Devon Birds, Plymouth Branch Outdoor Meeting

Broadsands and Brixham. 24th January 2022

A group of 17 members met at Broadsands and looked around the car paring areas. We were immediately struck by the number of Greenfinches and were able to watch 11 cirl Buntings at the usual feeding area, along with House Sparrows, Chaffinches and Dunnocks; but no Reed Buntings. The bushes around the car parks were shelter for Chiffchaff, Goldcrest and Bullfinch among others.

Two or three pairs of Fulmars were seen around the bay, as well as a couple of Little Egrets. Apart from a few Common Gulls, there were few birds on the sea a pair of Mute Swans, a single Great Crested Grebe and two distant Black-throated Divers. As we walked along the low cliffs to the south we saw a summer plumage Razorbill, a Grey Seal, and a group of about 5 dolphins (probably Common Dolphins) some way out.

The majority of the group then moved on to Brixham Breakwater, to be greeted by inquisitive Grey Seals. A walk along the Breakwater enabled us to us to see more seals, as well as Razorbills and Guillemots. It also gave us outstanding views of Kittiwakes and one or two Mediterranean Gulls flying over the harbour. The seaward side produced nearby Rock Pipits and Turnstones, and there were three Purple Sandpipers on the ruined structure.

A total of 48 species of birds were observed and two of marine mammals.

Doug Herdson