



Wexford Naturalists' Field Club,
c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford, Ireland.

WNFC Newsletter

Issue number 49

March 2018

Welcome to the March issue of the WNFC newsletter. A special welcome to the following new members, and also some former members who have rejoined: Fiona Milne, Jimmy Sheridan, Eoin and Jayne Donnelly, Ciaran Kavanagh, Anna McDonagh, Martine Derham, Maggie and Steve Durnell, Jacqueline and Brian McCann, Rohanna Reading, Paula Moriarty, Nuala Browne, Mary O'Reilly, Siobhan McGuire, Patrick McDonnell, John Finn, Sinead O'Connor, Thomas Larkin, Niamh and Eoin O'Connor, Colin and Miriam Walker, Ken and Liz Bowie.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

The April and June lectures will be held at 8pm in The Pumphouse, the May lecture will be held at **7pm** in Wexford Library. Since events may change due to unforeseen circumstances please check for last minute updates sent by email and posted on the club website. Details are also available by telephoning Wexford Wildfowl Reserve (076)1002660.

April

Thursday 5th: "*Wildlife in the Sinai Peninsula and the rare Sinai Hairstreak Butterfly*" by Andrew Power, Wildlife Conservationist.

Saturday 14th: Nature walk at Lacken Hill with Edno Delaney. Meet at 11am at the entrance to Lacken Hill (S763 287).

May

Thursday 10th: (Note change of date) 7pm at Wexford Town Library, Mallin St. (T047 219). Wexford Library's Chris Wilson Memorial Lecture "*The Night Sky in Irish Folklore*" by Seán Mac an tSíthigh, RTÉ/TG4.

Refreshments will be served at 7pm. Lecture starts 7.30pm sharp

Saturday 12th: Ireland's Butterflies – Identification Workshop and Information Day with Dr Tomás Murray, National Biodiversity Data Centre. 10am to 4pm at The Pumphouse, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve (T076 239). See Butterfly Atlas 2021 article below for more details.

Sunday 13th: Dawn Chorus event with Dave Daly at Raven Wood Nature Reserve. Meet at 4.30am at the barrier entrance to the wood (T111 267).

June

Thursday 7th: "*Wexford Beach Shells and Other Beach Combing Revelations*" by Dr Jonathan Derham, WNFC

Saturday 9th: Beach combing field trip in Ballinesker, Curracloe, with Jonathan Derham. Meet at 9.45 am in the car park in Ballinesker (T117 288).

Burren Field Event

We have organised a trip to the Burren from Monday 11th – Wednesday 13th June 2018. We will be using our own transport and staying at The Falls Hotel in Ennistymon (2 nights B&B & 2 D). If you are interested, or want more information, please talk

to Mick O'Connor at any club event or email the Club Secretary, with "Burren trip" in the subject line.

BioBlitz

We will be holding our annual Recording BioBlitz at Rosegarland, Wellingtonbridge on Saturday 14th July. If anyone would like to help out recording on the day please let the Club Secretary know.

RECENT FIELD TRIPS

Unfortunately due to the bad weather we had to cancel our March field trip but we had a good turnout for the birdwatching event in Rosslare in January and our visit to Seal Rescue Ireland in February.



Birdwatching at Rosslare Backstrand with Simon Collins (photo Mary Foley)



Some of the members who visited Seal Rescue Ireland in Courtown (photo Mick O'Connor)

AGM REPORT

The AGM was held on Thursday 1st February 2018. The Chairman's report is available on the club's website (see www.wexfordnaturalists.com/fieldtrip-reports/event-reports-2017) or from the Club Secretary,

The Treasurer's report is available to members on application to the Secretary.

The committee is as follows (with additional responsibilities, as decided at the February committee meeting, in brackets):

Chairman: Nicholas Egan (Newsletter, Facebook & Members' email updates)

Vice-Chairman: Bruce Walker

Secretary: Mary Foley (Records)

Treasurer: Marion Brady (Membership Secretary & Website)

Committee Members: Gene Draper (Archive)

John Kinsella

Liz Mooney (Library)

Mick O'Connor (Events & PRO)

RECORDING

To help achieve one of the Club's objectives "To collect and record information regarding the natural history of County Wexford" we encourage all members to take note of the wildlife they see, no matter how common they feel a species is, and pass on the details to our Records Officer, Mary Foley, at any club event, by email or submit online at records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/wexford-naturalists

The Ladybirds and Shieldbugs of County Wexford

Don't forget that we are still looking for your records for the Club's next publication, The Ladybirds and Shieldbugs of County Wexford. As the weather warms up do keep an eye out and submit your sightings



Green Shieldbugs (Photo Jonathan Derham)

Identification Workshops

The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) is offering a number of workshop programmes to assist in the recording of Ireland's Biodiversity. This year the programme will be in three separate segments, with spring, summer and autumn workshop programmes being devised and released throughout the year. The full list of workshops can be viewed during the year on the NBDC website www.biodiversityireland.ie/events/ and will also be available from the Club Secretary.

