

## South Devon Branch Birdwatching Walk – Dawlish Warren 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

This was the group's first opportunity to meet since February 2020, due to Covid-19 restrictions and was hopefully the start of good things to come. 11 members attended what turned out to be a cool cloudy morning walk from the car park to the headland of the Warren. Although the tide was out when the group started, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the group and birds soon started to make an appearance, with at least 2 male Cirl Buntings singing in competition with each other.

Although the lake appeared quiet, several Water Rails made themselves known to all the group, both on the way out and on the return route, with a few glimpses in addition to squeals and the characteristic 'sharming' call.

In the open mixed scrubland further on a flock of at least 60 goldfinches, with greenfinches and Linnets performed aerobatics flying to and from the brambles and seedheads beside the path, whilst a female Kestrel looked on in a rather bemused manner, as overhead the group watched a flypast of Shovelers.

Further on, on the beach, significant coastal erosion and the limited impact of human intervention was very much in evidence. As the tide was still out, birds were observed on the sandbanks, including Brent Geese and a Red-breasted Merganser flew over the estuary.

The headland was well worth the walk (and would have been more so, had the tide been further in!) with a small flock of Skylarks and Greenfinches whirling around the scrubland. Scopes were very useful to see the distant views of Wigeon, Shelduck, Little Egret, Common Gull and others and, after much deliberation due to distance and poor lighting, a Black-tailed Godwit and Greenshank were finally identified, wading along the sandbank edge.

It was a great start to the new South Devon Branch series of meetings, with a total count of 49 species during the 4 hour walk, (see list below).

Nick and Sara D'Agorne

Brent Goose	Eurasian Curlew	Woodpecker	European Robin
Common	Black-tailed	Common Kestrel	European
Shelduck	Godwit	Common Magpie	Stonechat
Northern	Ruddy Turnstone	Carrion Crow	Dunnock
Shoveler	Dunlin	Common Raven	House Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Common	Eurasian Blue Tit	Meadow Pipit
Mallard	Greenshank	Great Tit	Common
Red-breasted	Black-headed	Eurasian Skylark	Chaffinch
Merganser	Gull	Common	Eurasian
Little Grebe	Common Gull	Chiffchaff	Bullfinch
Common	Herring Gull	Long-tailed Tit	European
Woodpigeon	Great Black-	Goldcrest	Greenfinch
Water Rail	backed Gull	Eurasian Wren	Common Linnet
Common	Great Cormorant	Common Starling	European
Moorhen	European Shag	Redwing	Goldfinch
Eurasian	Little Egret	Eurasian	Cirl Bunting
Oystercatcher	Great Spotted	Blackbird	