

## March 2020

### Bird News: February

February felt more like winter. Wet, windy, sleet and driving cold winds. The Lomond Hills have worn a white cloak for a week now although the coast has seen little more than rain. Changeable weather has not deterred the movement towards Spring and during the odd nice day Skylarks are singing and buds are most definitely budding. Here are February's highlights;

**Geese:** Numbers of Pinkfooted across the winter have been quite low and this month continues this trend with 800 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 300 on 27<sup>th</sup>. Light Bellied Brent are in Balgove Bay with 11 on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Estuary Wide:** The Estuary count on 11<sup>th</sup> gave lower counts due to a very high tide. 246 Oystercatcher, 83 Knot, 65 Black-tailed Godwit and 123 Redshank held up wader numbers a little.

Wildfowl wise, 215 Shelduck, 49 Teal, 16 Goldeneye and 25 Pintail.

**Outhead:** Snow Bunting putting in the odd appearance along the beach early month. Stonechats getting frisky and 4 Skylark singing on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Links Courses:** Lone Peregrine on 17<sup>th</sup> and 3 Grey Partridge.

**Eden Centre:** 3 Little Grebe on 27<sup>th</sup>. And 2 GC Grebe on 20<sup>th</sup> along with a nice Slavonian Grebe.

2 Little Egrets have been around since 1<sup>st</sup> and again on 27<sup>th</sup>. 9 Whooper Swan on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8 Mute Swan on 27<sup>th</sup> and 12 LB Brent on the same day. Teal have been a regular feature in front of the centre.

A nice wee group of 9 Scaup on 15<sup>th</sup> and good to see some Eider back in the estuary. Goldeneye numbers have began dropping but still around 10 or so all month. 3 RB Merganser and 6 Goosander on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Raptor wise, single Merlin and 2 Peregrine in on 1<sup>st</sup>. with 2 Peregrine again on 27<sup>th</sup>.

250 Knot on 10<sup>th</sup> with 60 Lapwing, 600 Dunlin, a peak of 80 Black-tailed Godwit on 5<sup>th</sup> and 500 redshank on 20<sup>th</sup>. A lone Greenshank record on 15<sup>th</sup>.

Kingfisher on 8<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and up on the feeders its been busy with multiples of Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Tree Sparrow, this species with 20 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

The bird star of the feeders this month has been a lovely and regular Treecreeper on the nut feeders pretty much all month. But its not just about birds and a centre first of a Red squirrel on the feeders on 10<sup>th</sup> was a nice record. Otters also on 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Lovely stuff.

### Mammal of the Month



### Red Squirrel

A first for the centre feeders on 10<sup>th</sup> February. A most welcome sight and needs no introduction. Guardbridge holds small pockets of woodland but no dense canopy woodland and little conifer trees, but this little fellow found out about our nuts. They are most welcome to join the throng.

### Eden Centre

- **9am-5pm**
- **Centre car park** is closed on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> March for finishing road surface.
- **Parking problems.** It has been passed to University and contractors to not park in centre area however it keeps happening. Please be assured this will ease when the major works are complete.
- **Bird ID Class 11<sup>th</sup> March:** Centre will be closed 9.30am-12 noon.

### Reserve News

- **Dune Planting:** Come along and help plant some more dune grasses to finish our next sand dune. Call 01592 656088 to add your weight.
- **Volunteer!** Why not volunteer for us? There are many things you can get involved with and something to suit everyone, bird and wildlife surveying is needed. If interested contact the rangers on **07985 707593** or Meg on **01592 656088**.
- **Visitor Handbook:** 2020 handbook now available from the centre, please donate a £1 and take one.
- **FCCT Facebook:** Keep up to date with countryside matters or for visit information.
- **Donations:** Keeping those Red squirrels fed is a task. All donations welcome. Thanks.