

Trip report: Scottish beavers, Jun 2017

We visited Perthshire and Fife for 4 days in June 2017 and saw eight species, including a really good spot for beavers.

Loch of the Lowes seems to have a consistent population of wild **European beaver**, based on the weekend “beaver watching evenings” offered by the local wildlife centre. Certainly from our one experience if you spend a summer evening from perhaps 19:30 until dusk at 22:00 then you have a very good chance of excellent sightings. On our visit a beaver came across the loch and foraged right around the main hide. We saw at least 3 individuals, one of which was clearly a mother.

We also saw **red deer** at the loch, and the following morning saw **red squirrels** easily around the feeders near the hide. We saw more red and **fallow deer** in the evening on the golf course nearby and in fields.

On the Fife coast near Pitenweem we saw **grey seals** just offshore and a **field vole** on the path. And since we also found **European rabbits** and an **eastern grey squirrel**, that rounds out eight species. But Loch of the Lowes is a great location for beavers.

