

August 2017

Bird News: July

Welcome to the Eden news. As the summer matures and the holiday season is on us the reserve is starting to come alive once more. Despite the wind and rain on many days migrating birds are arriving back from their breeding areas. Wader numbers are slowly increasing and large groups of wildfowl are gathering. The fish must be close in shore on St Andrews Bay as the air is full of the electric screech of Terns and the Gannets are diving close by. Here is July's highlights:

Breeding: Still ongoing, with many juvenile birds noted across the site. However singing has virtually ceased and many birds are looking a wee bit tired. Nice records of Stonechat, Shelduck, Swift and Starling amongst the mix.

Goosepools Coast: A great place to watch Swifts just now. A pair of Stonechat with 2 juveniles, 24 Meadow Pipit, 3 Raven, great to see, and a single Kestrel on 17th.

Coble Pools: 12 Linnet, 6 Goldfinch, 2 hunting Buzzards and a single Moorhen on 19th. Again plenty of 'Martins' around.

Outhead: The place to be if you enjoy spotting seabirds. Good Tern activity close in and plenty seaduck to engage a scope. Onshore plenty juveniles of Stonechat, meadow Pipit and 30 odd Starling juveniles on 20th.

WeBS (Estuary Count) 20th: A marked improvement on last month with 87 Eider, 115 Common Scoter, 6 Goosander, 2 Little Egret and an Osprey. For the waders: 322 Oystercatcher, 197 Curlew, 140 redshank. 2 Greenshank, 59 Lapwing and the odd Bar-tailed Godwit and Knot.

Sea Eagle: News from the nest site was good but no sightings on the Eden this month.

Eden Centre: When casting an eye out over the mudflats you can now notice the waders on the tidal fringe, they are back and so is the Little Egret, up to 4 birds since 8th. A single Greylag looking a bit lost on 19th. Only 3 crèches of Shelduck recorded with no more than 8 birds. 10 teal on 20th. 16 Goosander on 26th. Dunlin numbers rising with 85 on 20th. 5 Black tailed Godwit on 26th along with 200 redshank. Common Sandpiper noted since 13th. Kingfisher dropped in on 20th and 26th and Osprey present on 10 days with 3 on 18th. Up on the feeders it's all about young birds again and add GS Woodpecker and Collared Dove to the peanut raiders.

Bird of the Month



Sandwich Tern

It's August so it has to be seabirds. Such aerobatic, delightful and impressive birds. The bay is full of Terns and Gannets and what a joy to sit on the beach and enjoy. The most prevalent Tern (most years) around the reserve is the Sandwich Tern, (named from the islands not the dull dinner snack). This bulky and 'punky' looking Tern whilst not as graceful as other species is full of character. They form the sound track to a coastal walk and remember, they are bulking up for a monumental migration to the southern hemisphere. Stunning.

Eden Centre

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

Reserve News.

- **Wildfowling season:** Starts 1st September.
- **Diggers at Eden Centre:** Please be aware that the sea wall adjacent to the hide is still 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.

Tayport Sea Eagle Festival

Saturday 26th August 11am-4pm

Come along and share in the delight and spectacle of Fife's new resident Eagle. Fun activities, guided walks, stalls and music. All in celebration of the Nature of Fife!

FCCT Rangers will be there to give out info on the reserve and all things wild and coastal.

Tayport Common Promenade

See you there!