leaved cranesbill**, **enchanter's nightshade**, **lousewort**, **wood sage** and **skull cap**. More small pearl-bordered fritillaries were in flight here but perhaps the lepidopterist highlight was a **green hairstreak**. On the bird front there was an audible but invisible **cuckoo**, the same applying to a **tree pipit**. At the start of the walk a nearby

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lesser redpoll sat briefly in a tree. We did manage to see **goldcrests** and **long-tailed tits** both for the first and last time.

After lunch it was back over to the mainland to get on to a bigger boat to join Mull Charters for what turned out to be one of the major highlights of the trip. Sailing back past Ulva and into Loch Na Keal we passed small islands adorned with loafing **harbour (common) seals** and very soon the star attraction of the trip making slow steady progress towards the boat enticed by the fish thrown out, a **white-tailed eagle**. This was a familiar female who was very adept at scooping the fish off the surface, but the second bird, apparently a new male, seemed nervous and committed a number of unsuccessful dives allowing us to enjoy such close and prolonged views of this stunning bird. Eventually he got the hang of it and had a successful dive and then drifted off to enjoy his hard won spoils. We then came across another pair who again treated us to some brilliant displays, a new pair according to the skipper, Martin.

This really is one of the great ornithological spectacles in the UK, so it wasn't surprising that Andrew, Nigel, Marjorie, Rob and Mike S all voted it their most magical moment of the trip. On the way back everyone was reflecting between the sight that they had just seen and desperately trying to remember what they had ordered for dinner. Now during the pre-dinner species call, Nigel was struggling with the fact that on Ulva, he saw a wheatear but no-one else did, therefore it couldn't be ratified, so had to commit these struggles to paper and just to show that us Mike's aren't really so hard-hearted, his troubled thoughts are re-produced below.



It takes two

I'm suffering an existential crisis

Being disbelieved, not once, but twice is

Disturbing. Both leaders, Mike, couldn't resist

Explaining "If you saw them alone they cannot exist"

Although I saw two familiar species

As records, politely, they're faeces.

Observing my familiar face and silvery hair

In the mirror. How do I know I'm actually there?

Can this question ever be satisfied

If I'm not independently ratified?

Now, drowning in a sea of doubt,

Can anybody pull me out?

Thursday 8th June

The forecast for today was not good so it was decided to switch the itinerary around which proved to be a good decision even though the predicted heavy rain never materialised. We headed north stopping at various points on the way, one particularly good one where 2 **curlews** were flying around, their wonderful wild song percolating through the landscape.

On to Dervaig where scanning over the shoreline we picked out a female **goosander** with 8 very pronounced chicks swimming urgently along behind her. A couple of **redshank** seen here as well. Indifferent weather and a yearn for caffeine led us to a very nice café and a well appreciated coffee and cake for most of us I think. From the car park, we had good views over the only proper reedbed on Mull and from here we were able to locate **reed bunting** and **sedge warbler** and then a very obliging **whinchat** put in an appearance showing itself long enough for all to get good views.

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Mike the driver then suggested we go onto Caliach Point which was very good decision as the rain had stopped and we had 45 minutes or so of splendid wildlife watching. An **Atlantic grey seal** was enjoying a snooze in the water, his head poking out and eyes closed, a great sight. Everyone here saw the pairs of **Northern wheatears** getting a bit agitated so we could also put that on the list. **Meadow pipits** were also feeding young and a pair of **lapwing** had a territory nearby. Notable plants found here included **sea campion**, **sea spleenwort** and an in-flower **butterwort**.

Then a distant commotion on the shoreline revealed the presence of an **otter**, which we were able to watch for a quite a while and though they were not brilliant views, at least we were able to put to bed the idea that there were no mythical sea monsters on Mull!

