

Warren Golf Club: Wildlife highlights Apr-Jun 2022

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

Weather: **April:** 70% below average rainfall but slightly milder; **May:** 25% below average rainfall with temperature 1°C above average; **June:** 40% below average rainfall and 0.5°C above average temperature.

The exceptionally dry year continues...

Birds

The weather meant few migrants stopped in at the coast but Wheatear could be found on the fairways on most days into May, alongside parties of Iceland bound Whimbrel on some dates. A Cuckoo sang briefly mid May, with a Turtle Dove an even rarer visitor. The Swallows returned to breed in the barn, at least three prs of Cirl Bunting and two prs of Stonechat fledged young. The Stonechat pair by the 7th tee often particularly obliging.



Whimbrel



Stonechat (male)

Plants & Insects

The cold and grey start to April saw low numbers of Sand Crocus compared to previous years, with many plants not flowering. Numbers of Southern Marsh Orchid increased around the 12th and the strange Dodder, parasitic on heather and gorse, was found in new areas. At total of 43 bee and 42 hoverfly species had been recorded on the Warren by the end of June, including the nationally scarce Black Mining Bee and many migrant Marmalade Hoverfly.



Marmalade Hoverfly



Southern Marsh Orchid

Amongst the butterflies Orange-tip had a good season, with Common Blue and Small Copper frequent in the roughs and migrant Painted Lady and Red Admiral on occasion. Broad-bodied Chaser emerged from a number of ponds.



Orange-tip (male)



Broad-bodied Chaser (female)

Over 150 moth species have been recorded so far in 2022, with 65 of them on National Moth Night in May. These included Alder Kitten and Maiden's Blush both new to the Warren. Other notable records included two Great Prominent, three hawkmoth species, Cream-spot and Scarlet Tiger and the nationally scarce Portland Ribbon Wave.



Alder Kitten



Cream-spot Tiger

Ringed recoveries

Ring reads were made from nine species. The majority came from the Exe estuary study with 25 immature Oystercatcher over summering, three Grey Plover and single Dunlin and Curlew.

Other recoveries included three Bar-tailed Godwit from Holland, a Great Black-backed Gull from France, a Curlew from Norfolk and a Sandwich Tern and Whimbrel from Wales. The latter was stopping on the course for the sixth Spring migration in a row. News from elsewhere included a Dunlin ringed here in Oct 2021, discovered breeding in northern Iceland and an Oystercatcher ringed here in 2019 was found breeding on Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.

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