

## April 2020

### Bird News: March

April is usually an exciting and hopeful month full of potential, it still is. We are in strange and dark days and this is the time to hang on and hope and not give too much to fear. It is a big crisis we face and in no way can we underestimate it, but nature is helpful, is happening all around us and new life and creation is about to begin. Use this if it helps. On my daily 'sanity stroll' I am always noting the now daily changes, feeling a little 'left behind' by the change, but I hope to be out there again soon. I wish you all the best and here is March's bird highlights;

**Geese:** Numbers of Pinkfooted are now quite low and sporadic, around 800 at best, mainly late month. Brent geese are still around in reasonable number up to around 25.

**Breeding:** Happening now. Herons are on the nests and bird boxes being bagged.

**Estuary wide:** The Estuary count on 9<sup>th</sup> was again quite quiet, unexpectedly. 895 Oystercatcher, 81 Knot, 110 Curlew, 131 Redshank and only 17 Black-tailed Godwit. 2 Little Egret and a passing Raven were nice.

Wildfowl wise, 189 Shelduck, 24 LB Brent geese, 27 Pintail, a good 62 Wigeon and 62 Eider. 6 Goldeneye and 6 RB Merganser.

**Outhead:** Skylark are out in force with 11 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Coble Pools:** Down on the flooded pools were 3 Snipe and 4 Reed Bunting along with a lone Yellowhammer on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Eden Centre:** 3 Little Grebe on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1 GC Grebe on 7<sup>th</sup>. Little Egrets present all month with 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup> lowering to 1 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

18 Whooper swan on 8<sup>th</sup> and again 5 on 20<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers of Wigeon with 52 on 20<sup>th</sup>. Along with 12 Teal. 9 Pintail spotted on 20<sup>th</sup> (lovely birds). 3 Scaup and 12 Goldeneye on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sparrowhawk, Buzzard and Peregrine noted all month, no Osprey yet. 2 Grey Partridge noted on 12<sup>th</sup> and again on 20<sup>th</sup> under the feeders! Treecreeper and last months Red Squirrel now Grey Partridge, that's good seed!

300 Knot and 500 Redshank on 12<sup>th</sup> and 56 Black tailed Godwit on 2<sup>nd</sup>. 4 Greenshank on 8<sup>th</sup>. Lb Gulls are back and Blackcap singing on 17<sup>th</sup>. Kingfisher still dropping in occasionally and on the feeder's it is well groomed Tree Sparrows and Chaffinches and a bonny Bullfinch on 8<sup>th</sup>. Nice stuff.

### Bird of the Month



#### Skylark

Few birds bring such simple pleasure when heard. A true master of song and display and so important to our coastal fringe. They are singing all around the coast of Fife and if lucky inland. If you can get out to hear them, do so, it may help just a bit.

If you cannot try out Vaughan Williams 'Lark Ascending'. A fine substitute.

### Eden Centre

- Closed

### Reserve News

In response to the current situation we all find ourselves in FCCT have had to pull back services and in light of lock down, staffing. This is highly appropriate.

All of our centres, hides, toilets, offices, bins and facilities are closed.

We are also recommending to the public not to visit our sites by car and when you do so on foot or cycle to remain aware that services may not be available.

Please take all waste home, including dog waste.

Please respect notices and covers or closures, many are not permanent and rely on your support and compliance.

You may see the occasional FCCT vehicle, be assured this will be on specific tasks to support and assist the public in carrying out the necessary social distancing regulation.

Please think of yourself, your family and others and stay at home and when out exercising on our sites please be careful and mindful.

Please feel free to contact us via social media to advise of any major issues you encounter. We are also interested to hear if you do spot any wildlife of interest and please engage with us if it helps you through this unsettling time, you will be welcome to email me at any time.

Stay safe and good wishes.

*Ranald*