

bird news

Welcome to the September news...and our dreich summer seems to be drifting away slowly, it'll soon be replaced by dreich autumn! Ok..hopefully not too dreich. August has been changeable like most of the summer but temperatures have been good and showers seem to have been brief, the reserves vegetation is in overdrive and the bird song has ceased from the hedges and fields and is replaced by the mounting coloured dots out on the estuary. Autumn is arriving and so are the birds. Here is August's highlights:

Goosepools: Offshore on 6th were 22 Common tern, 63 Sandwich tern, 590 Gannet and 33 Cormorant, St Andrews Bay has been full of good seabird action with Guillemot, Razorbills, terns and Gannets in good numbers. 122 Sandwich tern, 19 Arctic and 12 Common tern on 17th along with a group of 11 Kittiwake. On land, 2 Wheatear, 9 Grey plover and 15 Bar tailed godwit on the same day.

North Shore: 110 Eider, 4 Guillemot, 23 Greenshank, 55 Lapwing and 2 Ruff on 17th. White tailed eagle have been a feature of late August with sightings increasing from 26th with 2 on north shore on 26th, one on 27th and a Grey tagged individual bird on 29th.

Leuchars Airfield: 2 Wheatear, 2 Stock dove and a family of 3 Kestrel on 15th, 2 Snipe and a Mistle thrush there on 21st. A juvenile Peregrine on 22nd hassled by the resident Kestrel family.

Edenside: A busier month here, single Arctic skua on 12th, 1 Fulmar and an unusually inland Guillemot on 18th, 4 Whimbrel, 11 Knot and 10 Greenshank on the same day. 63 Goosander on 20th, a good month for these handsome ducks. A nice juvenile Little gull on 22nd, 5 Ruff on 23rd, 2 Shoveller duck a single

Wheatear and Treecreeper on 24th. A nice White tailed eagle on 26th and 32 Heron, 2 Goldeneye and 2 Arctic skua on 25th

Coble Pools: Out on the pools area on 12th were a single Shoveller, a female Tufted duck with 7 young 28th were 135 Lapwing, 2 Osprey, 2 Wheatear and using the pools were 12 Snipe and 5 Greenshank. The pools are full and the whole area is flooded which should suit many birds at this time. **Seasonal Pools on Southern Fields:** These have been flooding early this year and a single Wood sandpiper and 3 Ruff recorded there on 12th.

Eden Centre: A good month for Osprey, almost a daily record with 5 present on 26th. Little grebe on 4th, Little Egret on 5th, 2 Whoopers have arrived and stayed all month since 1st. 110 Canada geese on 28th a nice Marsh harrier and a single Merlin on 21st, a whopping 800 Curlew on 13th and 20 Greenshank and 5 Common sandpiper on the same day, a single Turnstone on 15th and 30 GBB gull on 28th. Kingfisher sightings have increased steadily with 2 on 29th.

Otter sightings have increased too and the centre is a great place to watch them especially early mornings.

eden centre

- Open 9am-5pm
- Centre is closed Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th Sept for the Leuchars Airshow.
- **Donations:** Please feel free to donate to the reserve, recent donations have funded new chairs, bird feed and feeders. We are very grateful for the helping hand, and please be assured all donations are spent on the reserve. Thanks!

Bird of the month



Wood Sandpiper

This month this slot could have been filled with Little Egret, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Sea Eagle...however its nice to feature a neat and scarce wader visitor, the Wood Sandpiper. This fine wader is most often recorded in Southern England, 4-8 pairs breed in the Highlands and last recorded on the reserve 3/9/2008.

Distinguishing features are the pale legs, mottled back, fine bill and eye stripe. Spotted on the field floods at Coble Shore on 12th August.

reserve news

- **Dune Restoration Days:** Come along and help restore the West Sands. Dates are- 19th Sept at 10am at the clubhouse car park on West Sands.
- **Leuchars Airshow 15th Sep:** Parking and access is highly restricted.
- **Wildfowling Season:** Starts 1st September.
- **Volunteering:** Anyone wishing to carry out regular or breeding bird surveys please contact the ranger.

