



Scottish Ornithologists' Club
Scotland's Bird Club
Established 1936

Clyde branch outing to RSPB Baron's Haugh Reserve

12th March 2022 (0900-1400)

Leader: Lang Stewart

Participants: 10

Weather: Mainly dry with some sun and fairly calm. Very light drizzle at one point

No. of species: 54 (see list below)

Ten of us met at the RSPB Baron's Haugh Reserve car park at 0900 on what looked like it was going to be a grey day with some light rain forecast. In the event, it turned out to be a dry day (except for a little drizzle at one point) and the sun was actually out for much of the time. For four of the participants, it was their first SOC outing this season. After a brief introduction from our leader, Lang Stewart, we set off having seen **Bullfinch** and **Goldfinch** in the car park.

En route to the Marsh Hide, we saw a nice group of distant **Whooper Swans** as well as **Long-tailed Tits** and two overflying **Ravens** and one **Great Black-backed Gull**. A **Song Thrush** was in full song. The Haugh was very flooded, so waders were in very short supply and the only species we saw during the whole day was Curlew. There was a good variety of wildfowl, of course with our highlights being 50+ **Wigeon** and several **Gadwall**. A single **Sand Martin** was seen a few times – a first of the year for everyone.

The next hide we visited was the Causeway Hide where a **Kingfisher** was seen very briefly a few times. There were quite a few **Goldeneye** present close-by. Good views of **Little Grebe** were obtained from the Phoenix Hide and the **Sand Martin** was seen again. At the Causeway Hide, John spotted a drake **Shoveler** but unfortunately only some of us saw it as entered an area of dense vegetation and despite us staying in that hide for a while, we didn't see it again.

Our walk besides the River Clyde produced a few **Goosanders**, **Cormorant** and a couple of **Grey Wagtails**. A **Peregrine** gave good views though the scope. A **Chiffchaff** was heard singing briefly from across the river (the first of the year for most people) and Frank saw another **Kingfisher**. The river erosion on this part of the river was amazing and resulted in us having to negotiate tortuous, sometimes muddy routes! The power of nature was awesome to see.

We went south of the reserve proper to overlook the Carbarns area. There were plenty of wildfowl and gulls present there which we watched through scopes as going closer was likely to flush them. We returned to the car park via Adders Gill and Dalziel Woods. Notable birds seen or heard in this woodland area were **Nuthatches** (so many calling), **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Treecreeper** and **Goldcrest**.

We arrived back at the car park as planned at 1400. Some of us had our packed lunches there. Frank and Neil had come well prepared and had their cooker going in their van with tantalising smells of cooking bacon wafting out. Maybe we can get them to do the catering for the next outing?

All records from the outing were submitted to BirdTrack.

Our thanks to all that attended. The 'atmosphere' was brilliant. Our especial thanks to Lang Stewart for leading us so ably.



Participants on SOC outing to RSPB Baron's Haugh, 12 Mar 22 (John Dryden had left by then)

54 species of birds were recorded on SOC Outing to RSPB Baron's Haugh Reserve on 12 Mar 2022:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mute Swan | Curlew | Great Tit |
| Whooper Swan | Black-headed Gull | Coal Tit |
| Greylag Goose | Common Gull | Sand Martin |
| Canada Goose | Lesser Black-backed Gull | Long-tailed Tit |
| Wigeon | Herring Gull | Chiffchaff |
| Gadwall | Great Black-backed Gull | Nuthatch |
| Teal | Woodpigeon | Treecreeper |
| Mallard | Kingfisher | Wren |
| Shoveler | Great Spotted Woodpecker | Blackbird |
| Tufted Duck | Kestrel | Song Thrush |
| Goldeneye | Peregrine | Redwing |
| Goosander | Magpie | Mistle Thrush |
| Cormorant | Jackdaw | Robin |
| Grey Heron | Rook | Grey Wagtail |
| Little Grebe | Carrion Crow | Pied Wagtail (yarrellii) |
| Buzzard | Raven | Chaffinch |
| Moorhen | Goldcrest | Bullfinch |
| Coot | Blue Tit | Goldfinch |

Mammals seen: Roe Deer and Grey Squirrel