

Morton Lochs 1 Sept 2026:

Our first outing of the new U3A term was to Morton Lochs part of Tentsmuir Forest National Nature Reserve, Fife. The weather was kind, mostly dry and bright, a rain shower at the start, quite windy later, but always pleasantly warm.

Not a great number of birds to be seen or heard on the path through the woods apart from the odd robin, also a treecreeper or two recorded on various Merlin apps.

More happening out on the lochs with sightings of Gadwall, Grey Heron, Little Grebe and the bonus of a Little Egret coming into landing gracefully on the water. Someone thought they'd seen a Water Rail, quite rare as they are so hard to spot but it disappeared among the reeds too quickly to confirm this. Finally, a few lucky (more patient) members of the group managed to get a quick glimpse of an otter breaching from the water.

The viewing hides are well-maintained and very informative with a history of Morton Lochs and helpful bird ID posters on display. Overall, an enjoyable outing, nice and sociable with plenty of time for conversation sitting in the hides and over lunch at the excellent Larick Centre Café in Tayport.

Bird List:

Blackcap (Heard)
Blue Tit
Chaffinch
Coal Tit
Common Woodpigeon
Coot
Gadwall
Great Tit
Heron
Kestrel (spotted en route by Ballinbreich) Little Egret
Little Grebe
Mallard
Moorhen
Mute Swan
Oystercatcher
Robin
Tufted Duck
Water Rail (possible)



