

May 2017

## Bird News: April

**Welcome to the Eden news.** At the turn of the new month the sun is shining and Spring is everywhere. Temperatures still pegged back by northerly winds and it remains incredibly dry underfoot, this continues April's theme. It has been a very dry winter and early spring indeed. The thorns are flowering well and the leaves are nearly out on all but the late comers of Ash and Oak. Breeding is the main activity for birds just now and movement is everywhere. Here is April's highlights:

**Geese:** Pinkfooted numbers are low now with 655 present on the fields on 10<sup>th</sup>. 8 Brent geese still in Balgove on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Breeding:** There is a plethora of breeding signs and activities around the reserve. Species such as Chiffchaff, Reed Bunting, Yellowhammer, Skylark, Linnet, Dunnock, Stonechat have been singing all month, now joined by Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler and Sand Martin. Dry weather will be good for chicks but cold nights and lack of insects may not be. Watch this space.

Wader wise we have Lapwing and Snipe pairs out at the Goosepools.

**Outhead:** 4 Stonechat, 11 Sand Martin and a single Wheatear and offshore 9 Long tailed duck on 20<sup>th</sup>. Breeding here has seen 11 pairs of Skylark, 6 of Linnet and 7 Meadow Pipit, more to come no doubt.

**WeBS (Estuary Count) 10<sup>th</sup>:** Another cool, windy day on the estuary with wildfowl showing 27 RB Merganser off Edenmouth, 123 Shelduck, 17 Eider and 9 Pintail, slim pickings. Wader wise, 440 Oystercatcher, 26 Grey Plover, 470 Knot and 160 Redshank. Dropping numbers indeed.

**Sea eagle:** No sightings this month. The first blank for many months.

**Eden Centre:** Great crested Grebe up until 10<sup>th</sup>. 6 Whooper Swan on 21<sup>st</sup>. A nice single Gadwall on 12<sup>th</sup>. 21 Pintail on 20<sup>th</sup>. Goldeneye and Goosander noted all month in low numbers. Osprey have been recorded since 12<sup>th</sup> with 3 hunting on 27<sup>th</sup>. A pair of Peregrine have been around the reserves between 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Wader numbers dropping but a 104 Black tailed Godwit on 27<sup>th</sup>. Kingfisher on 17<sup>th</sup> and plenty of Swallows and Sand Martins from 4<sup>th</sup>. Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler all tuning up around the centre and the area is humming with tits, Chaffinch and Tree Sparrow.

Otter sightings have been good this month and butterflies appear with the sun now. Summer is coming.

## Bird of the Month



### Osprey

A stunning bird of prey which needs little introduction. The now familiar feathered-losing style of flight can now be seen over the reserve. Amazing to think this bird was once a real rarity here. Now we can spot several fishing together. A visitor from Africa, many birds are well kent in certain areas and it has long been suspected there is a nesting site nearby. Lovely to see these splendid fish eaters back on the Eden with 3 spotted on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Look out for them perching or flying around

100-200ft above the estuary, their fingered wing and black and white plumage helps greatly. Good luck.

## Eden Centre

- **Opening Hours 9am-5pm**
- **Door Code Lock:** The lock is a little sticky, **press X** before putting in the code.

## Reserve News

- **Bird Records:** Please put all the birds you observed in the log book provided. **Thank you.**
- **Breeding Birds:** Please go canny around the reserve just now and keep your dog on a lead especially around the Coble Pools, Outhead, Goosepools and River Eden. Thanks.
- **NE Fife Rotary Club Cyclothon:** Pop along to Tayport on 28<sup>th</sup> May for a family fun cycling event. It's a great day out and for a great cause.
- **St Andrews BioBlitz 2017:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Come along to this year's coastal bioblitz at East Sands, and if your keen and wish to get involved check online for details of how to. Some great activities
- **Fife Biodiversity Action Plan:** The reserve will soon host the new logo from the Biodiversity team to note the large contribution to delivering the objectives of the plan made by the reserve. Well done all.