

July 2026

eden estuary

Newsletter

Bird News: June

Waterfowl: Mute Swan were again seen regularly throughout June, with a peak count of 20 on the 14th seen from the Eden Centre. A solo Whooper Swan was reported again, on the morning of the 11th, first at Balgove Bay then from the Eden Centre. And a single Canada Goose was seen from the Centre on the 21st.

Mallard had a peak count of 28 on the 11th, with 11 young counted on the 12th. Wigeon were still reported in June with 4 males seen from the Eden Centre on the 18th to 21st, and 1 pair recorded on the 28th. Only 1 lone male Teal on the 11th was reported for this species in June. Tufted Duck were seen mid-month, with 2 on the 19th and 1 on the 14th, 2 Scaup were seen on the 11th and 2 Goldeneye reported on the 10th and 14th. Goosander were seen regularly, with a peak count of 22 on the 14th, with a mother seen with 7 young.

Shelduck were reported frequently again, with a maximum count of 70 made up of 40 adults and 30 chicks. Eider's reported peak count was 232 on the 7th, which may have included creches of chicks. The highest count of Adults was 144 on the 11th, and 120 chicks reported on the 4th. And a single female Scoter was reported on the 7th.

Waders: Oystercatcher's estuary-wide peak count was 252 on the 15th and a pair with 2 juveniles was seen on the 18th. Curlew's peak count was over 50 reported on the 28th and 10 Redshank were reported on the same day. Four Greenshank, seen on the 19th upriver, was the only report of this species in June. Whimbrel were seen from the 4th to the 16th, peaking at 5 on the 7th. Black-tailed Godwit were, once again seen throughout the month, with a peak count of 4 on the 21st. Bar-tailed Godwit had 2 records with 6 seen on the 11th

and 3 on the 28th. Lapwing were reported from the 4th to the 25th with the peak count being 6.

Some interesting behaviours from Ringed Plover were witnessed along the shoreline north of Goosepools on the 17th. A total of 6 birds were counted, with a potential pair sticking to one area, but no nest-scape seen. Further along 4 birds comprised of 3 adults and 1 non-breeding plumage bird were roosting near to each other, with occasional territorial flights from one adult and the younger bird chasing off an adult!

Two Common Sandpiper were seen on the 19th, upriver of Guardbridge, the only record for this species in June. A Curlew Sandpiper was reported on the 3rd, seen from the Eden Estuary Centre.

Other notables: Little Egret were seen regularly, but no more than 2 birds reported all month. Grey Heron were also reported frequently, peaking at 8 on the 21st and 28th. Cormorant were recorded much more frequently from May, with a peak count of 29 on the 14th seen from the Eden Estuary Centre.

June yielded 7 sightings of Osprey, but only of single birds. Buzzard also had 7 sightings, but 3 were seen on the 12th and only 1 sighting of a Sparrowhawk was had on the 12th.

Of the small breeding birds, a good number of fledged young have been seen during surveys this month. A female Stonechat with at least 3 young was seen on the 17th at Goosepools. A suspected 3 broods of fledged Whitethroat were seen on the 15th totalling 5 chicks at different locations. Fledged Wren chicks were also counted on the 15th, with 2 broods of 3. Two Skylark fledglings were seen at Outhead on the 16th and a young Robin was seen on the 15th.

Mammal News: June

The Rabbits within the Guardbridge Park were counted at 32 on the 14th. Two Brown Hare were seen during a survey on the 19th, Roe Deer were seen on the 17th and 12th, a Red Squirrel was seen at the edge of Reres Wood on the 17th and at least 6 Grey Seals were counted on the 11th, snoozing at the surface during high tide.

Invertebrate News: June

During a survey along the reserve area of Goosepools and the southern Kinshaldy beach on the 17th there was great weather for butterflies. Painted Lady, Small Copper and Small Heath were all recorded as well as a Common Blue seen below, feeding on the nectar of Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*).



Common Blue ♂ (*Polyommatus icarus*)

Reserve News: Eden Centre

An issue with the door lock has meant that unfortunately **the Eden Estuary Centre is currently closed until further notice**. Please keep an eye on our website and/or social media for updates on its reopening. The viewing shelter housing the outdoor telescope is still available to use, and I'd be grateful for your sightings via email. For access to the George Evans Hide phone 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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