

## Warren Golf Club: Wildlife highlights May-Aug 2023

All photos from Dawlish Warren Recording Group [www.dawlishwarren.co.uk](http://www.dawlishwarren.co.uk)

**Weather:** Following a May with average rainfall, and temperature 1C above average, June was the hottest on record with temperatures 2.5C above average with only half the average rainfall. Flaming June was soon forgotten however with rainfall in July & August over twice the average, with near average temperatures.

### Birds

Breeding species included several pairs of Linnet, Stonechat and Cirl Bunting around the course, often nesting in the gorse. More unexpected a Bluethroat, a Scandinavian migrant, was briefly around the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee one morning in May, the 307<sup>th</sup> species of bird recorded at the Warren.



Linnet



Starling

### Plants, Fungi & Insects

Both Green-winged Orchid and Autumn Ladies-tresses were discovered at new sites and a botanical survey was also undertaken. Possibly the most striking and certainly most gruesome sighting was a fly infected with the 'zombie' fungus *Entomophthora muscae*. The fungus infects the unfortunate fly, eventually causing it to climb high, grab some vegetation and open its wings with its last movements, ensuring that the spores are dispersed as widely as possible!



Zombie Fly Fungus



Autumn Ladies-tresses



Moth trapping one night in late July recorded over 1200 individuals of 156 species, five of which were new for the Recording Area; July Belle, Muslin Footman, Brown Ash Ermine, Hemlock Yellow Conch and three Rosy-striped Knot-horn. The highlight was the first ever Glow-worm, a male attracted to the lights, hoping no doubt for a female.



Glow-worm



Scarce Silver-lines

Butterfly numbers improved slightly, both Gatekeeper and Red Admiral having a good year with just the second Green Hairstreak since 2018 also recorded. The drought in Europe caused a northward dispersal of Vagrant Emperor dragonfly, several of which reached the Warren.



Green Hairstreak



Vagrant Emperor

### Ringed recoveries

Two African ringed Sandwich Tern were together on site in August; one rung 4,000km away in Senegal this March, and a returning bird ringed in South Africa in Dec 2007 and first recorded here in 2019. This bird is over 17 years old and has probably flown over a quarter of a million miles in its lifetime!

Over 150 Oystercatcher from the Exe Estuary study had returned for another winter by the end of August, including birds known to have bred near Aberdeen and in Holland. Other foreign recoveries included a Spanish ringed Dunlin, Black-headed Gull from Poland and Mediterranean Gull, from Belgium, France, Hungary & Spain.

If you see anything of interest whilst out on the course or have any wildlife queries please let Jon know or email Kevin at [dawlish\\_warren@hotmail.com](mailto:dawlish_warren@hotmail.com)