

Drumoig Wildlife Report – December 2020

The Drumoig Wildlife Forum was launched in January 2017 and as this is my last report as Drumoig Wildlife Co-ordinator I would like to reflect on the last 4 years.

The launch began with a survey that 33 residents contributed to. It gave an overview on bird feeding regimes, gardening for wildlife and types of wildlife seen around Drumoig. At that time, it recorded sightings of 55 Birds, 11 Mammals, 6 Butterflies, 4 Insects, 3 Amphibians and 2 Moths.

Indoor meetings:

Seven have been held:

In 2017 a talk on Biodiversity was given by Johanna Willi, the Biodiversity Co-ordinator for Fife Council; then a joint talk from Clare McElroy of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust on the plight of the bumblebee, its ecology and species identification and Duncan Davidson from the Butterfly Conservation an introduction to moths; and then Ken Neil gave a talk on Red Squirrels.

In 2018 a talk on Bird Migration was given by Prof Will Cresswell from the University of St Andrews and Colin Edwards from the Forestry Commission gave a talk on Forestry and Ecology.

In 2019 Monica Arso Civil a Research Fellow at the School of Biology, Scottish Oceans Institute, University of St Andrews gave a talk on her research interests covering bottle-nosed dolphins and seals; and then Dominic Rye and Rachel Hunter, Assistant Countryside Rangers with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, gave a talk on their roles at the trust focussing on the Eden Estuary Local Nature Reserve and West Sands, St Andrews and on how Climate Change effects the coastal systems.

Outdoor outings / events

Seven have been held:

In 2017 a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens, St Andrews took place and then a walk around Birnie and Gaddon Lochs followed. In addition, Duncan Davidson, from the Butterfly Conservation made two visits to Drumoig in 2017 to undertake a moth trap and reveal, in the first (June) he identified 30 species and in the second (August) another 22 taking our total up to 52 (since increased to 55 by resident reports).

In 2018 there was a guided walk around Morton Lochs with Tom Cunningham, Reserve Manager of Tentsmuir Forest.

In 2019 there was a fast rib boat trip on the River Tay in search of dolphin and then a guided walk with Tom Cunningham, Reserve Manager of Tentsmuir Forest and his assistant Marijke Leith. This took in the new Education and Visitor Pavilion and a walk to Tentsmuir Point.

Bird boxes

Twenty woodland bird boxes were installed around the golf course in 2017 with a further eight installed in 2018 and four more in 2019. At the annual survey in January 2020, it was found that 21 out of the 32 boxes had nests in, this was an increase of 10 over the previous year's count. In 2018 and a Tawny Owl nest box was constructed and installed.

In 2018 and a NatureCam camera was purchased resulting in some excellent footage of Badgers, Foxes, Deer and Red Squirrels and in June 2019 the Drumoig Wildlife Forum Photo and Video gallery was launched on the DRA website.

The plans for year 4 (2020) were put on hold, however residents spending more time at home and on walks around the golf course sent in lots of sightings and photos. The closure of the golf course gave an opportunity to undertake a survey on trees and shrubs and wildflowers and grasses through the changing seasons and for a guide to wildlife gardening to be produced. The results were published in Newsletter 16 - July and Newsletter 17 – December 2020

Finally, this has been a very enjoyable project to be part of. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their support and to all the residents that have attended outings and events, that have assisted with the bird boxes and that have encouraged and supported wildlife in our community and have supplied information, photographs, and videos on their sightings over this time. Special thanks go to Ian Menzies for allowing us the freedom to erect the bird boxes and undertake the surveys on the golf course.

Drumoig has proved over the 4 years to be a haven for wildlife and nature and the statistics accumulated over this time shows this.

December 2020 - number of:

Wildflowers / Aquatic plants	96	Bird Boxes	32
Birds	58	Newsletters	17
Moths	55	Talks	7
Trees and Shrubs	28	Walks	4
Insects	21	Moth Trapping	2
Mammals	13	Boat trip	1
Grasses and Bracken	9	Photo Gallery (see link below)	1
Butterflies	7	Video Gallery (see link below)	1
Amphibians	3		

Photo Gallery - [Drumoig Residents Association - Wildlife Gallery \(btck.co.uk\)](https://www.btck.co.uk/wildlife-gallery)

Video Gallery - [Drumoig Residents Association - Drumoig Wildlife Forum \(btck.co.uk\)](https://www.btck.co.uk/wildlife-forum) and click on Wildlife videos