



Wildlife Walk – 4th October 2014

Wimslow Hill

9.00am at the Phone Box followed by Mission Hall
Coffee morning

Watch for a poster to confirm. All welcome.

Garden Nature Watch

Local wildlife

In the afternoon of the last Friday in August, Janet Craig reported large numbers of swallows and house martins assembling in the paddock to the west of Old Bincombe Lane. These had all moved on by early evening. The following Friday afternoon, there was a similar gathering over the pond and in the field by Northdown Farm. Again by early evening, the migration was over. Since then there have been only a few later swallows about with a few over Hardown Hill (west Dorset) on the 16th.

Our skies are now invaded by the autumnal visit of Canada geese in both early morning and in the evening. These appear to roost at Lodmoor and probably on the Fleet.

On Monday the 8th John and Janet drew my attention to the eucalyptus on the corner of Old Bincombe Lane. This was humming with bees, which Janet managed to photograph. I have also watched bees pollinating Himalayan balsam vigorously, when we really need pollination of our native plants.



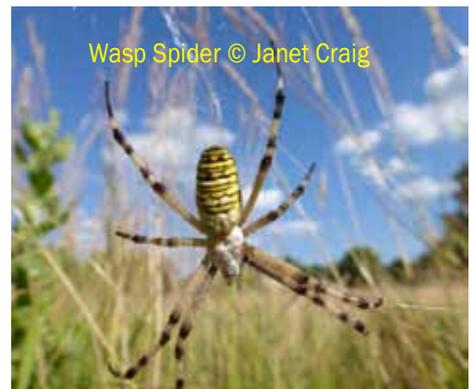
From the 19 people returning a bird list, there was just one report of grey wagtail. Jon and Sue Campbell reported two from the waterworks stream, whilst on two mornings; I saw one in the River Jordan by the Cartshed. The Campbells also reported a single redstart on elder at the top of the hill. There were eight reports of long-tailed tit, which did not feature on the Wessex Water survey. Unusually nobody reported coal tit or goldcrest.

Moth trapping in the waterworks was very slow on 6th September with a cool northerly wind and the pipestrelle bats emerging were reduced in number. Janet Craig photographed the Nationally Notable wasp spider *Argiope brunnichii*. I photographed the leopard slug *Limax maximus* around 7.00a.m. on Sutton Road. This slug is the gardener's friend as it preys on the *Arion* slugs, which we all hate. It is normally quite nocturnal. The group also went to pay our respects to our best colony of the Nationally Scarce autumn lady's – tresses in a lawn on Plaisters Lane. I have also seen good numbers at Hambledon Hill and Westhay Farm on the Dorset coast.

During the month, there have probably been around ten species of butterfly in our gardens with Dorothy Emblem reporting 30 Red Admiral on buddleia. I have noticed a number of unusually small sized small tortoiseshell, whilst Dorothy has been watching for hibernating peacock, suddenly emerging.



Limax maximus
the Leopard Slug



Wasp Spider © Janet Craig



Autumn Lady's-tresses © Janet Craig

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