Moray Bird Club - Lossiemouth Outing Saturday 13 January 2024

Jen Graham & Richard Somers Cocks

The first Bird Club outing of 2024 took place at Lossiemouth on 13 January. Despite a fairly cold breeze there was an excellent turn out of around 26 members. We met up at the Lossie estuary where we started off by taking in some of the ducks and waders along the river. We saw many Teal and Wigeon, and most folk managed to spot the Green-winged Teal (an American visitor, that has frequented the Lossie estuary since early December).

Some waders were seen alongside the river, including Curlew, Sanderling, and Bar-tailed Godwit among others. Several species of gull were also found on the river, in particular Great Black-backed, Black-headed, Herring and Lesser Black-backed. Unfortunately, the Glaucous Gull which had been present the previous day failed to reappear. As we walked down along towards the river mouth, and the sea, we saw a Red-breasted Merganser and three Little Grebes foraging in the brackish water.

We walked down the river to the viewpoint looking over Lossie’s East Beach. There were seaducks to enjoy here, including Common Scoter, and Long-tailed Duck, as well as one Turnstone sitting on the seawall! Here we managed to see a flock of Greenfinches, which frequent the rosehips in the gardens here.

Finally we walked to the harbour and looked out west. It was much windier here, and we were all starting to get a bit chilly, but managed to see lots of Eiders bobbing in the water, as well as some Shags and Cormorants.

An excellent day out, and great to have so many folk join us!

In total, we recorded 42 species of bird and one marine mammal:

Pink-footed Goose Shag Pied Wagtail

Shelduck Oystercatcher Rock Pipit

Mallard Redshank Carrion Crow

Pintail Curlew Jackdaw

Wigeon Dunlin Rook

Teal Sanderling Starling

Green-winged Teal Bar-tailed Godwit Blackbird

Eider Turnstone Robin

Common Scoter Great Black-backed Gull House Sparrow

Long-tailed Duck Herring Gull Goldfinch

Red-breasted Merganser Lesser Black-backed Gull Chaffinch

Red-throated Diver Black-headed Gull Greenfinch

Little Grebe Razorbill

Fulmar Woodpigeon

Cormorant Feral Pigeon

Common Seal