

May 2015

SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP NEWSLETTER

June 2015 – depending on weather watch for posters
Butterfly Walk & Waterworks Moth Trapping



Bugle John Newbould

Signs of Spring

The two outstanding images of spring in Dorset have been the displays of primroses and then bluebells, which as I write are at their most stunning. On the verge on Plaister's Lane, some horseshoe vetch has escaped the early spring mowing by West Dorset Council. The arrival of early purple orchid is the Wessex Water wood reminds me to tell you of a project being run by the Natural History Museum comparing images of today's orchids with those in their herbarium specimen. Visit this weblink:

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/citizen-science/orchid-observers.html>

Also during the weekend of 30-31st of May there is a national garden Bioblitz. Visit www.gardenbioblitz.org to find out how to take part. Alternatively, there will be a garden bioblitz at Hardy's Cottage during opening ours on 30th May when you are most welcome to attend. The out building below has at least five species of moss on the roof. Last year, we managed over 150 species.



GARDEN BIRD WATCH April 2015

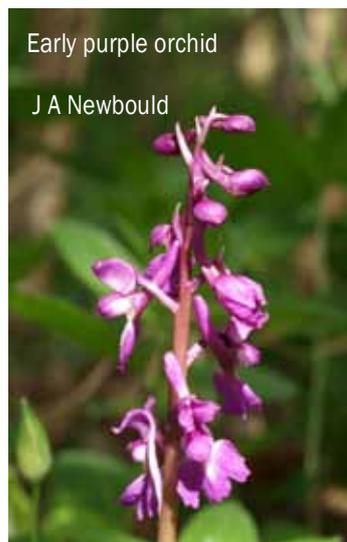
At a time when most of the local Bird Watching websites were reporting little of interest, our garden bird watch team recorded 37 species from our standard list. Interestingly, John Croydon reported a Pied Flycatcher at the start of the week. His verbal description fitted the books, but only his daughter witnessed the bird and it did not linger. Goldcrest was not present on the list, but interestingly, a pair of Firecrest turned up at the National Trust's west Dorset office last week but again did not remain. Pleasingly two people recorded song thrush, yellowhammer and also yellow wagtail.

Colin Marsh reported Dartford warbler, linnets and a few yellowhammer on Wessex Water land to the north.

Whilst out on my regular Dorset surveys people are saying how few swallows they are seeing with only five reports, but I have also seen small numbers around the village. House martin also appears scarce and I have only heard a couple of reports of cuckoo even in places where meadow pipets are plentiful.

Butterflies are very weather dependent but amongst those reported, mainly be Dorothy Emblem, brimstone, holly blue, small white, peacock, small copper, brimstone and orange tips.

My moth trapping has been pretty pathetic with cold winds blowing at night and just an angle shades on my last try.



Early purple orchid

J A Newbould



Yellow flag iris at Sutton Poyntz



Blue Tit © Janet Craig

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