

We hope you manage to make it along to some of our branch outings. Don't forget, as an SOC member you're welcome to attend any of the outings listed here - not just those with your local branch. Please speak to the relevant branch beforehand so that they know to expect you.

On our outdoor trips the aim is not just to see the largest number of birds, but to find and watch and enjoy. These are a great opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals whilst bettering your bird ID skills. There will always be someone on hand to help with the trickier aspects of field identification.

Non-members interested in finding out more about the Club, our activities and membership are more than welcome to come along and sample one of these outings. Please contact the branch representative in advance to let them know you're planning to attend.

Want a timely reminder about your branch's upcoming outings? Complete our online consent form at [www.the-soc.org.uk/members-area](http://www.the-soc.org.uk/members-area) to allow us to send you these (if you haven't done so already).

## \* Ayrshire

Contact: Jim Thomson (Tel: 01292 571899) or Anne Dick (Tel: 01292 541981, email: [a\\_m\\_dick@btinternet.com](mailto:a_m_dick@btinternet.com))

All outings are joint with Central Ayrshire RSPB Local Group. For outings and to arrange carshare, contact Jim Thomson or Anne Dick. For coach trips please contact Tony Scott on 01292 281085.

**Sat 23 Mar** Fullarton Woods and Troon Harbour  
**Fri 19 Apr** Loch Doon and Ness Glen  
**May** Coach holiday week, date and further details to be announced

## \* Borders

Contact: Neil Stratton (Tel: 01573 450695, email: [neildstratton@btinternet.com](mailto:neildstratton@btinternet.com))

**Sat 23 Mar** Sprouston to Carham. Meet at Sprouston at 10.00am  
**Wed 24 Apr** Druridge Bay. Meet at East Ord Garden Centre for car sharing at 9.30am  
**Sat 18 May** Ashiestiel and Glenkinnon Burn. Meet at Forestry Commission car park (NT437350) at 10.00am  
**Tue 11 Jun** Skinflats RSPB reserve & Argaty Red Kites, Doune. Meet at car park off Higgins' Neuk roundabout, Kincardine Bridge (NS919868) at 10.30am. Please contact Malcolm Ross on 01896 755523 at least ten days in advance to book a place at Argaty, entry £7.50 (£6 for concessions)

## \* Caithness

Contact: Angus McBay (Tel: 01847 894663, email: [angmcb@btinternet.com](mailto:angmcb@btinternet.com))

No outings currently planned. Any updates will be available on the SOC website.

## \* Central Scotland

Contact: Rick Goater (Tel: 07875 029201, email: [rick.goater@btinternet.com](mailto:rick.goater@btinternet.com))

Please contact Rick Goater for outings details if you don't receive these by email.

**Sun 24 Mar** First Signs of Spring - a Perthshire bird safari. Meet at The Haining Car Park, Dunblane at 8.00am (Neil Beilby & Rick Goater)  
**Sun 5 May** Doune Dawn - a chorus of birds for the beginner, and a free breakfast! Meet at Doune Castle car park at 5.00am (Rick Goater)  
**Sun 2 Jun** You can't have too many Puffins! The Isle of May by boat from Anstruther. Details to be arranged (Rick Goater)  
**Sat 29 Jun** Some Top Birds - the Western Cairngorms. Details to be arranged (Rick Goater)  
**Sun 11 Aug** Birds on the Move - Musselburgh and Aberlady Bay. Details to be arranged (Rick Goater)

## \* Clyde

Contact: David Palmar (Tel: 07904 119047, email: [info@photoscot.co.uk](mailto:info@photoscot.co.uk))

Excursions will usually last until mid-afternoon. Car sharing is encouraged, please contact David Palmar by email a week before each outing if you can either offer a lift or need one.

**Wed 15 May** Dalzell Woods. Meet at RSPB Baron's Haugh car park at 10.00am (Lang Stewart)  
**Thu 23 May** Inchcailloch. Meet at National Park Centre, Balmaha at 10.00am (Ian Fulton)

## \* Dumfries

Contact: Lesley Creamer (Tel: 01848 330821, email: [dumfriessecretary@the-soc.org.uk](mailto:dumfriessecretary@the-soc.org.uk))

**Sat 16 Mar** South Solway (Duncan Irving). Bus leaves Brooms Road car park at 9.00am  
**29 Apr - 2 May** Portpatrick (fully booked)

## \* Fife

Contact: Caroline Gordon (Tel: 01592 750230, email: [fifeseecretary@the-soc.org.uk](mailto:fifeseecretary@the-soc.org.uk))

**15-18 Mar** Islay (David Heeley)  
**Sun 14 Apr** Ruddons Point (Rob Armstrong)  
**Sun 12 May** Glen Turret (Elizabeth & John Irwin)

## \* Highland

Contact: Kathy Bonniface (Tel: 01808 511740, email: [highlandsecretary@the-soc.org.uk](mailto:highlandsecretary@the-soc.org.uk))

Meet at 9.00am (9.15am Thursdays) at Inverness Retail Park, near Burger King.

**Thu 21 Mar** Local birding  
**Sun 14 Apr** Glens south of Inverness (Alex Joss)  
**Thu 25 Apr** Local birding  
**Sat 18 May** Corrimony (Carol Miller)  
**31 May - 3 Jun** Long weekend in Caithness (Susan Seright)

## \* Lothian

Contact: Gillian Herbert (Tel: 0131 339 6479, email: [gillianiherbert@btinternet.com](mailto:gillianiherbert@btinternet.com))

These are full-day trips so please bring packed lunch and stout footwear. Transport is on a carshare basis. Details will be available at indoor meetings, or from Gillian Herbert.

