

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.

Please visit the website for more information, and notification of any last-minute changes to the programme

* Ayrshire

Contact: Jim Thomson (Tel: 01292 571899) or Anne Dick (Tel: 01292 541981, email: a_m_dick@btinternet.com)

For outings and to arrange carshare, contact Jim Thomson or Anne Dick. For coach trips please contact Tony Scott on 01292 281085.

- Sat 23 Sep** Maidens & Girvan. Meet at 10.30am at Maidens Harbour car park
- Sat 21 Oct** RSPB Mersehead Reserve. Meet at the reserve car park at 11am
- 18-19 Nov** RSPB Leighton Moss & WWT Martin Mere coach trip. Meet at 7.30am at Dodd's Coach Depot, East Road, Ayr
- Sat 16 Dec** Stranraer, Loch Ryan & Wig Bay. Meet at 10.30am at Ballantrae
- Sat 20 Jan** Greenan shore & Doonfoot. Meet at 10am at Greenan Castle car park
- Sat 17 Feb** Irvine Harbour & Beach Park. Meet at 10.30am at the old Harbourmaster's Office, Irvine
- Sat 24 Mar** Dumfries House estate & gardens. Meet at 10.30am at Dumfries House car park
- Sat 21 Apr** Loch Doon & Ness Glen woodland. Meet at 10.30am at the Roundhouse (Loch Doon)
- 28 May - 06 Jun** Birds & landscapes of the Dorset coast coach trip

* Borders

Contact: Neil Stratton (Tel: 01573 450695, email: neilstratton@btinternet.com)

- Thu 21 Sep** Musselburgh and Aberlady Bay. Meet at Goose Green Place, Musselburgh at 10am
- Sat 14 Oct** Paxton House Country Park and Foulden. Meet at car park adjacent to Paxton House at 10am
- Thu 23 Nov** Hoselaw and Yetholm Lochs. Meet on minor road at Hoselaw (NT808323) at 10am
- Thu 22 Feb** Whitmuir and Haining Loch. Meet at Whitmuir Farm (NT502272) at 10am
- Sun 25 Mar** Hirsell and Lees Haugh. Meet at Hirsell Visitor Centre at 10am
- Sat 28 Apr** Dowlaw Dam and Coldingham Loch. Meet at Dowlaw Road end (NT855702) at 10am

* Caithness

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

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

* Central Scotland

Contact: Eilidh McNab (Tel: 07738 851560, email: eilidh.mcnab@gmail.com)

- Sun 8 Oct** RSPB Black Devon Wetland (Ben Darvill, BTO)
- Sun 28 Jan** Blair Drummond Pools (Duncan Orr-Ewing, RSPB Scotland)
- Sat 5 May** Killin to the head of Loch Tay (John Holland, SRUC)

* Clyde

Contact: Ian Fulton (Tel: 0141 7734329, email: soc.clyde@btinternet.com)

No outings planned.

* Dumfries

Contact: Lesley Creamer (Tel: 01848 330821, email: braesideles@gmail.com)

- Sat 18 Nov** Loch Ryan
- Sat 13 Jan** Southernness
- Sun 18 Feb** Wigtown Bay
- 17-21 Apr** Morecambe

* Fife

Contact: Caroline Gordon (Tel: 01592 750230, email: sweetbank101@gmail.com)

- Sat 16 Sep** Fife Ness area (Elizabeth & John Irwin 01334 850244)
- Sun 15 Oct** Hound Point, Kinneil and Skinflats (Paul Taylor 01334 828925)
- Sat 11 Nov** Lochs of Kinnordy and Lintrathen (Rob Armstrong 01334 850962)
- Sun 14 Jan** St Andrews, Guardbridge (Caroline Gordon 01592 750230)
- Sat 17 Feb** Carsebreck and Ardgaty (leader to be confirmed)
- 17-19 Mar** Galloway weekend
- Sun 29 Apr** Inversnaid at Loch Lomond (Dave Heeley 01337 841160)
- w/c 12 May** Norfolk/Suffolk (Dave Heeley 01337 841160)

* Highland

Contact: Kathy Bonniface (Tel: 01808 511740, email: kathybonniface@aol.com)

Meet at 9.00am (9.15am Thursdays) at Inverness Retail Park, near Burger King. Weekend excursions are full day, Thursdays are usually mornings only. Contact trip leader for other meeting place options.

