

April 2021

Bird News: March

Spring no doubt is upon us and around the reserve birds are in good song and displaying well, last month held a fair amount of cold days with bitter winds however this still didn't not deter the Skylarks whom seemed to up early this year. The rhythm of the reserve will beat to this for the next few months with this coming month being one of the best to visit, awaiting Osprey, Sand Martin and warbler. There is still many of our winter visitors to be seen, but possibly not for long.

Here are March's highlights;

Geese: Counts have tailed off however in late March some very notable numbers were spotted with around 3400 on 26th and 'many thousands' reported on 31st. Light bellied Brent are still around with 33 noted on 11th and 28 on 24th.

Heron: Back up on their nest sites with good intent 6 birds present 5th March.

Estuary Wide: Out on 11th were 287 Shelduck, 114 Wigeon, 51 Teal and 62 Pintail. A lone Slavonian Grebe in Balgoe too.

Wader wise, 1730 Oystercatcher, 245 Curlew, an acceptable 72 Grey Plover and 112 Redshank, only a handful of Black tailed Godwit though.

Outhead: Snow Bunting recorded here late March. A nice sight of an adult White-tailed Eagle on 1st March and two have been noted locally to the north this month, which is good news. A lone hunting Kestrel and offshore 6 Long tailed Duck on 21st. A nice Wheatear on 31st, 2 Reed Bunting and 4 Stonechat on the same

day. The sheep pens are a riot of song and display from Skylark and Meadow Pipit. Lovely.

Eden Centre: 33 Pintail, 21 Whooper Swans and a lone Peregrine on 15th.

260 Redshank, 102 Knot, 7 Goldeneye, 40 Dunlin and 3 Goosander on the estuary on 25th, up on land were Magpie, Tree Sparrow and Goldfinch, good to see Tree Sparrow back at the feeders.

Two Little Egret have been around all month, 5 Goldeneye and a lone Peregrine on 30th overflying Guardbridge. Not bad.

Bird of the Month



Reed Bunting

This month it is a pleasure to feature a handsome yet often overlooked bird of the water edge, scrub, reeds and grassland. The singing male is often very noticeable at this time of year as they give their single note in a whispery whistle. Often atop a reed or long grass stem. It is a sound of spring and summer and brings alive the quiet places.

Most noted around Outhead, Coble Pools, Goose Pools and the river Eden. Along with Skylark, Sedge Warbler and Yellowhammer they form the soundtrack to a visit to the reserve in summer. Lovely birds with the black capped 'tortoiseshell' male and the subtler moustached female quite noticeable just now.

Eden Centre

- **Closed**

The Centre is closed, this is due to issues with maintaining Covid related safety and cleaning. The Centre does have a small open sided wooden hide outside.

Reserve News

- **Coastal Volunteer Group** if you are interested in joining in our volunteer sessions please contact Meg Moore on 01592 656088. Keep an eye on our social media for upcoming events.

- **Breeding Birds:** This is the start of the breeding season, please be aware of ground nesters, they can easily be disturbed, or egg clutches trampled, in open grassland or dunes, keep an eye out ahead.

- **Bird Records:** If you are around the estuary please pass on any notable bird records. Keep an eye for any migrants and of course our resident Sea Eagles. Let us know what you spotted.

- **Kincaple Path:** Please note the path along the river is now open once more.

- **Fife Bird Club:** Joining a club is a great way to get into birds and bird watching check out their website fifebirdclub.org.uk

- **West Sands Toilets:** For a visit to Outhead, these facilities are open from 1st April 10am-6pm.