

DUNE Project Newsletter

As June turns to July, bird migration seems to slow down and our attentions turn to what else our coast has to offer!

If you run a community group or work at a local school or college, we'd love to hear from you. We are always looking for opportunities to talk about why our coast is important and the work we're doing to protect it!

Please get in touch via email at DUNEproject@nelincs.gov.uk

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

Coastal Ranger Updates

It is the summer lull for migrating birds as many species are busy raising chicks but there are some species already heading south! Sub-Saharan migrants such as the Swift and the Cuckoo are heading for Africa whereas others, like the Quail, have just arrived!

- **Cuckoo:** The male Cuckoo arrives in late April and can leave as soon as early June! A brood parasite, neither male nor female rear their chicks and will migrate whenever they are ready. At the time of writing, several satellite-tagged birds are already moving south through Europe. Check out their progress on the [BTO's Cuckoo Tracking Project map!](#)
- **Swift:** [UK Swift Awareness Week](#) 2026 runs from 27 June to 5 July. These long-distance migrants spend much of their lives on the wing (yes, even when asleep!). There were 6000+ Swifts heading south at [Spurn Point](#) on Sunday 28 June and many have been seen at Cleethorpes too.
- **Quail:** The Quail is a small, secretive and migratory gamebird. A relative of partridges and pheasants, these ground-nesting birds sometimes arrive in huge numbers, resulting in a 'quail year'. [2026 appears to be one](#), with numbers no doubt boosted by recent heatwaves in Europe. They have a distinctive "wet-my-lips" or "pick-per-wick" call which can be heard here: [Quail Bird Facts | RSPB](#)

It's nearly Butterfly Conservation's annual 'Big Butterfly Count', running from 17 July to 9 August. As butterfly numbers peak at this time of year, why not consider taking part in this important conservation effort? You can sign up here: [Big Butterfly Count](#)



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We will be hosting some guided Butterfly Counts at Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve and Cleethorpes Country Park. Keep an eye out on our [EventBrite](#) page for details of upcoming events.

As always, please keep our Coastal Code in mind to ensure that you are enjoying our coastline responsibly! Coastal birds have big journeys ahead of them. The more help we give them, the more likely they are to survive.



You can report recreational disturbance along our coastline and across the Humber Estuary to the Humber Nature Partnership. This helps us understand where disturbance is happening so we can work with visitors and residents to reduce it. To do so, visit their website: humburnature.co.uk/contact/observations

DUNE Project Updates

We were invited to this year's Lincolnshire Show. We spoke to hundreds of people over the 2 days and had the opportunity to tell people from far and wide about the importance of North East Lincolnshire's coastline.



Josh was invited into Lisle Marsden pre-school group to talk about his job and how they can help look after the birds that visit our coast. The children were very interested in the button that made the call of the Turnstone!

Josh talking to the children at Lisle Marsden



Josh and Zoë at the Lincolnshire Show



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Photos

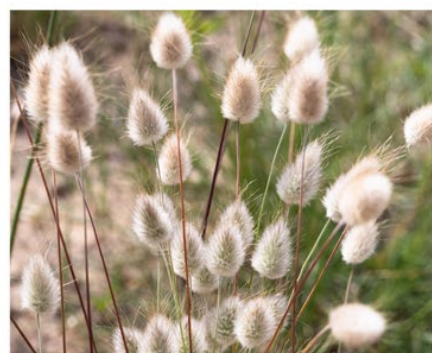
NELC hosted a joint visit from the Lincolnshire Naturalist Union (LNU) and the Lincolnshire Flora Group (LFG) for a field trip to survey for saltmarsh and dune flora; with some specimens taken for the LoveLincsPlants project, another project made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Bulbous Meadow-grass (*Poa bulbosa*)



Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*)



Hare's-tail Grass (*Lagurus ovatus*)



Hare's-foot Clover (*Trifolium arvense*)



Sand Cat's-tail (*Phleum arenarium*)



Hybrid Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza x grandis*)

You can learn more about the project at the LNU's website here:

[LoveLincsPlants: A plant archive for future generations](#)

Thank you to Sarah Lambert of the LFG for these photos which showcasing the plants that make Cleethorpes special!



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Thrift (*Armeria maritima*)



Lesser Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia marina*)



Sea Milkwort (*Lysimachia maritima*)



Sea Sandwort (*Honckenya peploides*)



Lesser Centaury (*Centaureum pulchellum*)



Long-bracted Sedge (*Carex extensa*)



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