

November 2018

Bird News: October

Well that most colourful of seasons Autumn grows bold and the clocks have gone back. The sky is full of geese and the mudflats are filling with waders and wildfowl. Frosts are settling on the Hawthorn and these berries are receiving the attention of flocks of Redwing now.

A fine time of year to be, catch a bit of late sun and await the cold days of winter. Here are October's highlights:

Geese: Reasonable numbers of Pinkfooted Geese are now showing on roosts, 2700 on 25th, 1670 on 28th and 32 Greylag on 31st. A few Barnacle's noted mid-month but no Brent yet.

Estuary Wide: Wildfowl numbers are building well, with 324 Shelduck out on 8th, Wigeon peaking at 275 on 11th, 450 Teal on 25th and stable Mallard around 50 or so. Pintail numbers are low with only 6 so far but a nice count of 60 Scaup within the estuary on 25th. A few Goldeneye are showing up now with 5 on 25th too.

Seabird wise a lone Great Skua on 8th along with 33 juvenile Gannet at Edenmouth.

Wader wise Oystercatcher are now around 1251, 1500 Golden Plover in on 25th and they have been around most of the month. 2000+ Dunlin, 500 or so Redshank and a nice 24 Greenshank on 8th. Black tailed Godwit numbers are building with 114 on 25th and Ruff and Spotted Redshank noted on many days, lastly being 25th and 26th. 12 Turnstone on 31st in the inner estuary testimony to rough seas and high tides.

Coble Pools: The pools are filling slowly Mallard, Grey Partridge, Snipe and Skylark all noted this month.

Sea Eagle: Single bird noted on 3rd and 25th with 2 noted on 16th. Good stuff!

Eden Centre: A nice 5 Little Grebe at the bridge on 29th. Little Egrets around all month with 5 on 25th. 9 Whooper Swan on 18th. Merganser and Goosander numbers are low but still present.

Peregrine recorded on 18th and 29th. 150 Lapwing on 2nd lowering through the month. 2 Ruff on 2nd and 1 on 25th. Kingfisher was a good draw early this month with suitable tides for spotting. A lone Raven on 3rd dropped in along with 200 Goldfinch on their way to somewhere. They can keep going as the local birds are hammering the feeders enough!

Bird of the Month



Golden Plover

A fine and attractive member of the Plover family. Distinctive golden shimmer to these birds give them their name and ease identifying amongst wader mixed flocks. Their upright stance and dart-and-stop feeding pattern assist greatly too.

A very fickle bird on the reserve with some years seeing very large flocks and other years none. I encountered this bird on an Assynt mountain top in

early October and it was nice to see it on my home patch too. Between 500 and 1500 present all month.

Eden Centre

- **Winter opening times**
9am-4pm
- **Heaters:** Please do not leave these on when leaving and use sparingly.
- **Waste Bin:** Please place food waste in large bin by the car park NOT the centre bin...it hums!

Reserve News

- **Eden Byelaws:** The reserve is protected by a strong set of byelaws which were reviewed and sanctioned by the government for another 10 years on 22nd October. Good news.
- **Reres Wood Litter Container:** There is a large plastic container at the entrance onto the beach from Reres Wood along the north shore of the reserve. Feel free to place any waste found along the beach there into this and we will collect when full.
- **Records:** Please pass on records of birds and mammals you spot out on the reserve. We rely on this data for future management and all records are passed to BTO and Fife Nature which feed into regional and national statistics. Thanks!
- **FCCT Facebook:** Worth checking out for latest news on Fife's countryside.