

Recording Now

NEWSLETTER 1

November
2017



Hello and welcome to the new newsletter from the *IW Local Records Centre* and *iWatchWildlife* bringing you species recording news, events and updates from the Isle of Wight.



1000 Species Challenge

Back in June, Stephen Plummer and Iain Outlaw teamed up to embark on a species recording bonanza where together they attempted the 1000 Species Challenge (a national recording event) for the first time recording anything and everything on their carefully planned species circuit of the Island within 24 hours. The chaps notched-up an absolutely epic '823' species, with highlights including 1st in the bag – a Nightjar in song, Parkhurst Forest at midnight, top moth - Rosy marbled (new to both of them), and plants Wood Calamint and Bird's Foot Clover.

Later in the Summer, they both went on to reach 1000 moth species in their individual recording pursuits. What an incredible achievement and contribution to species recording on the Island.

We send our very best wishes to Stephen and his wife Carol upon leaving the Island to return to Bedfordshire. Stephen has been an active member of the IWNHAS since moving to the Island 6 years ago – we shall miss you!



Iain and Stephen during the challenge

Species of the Month

iWatch Wildlife launched 'Species of the Month' on Social Media in March and has been successful in reaching a wider audience. We've raised awareness of Hare, Stag Beetles, Hedgehogs, Glow Worms - all in decline. With your help, we have generated new records for all featured species both locally and nationally. Some months have been more successful than other, with Stag Beetles yielding some surprising results.



Left to Right: **Brown Hare** by Nick Edwards, **House Martins** © Tony Morris, **Stag Beetles** by Cowes Primary School, **Hedgehog** by Catherine Chalkley, **Glow Worm** by Jax Kerr, **Serotine Bat** by Ed Garbett

New

Southern Emerald Damselfly

Lestes barbarus by Peter Hunt during the Summer at Bouldnor Forest Ponds.



Species notes

The annual **Under the Pier** event at Ryde in September made 67 species records with new event records: Compass Jellyfish, Broad-nosed and worm pipefish.

The **IWNHAS Pop-up Museum** is growing, but we'd love to receive **new specimens**. Recent donations include Grass Snake eggs from Val Gwynn and some historic beetle specimens including splendid male and female Stag Beetles from Bill Shepard.

Can you spare some time as a **species group verifier** to check local records submitted to **iRecord** – the online species recording platform? If so, please contact us at lrc@iow.gov.uk or iwatchwildlife@gmail.com to find out more.

Stag Beetle success

Stag Beetles were the iWatchWildlife 'Species of the Month' during May, but we didn't know what sort of a response we would get. Historically Stag Beetles were known to be in the Cowes area, but thanks to staff, pupils and parents of Cowes Primary, a Stag Beetle hotspot has been discovered! Although the timing was later than anticipated, a flurry of sightings posted on Social Media arrived in early June.

Rachael Groves, Keystage 1 leader says " *Finding live adult stag beetles in our own school environment was certainly a highlight for all the children. Once the children knew how rare they were, they understood how special it was to find them and protect them. Year 6 children led their own learning and developed a literacy/science unit of work all about stag beetles. They thoroughly enjoyed researching them; producing information posters and warning signs for our local community to ensure they watched where they walked. As a school, we look forward to meeting them again next year!*"



What a brilliant contribution to conservation of this endangered species, and a valuable boost to our knowledge of Stag Beetles locally on the Island. Records have been submitted to the PTES Great Stag Hunt national survey and we hope to work with school next year.

Re-discovered

Willow Feather-Moss

Hygroamblystegium varium

by George Greiff in May at Sandown Community Orchard
Last recorded in 1906.



National Moth Night

National Moth night took place on 12th - 15th October. Species recorded at local events included Angle Shades, Black Rustic, Swallowtailed moth, Barred Sallow and Clifden Nonpareil - the spectacular blue underwing moth. IWNHAS Entomology group leader Richard Smout reports that it has been a good year for records of Clifden Nonpareil across the south and the Midlands, so it may be part of a good year, or, perhaps a gradual increase in numbers.



Water Blitz Comes to the Isle of Wight

Saturday November 25th sees the launch of Isle of Wight Water Blitz by the Freshwater Habitats Trust. Currently the IW is an area where there is little information on the water quality of its freshwater landscape – some of the main rivers are monitored for nutrient pollution, but what about the hundreds of ponds and smaller streams?

Blitz volunteers can use simple kits to measure the levels of nutrient pollutants, nitrate and phosphate, in their local ponds, streams, ditches and more. The Water Blitz aims to sample as many different waterbodies as possible across the Island to discover those clean water gems, the places free from pollution, and to build up a map of water quality.

The opening event will be at the Riverside Centre, Newport. Come along and hear more about the Blitz, pick up your quick kits and to get some guidance on waterbodies you could test. Booking is essential and for more information on this free event please visit: www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/isle-of-wight-waterblitz/

Re-discovered

Bog Pimpernel

Anagallis tenella

by Beatrice Selwood in June at Colwell Common

Last recorded there by William Bromfield in 1856.



New Year Plant Hunt 2018



The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI)'s **New Year Plant Hunt** takes place 1st -4th January 2018 to record wild and naturalised plants (but not planted or garden species) 'in flower' - meaning stigmas or anthers on show. The records then need to be passed on to BSBI who will collect records from all over the country and analyse them. Full details will be on their website

<http://bsbi.org/new-year-plant-hunt> . You can record by yourself or are welcome to join IW Natural History and Archaeological Society's botany group's expedition. Keep an eye on the website for details <https://iwnhas.org/groups/forthcoming-meetings/> nearer the time. Last year, they were 18= in the 'longest list' stakes with 52 species. Top placing went to the Penzance and Newlyn with 106 on the list.

Recorders Conference

The Recorders' Conference 2018 is booked for 2pm - 4.30 pm at Arreton Community Centre on Saturday 3rd February 2018. This year we are planning to have a series of smaller presentations on a wide range of topics including lower plants, seashore life, a new damselfly and mammals. A full programme will be available nearer the date.

Dates for the Diary

Isle of Wight Water Blitz Launch

25th November 2017,
Riverside Centre,
Newport

New Year Plant Hunt 2018

1st - 4th Jan 2018

RSPB BIG Garden Bird Watch 2018

27th - 29th Jan 2018

Species Records Submission for 2017

by end of Jan 2018

IW Recorders Conference 2018

Saturday 3rd February
2018, Arreton
Community Centre

Summer Recorders Event 2018

Sunday 1st July at
Dinosaur Isle Education
Room. An afternoon of
of field and workshops
to brush up on existing
species ID skills or learn
something new