- Sat 9 Sep** North side of Loch Ness (Carol Miller)
- Thu 21 Sep** Local birding
- Sun 8 Oct** Tarbat Ness and Portmahomack (Peter Stronach)
- Thu 19 Oct** Local birding
- Sat 11 Nov** Dornoch area (Simon Cohen/Alex Joss)
- Thu 23 Nov** Local birding
- Sun 10 Dec** Bird Race (Carol Miller)
- Thu 21 Dec** Local birding
- Sat 13 Jan** Black Isle area (Dave Galloway)
- Thu 25 Jan** Local birding
- Sun 11 Feb** Inverness area (Al McNee)
- Thu 22 Feb** Local birding
- Sat 10 Mar** Burghead area (Pete Gordon)
- Thu 22 Mar** Local birding
- Sun 15 Apr** Strathpeffer and East Ross-shire, joint with SOC Moray branch (David Bain)
- Thu 26 Apr** Local birding
- Sat 19 May** The Dawn Chorus (Simon Cohen & Alex Joss)
- Late May/early Jun** A possible long weekend to either Shetland or Orkney (Peter Stronach & Carol Miller)

* Lothian

Contact: Marjorie Adams to June (Tel: 0131 669 8080), Gillian Herbert from July (Tel: 0131 339 6479, email: 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 Marjorie Adams or Gillian Herbert.

- Sun 8 Oct** Lindisfarne (David Atkins)
- Sun 5 Nov** Musselburgh (Richard Leslie)
- Sun 10 Dec** Aberlady/Gosford House/Christmas lunch (S Hunter & G Herbert)
- Sun 14 Jan** Linlithgow Loch/Kinneil (H Maxfield)
- Sun 18 Feb** John Muir Country Park (J & D Main)
- Sun 11 Mar** Birnie & Gaddon Lochs (J Hamilton)
- Sun 22 Apr** Pencaitland Railway Walk (M King)
- Sun 13 May** Leithen Lodge (Tom Gillies)
- Thu 24 May** Lammermuirs (J & D Main)
- Sun 17 Jun** St Abbs Head (David Atkins)
- Sun 8 Jul** Penicuik House (John MacLean)

* Moray

Contact: Martin Cook (Tel: 01542 850296, email: martin.cook99@btinternet.com)

Sat 9 Sep Speymouth - Kingston, Spey estuary and the Lein. Meet at 10am in the Kingston car park which overlooks the estuary (NJ340656)

Sat 21 Oct Lossiemouth - estuary, dunes and rocky shore. Meet at 10am in the car park at the estuary (NJ238702)

Sat 18 Nov Lossie Forest and the Boar's Head Rock area. Meet at 10am in the car park in the south-west corner of the forest (NJ256670)

Sat 20 Jan Loch Spynie. Meet at 10am in the car park at Scarffbanks (NJ238663)

Sat 17 Feb Portgordon to Cullen. Meet at 10am at Portgordon harbour (NJ395644)

* 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)

Should the weather be bad for the September and October dates, the excursion will take place the following day OR the same day the following week. Thereafter it will be cancelled if the weather is again adverse.

Fri 29 Sep Mersehead RSPB Reserve for early arrivals of geese, including the first Barnacles of the winter, plus several species of ducks, waders and predators

Fri 13 Oct Caerlaverock WWT Reserve for big numbers of ducks, geese, waders and predators which should have arrived for the winter

November to March - excursions for these months, and the arrangements, will be announced at each indoor meeting.

* 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. Further outings will be available on the SOC website.

Sun 10 Sep Barry Mill & Carnoustie Golf Links. Meet at Barry Mill at 10.00am (Dorothy Fyffe)

Sun 8 Oct Autumn migrants, Montrose Basin. Meet at Montrose Basin Visitor Centre at 10.00am (Jonathan Pattullo)

Sun 12 Nov Invergowrie, Clatto, West Dundee. Meet at Clatto car park at 10am (Dorothy Fyffe)

* West Galloway

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

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

Taken some good bird photos on an outing? Upload them to the SOC photo gallery (see guidelines on our 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 or call us on 01875 871 330.

Front cover: Bullfinch © Laurie Campbell
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Welcome to the...

2017/18

WINTER OUTINGS
PROGRAMME

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

www.the-soc.org.uk

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