

April 2018

Bird News: March

Well, Winter refuses to leave even when Spring is pushing on its back. It's been cold and windy in general with some ferocious days of east winds and snow. April is continuing the trend and I wonder how it will affect the breeding season. There have been many seabirds washed up as a result of east winds and high waves, predominantly Guillemot but the odd Puffin too. Here is March's highlights;

Geese: Pinkfooted numbers are now in the mid hundreds and dwindling with 820 noted on 21st. LB Brent are still around in small numbers with 8 on 23rd.

Estuary Counts: Largely numbers are slowly dropping but out on 14th were 295 Shelduck, 127 Wigeon, a nice count of 49 Pintail and a cracking 167 Eider.

Wader wise, 1082 Oystercatcher, 302 Curlew, 557 Redshank and a drop off of 395 Dunlin.

Outhead: Skylark and Meadow pipit have began displaying and Stonechat and Reed Bunting are doing nicely. Out on 11th 10 reed Bunting and offshore 10 Scaup. On the 18th were 12 Sanderling and on the 26th were 90 Scaup, very close in.

It's been a good month for Kestrel sightings along West Sands with birds hunting on 19th, 22nd, 28th and 29th.

Coble Pools: 9 Curlew, 2 Pintail and 4 Grey Partridge on 10th.

Heron Census: A very quiet March visit with no birds present at all on 14th.

Sea Eagles: Another poor month with a single bird noted on 1 day (12th)

Eden Centre: As always some good spots from the hide. Little Grebe on 5th, GC Grebe on 15th and 2 Slavonian Grebe on 24th. Little Egret present from 19th onwards. 10 Whooper Swan on 27th. Goldeneye numbers are steady but low with 4 on 23rd along with a lone Goosander and 2 RB Merganser. Peregrine on 12th and 23rd and the first Osprey of the year on 28th.

Wader numbers dropping but 141 Black tailed Godwit on 27th, some beginning to colour up. A nice spot of 6 Kittiwake on 15th.

Small birds are gearing up for breeding, all looking good with Bullfinch, Tree Sparrow, Goldfinch, Long-Tailed Tit and Blackcap showing up.

Bird of the Month



Kittiwake

This elegant marine and coastal gull is appearing closer to land after months out at sea. Heading for their breeding colonies such as the Isle of May. Identify by grey backs, black legs and 'dipped in ink' black wing tips. Juveniles have a stunning plumage with sharp notable wing bars. They are lovely birds and when the world seems to be against the gull here is one of the family that says 'surely not me'. 6 spotted on the 15th.

Eden Centre

- **Open 9am-5pm**
- **Heating:** Please ensure heaters are off when leaving the centre

Reserve News

- **Visitor Handbook:** £1.
- **Breeding Birds:** The reserve plays host to many ground nesting birds. Please consider these vulnerable species when heading out across dunes, grasslands and heaths. Thanks.
- **FCCT Facebook:** This is a great way to keep up with information.
- **Fife SOC:** A huge thank you to the Fife branch of the Scottish Ornithologists Club for a donation to assist bird support work across Fife and on the Eden. Really appreciated.

If you would like to contribute to direct action for wildlife, please donate money, that would be great, time would be grand or bird food, smashing. Just let the ranger know or see the FCCT website. Thank you.

- **Seabirds:** All along the coast there will be wrecked or resting seabirds. We are aware of the situation and can advise on how to assist.
- **Waste Collection:** If you decide to do your bit and remove plastics from the estuary or beaches, make sure you contact us, we can ensure the waste is collected and we can also help with clean ups. Thanks for your effort and let us help you.