

August 2026

eden estuary

Newsletter

Bird News: July

Many species will currently be undertaking their post breeding season moult, meaning that they'll want to be less conspicuous to avoid the risk of predation during this vulnerable time, especially for those that lose their ability to fly entirely! As such, it's been a bit quieter with the sightings of waterfowl recently. However, the increase in wader numbers coming back to the Reserve have made up for that.

Waterfowl: Mallard had a peak count of 40 on the 15th, Wigeon had a couple of sightings reported, with 10 being the peak on the 15th and one report of 4 Gadwall, seen from the Eden Centre, was given on the 11th. Two Teal were seen from the Eden Centre on the 23rd, near to the mouth of the Motray, the only record for this species this month, and Goosander were seen regularly once again, with a peak count of 22 on the 23rd.

Shelduck were reported from the 18th, with a noticeable drop in sightings. Two pairs were seen on the 23rd with one pair having 6 juveniles and the other looking after 20! Eider sightings were a bit more frequent, with a peak count of 293 on the 23rd and many of this year's chicks almost fully grown.

Waders: Oystercatcher's estuary-wide peak count was 874 on the 23rd. Curlew's estuary-wide peak count was 1115 on the same day and 182 Redshank was the peak count, reported on the 11th. Seven Greenshank sightings were reported, with 5 birds being the peak, seen on the 22nd and 26th. Whimbrel had reports from the 23rd, with 7 seen at Edenside on the 23rd and 7 seen at Outhead on the 25th. Black-tailed Godwit were reported from the 11th, with a peak count of 10 on the 31st seen at Edenside. Bar-tailed Godwit had 2 records with only 1

reported on the 15th and 18th, both from the Eden Centre. Lapwing were reported from the 11th, with the peak count being over 50 on the 15th seen from the Eden Centre.

Three Ringed Plover, seen at Edenside on the 31st, was the only record for this species in July.

Common Sandpiper were seen from the 3rd, with a peak count of 9 reported on the 22nd seen upriver of Guard Bridge.

Records of Dunlin had a peak count of 35 on the 27th, seen from the Eden Centre. Sanderling were reported on the 12th and 21st, both sightings at Outhead with the former made of 68 birds. A single Knot was reported on the 20th, seen from the Eden Centre in among Redshank.

Other notables: Little Egret were seen regularly, with 10 reported on the 16th and 22nd and 11 on the 31st. Also, a family of 2 adults and 3 recently fledged juveniles were seen on the 5th, which is positive news that breeding has occurred once again nearby! Grey Heron had a peak count of 13 on the 23rd, with many freshly fledged young likely making up those numbers. Cormorant had a few records throughout the month, with a peak count of 14 on the 23rd, the majority of those seen at Edenside.

Osprey sightings increased from last month, with 2 birds reported 5 times and many records from the Eden Centre. Buzzard only had 1 sighting recorded, on the 18th seen from the Eden Centre. Likewise, Peregrine only had 1 sighting reported on the 21st, also seen from the Eden Centre. And a male Kestrel was seen from the Centre on the 21st carrying its prey.

Single sightings of Kingfisher were reported on the 21st and 23rd seen from the Eden Centre.

Gannets have been seen from Outhead with a couple of reports, one being over 200 counted on the 28th. At least 2 Kittiwake were reported on the 23rd with their numbers likely to increase. Common Gull were reported on the 11th, 23rd and 25th, Black-headed Gull had a peak count of 280 on the 11th, Little Gull were seen on the 22nd and 25th, with 27 being the peak, seen from Outhead, and an Adult Mediterranean Gull was seen from the Eden Centre on the 27th.

Two Common Tern were reported on the 11th and Sandwich Tern had a couple of reports, with 21 adults and 18 juveniles being the peak on the 23rd.



*Juvenile Little Egret by Angus Duncan
Note the green legs (adults' are black)*

Reserve News: Eden Centre

I'm pleased to inform you all that the Eden Centre is now back open for use. The access code remains the same as it was prior to the brief closure, but if you aren't sure, or didn't have the code, you can contact me on the details below or by phoning the head office on **01592 656080**. Please note that **contact is best from Mon to Fri 9am-5pm (4.30pm Fri)**. Thank you for your patience and to all those who have been contacting me with their sightings as well as those who write in the book.

Dominic