

October 2025

eden estuary

Newsletter

Bird News: September

Waterfowl: Canada Geese were once again reported frequently, with a peak count of 130 on the 9th. Big numbers of Pink-footed Geese started from the 18th, with 400 flying overhead and 600 counted on the 23rd. Brent Geese were reported in small numbers from the 4th to the 24th, with 5 seen at Guardbridge on the 6th, and Barnacle Geese made a return on the 2nd, with a peak count of 50 on the 25th.

Mallard had a peak count of 30 on the 8th. Wigeon numbers started to build, with peak count of 68 on the 8th. Teal numbers also improved on August, with 200 reported on the 7th seen from the Eden Centre. Two Tufted Duck were also seen from the Centre on the morning of the 23rd.

Shelduck again had very low records, with the peak being 9 adults on the 4th along with 4 Juveniles. The estuary-wide peak count of Eider on the 4th was 265. Pintail numbers didn't break past 7, counted on the 18th. Shoveler were reported from the 4th to the 8th, with 3 birds seen on the 4th.

Goosander were recorded almost every day in September, with a whopping count of 100 on the 9th. And a Ruddy Shelduck was reported on the 14th, seen at Guardbridge.

Waders: Oystercatcher's estuary-wide peak count on the 4th was 1709 and. Curlew's count also improved to 897 on the same day. Redshank had a peak count of over 430 on the 17th and Greenshank peaked at 10 on the 8th. A single Spotted Redshank was also reported at the Eden Centre from the 14th to the 24th.

Black-tailed Godwit numbers weren't fairing much better than August, with only a peak count of 7 on the 4th. Bar-

tailed Godwits had a smattering of records, with a peak count of 5 on the 4th seen along Edenmouth north. Whimbrel were recorded occasionally, with 13 seen at Outhead on the 9th being the peak count.

Lapwing sightings were once again regular, and the counts continued to improve as the season progressed, with a peak of 450 on the 23rd seen from the Eden Centre. Grey Plover were seen at Outhead on the 8th and 15th, with 17 birds being the peak count on the 8th. Golden Plover were seen from the 20th to the 26th, with over 120 birds seen from the Eden Centre on the 26th.

Knot numbers peaked at 20, seen from the Eden Centre and reported from the 4th to the 18th, and Dunlin were recorded more frequently with a peak count of 15, also from the Eden Centre. One Little Stint was recorded from the 13th to the 27th, seen at Outhead, Balgove Bay and Edenside. One record of 5 Snipe was given on the 1st at Balgove Bay. Sanderling were seen at Outhead on the 8th (2) and 15th (6).

Ruff were reported regularly, with a peak count of 13 on the 14th at the Eden Centre and 2 Ringed Plover were seen on the 18th, also from the Centre.

Common Sandpiper once again only peaked at 3 birds on the 16th but was seen from the 4th. Curlew Sandpiper records were very frequent, with a peak count of 6 on the 18th seen from the Eden Centre and a lone Pectoral Sandpiper was also recorded from the 22nd to the 24th, seen from the Centre.

Other notables: Little Egret had a peak count of 28 on the 6th & 7th. Grey Heron peaked at 9 on the 4th. Cormorant numbers had a peak count of 178 on the 4th.

Skua were again frequently seen from Outhead, with 11 Arctic, 2 Pomarine, and 2 Bonxies being the peaks. A Mediterranean Gull was seen from the Centre on the 2nd. One Black Tern was seen from Outhead on the 4th along with 4 Slavonian Grebe. Six Little Grebe was the peak on the 18th, seen at the Centre, and 7 Little Gull were also reported on the 4th and 20th, seen from Outhead.

Red-throated Diver were seen frequently from Outhead, with a peak count of 16 on the 20th, with 1 Great Northern Diver and 1 Black-throated Diver, which was also seen on the 4th.

Osprey were seen frequently, peaking at 3 on the 4th and 14th. A Peregrine was reported on the 1st, 6th, 19th and 25th and a juvenile Marsh Harrier was seen in Balgove Bay on the 10th.

Bird of the Month: Great Egret

The Great White Egret seems to be a species that has been more frequently seen in Fife this year, with a good showing of one at the Eden Estuary from the 11th to 21st September. The photo below shows a brilliant contrast to the more regular Heron species at the estuary, the similarly sized Grey Heron, and the similarly coloured Little Egret. Great White Egrets did successfully breed for the first time in Scotland last year at RSPB's Loch of Strathbeg, so who knows if they'll take a fancy to Fife?



(Photo by Angus Duncan)
Dominic