



Scottish Ornithologists' Club
Scotland's Bird Club
Established 1936

Clyde branch outing to Great Cumbrae

22 June 2024 (1015-1645)

Leader: Eddie Williams

Participants: 12

Weather: Mainly overcast with occasional sun. Temp 15-17°C. Light westerlies.

No of species recorded: 56 (see list below)

Five of us met at Largs ferry terminal and got the 1015 ferry to the Island – a short 10-minute ride. We were met at the Cumbrae Slip by the other participants including our Leader Eddie Williams. We walked to Millport in an anti-clockwise direction using the relatively quiet road by the sea. The total walking distance was approximately seven miles.



Outing group (© Zul Bhatia)

Shortly after we set off, Eddie checked out the usual roadside wall / verges for Common Lizards. This part of the island seems particularly good for them and Eddie had counted nearly 30 on a previous occasion. Alas it was not sunny and the verge was very overgrown and we didn't see any. We took our time getting to Fintry Bay via various bays (White, Wine, Stinking, Skate and Bell). Notable sightings were **Eider** with ducklings, a **Common Gull** breeding colony, **Stock Dove**, **Ringed Plovers**, great views of several **Common Sandpipers**, a couple of **Black Guillemots**, just one **Gannet**, **Sand Martins** by a colony and great views of **Whitethroat** including an adult feeding a recently-fledged young. Other sightings included nice views of **Stonechat**, **Song Thrush**, **Rock Pipit** and **Reed Bunting**.

Most of us had our packed lunches on the benches at Fintry Bay but some people took advantage of the adjacent Fintry Bay Patio & Restaurant and treated themselves to hot food and / or ice creams.

Stuart spotted a perched, albeit distant **Stock Dove** (a scarce bird on the island) and Billy and Dee set up their scopes and we all had good views. Four **Sandwich Tern** flew past whilst we were having lunch and other notable sightings in the Fintry area were **Buzzard** and **Blackcap**.

Carrying on round the island, we stopped to look at a **Raven's** nest near Sheriff's Port. Three fledged young were perched together on the cliffs and an arriving adult was mobbed by **Jackdaws** whilst two **Carrion Crows** were perched on wires close by. It gave for an interesting comparison between the three corvid species. A pair of **Stonechat** were feeding young close to the road, and we had good views of both male and female carrying food.

In Millport itself, whilst waiting for the bus, we had **Eider**, **Herring Gull** and **Jackdaw**.



Whitethroat (© Billy McKellar)

From the bus enroute to the ferry, we added **Shelduck** and **Greylag** to the day's total. Species recorded at Largs but not on the island (mainly by Stuart) were **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Swift**, **Feral Pigeon** and **Black-headed Gull**.



Grey Heron (© Billy McKellar)

It had been a great outing with good company, some good birds and it stayed dry!

We are particularly grateful to **Eddie Williams** who led the outing and shared his extensive knowledge with us.

It was great to see some familiar faces from previous outings as well as welcoming three new ones for whom it was their first SOC outing since we started them back again after the Lockdown in October 2021.

No new species were added to our cumulative list of species recorded on our SOC outings, so the total still stands at 167 species.

Zul Bhatia, July 2024

56 species of birds were recorded on SOC Outing to Great Cumbrae on 22 June 2024.

Greylag Goose
Shelduck
Mallard
Eider
Red-breasted Merganser
Gannet
Cormorant
Shag
Grey Heron
Buzzard
Oystercatcher
Ringed Plover
Curlew
Common Sandpiper
Black Guillemot
Sandwich Tern
Black-headed Gull
Common Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull

Herring Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Feral Pigeon
Stock Dove
Woodpigeon
Swift
Jackdaw
Rook
Carrion Crow
Raven
Blue Tit
Great Tit
Coal Tit
Sand Martin
Swallow
House Martin
Chiffchaff
Willow Warbler
Blackcap

Whitethroat
Grasshopper Warbler
Sedge Warbler
Wren
Starling
Blackbird
Song Thrush
Stonechat
Dunnock
House Sparrow
Pied Wagtail (yarrellii)
Meadow Pipit
Rock Pipit
Chaffinch
Linnet
Lesser Redpoll
Goldfinch
Reed Bunting

Other species recorded

Grey Seal



Stonechat (© Cameron Wilson)



Common Gull (© Billy McKellar)