

## Colour-ringed Whooper Swan at RSPB Lochwinnoch Reserve on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022

During a WeBS count at RSPB Lochwinnoch Reserve on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Scott Maxwell found a colour-ringed Whooper Swan on the Barr Loch. Details of capture and re-sightings have just come in from the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust and make interesting reading.



The bird (an adult male) was captured and ringed at Caerlaverock WWT Reserve on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018. He was again seen at Caerlaverock in each of the following four winters (2018/19 to 2021/22). Scott realised that the bird was probably just passing through, so he made a special effort to read/photograph the ring which took him four hours as the bird rarely upended. This was just as well as the next morning (14<sup>th</sup> November), XLJ arrived at Caerlaverock Reserve. Whilst at

Lochwinnoch, XLJ seemed pair up with another adult but were not accompanied by any young

Breeding in Iceland, Whooper Swans migrate to the UK for the winter. RSPB's Dan Snowdon adds "Each winter RSPB Lochwinnoch reserve plays host to Whooper Swans, often in small family groups but sometimes in large flocks of 20 or 30 (or even 84, as on one memorable occasion in 2021) birds. Some stay with us for the whole winter, but others are just passing through on migration as with this ringed bird. This shows the value of wetlands as stopover sites for migrating birds, where they can rest and refuel before carrying on their incredible journeys".

Thank you to Scott Maxwell for the sighting, photos, reporting the bird to WWT and sharing the details with us.

