

November 2019

## Welcome to the Birnie and Gaddon Lochs Newsletter

The frost has made a return lately and there have been some beautiful, crisp mornings at B & G at the end of October. It is worth getting out there early with the sun still low in the sky for some great photo opportunities.

### Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Counts 14/10/2019

#### Birnie Loch (9:08)

26 x mallard, 3 x moorhen, 5 x black-headed gull, 2 x tufted duck

#### Gaddon Loch (9:30)

12 x mallard, 4 x wigeon, 4 x black-headed gull, 4 x gadwall, 3 x tufted duck, 2 x mute swan (5 x immature), 2 x little grebe 1 x grey heron, 1 x moorhen

### Icelandic Goose Census (IGC) 20/10/2019

#### Birnie & Gaddon (7:45)

56 x greylag goose

### Fungus of the Month

#### Clouded funnel (*Clitocybe nebularis*)



Not colourful or showy, and yet it still manages to stand out: clouded funnel (or clouded agaric) is a robust, pale grey fungus with a gregarious nature. Clusters of this species can be found under conifers around B & G, and it is also one of the fungi well-known for producing large 'fairy rings' in woodlands, so keep an eye out for them. Their cap starts out convex, before widening and flattening out to about 20cm. A depression subsequently forms in the centre of the cap, which gives the 'funnel' fungi their distinctive shape.



The 'inrolled margin' of the cap remains, even as clouded funnel gets older and the cap edges become more undulating. In recent times the edibility of this species has been questioned, and as always with foraging **never** eat anything until you are certain of the identity.

### Wildlife Records

Some of the winter migrants are already arriving, so please remember to note down what you see and contact us via the

details given below or on [ask.us@fifecountryside.co.uk](mailto:ask.us@fifecountryside.co.uk). The Fife Nature Records Centre would also be happy to take details of any wildlife sightings you have from Birnie and Gaddon, contact them at [nature.info@fife.gov.uk](mailto:nature.info@fife.gov.uk), or use the online recording form by searching for them online.

### Feeding the Ducks

As the nights are getting longer and the temperature will be dropping, we will be filling the bird feed bin more regularly again. There is a greater need for some supplemental feeding during winter as natural food sources become scarcer. You can still bring your own seed, oats, or peas and corn (defrosted if frozen) if you wish. **DO NOT** bring bread, as it pollutes the water and is bad for the birds' health. Thank you.

### Accessing the Hides

For further information and to obtain the new access codes please call 01592 656080.

