



Scottish Ornithologists' Club
Scotland's Bird Club
Established 1936

Clyde branch outing to Drumpellier Country Park

19th February 2022 (0930-1300)

Leader: Donald Wilson

Participants: 16

Weather: 6 to 10 degrees with mainly clear skies and spells of bright sunshine, very little wind.

No. of species: 46 (see list below)

This was my second Clyde SOC outing as leader and it was fantastic to see such a great turnout considering the previous few days of severe weather. I was especially delighted to see some non-members and members who have never previously been on a Clyde SOC outing, as well as some who had never visited this site.

Drumpellier Country Park and surrounding woodlands, including Lochend Loch and Woodend Loch is approximately two square kilometres. It is part of the 7 Lochs Wetland Park and is run by North Lanarkshire Council with a visitor centre and full-time ranger service.

After a brief introduction we scanned the loch for predominantly the water birds. On show included **Goosander, Coot, Mallard, Goldeneye, Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, Cormorant and Tufted Duck**. We also studied the gulls on show which were mainly **Black-headed Gulls** with the odd **Common Gull**, and overhead a few **Herring Gulls** and a single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were observed. At this time of year, the waterfowl species are in pristine plumage and with the excellent light conditions, close views that a site such as this offers, it was a real pleasure to study these birds.

We then headed off anti clockwise around the loch and again had some excellent views of a pair of **Kestrel** perched on a telegraph wire and then exceptionally close views of **Moorhen**.

A little further round we spotted some **Snipe** using partially submerged bushes to keep them clear of the loch and eventually Peter McGeough counted at least 8.

Next, we headed through the woodland that cuts through one of the last remnants of peat bog in the area and we had a nice view of two **Roe Deer**.

The pace was relaxed and very sociable and with the lovely weather very enjoyable. The woodland walk was surprisingly quiet but we did see a few common resident woodland species such as **Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Woodpigeon, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Treecreeper**, a fleeting glimpse of a **Bullfinch** and a **Buzzard** as it flew low through the planted birch woodland.

There are many paths and routes to consider in the park but in keeping with the time schedule we made our way to the Peace Garden which is situated at the south end of Lochend Loch.

Peter McGeough who has adopted Drumpellier as his "patch", records here as well as regular WEBS counts (Wetland Bird Survey) had conducted a recce before hand (unknown to me) and had put out a mix of crushed peanuts and sunflower hearts on the path within the Peace Garden.

Well, what a great idea that was, as the group has a superb thirty minutes or so watching the coming and going of a good selection of woodland bird species such as **Coal Tit, Great Tit, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Nuthatch** and at least 5 **Robins!** It was such fun watching the **Robins** chase each other as they do at this time of year. A **Weasel** also made a brief appearance.

Then Simon noticed a dove species up behind the group and once it was less obscured it was identified as a **Stock Dove**. Close scope views were eventually enjoyed by the group and for some this was a new bird. It then flew across the path and sat close to a **Woodpigeon** and so a good comparison was made between the two species.

Next stop was Woodend Loch which lies just across the main road from Drumpellier Park and a short walk of 100 metres or so takes you to the viewing area.

The highlight here was the three **Lesser Scaup** that had been present for a few weeks and which was again a new bird for quite a few of the group. We discussed the finer identification details of Lesser Scaup versus Greater Scaup and Tufted Duck. Also spotted at Woodend Loch was a pair of **Great Crested Grebe**, which were partially displaying, **Little Grebe, Teal and Oystercatcher** to add to the day's bird tally.

On the way back to the car park a flock of approximately 30 **Redwing** was noted.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable morning's birding, great company and walk through a lovely country park.

A special thanks again to Peter McGeough who kept me right on the route (easy to go the wrong way in places), for conducting an off the cuff recce and the foresight of setting up a mini feeding station. Also, thanks to Zul for recording the bird species and counts where possible and adding them to BirdTrack and lastly to all the participants who made it a very enjoyable morning.

Can't wait to the next Clyde SOC outing!

46 species of birds recorded on SOC Outing to Drumpellier CP, Sat 19 Feb 2022

Mute Swan	Oystercatcher	Coal Tit
Pink-footed Goose	Snipe	Long-tailed Tit
Greylag Goose	Black-headed Gull	Nuthatch
Canada Goose	Common Gull	Treecreeper
Teal	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Wren
Mallard	Herring Gull	Blackbird
Tufted Duck	Stock Dove	Song Thrush
Lesser Scaup	Woodpigeon	Redwing
Goldeneye	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Robin
Goosander	Kestrel	Duncock
Cormorant	Magpie	Pied Wagtail (yarrellii)
Little Grebe	Jackdaw	Chaffinch
Great Crested Grebe	Carrion Crow	Bullfinch
Buzzard	Goldcrest	Goldfinch
Moorhen	Blue Tit	
Coot	Great Tit	

Mammals seen: Roe Deer and Weasel