

Warren Golf Club: Wildlife highlights Summer 2025

All photos from Dawlish Warren Recording Group www.dawlishwarren.co.uk

Weather: **June:** Warmer, sunnier and wetter than average with temperatures about 2 degrees warmer and 20% above average rainfall. **July:** Warmer, sunnier and drier than average, with temperatures about 1 degree warmer and 30% below average rainfall. **August:** Slightly warmer and sunnier than average, but much drier with 25% below average rainfall.

Birds

Several pairs of the nationally rare Cirl Bunting again bred on the course in areas of dense scrub, alongside migrant Whitethroats, the red-listed Linnet and the similarly red-breasted Stonechat. Two juvenile Kestrel from the breeding pair at Eastdon took up residence on site, with many species having a good breeding season.



Long-tailed Tit



Stonechat

Monitoring of the estuary revealed also had a good breeding season with large numbers of juvenile birds in the flocks, including a Marsh Sandpiper, the 4th Devon records for this rare eastern species. Oystercatcher numbers built up during July, with a third of last winter's birds returning by the end of the month. From late June adult Sandwich Tern brought their young to the Exe, often over the 7th tee heading to fish offshore. From mid-August a Kingfisher was often by the 17th tee and the ducks, Wigeon and Teal, began arriving for the winter.



Woodchat Shrike



Chough

Pausing on their journey to Africa, Wheatear could be seen along the fairways and several Osprey were seen in the estuary. Other migrants included brief appearances of a Woodchat Shrike from southern Europe and a Chough from the increasing Cornish population. The latter foraged a while on the fairways, much as they do at Pentire.

Ring recoveries

In addition to the Exe-ringed Oystercatcher over 128 individuals of 14 species were recorded, with a record 64 Sandwich Tern (including 22 from The Solent, 11 from Holland, eight from Belgium, two from Denmark and singles from Germany and Poland). Others included 18 Mediterranean Gull (including seven from Belgium/Holland, five from Germany and singles from France and Hungary), 13 Common Tern (eight from Holland, three from Poland and two from the East Midlands) and six Ringed Plover, including one from Norway.

Other Wildlife

Light trapping produced over 170 species of moth on just two nights in June, five of which were new for the Warren including two Roseate Marble, the 3-4th Devon records. Other moths included several Hummingbird Hawkmoth and a further nine new species including Pale Pinion, Waved Carpet, Poplar Cosmet and Fiery Crest. The latter's caterpillars creating a striking leafmine in goosefoots, and just the 4th Devon record.



Gothic



Fiery Crest 'des res'

The warm conditions saw a wide range of insects on the wing with Gatekeeper butterfly, Six-spot Burnet moth and Bee-wolf wasps particularly plentiful. Good numbers of dragonflies were around the course ponds with the population of Grass Vetchling around the 17th tee increasing after its reappearance last year.



Six-spot Burnet



Javelin Wasp

If you see anything of interest whilst out on the course or have any wildlife queries please let Jon know or email dawlish_warren@hotmail.com