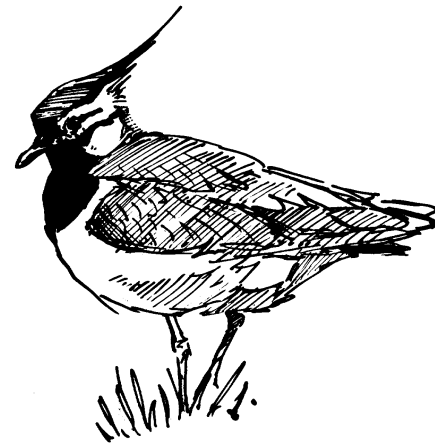




a million voices for nature



Summer 2012

Loch of Kinnordy Nature Reserve Newsletter

Reserve News

April saw the arrival of The Konik Ponies. A few months on and they seem to have settled in at the West End quite nicely. Although they are still a little shy, they are grazing well and becoming accustomed to staff and volunteers (especially when they know we have apples!) The purpose of the ponies is to graze the fen at the West End to produce short vegetation for breeding Waders – results may not be seen until breeding season next year.



Vandana Lake May 2012

During the relatively short period of sunshine we experienced in early June, the volunteers were busy revamping the hides with a new coat of paint, for the benefit of our visitors. The wet summer has prevented us from continuing to paint the hides. Looks like the heavy rain from the longest day of the year, has done its best to fill the loch to capacity.

Wildlife Highlights

Breeding season has produced 8 Greylag geese families with a total 43 goslings; 2 Mute Swan families, one with 6 cygnets and one with 5. There have been 2 Lapwings families one with 2 chicks and the other with 3 fledged young. There have also been two Curlew families at the West End both with 2 chicks each and one Oystercatcher family with 1 fledged chick. Snipe continue to drum at the West End but the vegetation has been so high we have never been able to identify the success of Snipe breeding. However, Mallard broods seem to be few and far between, considering their numbers are consistently average for this time of year.

Nest boxes have been well occupied this year, including the regular Blue Tit, Great Tit and Coal Tit. All the fledged young can now be heard flitting along the path.



Vandana Lake June 2012



a million voices for nature

A Pintail was recorded (08 June 2012).

Barn Owl - One of the pair was sighted late one night. The chicks are more likely half-grown by now.

Spotted crane surveys were undertaken throughout June revealing, at minimum, 2 spotted cranes thought to be on-site. The surveys in which the spotted cranes could be heard from the West End and from the hides were carried out at night time. The sound of which resembles a "dripping tap" or a "whipping" sound. It is thought that Spotted cranes have not been on-site since 2009.

What to look out for

With the Marsh Harriers nesting, we are anticipating the presence of juvenile(s). Last year juveniles fledged mid-August, so perhaps we can look forward to sighting some time to soon. Also look out for Osprey teaching their young how to fish.

It's nearly Eclipse time for a lot of ducks. This is a time when drakes go through an annual moult of the old primary feathers making them resemble females and rendering them flightless for a few weeks.

Sedge Warblers and Reed Buntings can be seen and heard from each hide. Between the hides along the paths, you can regularly see and hear the calls of blue tits, bullfinches, reed bunting and long-tailed tits. You can also hear summer visitors: Whitethroat, Black Cap and Willow Warbler regularly.

Plantlife

Among the wild flowers that are around along the paths, there are Herb Robert. and Buttercups. Of note there are Twayblade Orchids. Their

leaves appear Hosta-like with tall-stemmed green flowers. They're not uncommon in the region and can be seen alongside Gullery hide boardwalk. Growing at the West End are Northern Marsh Orchid and Red Robin.



Vandana Lake
July 2012

Please record all sightings in the book supplied in Gullery hide, they are all kept and are very useful.

If you would like to ask about joining the RSPB; would like some information about birdwatching at Loch of Kinnordy; or have any questions about the work of the RSPB in general, please feel free to ask any of our volunteers, who can usually be found daily on site, and they will be more than happy to help you.

For further information, please contact:

Kim Ross

RSPB, 1 Atholl Crescent, Perth, PH1 5NG.

Tel – 01738 630783 or 07765854519

email: kim.ross@rspb.org.uk

*RSPB Scotland is part of the RSPB which speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing - help us keep it that way. Join to day at:
www.rspb.org.uk/join*

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654.

