

Each month, we run 'Species of the Month' via Facebook where we choose a key species - usually one that is in decline, and one that we would love to know more about. Highlighting a particular species each month not only boosts our local species records and knowledge, it also raises awareness.

In 2017, almost 100 new records were made from the species featured in our campaign. Brown hare and Stag beetle were particularly successful and significantly improved our knowledge of where they are and how they are doing on the Island.

This year, we'll be revisiting some of the previously featured species in order to start building on the 2017 data, but also have included some new ones too.

March Brown hare

Golden-brown colour with a pale belly and white tail. Larger than rabbits with longer legs and longer ears with black tips and powerful hind legs. March is a good time to spot Hares on farmland or open grassland before the crops grow too high.



pic Nick Edwards

June Stag beetle

A protected species and one of our largest and most spectacular beetles. They emerge as adults in May-July to breed, after spending several years as larva underground. Few records locally in recent years, and mainly restricted to the North of the Island.



pic Cowes Primary

April Cuckoo

Unmistakable if you're lucky enough to hear one. These birds arrive during April to breed, following an epic journey from Africa. A secretive bird, more often heard than seen. Listen out near woodland and wetlands.



pic: Andy Butler

July Hedgehog

A staggering one third of all British Hedgehogs have been lost since 2001. Here on the Island, it is believed they have declined in the countryside, but still survive in urban and suburban gardens. Look out for them on Summer evenings.



pic Ellie Ward

May Swifts

A migratory bird that spends most of its life on the wing visiting the UK to breed in Summer. Local swifts are returning to their nest sites now. Listen out for the tell-tale screeching of swifts overhead.



pic: Robin Pascal

August Snakelocks anemone

A large anemone with long, wavy snake-like tentacles. They are bright green or grey-brown in colour. The green variety has tentacles with purple tips. Found in rockpools at low tide, sometimes in small groups.



pic Arc Consulting