

Warren Golf Club: Wildlife highlights Jan-Mar 2022

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

Weather: **January:** 66% below (30 year) average rainfall with average temperature; **February:** average rainfall with temperature two degrees above average; **March:** 15% above average rainfall and 10% above average temperature.

Birds

With the mild winter wildfowl and waders in the estuary were in lower than average numbers. Ringing studies saw nearly 400 birds of seven species recorded, with the highlight a Dunlin originally ringed 1900km away in Finland.

A Kestrel hunted the course and Green Woodpecker could often be heard yaffling throughout; from March the first Wheatear were pausing their migration from Africa on the fairways. Unusual sightings included a wintering Siberian Chiffchaff and in a repeat of 2021, a White-tailed Eagle from the Isle of Wight reintroduction scheme in late March.



Wheatear



Kestrel

Plants & Insects

The nationally scarce Mossy Stonecrop is out in abundance giving a red colouring to areas of the 1st/18th fairways, one of only two Devon sites for this plant. Blue Crystalwort, a nationally rare liverwort, was discovered on bare ground near the 18th green, also found only one other Devon site. The Sand Crocus first flowered on 22 March with the cold weather slowing emergence and peak numbers still to come.



Sand Crocus



Blue Crystalwort

Sunny spells brought out the first butterflies of the year with Peacock and Comma the most numerous, other pollinators included the winter active Buff-tailed Bumblebee with four other species of bumblebee and 10 solitary bee and 13 hoverfly species by the end of March, favouring flowering willows and Dandelions.



Comma



Furry-clasped Furrow Bee

Moth trapping in milder weather at the end of March saw 20 species attracted to light, with the first Oak Beauty for the Recording Area and the second record of nationally rare Bloxworth Snout. Other notable records included a migrant Silver Y and Devon's first ever March, Common Wave, with Common and Small Quaker, Clouded Drab, Early Grey and Bright-line Brown-eye also recorded.



Oak Beauty



Bloxworth Snout

Ringling recoveries

Over 1,200 ring reads were made from seven species. The majority came from the Exe estuary study with 340 different Oystercatcher, 30 Dunlin, five Curlew and five Grey Plover.

Recoveries from elsewhere included the Finnish Dunlin mentioned above, three other Dunlin from Poland and one from Sweden; five Shelduck from Seaton, two Curlew from Norfolk and an Oystercatcher from the West Midlands.

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