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Recording Now



Issue 5 - January 2019

*Hello and welcome to the latest version of 'Recording Now'
bringing you Isle of Wight species recording news, events and updates.*

Recorders' Conference 2019

Saturday 2nd February

2pm - 4:30pm at Arreton Community Centre

The annual IW Recorders' Conference is set to make a return next month. As usual, there will be a packed programme of presentations showcasing current species related projects and surveys, displays and of course delicious cakes and tea during the interval.

Presentations this year include Roy Dennis talking about White-tailed Eagle introduction; Paul Davies talking about meadow management at Newtown; Emily Stroud from the Wildlife Trust talking about the Secrets of the Solent project; and Tina Whitmore bringing us up to date with the iWatch Wildlife Project.

Please bring photographs or mounted specimens of last year's interesting Island wildlife finds (or items that provided a challenge to identify) to share with your fellow recorders on the Island Wildlife display table.

There is parking available next to the community centre but if this is full, the school car park opposite can be used.

Thank you Anne!

Many of you will know that Anne retired from the IW Council in September 2018. We are very grateful to Anne for all the work she has put in running the Local Records

Centre, working with recorders, volunteers and organisations, encouraging us all to make and submit wildlife records. We wish her all the very best for the new challenges ahead!

A post has been advertised, so we can expect a new Local Records Centre officer in due course.



Secrets of the Solent is a new project led by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. It is currently offering a whole host of volunteering opportunities and ways to get involved, including species surveying above and below the waves, monitoring and marine wildlife engagement. Find out more [here](#).



Award success for George

IWNHAS member George Greiff is celebrating winning the 2018 National Biodiversity Network's **Adult Newcomer Award for wildlife recording** beating 5 other shortlisted candidates in the category.

George was nominated by IWNHAS for his outstanding contribution to local knowledge of distribution and abundance of lower plants on the Island (Mosses, Lichens and Liverworts). He has rediscovered several species not recorded for a Century as well as adding a few which are firsts.

George took a short break from his studies at Oxford to attend the awards ceremony in Nottingham at the end of November where he was presented with his award and prizes. He said *"I was really chuffed to have been shortlisted, not to mention actually winning something for the first time in my life!"*.

Well done George!

Record Makers!

iWatchWildlife is celebrating having surpassed by more than 300 their target total of 1,000 new species records for the Island. This impressive return comes after just year 2 of their 3 year project. A huge thank you to the efforts of local experts, amateur naturalists and the general public with sharing their wildlife encounters and observations with us.

Records are collected via a number of channels such as our 'Species of the Month' social media campaign. This enables us to highlight species of importance and then capture and convert those species sightings into permanent records. We also capture records generated at wildlife events throughout the year. Once verified, these records are submitted to the IW species records database held by the IWNHAS.

Species groups most recorded to date are flowering plants, followed by birds and terrestrial mammals – the latter of which has significantly boosted our local knowledge of abundance and distribution of Hedgehogs in particular with 34 new records being captured through the project.

Remember to tag us **@iWatchWildlife** on Facebook or email **iwatchwildlife@gmail.com** to share your observations with us.



New Species to UK and IW

During December, George Greiff discovered three species of micro-fungi new to UK, and for the Island, one new moss and two new lichen species. George says "A dry autumn and a wet welcome to winter seems to have caused a lot of interesting

organisms to pop up at the same time that might otherwise be more spread out across the seasons - it's been a productive month".

Final Call for 2018 Species Records

If you've not already submitted your records for 2018, please make sure you do so no later than the 2nd week of Feb 2019.

A list of the IW Recorders and their contact details can be found [here](#)



Snap Dragon in flower in Ventnor by Anne Marston

New Year Plant Hunt 2019

13 members of IWNHAS met on 29th December for the national New Year Plant Hunt - now in its 8th year. The aim was to record wild or naturalised plants in flower (either anthers or stigmas to be visible); plants in gardens cannot be counted!

This year's circular route was along the cliffpath from Steephill Cove to Ventnor and back via Bath Road and Ventnor Park. The group searched the turf, peered down the cliff faces and investigated walls and footways in an attempt not to miss any species. The final species tally was 54; and when it was submitted via the BSBI website - it was the longest (for about 30 minutes) though gradually overtaken in the rankings as other results came in. It was encouraging to see that several people went out again in the following days to record in other areas and in total 10 lists were submitted from the Island.

Nationally, 708 lists were submitted, containing 14,325 unique records of 642 species. All lists are useful in the analysis which will be done in the coming weeks and the report will be posted [here](#), with all the lists. Why not make a note in your diary to join in the Next Year Plant Hunt?



RSPB
BIG Garden Bird Watch
26th - 28th January 2019

Take an hour to watch and enjoy the birds in your garden or local park. Once again last year, the noisy and gregarious house sparrow took the top spot, and the starling was in second place - how will they fare this year? Your Birdwatch counts! Find out more [here](#).



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