

July 2017

Bird News: June

Welcome to the Eden news. The reserve is firmly into summer now. June had some fine days alternated with some proper downpours, great for the plants. Virtually no waders around just now and the birds are still very much occupied with breeding, much of this activity takes place away from the reserve however often the results are noted waddling around on the mudflats or flitting around the centre. Of course there is still plenty to see, seabirds, raptors and the chance of something a bit different. Here is June's highlights:

Breeding: very much the theme just now with 24 pairs of Skylark and 23 pairs of Meadow pipit out at Earlshall on 16th June, many with young and with nests. A nice pair of Stonechat with 2 juveniles there too. These birds doing well again on west sands with 3 juveniles there on 27th. Generally plenty of Sedge and Willow warbler, Blackcap and Reed Bunting too.

Goosepools Coast: 4 Stock Dove on 7th. 22 Swift and a single Peregrine and both the adult Sea Eagles on 16th. A nice 500 Common Scoter along with a single Surf Scoter on 23rd.

Outhead: Good numbers of Swift, Sand Martin and Swallow on 13th along. 3 pairs of Stonechat with 3 juveniles on 20th.

WeBS (Estuary Count) 8th: A very quiet count on the estuary. 80 Shelduck, 23 Eider, only 57 Oystercatcher and 12 Ringed Plover was about it.

Sea Eagle: Things are moving along well on the nest site, but no sightings recorded on the estuary this month.

Eden Centre: Mute Swan are the first bird of note when viewing the estuary

just now with up to 35 birds present. A single Canada goose on 11th. A single Little Egret noted from 23rd. A nice wee group of Goosander up to 20 birds most of the month. Good Osprey records with 2 noted on 5 days. A lone Whimbrel on the mud on 11th. 12 Sand Martin on 12th. Peak count of Shelduck juveniles so far is 19, but many days when they were present.

Up on the feeders it's all about young birds. Some GS Woodpecker and Tree sparrow and the odd Goldfinch. All in all pretty quiet, but it's not all about birds and this is butterfly and insect time. 3 more Otter sightings along the river and when the sun shines, the flowers and bees are out. Enjoy the warmth and the Terns folks, and indeed the lack of waders! When they come back, so does the short days....

Wee Birds of the Month



Shelduck Juveniles

This bird is an important feature of the estuary and one of our key indicator species. A large and gregarious duck and often the only bird visible on dreich days! This time of year is when their juveniles pop out of the burrows and vegetation onto the mud and this gives us a good opportunity to note the breeding success. Please record the number of young you spot, this is really helpful to us. Please also include **Mallard** and **Eider** too, they are all good records for the reserve.

Eden Centre

- **Opening Hours 9am-5pm**

Reserve News.

- **Breeding Birds:** Please go canny around the reserve, plenty of breeding still taking place. Please keep dogs under good control, there are a lot of wee and new lives out there and trampling or splitting from their parents is a real possibility. Thanks.
- **Juvenile Ducks:** Please record in the log book sightings and numbers of ducklings noted, this is of great help as species such as Shelduck, Eider and Mallard are crucial to the site but also difficult to locate and may not turn up on breeding surveys.
- **Diggers at Eden Centre:** Please be aware that the sea wall adjacent to the hide is being repaired. This is vital work and this is the best time of year to do the work and keep disturbance to a minimum. Thank you.
- **West Sands Barrier:** Please note there is now a height restriction barrier placed along West Sands, it is set at 2.1m. This is fine for cars and 4x4's.
- **FCCT Facebook:** This newsletter along with all our information on events, news and information are on our social media pages. Worth a look.
- **Butterflies:** Please pass on any spotted around the reserve, this can be done by noting in the bird record log book. Thanks.
- **Enjoy the Holidays!!**