

December 2019

Bird News: November

As Christmas and the winter solstice draws ever nearer the dark nights and frosty mornings have been a feature of November, some absolute filthy days and one or two crystal clear ones. Bird life is good, when you can actually see it!

Here are the November highlights;

Geese: Numbers are picking up now and 5100 Pinks on 22nd and 3000 on 23rd, 21 Greylag on the same day. Numbers around the reserve are fluctuating between 2000-4000, with more birds overflying and feeding in the fields each week.

Light Bellied Brent are appearing now in Balgove Bay with 11 on 22nd.

Estuary Wide: The Estuary count on 22nd gave some decent numbers and species. 224 Grey Plover out at Edenmouth along with 840 Dunlin and 1210 Knot. 5 Ringed Plover and 6 Greenshank along the north shore. Wildfowl wise, 265 Wigeon, 36 Goldeneye, 37 Scaup, 123 Shelduck and 20 Pintail. 5 Little Grebe, 5 GC Grebe and a lone Slavonian Grebe all around the Inner Estuary.

St Andrews Bay: Plenty of waders feeding along West Sands at low tide with Knot and Sanderling present. Long Tailed Duck, Scaup, Common Scoter and Velvet Scoter noted offshore late month.

White Tailed Eagle: Present 3 days out of 30 with 2 birds noted on 18th.

Outhead/West Sands: Snow Bunting on occasion now and some great numbers of Stonechat.

Eden Centre: 6 Little Grebe on 18th, this bird is a lovely feature of any visit to the Centre. 5 Great Crested Grebe

on 14th and a nice 4 Slavonian Grebe on the same day. Little Egret present all month with 5 days where 2 were present.

8 LB Brent and 30 Scaup on 21st. 100 Teal on 15th. 10 Goldeneye on 14th along with 8 RB Merganser on the same day. Female Peregrine on 15th.

200 Lapwing on 15th. Low numbers again of Godwit with only 33 on 20th. 11 Greenshank on 14th.

2 Kingfisher on 2nd and a mixed flock of 65 Redwing and Fieldfare on 7th. The Centre has hordes of wee birds. 25+ Tree Sparrow late month. Greenfinch, Goldfinch and the usual woodpeckers and tits.....super stuff.

Bird of the Month



Snow Bunting

A wonderful wee bird. Very well camouflaged amongst the dunes and foreshore detritus along our coasts. Often noted in small flighty groups hopping around the back beach where vegetation and seaweed aid cover. A bird of both high mountains and low coasts, at this time of year often found along the dunes between Tentsmuir Point and West Sands, where the odd one or two have been noted this month. A bonny bird and a fitting seasonal treat. Will the snow follow the Bunting? Let's see.

Eden Centre

Winter Opening Hours:

- 9am-4pm

Christmas Closing:

- 25th and 26th Dec
- 1st January

Reserve News

- **West Sands Christmas Beach Clean:** 7th and 18th Dec.
- **Christmas Trees:** Drop off your old natural tree after Christmas down at West Sands to support the dune restoration. Collection is 28th Dec-10th Jan. Place in signed compound.

Merry Christmas Folks

As another year draws to a close and the winter starts to bite. Take time, slow down and breathe. Pop out on a walk or a beach stroll, come see some birdlife, whatever you do, let in a bit of natural magic. It is a real tonic for all the hullabaloo of elections, present hunting and pie overdose.

Thank you for all your support and for paying a visit. You are welcome anytime,

Look after yourself folks and look out for each other and don't forget, nature is a great thing, big or small, common or rare and we are part of this great parade. How good is that!

Have a great Christmas

Ranald Strachan