

September 2019

Bird News: August

The past month has been another full of warm days and light winds. Perfect for butterflies and of course humans!

The birdlife is changing and the summer visitors are congregating to leave and there are plenty of new visitors arriving daily. It is the Autumn passage. A great time to be out spotting with a rich mix of summer birds and winter species in the same location. The days are still long and the sun comes and goes, so it's very much a good time to visit the reserve. Here is August's highlights;

Estuary Wide: The Estuary count on 1st noted some good numbers. Wildfowl numbers are still a bit low but will pick up this month, Shelduck with 44 increasing daily though, but a great count of 193 Eider sheltering in the bays. There are decent numbers of Canada Geese floating around the estuary, up to around 200 just now.

Wader wise, only 541 Oystercatcher, however 520 Curlew, 77 Lapwing and 244 Redshank along with 2 Greenshank and a lone Ruff hints of bigger things to come. 4 Common Sandpiper and 6 Osprey were a nice addition.

Seabirds: August is a great month to watch the sea and this month plenty of Tern action with both Common and Sandwich making up most of the numbers. 267 Sandwich on 1st and 211 on 8th. Arctic Skua noted on and off with fewer, or rather further offshore, Gannets noted however they were in evidence. Small pockets of Eider and the odd Auk too.

Eden Centre: Little Egret were present all month with up to 7 birds (28th). Becoming a common sight now. Mute Swan numbers dropping

off to around 10, 90 Canada geese recorded on 28th. A very nice record of 130 Teal on 26th shows the increase since the Estuary count on the 1st. Goosander numbers are rising since 18th up to 17 by 28th.

A great month for Osprey with birds present all month, not long left to enjoy these birds. Peregrine dropping in on 5th and 20th.

40 Knot on 18th was a good sign and Dunlin numbers slowly increasing. No real Godwit numbers just now, but good Curlew figures. 500 Redshank on 23rd and 6 Greenshank on 27th.

Kingfisher a regular just now if you want that well known photo and the wee birds are back in number on the feeders. Nothing super rare but nothing missing either. Autumn is on its way. The Redshank says so.

Bird of the Month



Redshank

In the absence of rarity, this month focus is on the importance of common. This bird is a proper indicator of health and habitat availability on the reserve. The large accumulations of species such as this give us our data base. The trends in their numbers help us make informed decisions on management and they are one of our 'citation' species. So in some respect the common Redshank informs and in turn protects our reserve. An important bird, and rather fun to watch.

Eden Centre

Ground works are still on-going alongside the centre however no disruption to opening times or use.

There will be some 'hide building' going on this month and all will be revealed in good time. This is all fairly quiet and minor works generally.

- **Open 9am-5pm.**

Reserve News

- **Winter Bird Disturbance:** This is a major issue around the Fife coast and we need to ask you to be considerate at all times to the pressures facing coastal birds. The congregation of shoreline waders are easily disturbed, its vital they have time to feed and to rest. Thank you.
- **Guardbridge:** The main bridge crossing the Eden to St Andrews is still under repair. Expect delays!!
- **Kincapple River Path:** This path is open.
- **Outhead Sheep:** Our resident Hebridean lawn mowers will be back on west sands this month, many lambs. Please enjoy but look after them, wee souls.
- **Wildfowling Season:** Starts September 1st (first day 2nd)
- **Fife Bird Club:** If you would like to get out and learn more about the local area and its birds, joining information is available in the Eden Centre.
- **Donations:** Always welcome.