

Drumoig Wildlife Forum (DWF) Newsletter 11 – June 2019



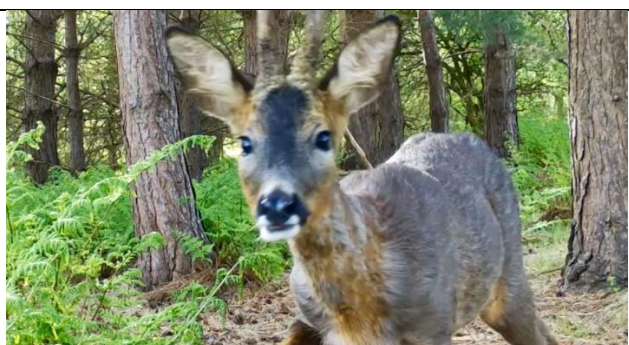
Welcome to the eleventh newsletter for the Drumoig Wildlife Forum

Plant of the month – The above photo shows the Sea Campion (*Silene maritima*)

On a recent visit to the Isle of May, we found the island covered in this pretty white flower, which is a small, clump-forming perennial with tiny, grey-green leaves. The Sea Campion is related to the carnation and is found on the coastline throughout the UK, it grows atop cliffs and amongst shingle and flowers from June to August. The other names by which it is known are 'dead man's bells', 'witches' thimbles' and 'Devil's hatties'. According to folklore, Sea Campion should never be picked for fear of tempting death. Given its habit of growing on the edge of cliff-tops, this was probably good advice!

Exciting News Update

If you go to the Drumoig Wildlife Forum page on the **DRA website / Drumoig Wildlife page** and click on **Gallery** or click on this link: <https://drumoig.btck.co.uk/WildlifeGallery> you will firstly find recordings of wildlife captured around Drumoig. These videos have been taken using nature cams and the highlights of the videos have been linked together through computer software by Alec Burden.



You can also find photographs that have been captured by Drumoig residents in their gardens or around Drumoig. If any resident has wildlife images taken on Drumoig and would like to submit them for inclusion in the gallery, please send them with brief details i.e. description and location to Christine Edwards (drumoig.wildlife@gmail.com)



My thanks go to Paul Edwards for siting the cameras and for many hours categorising them and to Alec Burden for watching nearly 200 videos and then linking them together to make these exciting studies of the wildlife in our area. And finally, to Bob Kelly for creating the video library and photo carousels on the website. Keep watching this page as it will continue to be updated.

Past Events



Sunday 9 June 2019 – Drumoig Summer Fayre

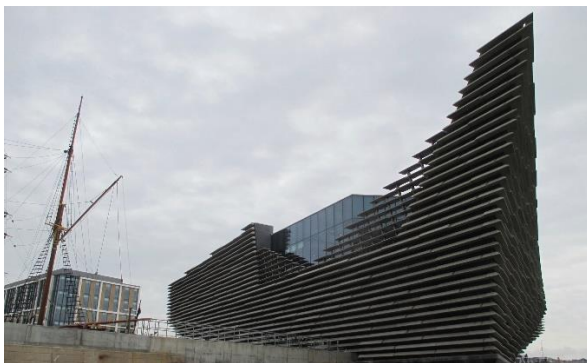
Thank you to all the residents who donated plants or books for the DWF stall at the Drumoig Summer Fayre and to Michael Duncan for helping on the stand. As you can see from the photo, we had an extensive range of goods and the sun shone this year!

Thanks also to those who attended and purchased items, we raised £132.80 which will be put towards future projects.

Saturday 15 June 2019 – River Tay Trip



Five intrepid residents joined a Pirate Boat Ltd fast rib boat trip on the River Tay. Leaving from the slipway next to Broughty Ferry Castle the boat travelled along from the Broughty Ferry Lifeboat station past the docks at Dundee and onto the V&A where we all got a unique view of the new building.



We then had a fast ride back under the Tay bridge and stopped at the Larick Beacon and then continued towards the mouth of the river in search of dolphins but were unlucky on this occasion.



