

Large Red Damselfly John Newbould
Newbould



Wildlife Walk – Saturday 5th July 2014-
National Moth Night –Waterworks car park
9.00p.m.
All welcome.

Garden Bird Watch May 2014.

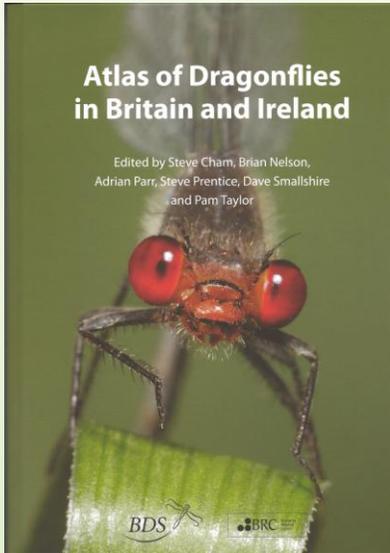
I wish to thank all who sent their garden bird records back so promptly. Many members commented that there are few birds in their garden, but we have had reports from 20 houses who have seen 39 species of birds giving a total of 307 records. Many are also coming in an Excel format, which makes my life so much easier. Thank you.

One bird, which seems to be missing, is the swift. Most years since we have run garden bird watch, I could always count on seeing swifts flying round the old Rectory and I believe they nested in the area. Swallow and Martins seem scarce this year but are found feeding over the pond. There were a number of reports of breeding birds, especially robin, house sparrow, blue tit and blackbird – the garden regulars. Jon Campbell was pleased to see a pair of greenfinch with two young, but generally numbers of greenfinch records are down this month.

Jon and Sue did the Wessex survey in May and I am pleased to say that they reported three-spotted flycatcher, linnet and stonechat adjacent to the compound, yellowhammer on West Hill together with corn bunting. There were also reasonable numbers of skylark calling from open grassland areas.

There have been plenty of butterflies in gardens with holly blue, small copper and brown argus amongst those seen together with the last of the spring butterflies such as brimstone. Dorothy Emblem reported many slow-worm and lesser stag beetle.

Local wildlife



One of the joys of recording wildlife is that either a local or national atlas is published discussing and reporting on records collected mainly by the large volunteer army. This *Atlas*, published by the Field Studies Council on behalf of the British Dragonfly Society and the CEH Biological Records Centre is no exception. In Dorset, BDS were looking for 14 species per 10km square. Looking through my records, since 2010 we have reported on 11 species in 2 x 1km squares. It is available for inspection if I am in. My favourite was seeing the Emperor flying over the Springhead pond for three July weeks.



Roe deer feeding a fawn Janet Craig



Hard work ©Yvonne Emery

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Peter Sheaves

We were saddened to learn of the death of Peter on 26th May, 2014. Peter was an enthusiastic conservationist and an important supporter of the biodiversity group helping planning and undertaking conservation tasks in the waterworks meadows, and a regular attender on our walks. Our thoughts are with Louise, family and friends who grieve for Peter at this time.

Sutton Poyntz Garden Bioblitz 31st May and 1st June 2014.



Great Tit © Janet Craig



Bank Vole nest © Janet Craig



Red Admiral John Newbould



Eyed Hawk-moth © John Newbould twice in the weekend

One of the joys of Sutton Poyntz in springtime is the millstream along Silver Street. I tell visitors it is a proper old-fashioned village street together with the fenland Royal Fern.



Over the weekend of 31st May – 1st June there was an informal nature recording event – a Garden Bioblitz. For more information, visit www.gardenbioblitz.org. This was a national event with information logged on line. There is a score-board and it is possible to see a map of your County to see how many species have been logged. Whilst I made some notes on wildlife around Brookmead Close, I have not logged any data. However, group members have told me of their sightings. Janet Craig found a bank vole at a nest in her garden, whilst the small tortoiseshell larvae have started to pupate. Both Jon Campbell and I ran moth traps with both of us seeing eye-hawk-moth above, both buff-tip and buff ermine. My neighbour was gardening and found a poplar hawk-moth on 1st June. One group member reported toads, frogs and smooth newt from his large spring fed garden pond off Sutton Road. Butterflies were scarce reflecting an over-cast week prior to the event.

This was compensated on our June walk when six of us gathered to see the butterflies of West Hill when we saw seven species including adonis blue, common blue, my first large skipper of the season together with at least six small heath. We did not see the dingy skippers



Janet Craig released over 70 Small Tortoiseshell she had reared