

Recording Now

NEWSLETTER 3

May 2018



Welcome to Issue 3 of 'Recording Now' bringing you species recording news, events and updates from the Isle of Wight by *iWatchWildlife* and the *IW Local Records Centre*.

Meet the Recorders

Did you know that the Island has a dedicated team of local County Recorders who volunteer their time and expertise in collecting, collating and verifying your species records each year? Well, we thought it was about time to flag up their hard work, so we've put together a feature on them with a profile pic to help you put a name to a face. Clicking [here](#) will take you to the full list where you can find out more about them and their specialisms.

 <p><u>Colin Pope</u> Bats, Flowering Plants & Ferns, Fungi</p>	 <p><u>Adam Wright</u> Bees, Wasps & Ants Flies, Grasshoppers & Crickets</p>	 <p><u>Jon Sparshott</u> Birds</p>
 <p><u>David Biggs</u> Bugs & Gall-causing organisms, Fungi</p>	 <p><u>Andy Butler</u> Butterflies</p>	 <p><u>Jim Baldwin</u> Dragonflies & Damselflies</p>
 <p><u>Roger Herbert</u> Freshwater and Marine Groups</p>	 <p><u>Richard Grogan</u> Mammals, Reptiles & Amphibians</p>	 <p><u>Iain Outlaw</u> Moths</p>
 <p><u>Helen Butler</u> Red Squirrels</p>	<p><i>The IWNHAS are currently seeking County Recorders for the following groups: Lichens / Beetles (Coleoptera) / Mosses and Liverworts (Bryophytes)</i></p> <p><i>If you would like to find out more about what the role involves, please get in touch at iwnhas@btinternet.com</i></p>	

2018 Glanville Survey

Glanville fritillary larvae have been emerging from their webs on slumped coastal cliffs along the south coast. Natural History Society volunteers have been monitoring their fluctuating populations over many years by counting the number of webs along a given stretch of coastline. This year, early indications are that they are having a good season.



Left: Glanville fritillary larvae by Keith Marston

Species of the Month

This Spring / Summer's 'must have' species are as follows:



MARCH: Brown Hare by Nick Edwards. APRIL: Cuckoo by Derek Hale. MAY: Swift by Robin Pascal. JUNE: Stag Beetles by Ross Bower. JULY: Hedgehog by Ellie Ward. AUGUST: Snakelocks Anemone by Arc Consulting.

Please share your observations with us via [@iWatchWildlife](#) on Facebook or by emailing iwatchwildlife@gmail.com

Vertipools Rock

As part of [Artecology's](#) community science project 'Shelving the Coast', local artists, school children and ecologists have designed and created a series of structures called 'Vertipools'. They are designed to be attached to artificial coastal structures, such as vertical seawalls and groynes, and are V-shaped (to deflect wave energy) with hollow insides (to retain water at low tide). These pre-cast concrete artificial rock pools aim to extend the intertidal zone vertically to mitigate the effects of sea level rise, which could result in the loss of the existing intertidal rock pools.

Five years on, the original set of Vertipools located at Bouldnor now support a wide variety of species including several seaweeds, crabs and molluscs. The most recent discovery found in one of the Vertipools was a Broad Clawed Porcelain Crab (*Porcellana platycheles*) which is a species normally found in the mid to low shore areas on a rocky shore. Without the Vertipools this species would not have been able to survive on the seawall at that tidal height. We have also recorded several Green Shore Crabs (*Carcinus maenus*) living inside the Vertipools; one had chosen to shed its exoskeleton in order to grow, again demonstrating that the Vertipools are providing a vital refuge for intertidal organisms.

Contributed by Dr. Alice Hall



Left: Vertipool in situ colonised by alga species

Right: Broad Clawed Porcelain Crab

Species notes

The [BioBlitz](#) will take place on Saturday 12th May, 10am – 4pm within the Discovery Bay area as part of the wider event – [Hullabaloo](#) weekend event in The Bay. Find the Recording hub near the Dinosaur Isle entrance, Sandown.

IW Biosphere bid needs your support...

The IW AONB team are leading a bid for Biosphere Status for the Island to the UK Government and UNESCO in June, with the results being announced in early 2019. Find out what this means and how you help [here](#).

National Species Recording Events

[UK Moth Night](#)
14th - 16th June

[National Insect Week](#)
18th – 24th June

[Big Butterfly Count](#)
20th July – 12th August

[Dragonfly Week](#)
21st – 29th July

Manage & share your wildlife records on [iRecord](#)



Rare record

Short-snouted seahorse

Hippocampus hippocampus was discovered live in a sandpool in Sandown Bay by Claire Speight during April. This is a new record for the area, and the first time a live Seahorse has been observed on the shore. It was returned safely to the water.



IW WaterBlitz – the Search for Clean Water

Last winter saw the first ever volunteer led island wide survey of water quality in the UK. Thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Freshwater Habitats Trust was able to launch the Isle of Wight Water Blitz through the Clean Water for Wildlife project.

Volunteers used quick test kits to test freshwater habitats for two widespread nutrient pollutants - nitrate and phosphate. The survey aimed to find fantastic freshwater, free from pollution, where wildlife can thrive and to reveal the extent of nutrient pollution facing freshwater life today.

Over 400 water samples were collected between November and December 2018. Just under 40% of waterbodies tested were found to hold clean, unpolluted, water - such places have the potential to provide ideal habitat for many plants and animals. Most of the clean water was concentrated in the standing waterbodies - the ponds and lakes (65%). Like most areas of lowland Britain, the majority of streams and rivers were found to suffer significant nutrient pollution. This is not surprising as river networks drain water from large catchments with multiple sources of pollution from urban and agricultural areas, whilst many ponds and smaller headwater streams and ditches collect water from locally clean sources. As a result, clean water can be found in streams rising in semi-natural habitats, such as woodland and also in ponds and pools in nature reserves.

The survey has shown there is still lots of clean water in the Island's landscape and has highlighted the clean water gems. These are the places free from pollution that many sensitive and rare species depend on. It is important to champion these sites to ensure they remain clean water havens long into the future.

Full results can be found [here](#)

New Record

Roselliniella cladoniae

Very rare, and most likely a new species record for the Island, this fungal Lichen parasite (black spots in image) was discovered by George Greiff in a copse near Ventnor Downs earlier this year.



Dates for the Diary

Appley Park Day

Saturday 16th June

Join us in Appley Park where we'll be recording as many species as possible in the Park – we'll also be surveying an Oak tree from top to bottom, so we'll be needing willing climbers!

More details coming soon.

Summer Recorders Event 2018

Sunday 1st July, 2 – 5pm, Dinosaur Isle Education Room.

An afternoon of field and workshops to brush up on existing species ID skills or learn something new. *This is a free event, but will require booking. More details coming soon.*

Introduction to Alga pressing

Saturday 18th August

A chance to experiment with ID, pressing and arranging alga specimens with Marine Biologist Dr Alice Hall. This will be a ticketed event as places are limited. *More details coming soon.*