



## DUNE Project Newsletter

Hello and welcome to the April edition of the DUNE Project Newsletter with updates on recent project work, wildlife sightings and upcoming events.

Spring migration is underway and we are seeing signs of this on our coast. The Chiffchaffs have arrived from their North African wintering grounds and can be heard singing in our local open spaces. Our overwintering wading birds have started to leave, making their way back to their breeding grounds in and around the Arctic Circle!

### Project Updates

March has seen us out giving talks and leading guided nature walks. We would like to thank the following groups for the invitations to talk with them about the DUNE Project and how they can enjoy our coast in a wildlife-friendly way!

- The Grimsby and Cleethorpes branch of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- The Planet Protectors group at New Waltham Academy
- Grimsby Wildlife Watch

If you are part of a community group and would like a free talk or guided walk, please do get in touch! Our email address is [DUNEproject@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:DUNEproject@nelincs.gov.uk)



(**Top left:** Guided walk for Grimsby Wildlife Watch, **Bottom left:** Talk for Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, **Right:** Talk for Planet Protectors at New Waltham Academy)



## Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve: March Sightings

A very interesting start to this month with the discovery of 2 **Firecrest** in a wooded area at Humberston! These tiny birds weigh less than a £1 coin and occasionally overwinter in our area although they usually pass through in spring and autumn. They are not thought to breed in Lincolnshire and they are far less common than the closely related **Goldcrest**. Male Firecrest have been heard singing at Gibraltar Point in recent years, so they may yet become resident in our county.

These charming little birds are strikingly marked and very fast moving. Thank you to Liam Smith for providing these excellent photos of the Firecrest (left) and a Goldcrest.



March's [Wetland Bird Survey \(WeBS\)](#) was an overall quieter count than previous months. This is evidence that our overwintering wading birds are starting to head back north, although some will remain for a while longer.

The **Glossy Ibis** can still be seen on our saltmarsh lagoons along Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve. If you haven't seen it yet, now is the time! If it is to head back south then it will likely do so soon!



## Get Involved!

Would you like to join us for an upcoming guided nature walk? Or do you fancy contributing towards recording local wildlife?

**Citizen Science:** There are plenty of projects to help record wildlife sightings and data, many of which are easy-to-access and can be done close to home. We've recently published a list of [Citizen Science Projects](#) on our DUNE Project webpage covering areas such as birds, insects, wildflowers and marine life.

**Birds in Greenspaces:** The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is running a project from 1 April to 30 June 2026 to find out just how important our greenspaces are for UK birds. These open spaces provide resources and shelter for birds as well as exercise, cultural activities and spaces for well-being for people.

To find out more, check out the project website here: [Birds in Greenspaces | BTO](#)

**Upcoming Events:** All guided nature walks are free but booking is essential. Please visit our [EventBrite](#) page for more information and click "Follow" to find out about future events!

Event	Date	Start	What3Words
Guided Nature Walk (Accessible)	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes Boating Lake (meet outside the Discovery Centre)	<a href="#">opens.dawn.about</a>
International Dawn Chorus Day Walk	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 04:30 – 06:30	Weelsby Woods (meet in main carpark)	<a href="#">herds.medium.fled</a>
Guided Nature Walk – World Migratory Bird Day	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes Country Park (meet near to building at carpark)	<a href="#">joke.fields.commented</a>
Guided Nature Walk – World Migratory Bird Day	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve (meet in carpark at back of Cleethorpes Leisure Centre)	<a href="#">snake.spell.tune</a>
Guided Nature Walk – National Nature Reserve Week	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve (meet in carpark at back of Cleethorpes Leisure Centre)	<a href="#">snake.spell.tune</a>
Guided Nature Walk – National Nature Reserve Week	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve (meet at Anthony's Bank car park)	<a href="#">penny.ducks.stress</a>



**Send us your sightings!**

If you have any sightings or photos, we'd love to hear from you! Send us an email and we will share our favourite photos in next month's newsletter: [DUNEproject@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:DUNEproject@nelincs.gov.uk)

For further information about the DUNE Project, visit our webpage: [Cleethorpes DUNE project | NELC](#)

Thank you kindly to Gloria Lynch who shared this photo of a male **Pintail** duck from one of our recent guided nature walk's around Cleethorpes Boating Lake.