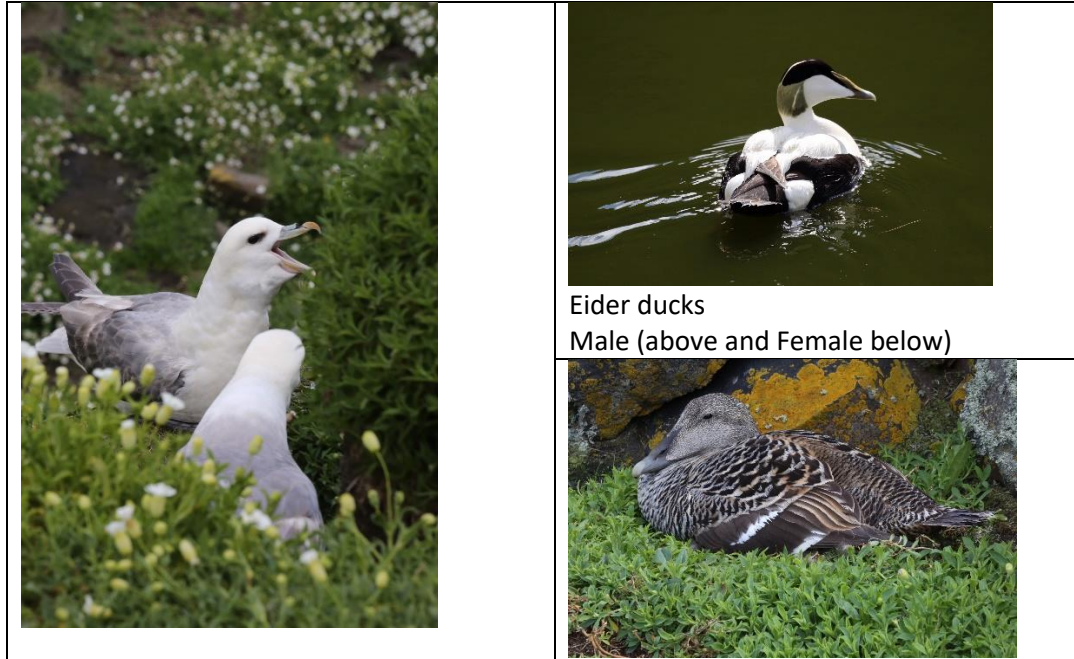
Finally a ride along the coastline back to the slipway. An exhilarating ride and certainly a good way to start off the morning.

Out and About in Fife

Keeping with our maritime theme this year – why not take a boat trip

Isle of May

This island is well worth a trip. Below are a few photos from a trip that Paul and I did to the Isle of May on 21 May. There were lots of birds there these included (Black headed gull, Cormorants, Eider Ducks, Fulmars, Guillemots, Kittiwake, Puffin, Razorbills, Artic Terns, Herring Gulls. For more information on the island go to <https://isleofmaybirdobs.org/>



There are two ways to get there from Fife on a boat or the fast rib, both leave from Anstruther



For information on the May Princess sailing times and how to book go to their website:

<https://www.isleofmayferry.com/index.php>

For information on the Osprey sailing times and how to book go to their website:

<http://www.isleofmayboattrips.co.uk/index.php?fullsite=1>

The River Tay



You can choose a 1 hour Fast 'Rib' boat tour with Pirate Boats Ltd around the sights of the Tay Estuary including The V & A, the Larick Beacon and City Quay. When Dolphins are about, they will go and watch them and learn about their habits. These leave from Broughty Ferry and trips can be booked and paid for directly on-line at

<https://www.pirateboatsltd.com/trips.html>

Or

For a more leisurely boat trip you can choose the 'Taymara' (Tay Maritime Action). This boat is a voluntary sector organisation which exists to serve the local communities of Tayside – i.e. the geographic areas of Fife, Dundee, Angus and Perth & Kinross. Their vessels and qualified crews provide safe access to the exciting Tay river marine environment to impart knowledge, qualifications, skills and memorable maritime experiences for all, but especially for those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable. These trips leave from Tayport and Broughty Ferry and trips can be booked and paid for directly on-line at:

<https://www.taymara.org/>



Wildlife Organisation Update

This newsletter features UK wide and local wildlife organisations giving their latest news and events.



The FCCT (Fife Coast & Countryside Trust) have created a new route named the Fife Pilgrim Way and this project is progressing towards completion with the official launch scheduled for 5th July 2019. The route will have sign posting and waymarking and eight orientation panels, nine cast metal discs and four stone rest points to be sited along the route. Other interpretive elements include a free leaflet, companion book, pilgrim passport, walking map and FPW merchandise, which will be available once the route is open. For more information go to:

http://fifecoastandcounsidetrust.co.uk/Fife-Pilgrim-Way_68.html

A map of the route is attached.

