

April 2019

Bird News: March

Well, Spring is here... I think, but its forecast snow again and the temperature is dropping. So maybe not yet. It has been another dry month too. None of this is deterring the bird life from kicking into breeding mode. The nest boxes and tree tops are being investigated and booked. The Herons are back on their nests so its game on.

March Highlights

Geese: Still numbers of Pinkfooted geese around with approx. 1000 birds around the estuary and local fields. LB Brent geese numbers are low, below 10 now.

Estuary Wide: The Estuary count on 21st was fairly quiet and another very high tide which always affects numbers.

Wildfowl, 222 Shelduck, 50 Wigeon, 30 teal and 44 Pintail. 13 Whooper swan, 2 Shoveller and 2 Gadwall. 19 RB Merganser offshore though.

Wader wise on 21st Oystercatcher only 429, 216 Redshank, 30 Black tailed Godwit, 74 Dunlin and 150 Knot. Lone Little Egret too.

Goosepools: Out by the reed beds on 30th, 9 Crossbills and 4 Reed Bunting.

Outhead: Stonechats are around in pairs and the sky is full of the sound of Skylark. A single Whimbrel on 27th.

Coble Pools: Some nice spots at the flooded pools. 4 Pintail, a single GC Grebe along with Mallard and Teal on 19th. On 31st were 7 Snipe and a Little Grebe, nice.

Leuchars Airfield: Female Kestrel and 4 Crossbill on 21st. Unusually 2 Greenfinch singing too.

Eden Centre: 2 Little Grebe on 7th along with 2 GC Grebe on the same day. Little Egret on 3rd with 2 on 22nd. 13 Brent Geese noted on 7th. 2 Gadwall on 21st and 2 Shoveller. 6 Goldeneye on 12th. 2 Peregrine on 16th, these birds have bene around a fair bit this month. 270 Knot on 6th, wader numbers are dropping now. 112 Black tailed Godwit, best count this month on 12th. LBB Gull very much back on site and a lone Kingfisher on 22nd.

Centre birds are numerous and hungry for seed. Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow, Greenfinch and some lovely Bullfinch this month.

Bird of the Month



Osprey

The Eden is a fine place to observe Osprey fishing. The best months are usually later in the summer. August being recently the best. Once a bird of passage records only, the last two years have seen this species stay as a record all months between April and September, which must mean local breeding, if not, a lot of loafing juveniles unsure of where to go and what to do. Usually arrive in April, but one very keen bird spotted in Balgove Bay heading north on 4th March. Good luck!

Eden Centre

- **Open: 9am-5pm**

Reserve News

- **Bird Records:** Please note in the log book anything you spot out on the reserve. Thanks.
- **Breeding Bird Time:** Ground nesters are everywhere around the reserve. Please go careful and keep your dog on lead in sensitive areas.
- **West Sands Rangers:** We now have rangers on site full time, if you have any records or interesting notes, pop in to the ranger base by the toilet block at the café.

They are also available for school groups, group tours and watch out for their new events programme for summer. Contact the ranger for more details.

- **Visitor Handbook 2019:** £1
- **Coastal Volunteer Group:** Want to make a difference? Check out our facebook page for details on this new coastal group. Monthly Saturday morning action to improve our coast. Come along...keeps you fit, beats the gym!
- **Fife Bird Club:** Interested in days out with fellow birders? Info on the club and application details available in the centre.
- **Donations:** Always welcome and always used on the reserve. Thanks!