



Chester U3A Birdwatching 1

Visit to Caerlaverock, 22-26 February 2010

Snow, frozen lakes, good food and birds

This is getting boring, how many ways can you say "Eleven went to Scotland"? But we still go and we still enjoy it!

There were some changes this year, the last day of birding was foreshortened because all the lochs we planned to visit were frozen. The tea shoppes and second hand book shops of Castle Douglas had a retail boost that day.

Good birding was had by all on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but the species count was down this year at just over 50. We did get some rarities – a white redshank – this was not an albino, but a leucistic variant. So the feathers were white, but it had normally coloured legs, bill and eyes. The other rarity was an American Wigeon – we're NOT twitchers honestly.

Jenny and Joan fed us royally for three nights, which meant we got good views of the badgers outside the windows, though we finished off with a meal at The Nith Hotel on Thursday. How does chicken stuffed with haggis grab you?

Report by Tim Carley