

# Warren Golf Club: Wildlife highlights: July to September 2022

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

**Weather:** The exceptionally dry year continued with just a third of average rainfall in July/Aug, with average temperatures over a degree above normal. September was for once an average month.

## Birds

Autumn migration begins early with Oystercatcher numbers building in July, with colour ringed birds returning from breeding sites in Birmingham, Scotland and Norway. Also in the estuary Sandwich Tern could be heard and seen over the 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>, these came mainly from Irish Sea colonies and included one that been ringed on wintering grounds in South Africa over 10,000km away.

Also pausing on their journey to Africa, Wheatear could be seen along the fairways and an Osprey was often seen over the Bight. In late September, as the Wigeon and Teal returned for the winter, a North American Ring-necked Duck was in the estuary, the 305<sup>th</sup> bird species recorded at the Warren.

After a good breeding season large flocks of Linnet could be seen the course with Cirl Bunting favouring the 5<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> tees, whilst a Kingfisher has been using the perches provided by the 17<sup>th</sup> tee.



Cirl Bunting



Osprey

## Butterflies and moths

Moth trapping on 17 July recorded a total of 120 different species including 10 new to the Warren. In the dry conditions butterfly numbers were down but Gatekeeper were still numerous and several Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow made an appearance, migrants from further south.



Pine Hawkmoth



Clouded Yellow



Oak Eggar



Heather Colletes

### Bees & Wasps

The lack of grass revealed the extent of burrowing mining bees and wasps, favouring bare ground and short grassland for nesting. The large Beewolf colony on the 18th fairway was particularly noticeable, the 'damage' was soon repaired once the grass started growing again.

August also saw the first Heather Colletes records for over 50 years, a great response to positive management. Ivy Bees appeared in September, the bank of Ivy by the 1<sup>st</sup> tee proving particularly attractive.



Ivy Bee



Beewolf

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](mailto:dawlish_warren@hotmail.com)

