

Welcome to the Birnie & Gaddon Loch Newsletter

Waterfowl wise the LNR is very quiet during the summer months with species such as Lapwing moving out to the uplands to breed. Although there are one or two Oystercatchers still about. There are plenty of Warblers around both Lochs though, with the distinctive calls of the Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and the scratchy sound of the Sedge Warbler.

Breeding Bird Numbers

The resident pair of Mute swans on Birnie have only produced 3 cygnets this year which is unusual for them and the pair on Gaddon only produced three as well but they have disappeared. Although the Greylag geese has had a bumper crop of goslings between the 3 or 4 breeding pairs.

WeBs Counts 20/06/17

A very quiet count as most of the wetland birds are away, with only the Mallard, Mute swans and Greylags staying to breed on the site.

Birnie Loch. 1 x Oystercatcher, 12 x Mallard, 18 x Greylag Geese + 10 goslings, 5 x Mute Swan, 2 x Tufted Duck

Gaddon Loch. 5 x Mallard, 2 x Mute Swans, 2 x Coot, 1 x Oystercatcher, 4 x Greylag Geese, 1x Heron, 2 x Tufted Duck

It's not all about the Birds

July is a fantastic time to spot butterflies and damselflies, the wild flower meadows are alive with insect life. You can expect to see a variety of butterfly species including Ringlets, Common Blue. And please keep a look out for the Painted Lady Butterfly as they are quiet scarce on the reserve.

Link into the Butterfly Conservation site <http://butterfly-conservation.org/> to get the most out of your visit.

There are also many Common Blue Damselflies about, you can usually see them darting about the paths in the sunny spots. This Website will help with ID <https://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/home>

The difference between Dragonflies and Damselflies.



Dragonfly

- Wings open at rest
- Eyes touching at top of the head
- Flight strong and purposeful



Damselfly

- Wings closed at rest
- Eyes not touching at top of head
- Flight weak and fluttering

Feeding the Ducks

Please do feel free to feed the birds, any of the following are a good source of food: bird seed, mealworms, frozen peas, corn, lettuce, oats and seeds. However, please don't use bread, chips, crackers or sweets or chocolate as it has little nutritional value for wildfowl and uneaten bread can pollute the water.

Blue Green Alga Blooms

It is suspected that there may be Blue-Green Algae in Birnie Loch. Swallowing the water or Algal scum can cause stomach upsets or more serious health effects. Contact can also cause skin problems. Members of the public and their animals must avoid contact with algae mats, scum and the water.

Accessing the Hide

Hide keys are available at a charge of £5.00, which goes towards the up-keep of the hides, for further information on obtaining keys please contact us on 01592 656080.