



Trees down by the pond after the St Jude

Local wildlife

Dave Emery and Colin Marsh have been monitoring the pipestrelle bat roost in the pumping station over the last month. Numbers have been building and in the last week of July they were getting over 100 emerging in 20 minutes, which is considerably more than have recorded before.

Nick Tomlinson and members of the Dorset Bat Group did a bat survey with us in the top wood on Saturday deploying two mist nets and two Harp traps with acoustic lures (see below). We caught two Natterer's (male and female) and a common pip, which confirms the likelihood a colony of Natterer's in the wood given the early time we have had recordings previously. Will need to poke an endoscope down a few cracks to confirm. The old-field maple on the eastern boundary is a favourite. Much to all our amazement we had a Grasshopper Warbler calling all evening just near the reservoir basin.



Wildlife Walk – 5th September 9.15am from Mission Hall

Moth Night –Waterworks car park

6th September 2014 8.30p.m.

Watch for a poster to confirm. All welcome.

Garden Bird Watch

With a number of people commenting, "Where have all the birds gone" 18 people actually saw 45 species out of the 57 on our nominal list. There were most of our regulars but little owl has made an appearance at Northdown Farm again and a couple of reports on tawny owl calling although that has escaped my attention. Towards the end of August, parents will be wishing to send the young owls away to look for their own territory. I have heard the first of the autumn flocking of Canada geese flying over the village early in the morning.

There are a few flowers still to bloom with autumn ladies-tresses appearing in the lawn at Bellamy Cottage. It is well worth the head grounds man (woman) keeping an eye out when cutting the grass to let this IUCN **near threatened** orchid flower and seed. They may be found in a number of gardens in the Sutton Poyntz /Preston area.

Moth trapping has continued through the month on suitable nights. A visitor to the Campbell's brought a Robinson trap powered by 2 x 30w tubes with stunning results including 43 macro-moths and 12 micro-moths including 12 Jersey Tigers, which are still making an appearance by both day and night. One moth not included in this list, which has turned up in gardens is the Drinker. Dorothy Emblem has had many small tortoiseshell and a few peacock butterflies hibernating in her outhouse, whilst I found a wall butterfly in my garage.



Jersey Tiger by day

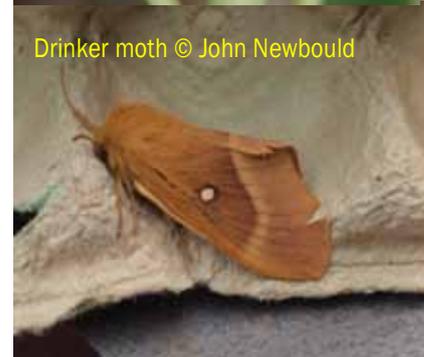
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Wall Butterfly



Drinker moth © John Newbould