

## **Tay Reed Beds, Errol, Tuesday May 12th, Report:**

We met in Errol Parish Church car park with the weather set fair. A bit of a chilly breeze but plenty of blue sky and bright sun, a lovely morning to be out birdwatching. The plan was to have a daunder round the fringes of the Tay Reed beds looking for the famous Bearded Reedlings, known to nest there but hard to spot. Patience and standing/stilling still and listening for long periods are skills we novice birdwatchers are beginning to learn. The birds will come if you wait long enough. In the event, only a lucky few, the more experienced birders among us, thought they'd spotted one Bearded Reedling in the distance flitting above the reeds, and they definitely saw a fair few Reed Buntings plus a Sedge Warbler or two, they said.

The rest of us, not so lucky, were happy to learn about the reed beds and the delicate ecosystems found in such habitats, before we continued with the rest of the walk through the woods, green and vibrant with fresh spring growth, towards Port Allen and the lagoons on the estuary shoreline, a haven for wading birds especially with the tide coming in. Lots to see but the main sightings of interest were Shelduck, a Grey Heron, one lone female Goldeneye, plus a Roe Deer in the woods eyeing us nervously. Nice also to spot a Red Kite circling high above us at one point. Then it was time to head back to Errol, with a table booked for lunch at the Lass O'Gowrie café, a very pleasant way to end the outing, their soups are excellent by the way.

### **Birds List: (between us)**

- Bearded reedling
- Blackbird
- Blackcap
- Blue Tit
- Buzzard
- Chaffinch
- Chiffchaff
- Coal Tit
- Dunnock
- Goldeneye
- Goldfinch
- Great Tit
- Housemartin
- Mallard
- Mute Swan
- Pheasant
- Red kite
- Reed bunting
- Robin
- Sedge warbler
- Song Thrush
- Swallow
- Swift
- Whitethroat
- Wren
- Yellowhammer

### **Mammals**

- Red squirrel
- Roe Deer





