

GI Ecology

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BIGGA's
Sustainability
Executive



ECOLOGY



Muntjac at
Gog Magog



Little Egret at
Trentham Park



Stoneleigh Oak

The waxwings are in!

A number of sightings of these beautiful birds have been reported along the eastern side of England and Scotland, so keep an eye out for them. Failing seeing them, try to listen to the sound they make, which is akin to a low trilling noise - it's smashing.

In terms of golf course sightings, two little egrets have been spotted - one at John O' Gaunt and the other at Trentham Park. It wasn't so long ago that these birds would have been a mega sighting as they only started breeding in the UK in 2006.

Wait until you see what turned up at Gog Magog - a small but powerfully built muntjac deer. Also known as the barking deer for their dog-like woofing call, these beauties can be found most places in England and Wales, with some reports of sightings north of Hadrian's Wall. I could be wrong, but they don't appear to damage golf courses so we'll tolerate them for now.

As you've probably guessed, I'm a bit of a tree hugger, so when I was made aware of Stoneleigh in Warwickshire and the fact they have an 800-year-old oak tree, I had to go and give it a fumble. Turns out they have not one, but quite a few ancients onsite. In fact, they have about 20 of these rarities ranging from oaks to sweet chestnuts to really old Scots pines. Take a look at these stunners.

Keep those ecology sightings coming in to @Ecology1BIGGA on Twitter or email james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk

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Winter is a fragile time of year for Bumble Bee survival, they generally hibernate in burrows in the soil but on mild days they can sometimes be seen drowsily looking for nectar and pollen. A full stomach will give a Bumblebee about 40mins of flying time. Flowering winter shrubs help; Mahonia, Viburnum, Winter Honeysuckle and Willow as do early spring bulbs. You can also help Bumblebees survive by placing sugar solutions

(50/50 sugar and water) around where the bees are seen to emerge from hibernation. It is usually the Queens that emerge, if they die so does a next generation colony.

For more information visit:

bumblebeeconservation.org/news/anthony-blogs/winter-active-bumblebees

www.bumblebee.org/helpbees.htm

