

BLACK ISLE BIRDING

BIRDING HOLIDAYS IN SCOTLAND



Birding at Strathconon (Eleanor Yates)

Welcome to Black Isle Birding, one of Scotland's premier birding companies specialising in the Scottish Highlands, Aberdeenshire, Speyside, Islay and Western Isles.

We offer you the following services:

- Accommodation at Cygnus House on a full board basis using locally produced meat, fish and vegetables. Complimentary drinks and wine at the table.
- Excellent location on the Black Isle overlooking the Cromarty Firth and Udale Bay
- No single room supplement at Cygnus House. Wi-fi access in all rooms
- Visits to areas of the extreme north and islands for birds and other wildlife

- 8/9 seat minibus with individual seats and seatbelts
- Small group size with one leader
- One of Scotland's top birding guides with up to date knowledge of where to find and show you the country's birds.
- Flights to Inverness area available from Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, London Gatwick, London Luton, Southampton and Manchester
- Complimentary pick-up services from Inverness Airport or Inverness railway station.

Cygnus House our base is situated on the Black Isle twenty-three miles north of Inverness, the capital of the Highlands. Inverness has good air, rail and road connections with the rest of Britain and Ireland. When we collect you from the airport or railway station, we make the short journey across the Kessock Bridge and onto the rolling farmland and forests of the Black Isle to Cygnus House. This gives you a feel of the area and scenery and the idyllic surroundings where we live. Our home is located next to Udale Bay RSPB Reserve and is surrounded by a variety of habitats including rough grassland, salt-marsh, woodland, farm land, estuarine mud and river and eco-friendly gardens. This combination of habitats ensures a healthy birdlife throughout the year. In the garden and adjacent area we have recorded over 138 species of bird to date with the most unusual species being Snow and Greenland White-fronted Geese, Hobby, Common Quail, Glaucous and Little Gulls, Pomarine Skua, Red-rumped Swallow, Marsh Warbler and the Northern

rases of Eurasian Bullfinch and Common Redpoll. From early April until the end of September Ospreys regularly fly over the house to fish in the Cromarty Firth. Numerous bird feeders attract a variety of species throughout the year including Great Spotted Woodpecker, Tree Sparrow, Eurasian Siskin, tits, Brambling, Reed Bunting and Yellowhammer. The winter months bring Waxwing, Fieldfare, Redwing and Mistle Thrush.

Our base is ideally situated for visiting the remote and beautiful counties of Caithness and Sutherland, Wester and Easter Ross, Speyside, Moray Firth coast and the mountains and forests of Cairngorm and Speyside.

Our Scottish programme also includes tours to the Western Isles, Aberdeenshire and Islay, many of which can be combined with your stay at Cygnus House.