

May 2026

# eden estuary

Newsletter

## Bird News: April

**Waterfowl:** Mute Swan has a few records throughout April, with a peak count of 5 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Whooper Swan had one sighting of 14 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Not all the Pink-footed Geese have left our shores just yet, over 1000 were reported on the 19<sup>th</sup>, seemingly a wee bit late. The Pale-bellied Brent Geese were also delaying their departure, with 17 counted on the 10<sup>th</sup>. And a Barnacle Goose was reported on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mallard had a peak count of 24 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Wigeon had a peak count of 20 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and Teal numbers peaked at 110 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Goldeneye numbers increased slightly in March, with 22 on the 1<sup>st</sup>. One record of Scaup was given, with 15 seen from Outhead on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A single Gadwall was reported on the 26<sup>th</sup> and then on the 29<sup>th</sup> a pair recorded, not a regular sighting here. A Goosander pair was seen both on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> close to the inner estuary and 16 Red-breasted Merganser were seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the majority located at Edenmouth.

Shelduck were again showing well, with multiple entries from the Eden Centre. Their estuary-wide peak count was 198 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Eider only had 4 records with a peak count of 6 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Pintail only had one record of the estuary-wide count on the 10<sup>th</sup> yielding 21. Long-tailed Duck had 3 records, all from Outhead, the first being 103 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the latest being 79 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Common Scoter were reported in late April from Outhead totalling over 2000.

**Waders:** Oystercatcher's estuary-wide peak count was 595 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Curlew's estuary-wide peak count was 419 also on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Redshank had a peak of 222, on the same day. Greenshank had 3 sightings peaking at 3 on the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. Black-tailed Godwit had 5 reports, with the peak being 30

seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and 1 Whimbrel was reported on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dunlin only had 2 records in April, 8 seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, both from the Eden Centre. One Ringed Plover was recorded along the beach at Goosepools on the 9<sup>th</sup>, but no obvious potential breeding behaviour observed.

A single Snipe was seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> upriver, 2 Common Sandpipers were recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Guardbridge, and a solo Avocet popped in for a short stay, seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> within the inner estuary.

**Other notables:** Little Egret were reported regularly, seen from the Eden Centre, with a peak count of 4 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Grey Heron sightings improved, with a peak count of 6 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Cormorant had a few records, with the peak count not exceeding 2 birds.

No records of Little Grebe were had in April, however, Slavonian Grebe were still present with a peak count of 3 seen from Coble Shore on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the last record of 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup> from Outhead.

Red-throated Diver had 3 records, the most recent being 58 on the 27<sup>th</sup> seen from Outhead. A Great Northern Diver was also seen on that day, but 3 were reported on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

An Iceland Gull was reported again, on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Guardbridge. Two Common Tern were seen from Outhead on the 27<sup>th</sup> and Sandwich Terns also made an appearance, first recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 5 birds, and a monthly peak count of 19 on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Sand Martin made a return, with the first records being at Outhead on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Swallows weren't far behind, with 4 seen quickly making their way off from the sea and over the dunes at

Goosepools on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The first record of Grasshopper Warbler was on the 20<sup>th</sup>, Blackcap on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Whitethroat the 25<sup>th</sup> and Sedge Warbler the 30<sup>th</sup>. Welcome back!

Osprey have also made their return, with the first record being on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13 days later than 2025, with 9 sightings since then in April of a lone bird only. There was also a report of a lone Red Kite, seen from Outhead on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Sparrowhawk had 2 sightings on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of lone birds. Buzzard had a peak count of 3 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from the Eden Centre.

## Bird of the Month: Green-winged Teal

A species found throughout North America, that was last recorded at the Estuary in June 2023. This scarce UK visitor is closely related to our more familiar Common Teal. The white, almost vertical stripe on the sides of the chest is the most obvious identifier, differing from a horizontal white line on the flanks shown on Common/Eurasian Teal. This, however, is only present on the males and could very easily be overlooked. This was first seen on the 20<sup>th</sup>, with reports up until the 27<sup>th</sup>. Well spotted!



Photo by Pascal Scanlan

## Reserve News: Eden Centre

For the Eden Centre code, please use the contact details below or by phoning our head office on 01592 656080. Please note that **contact is best from Mon to Fri 9am-5pm (4.30pm Fri)**.  
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