



Nuthatch

Photos: Roger Hamling



Typical Beaver activity



Mistle Thrush

Bystock Pools

Winter 2025-26



Please
Keep
Dogs
on
Leads

Wildlife news

A Southern Hawker dragonfly was still patrolling the reservoir in mid-November. This is quite a late date for this species. You might still see Common Darters on the wing into December. The latest date for this species at Bystock is December 11th.

Our beavers have been very active and much evidence can be seen around the reservoir and from the road to west of the reservoir entrance. Any interference with their activities is a criminal offence.

Wildlife in winter.

The reserve has a good regular wintering flock of Great, Blue, Coal and Long-tailed Tits. Nuthatches, Great-spotted and Green Woodpeckers, Treecreepers, Siskin and Goldcrests will often join them. It is also possible that our Firecrests might overwinter on the reserve. Ravens and Buzzards fly over frequently. A pair of Stonechats may be seen in the Meadow on most days along with Mistle and Song Thrushes. Many of the Blackbirds are migrants, replacing our breeding birds which have flown further south. Each winter flocks of Redwing and Fieldfare visit to feast on the Holly berries.

Reserve management

Holly has been spreading in Pine Wood. Work parties have had several clearance sessions to allow more light to the woodland floor. Care was taken to leave the berries for the wintering birds.

Devon Wildlife Trust's management team have used machinery to mow large areas of bramble in the Meadow. This will help the grasses and meadow flora to flourish and provide the right conditions for the many species that rely on this very special habitat. In addition, the volunteer work parties have concentrated on clearing the vegetation surrounding the heathers.