Lunch beckoned and so we located ourselves to the Carthouse Gallery at Calgary which was lovely, followed by a walk through the wood behind the Gallery down to the glorious sandy beach where Mike and Dave were waiting for us. An important plant in the wood is the **sword-leaved helleborine** of which we found a few though they were a bit past their best alongside which **white helleborine** was also located. A single roosting **common blue** was the only butterfly found on the day while along the side of the cliff, Nigel located some high-up **bloody cranesbill**. Bird-wise it was pretty quiet, a couple of **elder** ducks with flotillas of chicks in attendance were noted while over the glorious white sands and the dunes a few **sand martins** busily flew around.

Time was now running a bit short so we only had a short time to look around Lucy's wonderful garden but, as in the previous 2 years, a **yellowhammer** was sitting singing from the same telegraph wire, the only place I've ever seen one on Mull. Both buses managed to get a sighting of a female **hen harrier** on the way back, while just one picked up briefly a **red-throated diver** on the loch. I think everyone enjoyed the evening meal at the Mediterranean Restaurant and congratulations to everyone who remembered what they ordered 24 hours previously!

Friday 9th June

A much better day weather-wise and much more suitable for the treats that lay ahead. A few hardy souls assembled for a pre-breakfast walk down to Salen Pier which produced nothing new but enjoyable nonetheless. After breakfast and it was off back past Loch Na Kael and stopping at the same place where we managed to add **greenfinch** to the species list! A notable plant here was the **round-leaved sundew**. Further on up the road we stopped at Laggan Bay for a while and managed to get another sighting of an otter again a bit distant and this was one was fishing so spending a lot of time under water but we all managed to see it in the end.

Reaching the Ferry point again, panic set in as the toilets were out of order, but we were re-assured that there was one on the boat, so off we went on the 45 minute crossing to Staffa with some excellent commentary from the Tarus Mara skipper. Approaching the island the magnificent basalt rock formation loomed before us in glorious sunshine and the boat took us around to the entrance of Fingal's cave and stopped there for a while, rolling in the swell of the sea and to Mozart's music inspired by this scene. It was this approach to Staffa that Rob vouched for this being his most memorable moment, while for Marjorie walking down into Fingal's cave was her favourite and for the fact she actually achieved it. After about an hour on the Staffa itself we were back on board and another short journey across to Lunga.

As we neared Lunga, seabirds got more numerous and we arrived in glorious sunshine. Now getting on to Lunga itself is not easy, but boy is it worth the trouble. Once on you are transported to a magical place, the principal attraction being the thousands of **puffins** walking about, totally unconcerned by the presence of people. Everyone was just transfixed by these wonderful birds, or 'puffinised' in the words of the boat's captain, and over 100 pictures taken of them is just not enough! Wendy certainly advocated it as her favourite moment.

As difficult as it was to tear yourself away from the puffins, there were other great sights to see and most people made their way to the end of the island, past breeding **shags**, to the seabird colony, where

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crowded cliffs of **guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes** and **fulmars** produced a wonderful assault on all your senses: sight, sound and smell. Both Ann and Mike S pronounced it as their most memorable moment precisely for that reason. The sculptured repose of the razorbills was enough for Jane to vote it her favourite bird. Meanwhile a **great skua** menacingly floated over the colony, causing murmurs of excitement amongst the occupants. For Ray, his abiding memory was of the **corncrake** which called noisily from a fern patch and he managed to get a brief glimpse of it as it dashed across a break in the vegetation.

Sadly, we had to leave this magical island, but the wildlife spectacle wasn't over as the skipper received a message so diverted off to where a school of **bottle-nosed dolphins** had been located and once found we were treated to another memorable wildlife show as these lovely creatures played around the boats for about 15 minutes or so, enough for me to make it my best moment of the trip. What an end to such a brilliant day, the decision to swap the itinerary well and truly vindicated.

Saturday 10th June

Un-promising weather greeted us this morning so we set off on the longish drive to catch the ferry to Iona and wet misty conditions that concealed a wonderful landscape behind a blanket of grey. On arriving at Fionnphort to embark on the ferry, the weather improved markedly as we landed on Iona. While most visitors head for the Abbey and look for the heritage attractions, we go straight to the fire station from where we hoped to have heard Iona's star avian attraction. Alas they didn't perform for us here, but the plentiful spikes of the **Northern marsh orchid** provided a lot of admiration as did a few spikes of **early marsh orchid**.

