

June 2018

Bird News: May

May in Scotland under a blue sky and warm sun is as good as it gets. A fantastic month for warm, dry days. Plenty of flora and fauna interest around, it is quiet generally on the reserve flats as the business of breeding takes many birds off site to higher or more inland sites. That said the edges of the reserve are buzzing with activity. Let's hope for more of this weather in June. Here is May's highlights:

Estuary Counts: 23rd. Quiet as expected, 67 Shelduck, a nice 82 Eider and 8 RB Merganser. A couple of Osprey too.

Wader wise, numbers decreasing rapidly through May. 293 Oystercatcher, 50 Black-tailed Godwit and 27 Bar-tailed Godwit. 92 Curlew were about all for waders. 21 Sandwich Tern added a bit of interest.

Outhead: Busy this month with 2 Wheatear on 10th and 44 Sandwich Tern offshore on 12th. Good numbers of Skylark and Meadow Pipit along with a pair of Whitethroat on 16th. A cracking 10 Reed Bunting on 20th. Our Sandmartin colony has now around 30 pairs using the soil pile. Great to watch.

Coble Pools: Looking good here with Skylark, Whitethroat, Meadow Pip, Reed Bunting, Snipe, Sedge Warbler and Grey Partridge all breeding. Pools being used by Mallard and Swan too.

Heron Census: A slow start this year however the final estimate for breeding pairs was 8.

Breeding: Good numbers of Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting this year.

Fulmars St Andrews: One of our volunteers has been monitoring the Fulmar nesting cliffs along St Andrews coastline. The May peak was 220 birds on 21st.

Eden Centre: It is definitely a month for the smaller birds at the centre, however Osprey sightings have been superb with birds present most days with peaks of 4 on 3rd and 5 on 15th. Still noted on 30th. 2 Lonely Pinkfooted Geese refusing to head north. 4 Goosander on 10th.

A peak of 77 Black tailed Godwit on 5th. And the last Redshank took off on 6th. A lone Common Sandpiper on 3rd.

Up at the centre plenty of breeding around, including Goldfinch, Blackcap, Willow Warbler singing and Tree Sparrow nesting in the boxes.

Bird of the Month



Osprey

May has been a cracking month for sightings of this much loved bird. Osprey's nested locally last year and it would be grand to see them do so again this year. They tend to peak in numbers on passage through the reserve in May and again in Aug/Sep, however they can be spotted any day between those dates. 5 noted on 15th, mostly eating their fish on the many posts around the mudflats. Enjoy.

Eden Centre

- **Open 9am-5pm**
- **Sea Wall Works:** The centre is a bit noisy just now with vital seawall repairs happening along the Energy Centre shoreline.
- **Footpath Repairs:** New footpaths are being laid along the main street, turning into the car park has signage but is still possible.
- **CLOSED: 26th and 27th:** Annual floor painting dates.

Reserve News

- **Visitor Handbook:** £1.
- **Saltmarsh BioRolls:** The new wave protectors have been placed by a team of volunteers from CEMEX, well done. These are now in situ on both the southern and northern shorelines protecting newly planted saltmarsh plugs.
- **Butterfly?** Please if you note any butterfly or interesting flora or fauna on your travels around the reserve, please pop it in the log book.
- **Breeding Birds:** The reserve will start to see the fledging of many wee birds this month. Please be canny around the place. thanks
- **Sandmartins:** Sandmartins have colonised our pile of soil at Outhead on West Sands. The area is very accessible which is great to watch them at a distance, however please don't get too close and keep excited children and dogs off the mound, it is very fragile. They are wonderful birds and we are delighted they found this pile!