The FCCT manage and preserve wide areas of the countryside of Fife, promoting responsible access to the wonderful and diverse outdoor sites around the area and they also run events. The Spring 2019 newsletter can be viewed here and you can also sign up for your own personal copy:

<https://mailchi.mp/3caa2c2991f7/fcct-spring-2019-newsletter?e=66382f1512>

For more information on the work they do and to see the newsletters on our two local reserves Birnie & Gaddon and the Eden Estuary go to:

<http://www.fifecoastandcounsidetrust.co.uk>



**Scottish National Heritage (SNH)
Education and Visitor Pavilion, Tentsmuir
National Nature Reserve**

The construction of a new bespoke pavilion, designed by local architect Kirsty Maguire was formally opened on Friday 14 June 2019, by SNH Chief Executive, Francesca Osowska, and Newport Primary School pupils and the event was attended by four residents from Drumoig.



The pavilion will provide a gathering place for educational groups as well as providing a focal point for visitors to Tentsmuir Point to learn about the seasonal wildlife and nature on the reserve as well as the history of the area.

Suitable for groups of up to 40 people, the pavilion is situated close to the Ice House, one of the main visitor entrances on the reserve.

The pavilion was jointly funded by SNH and Fife LEADER through the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the bid was boosted by over 80 letters of support from individuals and organisations.

Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve (NNR) boasts constantly moving sand at the edge of the sea to the colourful dune heathland. Seals haul themselves out of the water to watch the world go by, while hungry birds fill up on the rich mix of food hidden in the mudflats. Inland, you can discover the hidden gem of Morton Loch and search for birds like the shy teal dabbling at the water's edge and the elusive otter. For more information on the reserve go to: <https://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/scotlands-national-nature-reserves/tentsmuir-national-nature-reserve>



For more information go to:
<https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/about-us/>

To find your nearest reserve go to:
<https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/visit-our-reserves-and-visitor-centres/>

To watch Ospreys at Loch of Lowes go to:
<https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/watch-wildlife-online/loch-of-the-lowes-webcam/>

For over 50 years, the Scottish Wildlife Trust has worked with its members, partners and supporters in pursuit of its vision of healthy, resilient ecosystems across Scotland's land and seas.

The Trust successfully champions the cause of wildlife through policy and campaigning work, demonstrates best practice through practical conservation and innovative partnerships, and inspires people to take positive action through its education and engagement activities. It also manages a network of 120 wildlife reserves across Scotland and is a member of the UK-wide Wildlife Trusts movement.



BTO

British Trust for
Ornithology

The British Trust for Ornithology is a UK charity that focuses on understanding birds and how and why bird populations are changing. They have just launched their new look website at https://www.bto.org/?dm_i=IG4,6A5SM,J62F2G,OSGS0,1 This is packed with information on the work they do and scientific research, and courses they run.

Go to their BirdFacts page <https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/birdfacts> to find detailed information about Britain's birds, where they live, what they do and links to the latest survey results.

Butterfly Conservation



<https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/east-scotland-branch>

Moths are declining in the UK; studies have found the overall number of moths has decreased by 28% since 1968. The Butterfly Conservation are trying to make everyone aware of how important moths not only as a species but to the many species that rely on them and have created an article called 'Why Moths Matter'. See the link below

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths/why-moths-matter>

This is the time of year to see Cinnabar Moths – please let me know if you see one on Drumoig.



Date for the diary:

Big Butterfly Count - 19 July to 11 August 2019

<https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>



BBC Springwatch has teamed up with the British Trust for Ornithology and the Open University for the biggest citizen science project ever - Gardenwatch!

There are 4 missions:

1. Beyond the Backdoor
2. Worm Detective
3. Bird Detective
4. Mammal Detective

To find out more and to take part go to:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4gjThGt61ndF XqcWLO4rqn/gardenwatch-our-biggest-citizen-science-project-yet>



The 2019 Big Garden Bird Watch results have been published and a copy of the results for Scotland are included at the end of the newsletter.

Swift awareness week – Sat 22 June to Sun 30 June 2019



Swifts take incredible migration routes each year, but sadly the RSPB has seen a 53% decline in their breeding numbers between 1995 and 2016. They are currently running a survey to record locations of swift nest sites around the UK. For more information and to take part go to: <https://swiftsurvey.org/Rspb/Home/Index>



SOC (The Scottish Ornithologists Club)

Have launched a free mobile App called '**Where to Watch Birds in Scotland**'. You can download it from the App Store or Google Play.

