



Scottish Ornithologists' Club
Scotland's Bird Club
Established 1936

Clyde branch outing to Musselburgh

11th November 2023 (1100-1500)

Leader: **David Clugston**

Weather: Fine, clear, sunny and calm.

26 of us met at the small car park next to the boating pond at Musselburgh. We were very fortunate that it turned out to be a lovely day after recent weekends of severe storms. For six people (including two from Fife), it was their first Clyde SOC outing.



Snipe and Teal (© John Chapman)

We made our way over to the sea wall and very quickly notched up **Red-breasted Mergansers**, both **Great Crested** and **Slavonian Grebes**, **Razorbill** and **Eiders**. A lovely group of **Long-tailed Duck**, four very smart males and a female gave us a good showing and were much admired by the group. Somewhat further out a group of drake **Velvet Scoters** were new species for some of the group, but their numbers were short of the hundreds or thousands present in recent winters.



Long-tailed Duck (© John Chapman)



Razorbill (© John Chapman)

We proceeded along the busy walkway to the new lagoon at the west end of the site and from the rather uncomfortable concrete-built hides and had good views of the roosting waders at high water, mostly **Oystercatchers** but smaller numbers of **Bar-tailed Godwits**, **Grey Plover** and **Ringed Plovers**. A few pairs of **Gadwall** and **Shoveler** were also new for the day list. A mixed flock of **Linnets** with quite a few **Twites** gave distant views through the telescopes.

It was then a walk back to the cars to take a late lunch seeing a pair of **Stonechats** on the inland fence line before visiting the scrapes where we had great views of feeding and roosting waders and ducks, including **Curlew**, **Lapwing**, **Dunlin**, **Snipe**, **Wigeon**, **Teal** and **Shelduck**. The local Sparrowhawk stirred up the birds and appeared right above our heads before being chased off by a crow.



Long-tailed Duck (© Ania Owsianka)

A very respectable 62 species of birds was recorded including three new to the Outings list (**Long-tailed Duck**, **Grey Plover** and **Twite**) bringing that list up to 162 species since we resumed outings after Lockdown.

David Clugston, November 2023

62 species of birds were recorded on the SOC outing to Musselburgh on 11th November 2023

Mute Swan	Sparrowhawk	Magpie
Pink-footed Goose	Moorhen	Jackdaw
Greylag Goose	Coot	Rook
Shelduck	Oystercatcher	Carrion Crow
Wigeon	Grey Plover	Coal Tit
Gadwall	Lapwing	Skylark
Teal	Ringed Plover	Long-tailed Tit
Mallard	Curlew	Wren
Shoveler	Bar-tailed Godwit	Starling
Eider	Turnstone	Blackbird
Long-tailed Duck	Dunlin	Redwing
Common Scoter	Redshank	Robin
Velvet Scoter	Snipe	Stonechat
Goldeneye	Razorbill	Duncock
Red-breasted Merganser	Black-headed Gull	Chaffinch
Red-throated Diver	Common Gull	Bullfinch
Cormorant	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Linnet
Shag	Herring Gull	Twite
Grey Heron	Great Black-backed Gull	Lesser Redpoll
Great Crested Grebe	Woodpigeon	Siskin
Slavonian Grebe	Kestrel	