



Scarlet Tiger moth

©Jez Cunningham

**Wildlife Walk** – for Adonis Blues 8<sup>th</sup> August 9.15am from Mission Hall

Moth Night –Waterworks car park

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 8.30p.m.

All welcome.

### Garden Bird Watch

#### Local wildlife

In addition to the butterflies mention in the bottom right, there are one or two patches of good chalk grassland plants on West Hill. In addition to the ever present salad burnet; there were a few plants of yellow-wort, many slender centaury (a plant mostly seen near the sea), sainfoin, both hedge and lady's bedstraw, bird's-foot trefoil and the occasional small scabious in flower for our walk on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Six-spot burnet moths were frequent, whilst there were larvae of cinnabar moth on ragwort and I swept a single white-point moth from tor-grass.

Sue and Jon Campbell have continued their bird walk where they noted a couple of Lulworth skipper amongst small skipper near bramble. There were no major changes with the usual yellowhammer, linnet associated with gorse, swallows and house martin and a couple of swift. Skylarks were calling high in the sky, stonechat needed searching for and there was a single greenfinch.



Honey Bee swarm © Dorothy Emblem

David, Colin and Rita have continued doing the small mammal surveys in 2014 catching a few wood mice and field voles, a considerably better result than in the past two years. They also counted around 100 pipistrelle bats emerging from the Museum office again an increase on last year. The increase in small mammal population does not seem to have increased the owl population, with just one report from Wyndings in June. The swifts seem to have made it back with up to ten in the air round the old Rectory. Nearly everybody reported seeing robins. Our is a scraggy juvenile who has shown no fear, whilst I cut back the *leylandii* last weekend, even sitting on the electric hedge cutter. Juvenile magpies complain bitterly from rooftops when parents have gone off for a few minutes and are becoming an audible nuisance.

It seems to have been a good year for reptiles and amphibians. John Bellis found a toad, whilst tidying a sheltered spot in his garden, Dorothy Emblem sent a picture of young frogs sat on a large *Arion* sp. slug and Jack Winspar photographed a healthy looking slow-worm. Dorothy Emblem had to call in a beekeeper to deal with a swarm of honeybees in her garden.

Interestingly some fence bottoms in the village are supporting some of the alien wild flowers we see in the wider countryside such as common evening primrose and on Sutton Road just a few rose-bay willow-herb – a verge side plant of the old Dorchester – Eggardon Roman road.



Slow worm

©Jack Winspar

**Butterflies** have been really good on West Hill with over 100 marbled white, skippers, meadow browns, gatekeepers, a few common blue with emerging gatekeepers on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July.



Red Admiral

©Jez Cunningham

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# National Moth Night July 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 2014.



White Plumed-moth © John Newbould



Scalloped oak © John Newbould



Dark Umber © Janet Craig



Coronet © John Newbould



*Rosy Footman* by Sue Campbell was one of four footman moths recorded at the waterworks. The others were common, dingy and slender footman

With a public event planned at the National Trust's Filcombe Farm on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>, we looked at the skies with increasing gloom as heavy rain was forecast from the west. Around 5.00p.m. our worst fears arrived and the planned woodland event was transferred into a wooden barn. In the event, we recorded 23 moths in just over an hour including elephant hawk-moth and 2 small elephant hawk-moths the former using plants such as rosebay for larval food, whilst the latter is a moth of the short grassland found just under Golden Cap.

The Sutton Poyntz event was attended by 11 people, two of who reported the scarlet tiger illustrated on the first page, which was subsequently photographed by Jez on Sutton Road. We recorded 24 moths at the waterworks, including drinker-moth seen at both events and the white plumed moth illustrated above. We also recorded ruby tiger, whilst later the following week JAN recorded our first Jersey Tiger on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Our efforts at the waterworks were supplemented by another 14 species in my actinic trap and Jon and Sue Campbell's Skinner trap where the Fanfoot was recorded. Subsequently cutting my hedge, the fanfoot was the most common moth disturbed.

Subsequent trapping most nights at Brookmead Close revealed clouded silver, the lackey, double lobed, uncertain and lime-speck pug of interest. The moth trapping event and associated butterfly walk is weather dependent. Watch for our notice board.