

Welcome to the Birnie & Gaddon Lochs Newsletter

Not long left of summer now; the flowers are turning, fruits are appearing, and summer migrant birds are leaving. However there is still much to get out and enjoy... so long as it doesn't rain too much!

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Counts 05/08/2019

Birnie Loch (9:08)

19 x mallard, 1 x mute swan

Gaddon Loch (9:35)

13 x mallard, 2 x mute swan, 2 x lapwing, 1 x moorhen, 1 x grey heron

Plant of the Month

Rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*)



This, highly noticeable, perennial has the ability to dominate swathes of fertile ground, such as field margins and path sides. There are a couple of areas that

clearly fit the bill quite nicely at B&G! Over the last few weeks, the beautiful, purple flowers have flourished and then started to recede, and are now gradually being replaced by the feathery plumed seeds.



The long seed pods gradually split apart, holding the seeds out for the wind to catch and blow them away. So, prepare for at least another month of watching the fluffy seeds float by and picking them off your clothes!

Pitcairn Volunteers

The meadow at Gaddon has now had its annual, late-summer, cut, and a good turnout from the Pitcairn volunteers saw much of the arisings removed from site. There are an encouraging number of amphibians, small mammals and insects using the grasslands; with two newt species, frogs, toads, voles, six-spot burnet moths and four bumblebee species all recorded there in the last couple of

months. The September volunteer day, on the 21st, will involve more meadow management, this time at Craig Hartle in St Andrews.

Wildlife Records

Please remember to note down what you see and 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

You can still bring your own seed, oats, or peas and corn (defrosted if frozen) if you wish. **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.

