

January 2020

Bird News: December

Welcome to the new decade. The twenties have returned and what better place to see some flamboyant 'flappers' than the Eden Reserve.

The holidays were pretty mixed for weather and it's hard to know what to wear between days. But the birdlife is getting on with it unperturbed by years passing and decades looming. Here is December's highlights;

Geese: Numbers of Pinkfooted are stable but quite low generally hovering around 1500. Light Bellied Brent are in Balgove Bay with 12 on 20th.

Estuary Wide: The Estuary count on 20th gave some reasonable numbers and species. 288 Grey Plover out at Edenmouth along with 912 Dunlin and 1140 Knot and 76 Bar tailed Godwit. Oystercatcher numbers are rising with 1264.

Wildfowl wise, 238 Wigeon, 7 Scaup, 165 Shelduck, 65 Mallard and 23 Pintail.

St Andrews Bay: Plenty of waders feeding along West Sands at low tide with Snow Bunting putting in the odd appearance along the beach. Stonechat too. Offshore are fair sized flotilla's of Common Scoter with 2 Velvet Scoter on 24th.

White Tailed Eagle: Single bird on 19th.

Eden Centre: 5 Little Grebe on 21st, 3 GC Grebe on 12th and 2 Slavonian Grebe on 12th also. Little Egret records have dropped to 1-2 all month, this may have something to do with the bridge repairs and staying upstream?

A nice 18 Whooper swan in flight over the centre on 24th. A lovely sight. 56 teal on 29th, not been a lot of Teal around, 6 Goldeneye along with them on 29th.

Raptors are quiet too Sparrowhawk and Buzzard with a lone Peregrine on 24th. A nice count of 160 Lapwing on 5th and a welcome 70 Black tailed Godwit on 29th Redshank numbers are low but 9 Greenshank noted on 12th.

Kingfisher and GS Woodpecker popped into view at the centre many days this month and the feeders have been a throng of Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Chaffinch and many, many Tree Sparrow. Nice to see the dog Otter has made a welcome return.

Bird of the Month



Light Bellied Brent Goose

An enigmatic goose easily overlooked. Around the size of a Mallard duck with a very dark profile. Deep black head and neck fades to a soft grey into pure white and once locked onto in the optics it is obvious, except if it is a 'Dark bellied' race! This goose breeds in places such as Greenland and Svalbard and is a regular winter visitor to the reserve usually in groups of 10-50. They can often be found in Balgove Bay and are a lovely sight. Best view is from the Evans Hide.

Eden Centre

Winter Opening Hours:

- 9am-4pm

Reserve News

- **Christmas Trees:** Come along to lend a hand to move our trees into the dunes at West Sands. 11th January at 10am by the Café. All welcome.
- **Volunteer!** It's a new year, a new decade, a new you? Okay maybe not, but if you fancy something a bit outdoors, a bit natural and a bit fun. Why not volunteer for us? There are many things you can get involved with and something to suit everyone. If interested contact the rangers on 07984 152558 or Meg on 01592 656088.
- **FCCT Website:** Try our new website for visit information.
- **Donations:** Keeping those Tree Sparrows fed is a task. All donations welcome. Thanks!

Here's to the roaring 20's!

A good New Year to you all and we hope for longer days and brighter skies.

We hope you can pop along to the Eden sometime in 2020 and support and enjoy all the splendid joys of this old reserve.

All the best for what is to come, I hope it's all welcome.

Ranald Strachan