



Scottish Ornithologists' Club
Scotland's Bird Club
Established 1936

**SOC Clyde branch and Friends of Glasgow's LNRs joint outing to
Hogganfield Park Local Nature Reserve
16th December 2023 (1000-1415)**

Leader: **Jim Coyle (Chair, Friends of Glasgow's LNRs)**

Weather: **Overcast, with moderate wind and max temp. 10 degrees C**

We all met at the car park next to Hogganfield Loch at 10.00hrs where Jim Coyle introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending on such a dull day. He said a few words about the Friends group, Hogganfield Park LNR and also stressed that the adjoining 'Golf It' Centre, including toilets, was open to all. He spoke about the amazing number of birds that have been seen at the LNR and distributed a leaflet and 'tick list' that had been produced by the 'Friends' about the LNR.

He then handed over to Zul Bhatia (Chair of SOC Clyde branch) who also thanked everyone for attending and spoke about the SOC Clyde Branch and future activities.



Goldeneye © Allan Kelly

Whilst at the car park we saw a range of wildfowl, including **Goosanders** (male and female) and **Goldeneye**. Thankfully there was one **Whooper Swan** present.

We started walking clockwise around the loch and scanning the trees on our left and the loch on our right. We saw reasonable numbers of **Coot** and **Tufted Duck** but not as many as had been recorded just a few weeks ago – perhaps the loch freezing over a few weeks ago had had an impact. We carried on to one of three refurbished shelters when a **Mistle Thrush** was heard and then spotted. We continued walking and noted birds such as **Grey Heron** and **Moorhen** using the 'biohavens' that have been installed on the loch – Jim detailed the history of these floating islands and explained how successful they had been, with Great Crested Grebes nesting on them in summer.

The next stop was at the beach where we were able to scan much of the 'northern' side of the loch. Here we added a group of **Canada Geese** and a solitary drake **Teal** to our list.



Goosander © Allan Kelly



Bullfinch © Allan Kelly

We left the beach and headed east along a gravel track. This area looked promising with lots of trees and bushes including Hawthorn with loads of berries. We accidentally flushed a couple of **Blackbirds** before we were soon overlooking a low-lying pond surrounded by reedmace and other wetland plants. Sadly, the expected birds were nowhere to be seen!

We did see a few **Redwing** and **Fieldfare** fly over as well as a couple of **Goldfinches** but the range and number of birds was a bit disappointing. We continued to the path that runs parallel to Avenue End Road, turned left and re-entered the LNR via an attractive stone entrance feature and almost immediately at least 2 **Siskin** were spotted. A fine male **Bullfinch** was also seen and photographed by one of the party. This tarmac path led us back down to the lochside path where we turned left and continued to explore the fringes of the wetland before continuing along the loch side path back to the car park discussing the various gulls that could be seen.



Some of our outing group at Hogganfield Loch (© Jim Coyle)

On our return to the car park feedback was positive and for some they had discovered that there is more to the LNR than just the loch. Despite Jim being disappointed at the number and range of birds seen, we discovered that the group's combined total was 37 species which in the circumstances (time of year, weather etc) was not bad.

Perhaps another visit in spring or summer should be organised!

Jim Coyle, December 2023

A total of 159 different people have now joined at least one SOC outing since we resumed them after Lockdown. The cumulative total of bird species recorded on SOC outings remains at 166

37 species of birds were recorded on the joint SOC / Friends of Glasgow's LNRs outing to Hogganfield Loch on 16th December 2023

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|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Mute Swan | Black-headed Gull | Great Tit |
| Whooper Swan | Common Gull | Wren |
| Greylag Goose | Lesser Black-backed Gull | Blackbird |
| Canada Goose | Herring Gull | Fieldfare |
| Teal | Great Black-backed Gull | Redwing |
| Mallard | Feral Pigeon | Mistle Thrush |
| Tufted Duck | Woodpigeon | Robin |
| Goldeneye | Magpie | Dunnock |
| Goosander | Jackdaw | Bullfinch |
| Cormorant | Rook | Goldfinch |
| Grey Heron | Carrion Crow | Siskin |
| Moorhen | Goldcrest | |
| Coot | Blue Tit | |