People then decided to explore Iona at their own pace then so off we all went in our own directions, an interlude in the otherwise fine weather precipitated a pretty heavy downpour to give us a good soaking. A few of us went on a trek to see if we could locate some corncrakes and we did hear a couple of distant calling birds and eventually coming upon one which was much closer. As ever, this call had no apparent body attached to it, but in the end, we did see an outline of a head amongst some rushes. With a bit of judicious encouragement, the bird shot his head up and ran inquisitively towards us and we all enjoyed some pretty good views. Meanwhile, we were trying to turn some of the **linnets** that were flying about into another star Iona bird, twite and while watching the corncrake three birds flew over, that were just too quick to be positively identified, therefore remaining un-ratified.

Between them, the botanists added a few plants to the species list, which included **red bartsia, lady's bedstraw, common comfrey** and **marsh marigold**. Rather surprisingly, the **jackdaws** and **rooks** we saw only occur on Iona and only rarely stray across to the mainland. As we gathered for the ferry back, Jane suddenly realised she felt somewhat lighter around the neck due to a lack of binoculars, but with commendable memory recall and haste, she hurried back to where she left them and still made it back to the ferry in time.

Dave was there to greet us and so we headed back up the road only to find the weather closing in on us again. Driver Mike's knowledge of the avian life on Mull meant that a large white blob on a distant pond caused him to stop to check it out, knowing it was unlikely to be a mute swan and sure enough his intuition paid dividends as it turned out to be a **whooper swan**. Despite close scrutiny of the shoreline as we went by, we couldn't locate any more otters but further on as we drove through Ben More, an ornithological delight awaited us as a **short-eared owl** was seen hunting over the moorland. We all got out to enjoy this spectacle and after a short while it disappeared over the hill, but about 200 metres up the road we stopped again, this time to admire two short-eared owls hunting on either side of the road, offering great views. Jane enjoyed these sightings so much that it got her nomination as her most memorable moment of the trip.

Another successful day got better for Ray and Marjorie as in the evening they looked out their bedroom window to see a **barn owl** hunting the fields behind the hotel and he was pleased enough to vote this his favourite bird.

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Sunday 11th June

Our last full day on Mull and the weather even less promising than yesterday and this time the forecasters had got it right. So off we went, wet weather gear in very close proximity, to our first stop at Garmony, another great place for invisible otters. However, a number of **arctic terns** were flying about, a bit distant but close enough to see through the scope that they didn't have black tips to their bills. Also, a couple of red-throated divers were swimming and diving in the loch, nice for those that had missed this species previously. A bit further down we then stopped at the end of Craignure golf course hoping to see the regularly reported white-tailed eagles but they were noticeable by their absence, but in amongst the arctic terns here was a single **sandwich tern**, not a common sight on Mull. Some handsome summer-plumaged **turnstones** then turned up to be admired.

Moving onto Grasspoint the drizzle started to set in, but fuelled by some of Mike and Dave's coffee, undaunted we set off down to the point, the weather really cancelling out our last chance of seeing marsh fritillary. Plants were now the star attraction, none more so than the lovely **lesser-butterfly orchids** by the side of the track. Accompanying these were a few spikes of **fragrant orchid** as well. Other marsh plants that were just beginning to emerge were **bog asphodel** and **marsh cinquefoil**. Down at the shoreline, a small pool in the rocks contained a number of **common frog** tadpoles still in a very early stage of development.

With no let-up in the rain it was decided that wildlife watching would be better from the vehicles, so we set off on a lovely drive to Croggan along the side of Loch Spelve, another great place for invisible otters! Lunch was taken at Croggan and the rain had eased enough for us to take a short walk along the bank trying to get good views of the ringed plover chicks. Making our way back to our next stop, Duart Castle, Mike the driver pulled up suddenly as a red lump flew up from the road. Both buses now safely parked and we got out to get incredibly good views of at least 4 **common crossbills**, mostly bright red males but one greener female that would go back down to the road once any passing traffic had gone through. When not on the road, they would fly up to some conveniently low hanging conifers for us all to admire. This unexpected sighting meant that Charles, Ann and myself decided that it was our favourite bird of the trip.

