

May 2019

Bird News: March

April has seen some very fine days indeed. The warmth is back in the sun and nature is ready to capitalise. The cherry's are out in bloom, Skylarks singing and nearly every tree has a tweet or croak to it. It is a great time of year after the greyness of winter, the long days and high sun most welcome. The Reserve is much quieter on the mudflats as our winter birds head back to their breeding grounds. However Osprey, Sandmartin and Tern fill the void left, and who knows the odd rarity can drop by. Here is April highlights;

Geese: A group of 200 Pinkfooted geese dropped in on 11th, the last of the big groups.

Estuary Wide: The Estuary count on 17th was very quiet indeed. Only 67 Shelduck, 21 Eider, 2 Little Egret and 2 Osprey were nice to see. Wader wise, very few with the best being 357 Oystercatcher, 34 Black-tailed Godwit

Breeding: Included in the numbers at Guardbridge were Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Chiffchaff, Wren, Blackcap and Goldcrest. The Herons are bedding in nicely elsewhere on the reserve.

Goosepools: Out by the reed beds and muir breeding is the game just now with Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Reed Bunting, Snipe and a calling Water Rail. A single Fulmar did a fly past amongst swallow and Sandmartin.

Outhead: Stonechats and Reed Bunting on 15th along with many Meadow Pipit and Skylark singing. A single Wheatear, 8 Gannet offshore and a pair of Sea Eagles out on 21st. Nice spot Valentin!

Coble Pools: Some nice spots at the flooded pools. 6 Snipe on 15th. A single calling Golden Plover on 28th and 29th and 3 pairs of Gadwall.

Leuchars Airfield and Reres Wood: 3 Chiffchaff, 10 Willow Warbler, a Mistle Thrush and a Crossbill on 29th.

Sea eagle: Single bird on 11th and pair seen on 21st.

Eden Centre: Little Egret present all month with 3 on 19th. Will they nest? 90 Wigeon on 4th, 6 Pintail on 22nd and a lone Shoveller also on 22nd. Osprey now very regular, almost daily with 2 on 30th. A single Avocet dropped in on 19th.

A lone Kingfisher on 2nd and 3 Sandmartin on 11th, these are now nesting on sand cliffs on the Links courses. Yes indeed breeding time.

Bird of the Month



Avocet

This 'stilt' is a fairly rare record on the reserve. The emblem of British bird conservation on account of the success of projects started way back in the 1940's. A stunning and notable bird with its black and white plumage and very upturned bill. Used for foraging in the shallows.

A reserve peak of 4 back in 1974 and a long stay of 8 days in 2017. One recorded on site on 19th April.

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.
- **Ticks!** They are now out and around. Wear wellies, gaiters, tuck your trousers into your socks when heading out onto grasslands and within woods. Check when you get home and get a set of tick removers.
- **SOC App Now Available:** An app with details of 'Where to go Birdwatching in Scotland' is now available from app store. It features the reserve and many other local hit points.
- **Coble Pools:** there are pregnant ewes and lambs in the pools grassland, please do not enter the field, the pools can be easily observed from the estuary edge. Thanks.
- **Visitor Handbook 2019: £1**
- **Coastal Volunteer Group:** Want to make a difference? Next date is May 11th contact Gavin on **07984 152558**.