

Crag Access & Bird Nesting Updates 2009 (update 6/5/09)

It would be useful to familiarise yourself with our general guidance as this has been discussed with police wildlife officers – available at www.mcofs.org.uk/climbing-and-nesting-birds. Even if we have received reports that there are no nests this year, then we cannot guarantee these are 100% correct as this would not be a defence if bird nest disturbance occurs, so you should always be vigilant in spring and summer. Different species fledge at different times, but all fledging should be complete by about July. Even if a nest is on a crag, it may be possible to climb away from the nest site, but this will be an assessment you need to make. The general advice will provide useful guidance.

Please report any updates to hebe@mcofs.org.uk

Clifton Crag

There is a nest on Blazing Apostles. The local NSA ranger Ian Brown is assessing the situation just now, but climbing at either extreme end of the crag may still be fine as far as disturbance goes, but you will still need to assess for yourself on the ground. Official signs may go up in the near future advising what is OK / not OK. Fledging should be by mid-May. www.mcofs.org.uk/advice-and-policies.asp

Creag Ghlas East Buttress

A climber reported at the end of April that he did not notice any evidence of birds nesting, although this does not guarantee they were not there.

Sron Ulladale, Harris

There is possibly a nest this year, possibly at the top of the crux of Stone. We have been advised that if climbers do not loiter, then the birds can cope with 'light-weight' disturbance in the summer i.e. after mid May. Start of April to mid-May is a very sensitive time for the birds. Please take note though if you plan to struggle up something that could take a fair bit of time, then the effect on the birds may stray into illegal disturbance. If you are going to challenge yourself on a route that might take a while, then might be best to wait until July-ish when fledging takes place.

Creag nan Clag, The Camel

The birds did not nest here in 2008, but we have no reliable reports about birds this season. You are advised for other conservation reasons that you should only climb in the gully and on existing bolt lines and avoid traversing.

Glen Lednock

Although in 2007 the birds showed signs of possibly nesting around NN761241 on Lower Lednock i.e. on the climbing area, they reverted to another site. They have not shown signs of nesting in the usual climbing areas this year.

Loudoun Hill

In past years we have received reports from helpful Police Wildlife Liaison Officers about a nest on Eastern Buttress, which should be avoided and there may be another species nesting near Rocking Stone Groove. Unfortunately the PWLO is off long term and we have no confirmation for this year. Police signs may be posted, and the advice should be followed, although at least some of the crag should be available for climbing.

Mekile Ross, D&G

The nest that was on Galloway Corner a couple of years ago now appears to be nesting on non-climbing areas.

Moy Rocks

Raptors have not used this crag for the last 15 years at least but other birds have been prospecting. There has been no sign of nest building this year.

**Crags Highlighted in Previous Years – no 2009 information available so far
(do you have an update?)**

Clints of Drumore

This is owned by Scottish Natural Heritage. Climbing only on Black & White Walls, Central Buttress and Black Streaker Areas should not cause damaging disturbance.

Ardnamurchan

There are nest sites on Meall an Fhir-eon and Meall Meadhoin and the birds make a choice between the two. If activity is noticed at one of these crags any time after February, then please climb only at the other crags.

Glen Afton

Stayamrie Wall should be avoided during the nesting period.

Lower Doonie, Glen Clova

Lower Doonie may be affected by nesting from March to mid July.

Glen Ogle

There may be an occupied nest on White Wall on 'The Dark Side'. If so, this should be avoided. All other buttresses and climbs are unaffected.

Creag Mac Ranaich

The whole crag should be avoided and walkers should approach the summit from the north, east or west.

Torr Nead an Eoin, North Arran

This crag is often occupied during nesting season, approximately 1st February to the end of July. If so, this should be avoided, and general advice noted into the start of August.