



For those of you who live in and around the Fife area identifying this scene will be fairly simple. I can remember fishing there with my father many moons ago. It was great to go back and see what was going on 50 years later.

I arrived early around 6am so the car park above the sluice gates was empty apart from a couple of camper vans that had obviously stayed overnight, my plan was to head for the Magnusson hide approximately half a mile from the park and in no time at all I was quietly opening the hide door and setting up my camera and tripod before lifting the narrow slotted viewing blinds.

It was a fairly warm morning but unfortunately the morning mist was lingering so photo opportunities were going to be limited. A pair of shoveler were feeding over to my right and with my binoculars I was able to enjoy watching their amazing filtering techniques, a swishing of wings then introduced a pair of pintail with the male bird looking his very best. Moorhen ,Coot, Gadwall, and a nesting Mute Swan were added to the list.

Then I had a rare visitor, a barking dog followed by an apologetic owner, and that was that, after all it was now around 8 am and other humans were beginning to appear.



I remained in the hide for another hour but had to leave when 2 middle aged ladies came in failed to acknowledged me then noisily banged open two sets of blinds before talking shop continuously, what they were doing in a bird hide still remains a mystery to me!! Yes the Loch is indeed seeing many changes.

Anyway I did manage to capture 2 roe that appeared as the morning mist started to lift so it wasn't a totally wasted morning.

The pic on the top right was taken at some gravel pits over to my North so it will be interesting to see in a few weeks how many Greylag goslings have survived, I counted 8 and 11 which seemed pretty successful to me. My local mute swan has only 4 cygnets left and that number will likely dwindle even more as it has over the years due to predators that out manoeuvre the parents.

You've still got time to get out there and check out new fowling areas meantime here's what happens when punt gunning goes wrong. JM