At Duart Castle some joined Dave for a tour of the castle while for others the lure of the café was too strong, but a pleasant hour or so was spent here. On the way out, a beautiful male hen harrier floated over a field, a sight I'd hoped we would see all week. Still raining, we decided to go back to the hotel to prepare for another splendid meal at the Mediterranean Restaurant across the road. After the meal, it was really nice to go through your favourite birds and memorable moments and it was a surprise that no-one actually chose a puffin as their favourite bird! Andrew said that his strongest memory of the trip was learning from the knowledge that was within the group which again was lovely to hear and no doubt about it, you were a very knowledgeable bunch!

Monday 12th June

Leaving the Salen Hotel, we decide to go for the early ferry as the weather was still not enticing enough for one last walk so at Craignure we bid Dave farewell but Mike was coming with us on the ferry. There was one slight problem in that we had recorded 99 species of bird during our stay on Mull so we desperately needed one more species, but the inclement weather did not encourage us to leave the warmth of the lounge. Two very distant birds were that we try to convince ourselves that they were black-throated divers but would have been a distinctly dodgy record, but luckily as we approached Oban, and the holiday didn't officially end until we reached Oban, a few terns sailed close enough to the ferry to reveal themselves as **common terns**, nothing like ending the holiday on a nice round number!

After landing, fond farewells were passed as we wend our various ways home, hopefully with very fond memories of your time on Mull, a lovely island with wonderful wildlife and great company.

Many thanks to Charles, Nigel, Andrew and Mike S for photos.

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MULL 2017: some highlights



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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
BIRDS									
Family Anatidae (Swans, geese and ducks)									
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		•			•	•	
2	Whooper Swan						•		
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4	Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
5	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		•		•		•	
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
8	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	•	•	•			•	•
9	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>			•	•			
10	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	•	•		•	•	•	
Family Gaviidae (Divers)									
11	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			•			•	
12	Great Northern Diver			•					
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)									
13	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters)									
14	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			•	•		•	•
Family Sulidae (Gannets)									
15	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)									
16	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		•	•			•	•
17	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Ardeidae (Hérons)									
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Accipitridae (Hawks and Eagles)									
19	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		•	•	•			
20	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		•	•				
21	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			•	•	•	•	
22	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Family Falconidae (Falcons)									
23	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			•		•		
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)									
24	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>				•	•		
Family Himantopidae (Oystercatchers)									
25	Oystercatcher	<i>Himantopus ostralegus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)									
26	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				•			
27	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						•	
28	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
29	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				•	•	•	
30	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)									
31	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		•		•		•	
32	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Family Stercorariidae (Skuas)									
33	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>			•	•			
Family Laridae (Gulls)									
34	Black-headed gull			•					
35	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
36	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
37	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	
38	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

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39	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	•	•		•		•	
Family Sternidae (Terns)									
40	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>							•
41	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>						•	
42	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalassache sandvicensis</i>						•	
Family Alcidae (Auks)									
43	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>				•			
44	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	•	•			•	•	•
45	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	•	•	•	•		•	•
46	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>			•	•			
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)									
47	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•
48	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	•	•		•		•	
49	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)									
50	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H				
Family Tytonidae (Barn Owls)									
51	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				•	•		
Family Strigidae (Owls)									
52	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>					•		
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)									
53	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	•	•					
Family Alaudidae (Larks)									
54	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		•	•	•	•	•	
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)									
55	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
56	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>			•	•	•	•	
57	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails)									
58	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		•				•	
59	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		•	•	•	•	•	
60	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		•	•	•		•	
61	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	•	•				•	
62	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarelli</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Family Cinclidae (Dippers)									
63	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		•					
Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)									
64	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Prunellidae (Accentors)									
65	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		•	•	•		•	
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)									
66	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
67	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
68	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		•	•				
Family Muscipidae (Flycatchers and Chats)									
69	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	•	•	•	•		•	
70	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			•			•	
71	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	•		•				
72	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			•	•	•	•	
73	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		•					
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)									
74	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			•	•	•		

