

MONTROSE BASIN SEPTEMBER 2026

It was a memorable visit to Montrose Basin, an impressive site managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, well worth the long drive up there. We had decent weather, pleasantly warm, even a bit of sun and blue sky, although with a cooler easterly wind picking up in early afternoon.

We started with an informative talk given by Joanna Peaker, Visitor Centre manager, on the current birding highlights around the estuary, including the famous goose migration. Both she and her knowledgeable volunteer team were most helpful and patient in answering our questions. They couldn't have done more to welcome us, this was much appreciated.

A bonus was our planned visit coincided with low tide around mid-morning, giving us a great opportunity to see large numbers of wading birds from the viewing windows in the visitor centre, no real need to drive any further out around the basin to visit the more distant hides. However, some of us did take a short stroll after lunch, driving round to the start of the Lurgies Walk and following a good path west along the shoreline. The calmer, quieter backwaters here are a great habitat for birds such as Little Grebe and Little Egret, several of which could be observed quite close up.

The whole Basin area is teeming with wildlife, a wide range and variety of coastal and wetland birds, also common seals, to be spotted as we move into autumn. Pink-footed geese in their 1000's are the star attraction though we didn't get to see many this visit since sunrise and sunset are the main time of day to witness the spectacle of huge flocks of them flying noisily in.

All in all, great birding day out to a fabulous location, some of us may be tempted back for a further visit in the not too distant future!

Bird Record:

- Black-headed gull
- Canada goose
- Common Gull
- Cormorant
- Crow
- Curlew
- Dunlin
- Eider
- Golden plover
- Goosander
- Greenshank
- Grey Heron
- Herring Gull
- House Sparrow
- Lesser black-backed gull
- Little Egret
- Little Grebe
- Mallard
- Magpie
- Mute Swan
- Northern Lapwing

- Oystercatcher
- Pheasant
- Pink-footed goose
- Redshank
- Robin
- Rook
- Shelduck
- Song thrush
- Sparrowhawk
- Teal
- Wigeon

* Common Seal - a fair number basking on sandbanks



