

Recording Now

NEWSLETTER 4

Sept 2018



Welcome to Issue 4 of 'Recording Now' bringing you species recording news, events and updates from the Isle of Wight by iWatchWildlife and the IW Local Records Centre.

New County Recorder

In our last Issue, we reintroduced the dedicated team of IW County Species recorders to you and since then are delighted to announce that Jim Baldwin was appointed Coleoptera County Recorder in May 2018 – a role that has been vacant for several years. (Jim is also the IW County recorder for Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies).

Jim has been encouraging folk to submit any beetle records for 2018, or prior years, to him. You can send your records to Jim either by email: wightbeetles@gmail.com or by post to 21 Hillcrest Rd, Rookley, Ventnor PO38 3PB.

Jim is planning to focus more time to the role in the next few months when he will be able to review the existing county records and update the database.



Bats at Appley

To celebrate 'International Bat Night' the IW Bat Group and IW Bat Hospital teamed up for a special event at Appley over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The event was a great success with 53 members of the public participating to see the bats at Appley Park. The area is a good site to see Noctules, which roost in some of the older trees and often have a quick feed over the park area before heading for other foraging grounds.

The pipistrelles both species - Common and Soprano put on a really good show in the woodland canopy along the Garden Path and in the eastern part of the park where they were feeding at head height and clearly visible against the bright twilight sky. Another 3 species of bat - Serotine, Whiskered bat and Brown Long-eared bat were also recorded in the historic parkland totalling 6 altogether. These will be added to the growing species list for the Park.

If you want to learn more about the bats of the Isle of Wight or to get involved in the wider IoW Bat Group activities, email: info@iowbats.org.



George's huge boost to IW species records

George Greiff our resident bryologist and now lower plant specialist has continued to make lots of good finds. He has rediscovered several mosses and liverworts on the Island as well as adding a few which are firsts.

He has also been making headway with identifying and naming fungal parasites of lichens, a highly specialised field which is starting to receive attention from a small group of experienced lichenologists across the country.

George will be heading to Oxford this autumn to start his degree course – best wishes George!



George recording at Shanklin Chine

Species of the Month

It's been a busy few months for iWatch Wildlife – the IWNHAS species recording and engagement project.

Since March we have been running our Spring / Summer 2018 'Species of the Month' Campaign on Social Media. We highlight one species each month, usually one that may be in decline or one we'd like to know more about to boost our local knowledge of abundance and distribution.



Brown Hare (Nick Edwards), **Cuckoo** (Derek Hale), **Swift** (Robin Pascal)

We kicked off in March with Brown Hare, April – Cuckoo and May – Swifts. Though we did receive a handful of records for these Spring species, they were down on 2017, most likely a result of the extreme cold period we experienced in March and for the birds - difficult weather conditions crossing Europe.



Stag Beetles (Ross Bower), **Hedgehog** (Ellie Ward), **Snakelocks Anemone** (Arc Consulting)

However, nature finally caught up, with June being a bumper month for Stag Beetle records. The first two weeks of the month turned out to be the peak time for emerging adults with the expected activity concentrated in the Cowes area. We have also received records from previously unrecorded sites in Bembridge, Seaview and Arreton this year - which is brilliant news.

Hedgehogs featured in July with a good number of records to boost our existing IW species database, although on the whole restricted to our towns and villages. Finally, August's species was Snakelocks Anemone – our first featured marine species generating records from Bembridge and Shanklin. This anemone, found on our rocky shores, is an indicator of climate change, moving further north from southern and western shores of the UK as sea temperatures rise.

Please share your observations with us at any time of the year via @iWatchWildlife on Facebook or by emailing iwatchwildlife@gmail.com

New

Woodland Dor Beetle

(Anoplotrupes stercorosus)

A beautiful and unusual colour variety of the Woodland Dor Beetle was observed by Hazel Trevan near the Long Stone, Mottistone during April. This is a new species record for the Island.



picture by Dave & Hazel Trevan

Species notes

Secret Lives of Squirrels

Red Squirrels enjoy shopping and sailing in their spare time apparently.

Helen Butler received reports of Red Squirrels in Ryde High Street and aboard a yacht moored in Yarmouth Harbour over the Summer months!

Brading's a Boom Town

There was exciting news earlier this year when a Bittern was heard 'booming' on Brading Marshes for the first time.

Many people enjoyed hearing the booms, most regularly during the early morning and evening. Bittern is one of the target species RSPB wanted to attract as a breeding species on the Marshes so things are definitely heading in the right direction.

IW Summer Moths

Since April there have been some excellent moths recorded on the Island including three new species for VC10. Click [here](#) to read the '**Notable moth records, May-July 2018**' report by Iain Outlaw – our IW County Recorder. You can also read Iain's full 2017 IW Moth Report [here](#).

Summer Dragons and Damsels by Jim Baldwin

The Southern Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes barbarus*) survived the winter successfully and was first seen emerging early June by Peter Hunt who originally found this species last year. Despite the hot, dry summer which resulted in the two breeding ponds at Bouldnor drying up, the species appear to be thriving in the conditions similar to its southern Mediterranean origin.

Up to 15 migrant Red-veined Darter were recorded at a private site at Atherfield in July, with three pairs in tandem recorded by Andy Butler on 6th July. Four were also reported, including a pair in tandem ovipositing, by Dave Dana at another site not far away on 19th July. The last breeding record for this species on the Island was in 2007 when Dave recorded a larval skin at this location.

It has also been a good year for some of our other less abundant species with 25 Scarce Chaser reported at one of its breeding ponds while Downy Emerald was recorded at Parkhurst Forest and Stag Lane pond for the first time for several years. There was a good count of 30 Keeled Skimmer between Whale Chine and Blackgang Terrace in June which was a just reward for the challenging walk undertaken by Andy Butler and Iain Outlaw!



Scarce Chaser (James Gloyn)



Downy Emerald (Ian Giles)



Keeled Skimmer (Andy Butler)

New Lacebug
Whilst working in his study at home, Iain Outlaw noticed an insect moving slowly along the window sill. Once collected and checked under the microscope he discovered it was a stunning Andromeda Lacebug (*Stephanitis takeyi*).

Since confirmed as a new species for the county, it is found on Pieris and Rhododendron and is sometimes regarded as a pest.



Dates for the Diary

IWNHAS Annual Fungus Foray

Saturday 29th September
10am – 4pm
Brightstone Forest
more details [here](#)

Blast from the Past

3rd & 4th November
Dinosaur Isle's annual celebration of local our palaeontology archaeology and natural environment

2019 Recorders' Conference

Saturday 2nd February
2pm – 4:30pm
Arreton Community Centre



Silver Celebration for Reds

Wight Squirrel Project volunteers and long time supporters were invited to a special party in July to celebrate 25 years!



Specially made Red Squirrel cakes were enjoyed as well as woodland walk at Newnham Farm courtesy of Di and John Cleaver. Caroline Dudley (pictured above left) was presented with the 'Volunteer of the Year' trophy – many congratulations to all involved!

Rediscovered

Alder Leaf Beetle (*Agelastica alni*)

A species thought to be extinct in Britain for 20 years has been rediscovered on the Island this summer. First spotted at Pan County Park in July, it has since been seen at other sites along the Medina and Eastern Yar and in West Wight too. (Female pictured)



Picture by Pat Lockett