

April 2017

## Bird News: March

**Welcome to the Eden news.** After a long but relatively mild winter, it feels as though the season has changed. Cherry blossom, birds singing and temperatures in the high teens go a long way to indicating spring, and with it, bird activity. Breeding and migration are in action. A great time of year for spotting common species in their glory and the occasional rarer migrant. A time when getting out and about is worth it and more comfortable than it has been for months. Here is March's highlights:

**Geese:** Pinkfooted numbers are lowering now and the skies grow a bit quieter, Pinks are around 600-800 now. LB Brent numbers are ebbing away with 22 noted on 10<sup>th</sup>. An unusual spot of 3 Barnacles on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Out on the southern fields a group of mixed Swan have been present all month with 17 Mutes and 23 Whoopers on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Outhead:** 4 Stonechat and a single Kestrel on 9<sup>th</sup> and a pair of Grey partridge and 74 Knot on 10<sup>th</sup>. Single Reed bunting singing on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Coble Pools:** A general plethora of breeding signs noted on 10<sup>th</sup> with plenty of singing from Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting and Yellowhammer.

**Links Courses:** 2 Mistle Thrush and the reappearance of the cheeky gull dodging Moorhens on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**WeBS (Estuary Count) 10<sup>th</sup>:** A cool day on the estuary with wildfowl showing 22 Whooper swan, 285 Shelduck, 62 Wigeon, 72 Teal, 8 Long tailed duck and a healthy 64 Pintail. 6 RB Merganser and 4 Goosander and offshore 167 Common Scoter and 12 Gannet.

Wader wise, 796 Oystercatcher, 333 Grey Plover one of the best counts this winter, 2000 Knot who have been present in good number all month, 2590 Dunlin, 64 Black tailed Godwit and 245 Bar tailed Godwit. A nice 1032 Redshank and 2 Greenshank.

**Sea eagle:** Good news from the nest site, our pair are back and building. Reported only 1 day in March on the reserve with 2 birds on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Eden Centre:** Little Grebe present up until 10<sup>th</sup>. 2 Great crested Grebe on 23<sup>rd</sup>. A lone Fulmar in the estuary on 14<sup>th</sup> no doubt from the St Andrews cliff colony which is growing by the week. Little Egret recorded on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Goldeneye have been displaying as they do and whilst only 6 recorded they have been around all month. Kestrel sightings up and Peregrine recorded on 11<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers of waders mainly Knot and Dunlin with 200 Black tailed Godwit on 2<sup>nd</sup>. LBB Gulls now regular. Kingfisher noted on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The centre feeders have seen it all this month with Goldfinch, Long tailed tit, Bullfinch and Tree sparrow all in the mix.

## Bird of the Month



### Kingfisher

A stunning bird which needs little introduction. A real favourite on the reserve and one which shows more than just its fine colour and flight.

These birds are susceptible to harsh winters and river pollution, so seeing them at this time of year brings more information and pleasure than simply its beauty. Although this is without doubt one of our finest birds. 1 spotted on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March. Here's to a good breeding season for them.

## Eden Centre

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

## Reserve News

- **Bird Records: Please** put all the birds you observed in the log book provided. **Thank you.**

## Volunteering

So folks, the days are longer, brighter and full of potential. This is a great time to think about getting out there and making a difference. In a world where we are bombarded with information and much of it leaves us feeling helpless, there is one way which can really bring some positives into life, and make a huge difference to you and the environment. **Volunteering.**

You can get involved with all sorts of action, here's a few to think about.

**Bird surveys-Photography-Path walking- Tree planting- Vegetation control- Beach cleans- Woodland tidy ups- Bridge building- Sand dune building- path work- People surveying- Data collecting and collating- Education- Painting- Butterfly recording- Plant recording- and on it go's.**

If you fancy helping out, contact us. You can call **01592 6656080** or contact the ranger on 07985 707593.

**You can make a difference.**