It is designed to help users to discover where to birdwatch in Scotland and the bird species likely to be seen at featured locations. The app has launched with details of nearly 400 of Scotland's top birdwatching spots and there is a good number close by to us. They will add and update existing ones on an ongoing basis. The app uses BirdTrack to provide a list of the latest species reported at featured sites. Users are also encouraged to help bird conservation by submitting their sightings via direct links to the Local Bird Recorder and BirdTrack. Here is the link for further information: https://www.the-soc.org.uk/about-us/app?dm_i=IG4,68L07,J62F2G,OL53Q,1

Talks and walks – Dates for the diary

Saturday 20 July 2019 - 10am at the large Drumoig Car Park

This will be our third moth trap and reveal this time with Colin Edwards from the Forestry Commission. It is hoped we can find some new species to add to our current total of 55.

Tuesday 24 September 2019- 7pm at the Drumoig Hotel

A talk by the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust rangers. The first by Dominic Rye, Assistant Ranger, West Sands, St Andrews on their work on West Sands, such as sand dune restoration and their work with the St Andrews Links Trust. The second by Randal Strachan, Ranger for the wider North Fife area including the Eden Estuary Nature Reserve, on the projects, paths and reserves he looks after.

Autumn (Date TBA) - Tom Cunningham has offered a walk at Tentsmuir where we may spot seals and learn about the coastline.

2019 Used Stamp Appeal

Please don't forget to collect stamps for this year's appeal (and encourage your friends, relatives and colleagues to do the same). The collection is in aid of the **RSPB Albatross Task Force**. The project works with fishing crews to reduce the number of albatross's killed by being accidentally caught in trawl and longline fishing nets, and The Drumoig hotel is supporting the appeal and there is a collection box in the entrance hall. Further collections will be made in December or contact Christine Edwards Who will arrange to collect them. drumoig.wildlife@gmail.com

For more information see: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/our-positions-and-casework/our-positions/marine-and-coastal/saving-seabirds-globally/the-albatross-task-force/>

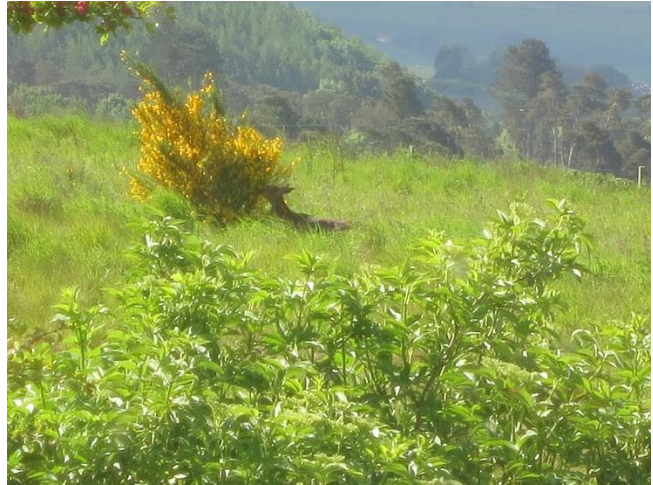
This month's sightings in Drumoig

The Pine Martin below is a first sighting for Drumoig and a new mammal to add to our list.



(By kind permission of Gordon Bruce, Forgan)

This deer was seen in the field at the top of Caigie Hill, enjoying the gorse bush.



(By the kind permission of Ian Wilson, Craigie)

And finally

Ticks

The tick season has begun. Ticks become active at temperatures above 8°C. Protect yourself by covering your skin, applying a repellent, and always carry tools for safe and quick tick removal should any attach themselves to you. The wooded areas and the areas with long grass around Drumoig are known to have ticks, and anyone walking through these areas should always check themselves and their pets afterwards. Further details about ticks, their effects and the potential for Lyme Disease, and how to deal with them can be found at www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Drumoig Wildlife Forum please contact me at drumoig.wildlife@gmail.com

Don't forget to visit the web page. If you can think of any other information that would be useful please let me know. The link is: <http://drumoig.btck.co.uk/DrumoigWildlifeForum>

I look forward to seeing you at one of our forthcoming events.

Christine Edwards, Drumoig Wildlife Co-ordinator

Big Garden Birdwatch 2019

Scotland results

Throughout the UK, 472,758 of you counted a staggering 7,669,138 birds. Once again, the noisy and gregarious house sparrow took the top spot, with the starling in second place. See below for the top 10 birds in Scotland.

This year, you saw:



House sparrow by Andrew Parkinson, starling by Andrew Wilmsey (Getty Stock Photo), chaffinch by Think Stock Photos, blue tit by Shutterstock, blackbird by cmmarsman - Fotolia, woodpigeon by David Kiser (iagb-images.com), goldfinch by iStock, great tit by Ingo Barussek - Fotolia, robin by Chris O'Reilly, coal tit by Steve Krall (both iagb-images.com).
The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654 356-1204-18-19.