



Signs of Spring

Spring this year seems to have been influenced by the el Nino effect with strong cold north easterly winds approaching gale force, with, on occasions, many broken branches falling from trees in full leaf. At the beginning of June, Dave Emery contacted me about the millennium oak trees to the west of the waterworks wood. Many were looking distressed with few leaves. I sampled a small number of leafless twigs, but these were still alive.

It would appear from the Forest Research website that the trees are suffering from chronic oak disease caused by the cold winds at a critical time when the leaves were emerging.

If you would like an expert opinion, see the Forest Research website for the fees including travel expenses at 40p per mile.

However, on the Golden Cap estate last week, old exposed maple was also looking distressed. These continue to thrive despite exposure to sea spray.

Buff Ermine from Sunday's moth trap



18th June 2015 at 8.30a.m. – open new mains Moth Trap
3 Brookmead Close, back garden

GARDEN BIRD WATCH April 2015

Many of our members were away on holiday but we managed three owl species this month *viz.* barn owl *via* Dorothy Emblem; little owl *via* Ruth Eggerton and both reported tawny owl. Song thrush made an appearance on Old Bincome Lane and at Northdown Farm but generally things were quiet with 37 species seen in total.

Butterflies have not been present in great numbers at the month end mainly due to cold winds and during May moth trapping was not worth doing here. I managed to take just three species from both my traps and Jon Campbell's trap to the Hardy's Cottage Bioblitz where we only caught one silver ground carpet.

Fortunately in mid June things have improved. Jon and I went to the National Trust's Brownsea Island Coastal Bioblitz on the 12th and they were still counting and identifying moths as we left around 4.30p.m. from the previous night. This spurred me on to use my new Skinner trap on Saturday night when I had three hawk moths including privet, eyed and elephant hawk moth in around 25 species.

Whilst gardening keep your eyes open for slow worms. One was seen in Old Bimcombe Lane on the 11th. We have had a young badger foraging in our enclosed back garden and I have seen reports of a family of young fox playing in daylight on a lawn.

Buff Tip moth



Holly Blue Dorothy Emblem



Blue Tit © Janet Craig



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