

DECEMBER 2017

Bird News: November

Winter has arrived! Lots of clear frosty days in late November with very clear air, great for bird watching. The skies have been full of geese as they flit around the fields looking for food. Forecasts are predicting the usual 'snowmageddon' let's wait and see. Here is November's highlights:

Geese: The numbers are picking up well now with around 1000-2500 Pink-footed roosting most nights. 4750 on the 2nd and 4450 on 16th. Greylag numbers very low and 18 LB Brent geese on 16th.

WeBS (Estuary Counts): Good numbers are showing on the full counts with 366 Shelduck, 302 Wigeon, 102 Teal and 21 Pintail. 11 Long tailed Duck, 5 RB Merganser and 2 Red throated Diver on 16th.

Wader wise, 959 Oystercatcher, 17 Ringed Plover, 477 Lapwing, 2561 Dunlin, 1161 Redshank and 100 Black Tailed Godwit.

St Andrews Bay (WeBS): Showing great counts of Common Scoter and Scaup again, nice to see.

Low Tide Count: This count picked up high numbers of Common Scoter 2300, 2 Velvet Scoter and 37 RB Merganser off Edenmouth. Good numbers of Dunlin, Lapwing and 928 Knot, but very few Bar Tailed Godwit.

Outhead: Good numbers of Oystercatcher using West Sands with Linnet and Stonechat still very much present.

Goosepools: Snipe on 6th and Green Woodpecker on 23rd.

Sea Eagles: A good month for sightings with birds recorded on 10

days out of 30. 3 days with 2 birds and 3 birds on 10th, which was last season's juvenile's first visit to the Eden. Very welcome.

Eden Centre: As always a top spot for bird life. Red throated Diver on 15th and 16th, 12 Little Grebe on 14th and 29th. Slavonian Grebe on 13th. 3 Little Egret on 24th. A nice 26 Whooper Swan on 14th, must be winter. 6 Goldeneye on 22nd and 7 Goosander on 9th.

600 Golden Plover on 10th. 135 Black tailed Godwit on 27th, building slowly. A lone Spotted Redshank on 23rd and a report of lone Green Sandpiper on 1st. An odd record of a single Crossbill on 14th, 3 Siskin on 23rd and 12 Tree Sparrow on 14th. Great stuff!

Bird of the Month



'..a birds a birds for a' that.'

Since Victorian times, the Robin has an association with Christmas and winter, some say because it is in full regalia and that it is one of the few that sings in winter, maybe it is simply that it is more obvious. Anyway, it gets pride of place this month to 'represent' all the wonderful birds that may often be overlooked and seldom mentioned. They are beautiful and accessible, they are numerous and indicative of our countryside. They are all important and we love them.

So let's hear it for the Blackbird, Wren, Great tit, the Sparrow and the likes....up the minions!

Eden Centre

- **Open 9am - 4pm**
- **Closed 25th/26th Dec and 1st/2nd Jan**
- **Heating:** Please ensure heaters are off when leaving the centre

Reserve News

- **Low Tide Counts:** These will be taking place Dec 17- Feb 18. This is looking at bird use and feeding spread through-out the reserve at low tide.
- **Bird Records!** Please record all that you see from the Eden centre in the log book, this is crucial for inclusion in our data for managing the site. If you care about birds and enjoy the centre, please give a little back and record your sightings. Thanks!
- **Donations:** Please keep the donations coming, no matter the size, the reserve relies on this support for small mini projects and the likes of bird food and feeders for the centre. It is very much appreciated and makes a very real difference. Thank you!

Merry Christmas Folks

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy holiday. Ignore the news, be good to each other, eat mince pies, lay off the sprouts, drink and be merry. Then walk it off with a stroll out in our fine countryside!

Thanks for your visits and support and I wish you well,

Ranald Strachan