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Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)									
75	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	•	•		•	•		
76	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		•	•				
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)									
77	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	H						
78	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		•			•	•	
79	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Family Regulidae (Crests)									
80	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	•	•					
Family Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)									
81	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		•					
Family Paridae (Tits)									
82	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		•	•	•		•	
83	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	•	•	•			•	
84	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	•	•	•		•	•	•
Family Corvidae (Crows)									
85	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>					•		
86	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>					•		
87	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
88	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	•	•	•	•	•		
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)									
89	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)									
90	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Family Fringillidae (Finches)									
91	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
92	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			•	•		•	
93	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
94	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
95	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		•	•		•		
96	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>		•	•	•		•	
97	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>						•	
98	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhulla pyrrhula</i>	•						
99	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>			•				
100	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		•	•				

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
LARGER MAMMALS									
Family Leporidae (Rabbits and Hares)									
	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	
Family Phocidae (Seals)									
	Atlantic Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			•	•			
	Common (Harbour) Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	•	•		•	•	•	
Family Delphinidae (Dolphins)									
	Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>				•			
Family Mustelidae (Mustelids)									
	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>			•	•			
Family Cervidae (Deer)									
	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
BUTTERFLIES									
	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		•			•	•	
	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		•			•		
	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		•					
	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			•				
	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>		•					
	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		•					
MOTHS									
	Chimney Sweeper	<i>Odezia atrata</i>							
	Cinnabar Moth	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>							
	Angle Shades	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>							
	Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthortoe designata</i>							
	Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>							
	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellaterum</i>							
	Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthortoe montanata montanata</i>							
	Coronet	<i>Craniphora ligustri</i>							
	Garden Tiger (larvae)	<i>Arctia caja</i>							
	Brown Silver-line	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>							
DRAGONFLIES									
	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		•					
	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>		•					
	Golden-ringed Dragonfly	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>		•					



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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
PLANTS (some of the more noteworthy sightings)			
Ferns			
	Oak Fern	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
	Beech Fern	<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Alongside the road in Glen Aros on 8 th
	Sea Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium marinum</i>	On rocks on beach at Caliach Point on 8 th
Angiosperms: Dicots			
Family Apiaceae (umbellifers)			
	Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	In Aros Park on 6 th , also in woods at Calgary on 8 th
	Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Common in woodland and shady grassy places across the island
Family Asteraceae (daisy)			
	Mountain Everlasting	<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	On Staffa on 9 th
	Melancholy Thistle	<i>Cirsium helenioides</i>	Alongside the road in Glen Aros on 8 th
Family Boraginaceae (borage)			
	Common Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	On Iona on 10 th
Family Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle) (inc Valerianaceae & Dipsacaceae)			
	Common Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	In Aros Park on 6 th , also at Grasspoint on 11 th
	Devil's-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	At Garmony and Grasspoint on 11 th
Family Caryophyllaceae (pinks andampions)			
	Sea Campion	<i>Silene maritima</i>	At Caliach Point on 8 th , also on Lunga on 9 th
	Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	In roadside field by Loch na Keal on 9 th
Family Clusiaceae (st john's wort)			
	Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
Family Crassulaceae (stonecrops)			
	Roseroot	<i>Rhodiola rosea</i>	On bare rock faces on Lunga on 9 th
	English Stonecrop	<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	On Ulva on 7 th
Family Droseraceae (sundews)			
	Round-leaved Sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	By roadside at eagle watchpoint on 10 th
Family Ericaceae (heather) (inc Pyrolaceae)			
	Common Wintergreen	<i>Pyrola minor</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
	Cowberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Low-growing with small red berries; at Caliach Point on 8 th
Family Fabaceae (peas)			
	Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
	Bitter Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
	Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common in grassy places across the island
Family Geraniaceae (cranesbills)			
	Bloody Cranesbill	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	At Calgary on 8 th
	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	On Ulva on 7 th
Family Lamiaceae (deadnettle)			
	Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	In Aros Park on 6 th , also in woods at Calgary on 8 th
	Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	On Ulva on 7 th
	Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	On Ulva on 7 th
	Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus serpyllum</i> agg.	At Caliach Point on 8 th , also on Staffa/Lunga on 9 th
Family Lentibulariaceae (butterwort)			
	Common Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	In flower at Caliach Point on 8 th , leaves also found 10 th and 11 th
Family Linaceae (flax)			
	Fairy Flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	By roadside on way back from Iona on 10 th
Family Menyanthaceae (bogbean)			
	Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Seen from the vehicle near Caliach Point on 8 th
Family Myricaceae (bog myrtle)			
	Bog Myrtle	<i>Myrica gale</i>	Common in wet heaths across the island
Family Onagraceae (willowherb)			
	Enchanter's Nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	On Ulva on 7 th
Family Orobanchaceae (broomrape) (inc part Scrophulariaceae)			
	Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites verna</i>	On Iona on 10 th
	Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg.	Fairly common in grassy places across the island

