

## January 2019

### Bird News: December

Winter Solstice has come and gone as has the festivities and peaceful reflection of the Christmas and New Year period. A new year on planet earth begins and the rhythms of nature beat out. The reserve is full of waders and wildfowl and the weather remains on the mild and benign side as we head into 2019. I wonder for how long? Here are December's highlights;

**Geese:** The Pinkfoot numbers have dropped away significantly after November's highs. The fields seem rather quiet just now. 1100 roosting on 18<sup>th</sup> seems around the mark for most nights just now. A small group of LB Brent geese around with 4 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Estuary Wide:** Wildfowl numbers are steady with 384 Shelduck, 147 Wigeon, 118 Teal and 12 Pintail on 6<sup>th</sup>.

Wader wise Oystercatcher were down to 764, 1901 Dunlin a nice count of 322 Bar-tailed Godwit, 499 Redshank and 6 Greenshank on 6<sup>th</sup> also.

**Coble Pools:** The pools are full now and noted regularly are Snipe, Partridge, Yellowhammer and Linnet. A nice 8 Greenshank were by the pools on 19<sup>th</sup>. A Slavonian Grebe and 10 Turnstone off the point on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Outhead:** A notable unconfirmed report of 2 male Smew off Outhead on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Reed Bunting and Stonechat in and around the dunes with Curlew using the sheep pens daily. Offshore on 19<sup>th</sup> were 22 Ringed Plover and 3 Slavoniain Grebe.

**St Andrews bay:** Offshore on 23<sup>rd</sup> were 1860 Common Scoter, 2 Surf Scoter and 15 Velvet Scoter. A big count of 150 Long-tailed Duck along with 18 Scaup, 5 Red throated Diver and 4 GC Grebe. Onshore were 6 Purple Sandpiper. Brilliant stuff!

**Eden Centre:** 6 Little Grebes on 17<sup>th</sup>. 4 Little Egret on 12<sup>th</sup>. 32 Mallard on 24<sup>th</sup> along with 150 Teal. A good 92 Scaup on 6<sup>th</sup> and 6 Goldeneye on 13<sup>th</sup>. Alone Peregrine on 6<sup>th</sup> and 350 Lapwing on 24<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers of Black-tailed Godwit only in groups up to 20.

A single Kingfisher sighting on 24<sup>th</sup>. The feeders holding Tree Sparrow, Treecreeper, Greenfinches and Long tailed tit. To top it off a Ring-necked Parakeet flew over on 12<sup>th</sup>!

### Bird of the Month



### Surf Scoter

A heavy and robust looking sea duck with a defined head pattern of white flashes and rather comical orange bill. A rare visitor to UK waters and 2 spotted offshore at St Andrews Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. It takes real skill and guile as well as a bit of luck to spot these birds amongst the larger groups of Common scoter and the ever present wave chop. But recent conditions have been great for sea duck spotting. Well done, thanks Les.

### Eden Centre

- **Open: 9am-4pm**

### Reserve News

- **Christmas Trees!** Once again we will be collecting old trees up to 12<sup>th</sup> January when we will move these trees into one of the blow outs along the sand dunes of West Sands. If you wish to take part with either donate a tree or come along to volunteer, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 10am at café on West Sands.

## Happy New Year

Well, 2019 is up and away. I hope you all enjoyed some quiet time and some peace to reflect on the old and the new....

Why not get active and come along to one of our volunteer days? You just might change something.

Maybe head out on a beach clean or support one of our events. Add your nature records into our log books or a make a donation to support the work of the Trust, your donations support your local nature reserves, wildlife conservation and educational activities. It is worth it and makes a difference.

Be part of the solution folks!

Best wishes for 2019

Ranald Strachan