

June 2020

Bird News: May

There can be complaints against many things just now, but surely not the weather. This spell of amazing day is almost as odd as the whole lockdown and associated issues.

Once again the news is sparse from the reserve with very little formal surveying and counting. Records are not being passed to us understandably so its slim pickings folks.

May's bird bits;

Breeding: Some good numbers of Sedge Warblers on the River Eden reed beds and along the north shore. Seems a good Whitethroat year too.

2 families of Mallard noted with 9 large young between them which is good. Good numbers of Skylark and Linnet around the grassland pens at Outhead, great to get close to as they have feeding and nests within the pens.

Sandmartin have moved in at Outhead and can be noted all around the end of West Sands.

Estuary Wide: No estuary count however 63 Shelduck, 4 Goldeneye, 1 Osprey, 17 Curlew, 2 Heron and 18 Mute swan were noted on 21st.

Outhead: Stonechat with 2 juveniles at Outhead on 21st and 1 with 2 juveniles on the West Sands dunes along with 2 pairs of Reed Bunting on the same day.

Eden Centre: Many pairs of birds are using the centre park for breeding and feeding, most notable are 2 pairs of Tree Sparrow and 2 pairs of Blue tit in the boxes and tree's around the centre.

White tailed eagle are around and noted off Outhead area last week and 2 Osprey noted on 31st.

Gannets and Puffins being picked up around West sands so its heading towards seabird season.

The reports should be healthier for June as we now have a presence back on the reserve.

Please email the ranger any bird records you can.

Bird of the Month



Sandmartin

The smallest of the 'hirundines' and often less well identified. Not as handsome as the Swallow, not as obvious as the House martin and not as agile as the Swift, but a fine bird. Around their nest sites they can give great opportunity to observe their behaviour, insects feeders they are nimble and low flying, in groups they can be enchanting. A small colony has taken in the dunes along the golf courses, a far better option than the bunkers! Look out for these around the reserve.

Good to have them back.

Eden Centre

- **Closed**

The Centre is closed however in light of 'Phase One' of lockdown **ease** being implemented, we can still invite you to access the reserve. You can

travel to take exercise if you live locally (5 miles). The Centre does have a new very small open sided wooden hide outside and you would be welcome to use this when visiting. Please ensure social distancing is observed, if someone is present, please consider elsewhere.

Reserve News

In response to the current situation we all find ourselves in FCCT had to pull back services and in light of lockdown, staffing. This was highly appropriate. This is now changing

Under Phase 1 of the easing of lockdown restrictions we advise strongly to follow the Scottish Govt guidelines.

The ability to car travel short distances for exercise may bring the reserve closer to more people. The reserve has never been out of bounds and we welcome responsible access along recognised paths and routes. **Outhead at West Sands**, **St Andrews** and **Eden Centre** Guardbridge are the best at this time. These can both allow access to view and walk and to ensure social distancing.

Please take home all litter and waste and treat the reserve well, its an asset for all.

Please plan your visits well, there is limited facilities at all sites just now.

Enjoy and please let us know if you come across anything interesting.

Check out our social media sites for updates and information.

Stay safe and good wishes.

Ranald