**Sun 17 Mar** Tentsmuir/Morton Lochs (David Atkins)  
**Sun 28 Apr** Little Glenshee/Loch of the Lowes (John Hamilton)  
**Thu 9 May** The Borders (James & Doreen Main)  
**Sun 19 May** The Hirsell (Tom Gillies)  
**Sun 16 Jun** Northumberland Coast (David Atkins)  
**Sun 14 Jul** Isle of May (Alison Creamer)  
**Sun 11 Aug** Aberlady (Morag King)  
**Sun 8 Sep** East Coast (Richard Leslie)

## \* Moray

Contact: Alison Ritchie (Tel: 01309 674379, email: [moraysecretary@the-soc.org.uk](mailto:moraysecretary@the-soc.org.uk))

**Sat 23 Mar** Portgordon to Cullen. Meet at 10.00am at Portgordon Harbour (NJ395644)  
**Sat 11 May** Dawn chorus. Meet at Loch Spynie at 5.00am  
**Sat 18 May** Bird race and social evening  
**Sat 1 Jun** Outing to Glen Avon, details to be confirmed

## \* North-East Scotland

Contact: John Wills (Tel: 01467 651296, email: grampian.secretary@the-soc.org.uk)

No outings currently planned. Any updates will be available on the SOC website.

## \* Orkney

Contact: Helen Aiton (Tel: 01856 751482, email: helendavidaiton@hotmail.co.uk)

No outings planned.

## \* Stewartry

Contact: Joan Howie (Tel: 01644 420280, email: joanospreys1@btinternet.com)

The branch is hoping to organise a week up north to the Highlands or islands, perhaps to Speyside or the Outer Hebrides though any other ideas would be welcome. This would be between the end of April and mid-May, or between the end of May and mid-June. If interested, contact Joan Howie as soon as possible.

Please phone the night before, after 7pm, to make sure an excursion is taking place as planned - Joan 01644 420280 or Peter 01556 502144.

**Fri 15 Mar, Fri 29 Mar, Fri 12 Apr, Fri 26 Apr**  
Caerlaverock, Locy Ryan, Mersehead and Newbie. Destinations on each date will depend on weather/bird news

**Fri 17 May** Garroch Estate NX596809, near St. John's Town of Dalry

**Fri 24 May** Water of Minnoch  
**Thu 13 Jun** Glenim, Mennock Pass and Wanlockhead

**Fri 21 Jun** Cream of Galloway and Knockbrenn shore

**Jul/Aug** P.S. Waverley. Cruises to see most of UK's seabirds and hopefully several sea mammals. Check Waverley Excursion website for Clyde timetable

**Fri 30 Aug** Crook of Baldoon RSPB Reserve  
**Fri 13 Sep** Garlieston  
**Fri 27 Sep** Mersehead RSPB Reserve  
**Fri 11 Oct** Caerlaverock WWT Reserve

## \* Tayside

Contact: Brian Brocklehurst (Tel: 01382 778348, email: brian.brocklehurst1@btinternet.com)

All meets are joint with Angus & Dundee Bird Club; members are urged to carshare wherever possible.

- Sun 24 Mar** Angus Lochs. Meet at Loch of Kinnordy at 9.30am (J Patullo)
- Sun 21 Apr** Fife trip. Meet at Riverside Naturepark car park, Dundee at 9.30am (leader to be announced)
- Sun 19 May** Glen Esk & Loch Lee. Meet at Edzell car park at 10.00am (Jon Cook)
- Wed 22 May** Little Glenshee. Meet at Broxden Park & Ride at 9.30am (leader to be announced)
- Sun 2 Jun** Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire. Meet at Forfar Council Buildings at 8.30am (Gus Guthrie & Jonathan Patullo)
- Sun 9 Jun** Isle of May. Book directly with The May Princess, time and leader to be announced
- Sun 14 Jul** Forfar & Balgavies Loch. Meet at Forfar Loch at 9.30am (Jonathan Patullo)
- Sun 25 Aug** Angus coastal trip. Details and leader to be announced
- September** Barry Buddon Open Day, date to be confirmed. Meet at Monifieth football pitch at 10.00am (leader to be announced)
- Wed 18 Sep** Montrose Basin/Usan. Meet at Montrose Basin Visitor Centre at 9.30am (leader to be announced)
- Sun 13 Oct** Fife migrants. Meet at Riverside Naturepark car park, Dundee at 9.30am (Gus Guthrie)

## \* West Galloway

Contact: Geoff Sheppard (Tel: 01776 870685, email: geoff.rodgers@btinternet.com)

No outings currently planned. Any updates will be available on the SOC website.

Participants are reminded that the Club, its branches and individual leaders of outings cannot accept responsibility for any injury suffered by individuals taking part in these outings, or any loss or damage to their property. For more general information about the SOC, please visit [www.the-soc.org.uk](http://www.the-soc.org.uk) or call us on 01875 871 330.

Front cover: Puffin © Laurie Campbell / Design by LSDZIN [www.lsdzin.com](http://www.lsdzin.com)



Welcome to the...

2019

SUMMER OUTINGS  
PROGRAMME

Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC)  
Tel: 01875 871 330  
Email: [mail@the-soc.org.uk](mailto:mail@the-soc.org.uk)

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The SOC is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Reg. No. SC009859