

Welcome to the Birnie and Gaddon Lochs Newsletter

Happy New Year to everyone visiting the Lochs in 2019. We have a few plans for Birnie and Gaddon this year, so keep an eye on the website, Facebook and of course our newsletter!

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Counts 10/12/2018

Birnie Loch (9:20)

39 x mallard, 11 x black-headed gull, 9 x goldeneye, 8 x wigeon, 4 x mute swan, 4 x greylag goose, 3 x cormorant, 2 x tufted duck

Gaddon Loch (10:00)

45 x wigeon, 41 x mallard, 6 x mute swan, 4 x goldeneye, 3 x grey heron, 2 x cormorant, 2 x goosander, 1 x coot, 1 x buzzard

Bird of the Month

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)



Your chances of being charmed by Goldfinches increases in the winter, because a "charm" is the

collective noun for a group of these vibrantly coloured passerines. As with many small birds, they flock together in relatively large numbers during winter, as food becomes harder to find. They are very recognisable when seen up close, with black, red and white face, and bright yellow wing flashes. They also have a distinctive cheery, high-pitched song and calls.

Pitcairn Volunteers



We always like to welcome new volunteers at FCCT. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering, please contact Meg Moore our Volunteer Co-ordinator email meg.moore@fifecountryside.co.uk. The Pitcairn Volunteers carry out projects at Birnie and Gaddon Lochs, Coul Den and other sites in the area; it's a great chance to learn new skills, whilst getting your hands dirty and your feet wet! This month we'll be helping Fife Amphibian and Reptile Group in Cupar.

Wildlife Records

If you spot something exciting or keep note of wildlife you see on your regular visits, please let us know. There are notebooks in the bird hides for your records, and you can contact us via the details given or on ask.us@fifecountryside.co.uk. The Fife Nature Records Centre would also be happy to take details of any wildlife sightings you have from Birnie and Gaddon, contact them at nature.info@fife.gov.uk, or use the online recording form by searching for them online.

Feeding the Ducks

Please, if you are going to feed the ducks at Birnie and Gaddon, do bring a small bag of bird seed, oats, or peas and corn (defrosted if frozen). DO NOT bring bread, as it pollutes the water and is bad for the birds' health. Thank you.

Accessing the Hides

For further information and to obtain the new access codes please call 01592 656080.