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
	Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> agg.	On Iona on 10 th , also some near Grasspoint on 11 th
	Marsh Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	By Loch na Keal on 9 th , also at Grasspoint on 11 th
	Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	On Ulva on 7 th , at Caliach Point on 8 th , at Grasspoint on 11 th
	Common Cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
Family Oxalidaceae (wood sorrels)			
	Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
Family Papaveraceae (poppy)			
	Welsh Poppy	<i>Meconopsis cambric</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
Family Plantaginaceae (plantains) (inc part Scrophulariaceae)			
	Heath Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Common in grassy places across the island
	Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	In wet ditch on Iona on 10 th
Family Plumbaginaceae (leadwort)			
	Thrift	<i>Armeria maritime</i>	Common along coastline of the island
Family Polygalaceae (milkwort)			
	Common Milkwort	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common in grassy places across the island
Family Primulaceae (primrose)			
	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Still flowering in shady areas of Lunga on 9 th
	Yellow Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
Family Ranunculaceae (buttercups)			
	Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	On Iona on 10 th , also at Grasspoint on 11 th
	Lesser Meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	By the river at Knock Bridge on 7 th
	Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
Family Rosaceae (roses)			
	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	In Aros Park on 6 th , also at Grasspoint on 11 th
	Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i> agg.	In Aros Park on 6 th , also at various other sites on the island
	Marsh Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	At Grasspoint on 11 th
	Water Avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>	In Aros Park on 6 th , also at various other sites on the island
	Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	In Aros Park on 6 th , also at various other sites on the island
	Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Common in grassy places across the island
Family Rubiaceae (bedstraw)			
	Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	In the woods at Aros Park above Tobermory on 6 th
	Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Common in grassy places across the island
	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	On Iona on 10 th
Family Saxifragaceae (saxifrages)			
	Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	In damp woods at Croggan on 11 th
Angiosperms: Monocots			
Family Amarylidaceae (daffodil)			
	Ramsons	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	In Aros Park on 6 th , also in woods at Calgary on 8 th
Family Cyperaceae (sedges)			
	Common Cotton Grass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Multi-flowered; common in wet heaths across the island
	Hare's-tail Cotton Grass	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Single-flowered; also common in similar habitats
Family Iridaceae (iris)			
	Yellow Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Common in wet meadows/marshes across Mull and Iona
Family Liliaceae (lily)			
	Bog Asphodel	<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Just emerging at Caliach Point on 8 th , and at Grasspoint on 11 th
Family Orchidaceae (orchids)			
	Early Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	A few flower spikes around the fire station on Iona on 10 th
	Northern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	On Ulva, Iona (eg around fire station) and at Grasspoint
	Heath Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Fairly common in wet heaths/acid grassland across the island
	Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Spikes on Ulva, by roadside on way back from Iona & Grasspoint
	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Delicate white orchids at Grasspoint on 11 th
	White Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	Broad-leaved white orchid in woods at Calgary on 8 th
	Sword-leaved Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	In woods at Calgary on 8 th ; mostly gone over but a few still out