Places are limited and advance booking is essential. If any member wishes to attend a workshop the Club committee has set aside a sum of money to cover the workshop fee. All other expenses will be borne by the member. Places should be booked directly with the NBDC. The fee will be refunded on completion of the workshop and applications for refunds, which will be on a

first come basis, can be made to the Club Secretary by post or email

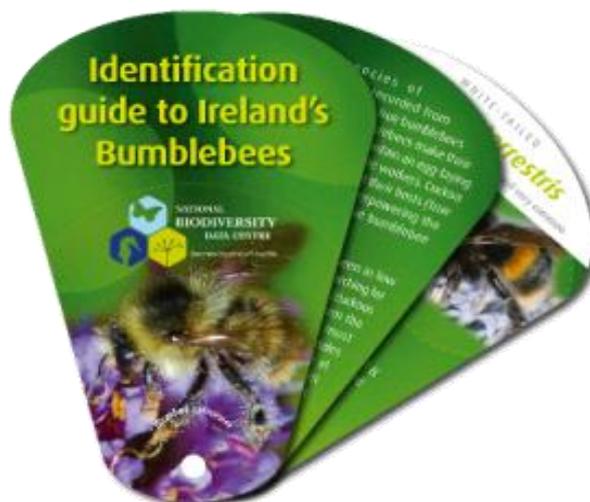
Butterfly Atlas 2021

This is a five-year survey of Ireland's butterflies which aims to produce detailed distribution maps of each species and the size of their populations. All butterfly records submitted by club members will be included in this atlas. To help those who would like to learn more about our butterflies we will hold a Butterfly Identification Workshop on Saturday 12th May. The Workshop will cover species identification and how you can help contribute to the atlas. It will be an informal day, the morning session will be held in The Pumphouse, starting at 10am, and after lunch we will head to the Raven Wood Nature Reserve where, hopefully, we will see some species in flight. The workshop is free but early booking is advised as places are limited. To book your place contact the Club Secretary c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve or email info@wexfordnaturalists.com

Please bring walking boots and a packed lunch (tea and coffee will be provided).

Identification Swatches

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has produced a series of Identification Swatches covering bumblebees, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, ladybirds, shieldbugs, and trees and shrubs. These are available to purchase at club events, price €5 each.



(Image courtesy of the National Biodiversity Data Centre)

Recording pollinators

The All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, coordinated by The National Biodiversity Data Centre, involves volunteers walking a fixed route once a month from March until October and counting the bumblebees they see. This scheme is important as it tracks what is happening with our wild pollinators across the landscape. A number of members already take part but more volunteers are needed. For more information see www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/bumblebee-monitoring-scheme or contact Dr Tomás Murray, project coordinator at tmurray@biodiversityireland.ie or phone (051)306240

BIRDWATCH IRELAND GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

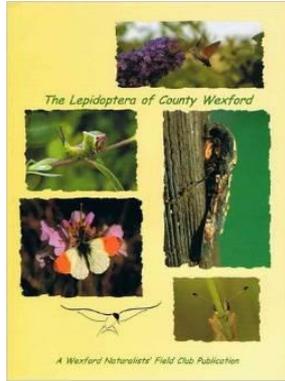
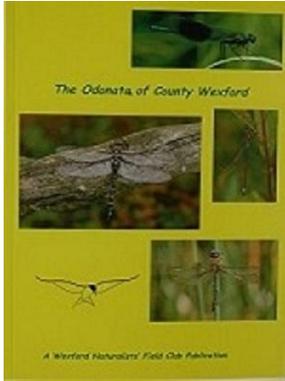
If you took part in the above survey don't forget to return your completed form to BirdWatch Ireland no later than 31st March 2018. Alternatively you can submit the details online at birdwatchireland.ie

CLUB LIBRARY

We have over 150 books, journals and pamphlets in the club library which is open after the lecture each month if any member wishes to borrow a book. The complete list of titles is available to view on our website.

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

“The Odonata of County Wexford”, which gives details of the dragonflies and damselflies recorded in the county, and “The Lepidoptera of County Wexford”, which covers the butterflies and moths recorded, are available to purchase at club events, price €4 and €5 respectively.



BINOCULARS AND SWEEP NETS

The Club has binoculars for use by members. If anyone would like to use them on a field trip they can be pre booked by contacting Liz Mooney at any club event or by emailing the Club Secretary. Sweep nets, which can be useful to collect insects from long grass, are also available. Members can book these out for fieldtrips or take out on loan. A great way to search for ladybirds and shieldbugs!

CONTACT DETAILS

If any of your contact details change please let the Club Secretary know.

PLANT SWAP AND SHARE

To help make our gardens more pollinator friendly we intend to hold some “Swap and Share” days this spring. For many pollinator friendly species existing plants can be divided or new plants can be grown from cuttings. If you have any plants, which are attractive to bees, please bring them along to our events on Thursday 5th April and Saturday 12th May. For information on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 see www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/ Copies of the plan, and various guidelines, are also available in the Club library.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REPORT

The EPA has recently published a report “Valuing Ireland’s Coastal, Marine and Estuarine Ecosystem Services”. This report can be downloaded at www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/water/research239.html

The next newsletter will be published in June. This is your newsletter, and natural history articles are always welcome. Items for inclusion may be passed on to me, Nicholas Egan, at any club event, by post or email

CONTACT US

General enquiries or to pass on information:
info@wexfordnaturalists.com

To submit records or recording queries:
records@wexfordnaturalists.com

To submit items for inclusion in the newsletter:
newsletter.wnfc@gmail.com

Postal Address: Wexford Naturalists’ Field Club, c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford.
Phone (076)1002660



Common carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*) on Comfrey (photo Mary Foley)

