



Mammals of the Howe of Fife

S.T. Buckland

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I have included just those species that I have photographed in and around the Howe of Fife. I have included photos taken on the higher ground around the Howe.

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Badger

Fairly widespread. These were at Kedlock north of Cupar. The youngster above would every so often break off playing with its siblings, and check what I was doing. Sometimes, it came so close my camera could not focus on it!





Brown hare

Widespread. The one above was watching the two below right. These were by Kedlock Feus. The one below left was at Darklaw Hill by Rathillet.





Brown rat

Common, perhaps too common! This one was at Kedlock Feus.





Grey squirrel

Both grey and red squirrels remain fairly widespread in and around the Howe of Fife. When compiling photos, I was surprised to find that none of my red squirrel photos are from the area covered here! The squirrel above and below right was at Kedlock Feus, while the one below left was at Gaddon Loch.





Hedgehog

Fairly common, but hedgehogs have declined, possibly related to use of pesticides. These were at Kedlock Feus, the photos taken while mothing. The red appearance of the eyes of the one below left is a result of using flash.





Otter

Otters have made a remarkable comeback, and are once again fairly widespread, although not common. This one was at Gaddon Loch.





Rabbit

Common. These were at Elmwood Golf Course by Cupar.





Red fox

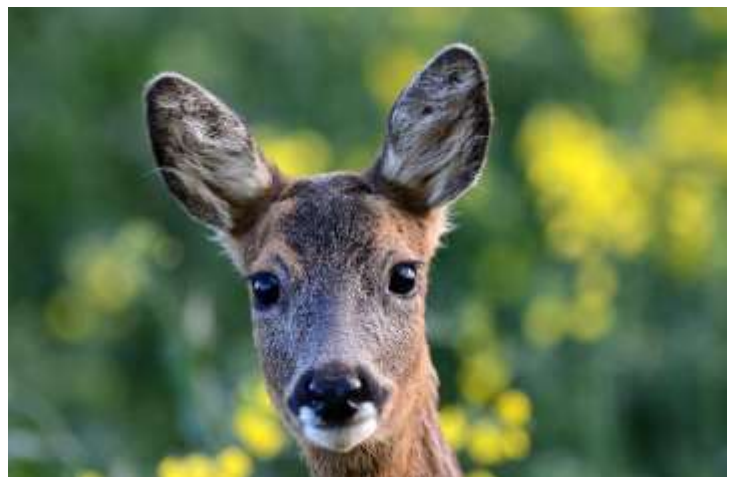
The dog fox below was at Elmwood Golf Course, and was caught out when fog suddenly lifted. With golfers approaching, he turned tail and ran. The above vixen was at Kilmany, and the fox on the right was on Forret hill.





Roe deer

Common. The one above was on Darklaw Hill, and instead of running, it approached me, trying to figure out what it was seeing. When about 15m away, it decided that it was time to go. The one below was at Kedlock, and also approached me, while I was waiting for badgers to emerge from their sett.





Stoat

Stoats have become much less common than they once were. This one was at Rossie Bog in early April 2023. It saw me and dived for cover, but I was standing between it and where it wanted to go, so eventually, it dashed past me, allowing me to get a single in-focus shot.



Weasel

Weasels have become quite rare in recent years. This one, showing a clean pair of heels, was on Elmwood Golf Course in late April 2022.





Wood mouse

Common. The wood mouse below lived less than two metres from a bench at Gaddon Loch, where people feed the birds. After dark, it would find plenty of left-overs. I took this shot of it sitting at its burrow using flash while out nothing. The above mouse was at Birnie Loch.

