



Scottish Ornithologists' Club
Scotland's Bird Club
Established 1936

Clyde branch outing to Ardmore Point

15 October 2022 (1400 - 1715)

Leader: **Zul Bhatia**

Participants: 14

Weather: Mainly overcast with some sun at times and a few spots of rain too. Temperature: 9.5 °C with light WNW breeze.



Fourteen of us met at the car park at the South Bay. The only bird of note was the **Buzzard** that Rick saw from there (the only one of the trip). Although it was two and a half hours before high tide, the tide was well in already and little mud was visible so we didn't spend long here but headed on to North Bay. En route to North Bay, we heard what was for many, the first **Redwing** of the autumn. Quite a few **Lapwing** flying over the fields and bay made a lovely sight.

Lapwing (John Chapman)

There were plenty of wildfowl on the North Bay, the most conspicuous being **Shelduck** and **Wigeon** with a few **Teal** roosting on a far bank. Due to the high water levels, many waders were already roosting and we were able to get our scopes on to groups of **Curlew** and **Oystercatcher** with a smaller number of **Redshank**. Four (or possibly five) **Little Egret** were also present outnumbering the nearby **Grey Heron**. Adjacent fields held **Canada Goose** and **Greylag Goose** and John found us a nice **Stonechat**. Surprisingly, we had a **Guillemot** flying low over the bay and later we saw a few more out in the firth. After a good look at North Bay, we headed anti-clockwise round the headland towards the Point. Soon after we set off, Alan found a nice group of **Lesser Redpoll** feeding in the Birches quite close to the path and everyone managed to see them. A small flock of **Goldfinch** was nearby too.



Stonechat (John Chapman)



Ardmore Point, 15th October 2022 (Zul Bhatia)

We stopped a few times on our way round checking for birds. At the first place we stopped, Alan pointed out an adult **Peregrine** that was flying towards us! The water was quite choppy and birds were often distant which made it difficult to get onto birds but in the end we all managed to see **Red-throated Diver**, **Great Crested Grebe** (40+), **Eider**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Cormorant** and **Shag**. Most people also saw a Gannet. One or two **Rock Pipit** were also seen on the shore while a few **Meadow Pipits** passed overhead. We had hoped to see Slavonian Grebe, one of the specialities at this time of the year but didn't manage that. There were plenty of people with telescopes and some very experienced birders too, so it wasn't for the lack of trying. Two other species that we thought we would have seen were Black Guillemot and Goldeneye.



Shag with prey (David Palmar)



Grey Wagtail (David Palmar)

As we headed back to the car park, the tide was very high and a field besides the path had quite a number of **Canada Goose**, several **Grey Heron** and a **Curlew** roosting there. A **Grey Wagtail** posed briefly on the seaweed before moving on. It had been a great outing with good company, some good birds and despite the weather forecasts predicting heavy rain at times, all we got was a few spots of rain. We even had some sun. It was great to see some familiar faces from previous outings as well welcome new ones for whom it was their first SOC outing. The three new ones take us to exactly 100 different people joining Clyde SOC outings since we resumed our outings after the Lockdown. No new species were added to our outings list which still stands at 142 species.

No of species recorded: 48

Canada Goose
Greylag Goose
Mute Swan
Shelduck
Wigeon
Mallard
Teal
Eider
Red-breasted Merganser
Woodpigeon
Great Crested Grebe
Oystercatcher
Lapwing
Curlew
Redshank
Black-headed Gull

Common Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Herring Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Guillemot
Red-throated Diver
Gannet
Cormorant
Shag
Grey Heron
Little Egret
Buzzard
Peregrine
Magpie
Jackdaw
Rook

Carrion Crow
Blue Tit
Wren
Starling
Redwing
Blackbird
Robin
House Sparrow
Dunnock
Grey Wagtail
Pied/White Wagtail
Meadow Pipit
Rock Pipit
Chaffinch
Lesser Redpoll
Goldfinch

Other species recorded

An unidentified butterfly was also seen briefly