

Wildlife on Lanark Golf Course

Lanark Moor, with its adjoining open countryside and tree cover is an ideal habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

As you tee off at the first, you may catch sight of a robin flitting about close to the clubhouse or hear the yellowhammers or chaffinches in the bushes to the left. If you are visiting in autumn, fieldfare can sometimes be seen in the copse to the left of the first hole. Walking down the first fairway you will see Tinto Hill in the background to the right and Lanark Loch in the foreground. On occasions, mute swans can be seen in flight and the Loch is also home to mallards, coots, moorhens. Goosanders, tufted ducks and cormorants are regular winter visitors. Tiny frogs and toads can be found in their hundreds on the approach to and on the first green.

The rough ground to the right of the second tee is a favourite hunting area for a kestrel and mallards have taken to the burn at the side of the fairway. Early morning golfers may catch sight of a fox on the path running from the second to the back of the fourteenth green and stoats have been spotted just short of the second green on the left.



Robin



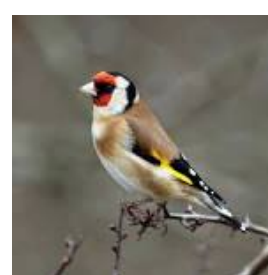
Treecreeper



Chaffinch



Kestrel



Goldfinch

The gorse bushes on the right of the third tee are frequented by more yellowhammers and as you prepare to hit your second shot on the fourth you will probably hear the melodic singing of robins or blackbirds in the bushes to the right. Hooded crows and wrens have also been spotted around the fourth and wheatear are occasional summer visitors and have been seen on the ground below the trees on the left between the "wee course " and the fourth fairway.

As you stand on the fifth tee you might be lucky and see some oystercatchers on the practice ground to the left and you will most certainly hear/see buzzards for the first time, high in the sky, behind the fifth green.

The seventh tee is Lanark's best vantage point and from here skeins of pink footed geese can be seen in the skies from late September through to March. The geese are heading to feed in the fields behind the tenth tee. Beside the seventh green, tawny owl pellets have been found and as you make your way down the eighth you are likely to spot a kestrel hovering over the rough ground, seeking out a small rodent.

Over the last few decades, curlews, lapwings and skylarks have all disappeared from the golf course. However, recently, skylarks have been sighted between the rough on the eighth and the ninth "bounce" tees. More prominent in this area are the yellowhammer and their "little bit of cheese" greeting. In contrast, magpie numbers have been on the increase. They are visible all over the course – but particularly around the fifth and sixth.

Around "the loop" pheasants can be heard and seen. In addition, rabbits are in and around the quarry to the right of the ninth. Jays, the most colourful members of the crow family are also sometimes seen in this part of the course.

Your best view of buzzards is likely to be in the sky to the left of the eleventh tee. They can frequently be seen soaring high above the woods. The trees around the "bounce tee" at the twelfth are the home to blue tits, coal tits and great tits – long tailed tits have been seen along the edges of the woodland bordering the course.

Swallows are particularly fond (in summer) of skimming over the thirteenth green in search of insect life and as you head for the final few holes you will probably catch sight of some pied wagtails bobbing about on the practice ground to the left of the fourteenth.

Heading up the fifteenth and around the sixteenth and seventeenth you will see black headed and lesser black backed gulls. The eighteenth is another favourite

spot for the swallows and if you look closely at the trees behind the last green you might see a treecreeper " scurrying " up and down searching for insects and grubs in the bark of the trees.

Finally, as you head for the car park you might possibly " bump into " a grey squirrel and watch out for the greater spotted woodpecker, which can sometimes can be heard and seen in the trees beside the overflow car park.

Yes, golfing at Lanark is a truly natural experience in beautifully unspoiled surroundings.

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