



March 2016

bird news

Welcome to the news for March, yes, March already. Weather wise February was a major improvement on January, but that would not have been hard. Some good sunny days have provided sensational light to the reserve and there are some trees and shrubs budding up. Birdlife has been pretty varied this month. Here is February's highlights:

Geese: The numbers of Pinkfooted geese are still quite low, up to around 1300 birds, days with slightly more and more days with less. 29 LB Brent early in the month.

Outhead: 2 Stonechat on most days, Skylark up and singing now. 2 Snow bunting reported on 27th. Offshore around 1000 Common scoter on 25th.

Links Courses: 3 Mistle Thrush and 10 Grey partridge on 9th.

Coble Pools: Out on the 10th were 2 Stonechat, 29 LB Brent and 8 Whooper swan, up to 11 Whoopers have been present on the fields here all month.

Goosepools: Offshore were 28 Long tailed duck, onshore 3 Snipe, 12 Redpoll, a single Chiffchaff reported and a single SE Owl spotted hunting on 11th.

WeBS (Estuary Count) 18th: Reasonable numbers of waders and wildfowl.

205 Shelduck, a bit of a drop on last month, 201 Wigeon, 112 Teal, 57 Mallard and a fantastic count of 138 Pintail. 21 Goldeneye and a low 47 Eider. Wader numbers were fair with 900 Oystercatcher, 159 Grey plover, 200 Lapwing, 960 Dunlin, 155 Black

tailed godwit and 176 Bar tailed godwit, 536 Curlew and 955 Redshank. Adding a nice touch was a single Little Egret and a Red throated diver.

Sea eagle: present 4 out of 29 days with 2 on 26th. Word from the wood is that they are nest building again. Great stuff.

Eden Centre: As always the centre provides the main spot to pick up birds. Up to 3 Little grebe bobbing around all month and many days they were joined by Great crested grebe with a Slavonian grebe on 4th. A single Little egret all month was joined by another from 26th, will they hang around? The Herons will be heading back onto the nests, who knows. Small number of Goldeneye present all month with 18 on 21st. Peregrine on 11th and 12th. Kingfisher on 14th

Up on the feeders. Long tailed tit, Greenfinches are back en masse, Up to 10 Tree sparrows and a single Brambling recorded on 23rd. Lovely stuff.

Bird of the Month

Stonechat

Anyone out and about around the Eden will likely have encountered these birds. A handsome and approachable bird with a liking for perching in very photogenic poses. A regular winter record and until recently a breeding record too. A bird which can be badly affected by severe winters, so their daily presence out at West Sands speaks of the milder times. Thanks to Bryan

Smith for the lovely pic taken during a dune restoration day.

eden centre

- **Opening Hours 9am-4pm.** Winter opening hours will remain until April 8th due to roadworks.
- **The Centre Car Park:** This is still useable to date.
- **The Centre will be closed on 9th March for necessary tree works.**
- **Class:** There will be a Elmwood College student Bird ID class taking place **Mon 7th March 9.30am-11am.**

reserve news

- **Visitor Handbook 2016:** Out now at Centre priced £1.
- **Beached Bird Survey 2016:** No oiled birds were found however several Little auk carcasses from the recent storms. Species found included Pinkfoot goose, Eider, Fulmar and Puffin.
- **Visitor Log Book:** Feel free to write any comments regarding the reserve.
- **Donations:** Please keep the donations coming, the reserve relies on this support for projects and the likes of bird food and feeders for the centre Thanks!

Guardbridge Road Closure

Ranald Strachan: Fife Coast and Countryside Trust: 07985 707593:
Ranald.Strachan@fifecountryside.co.uk

The planned pipe works through the car park and park have started and will run until April 8th. Please expect delays and

disruption. I will make every attempt to update on the works and effects on the centre as soon as possible

via email list and FCCT Facebook. Thank you.