



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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August 2020 Garden Bird Watch this month 30th August to 5th September

Garden Bird Watch

I have received returns from thirteen members recording 38 species, which is quite good. August is always quiet for garden birds as many keep out of sight sulking in hedgerows whilst moulting takes place. There are still plenty of house sparrows about. My last sighting of swifts was around 2nd August when two flew over the house. Later in the day Colin reported twelve over the Puddledocks. I have seen very few swallows and house martins but five people reported them over their gardens.

There have been good numbers of blackbirds, house sparrows, herring gulls, magpies, robins with twelve people recording each and thirteen people had wood pigeon. Three people reported song thrush whilst five pied wagtails were reported but no grey wagtail. I wonder if the extra water in the River Jordan has frightened them away.

Moths:

During the month, three moth traps have been operated, with Rita and Colin using their most nights. Whilst most hawk-moths flying season has finished, Sue and Jon sent this photograph (on the left) of pine hawk-moth from their trap on 26-27th August.



For a few days around 12th and 13th August, we had warm humid nights with winds blown over from the continent. I was extremely lucky for two nights to have a beautiful marbled moth (photo on the right) quite magnified. Whilst this moth may be seen in France most

summers, there have been very few instances of this moth being seen in Britain, but this year Portland Bird Observatory recorded it on three nights, whilst there were reports on Twitter of three records in East Yorkshire VC61, records from Norfolk, Suffolk and west Sussex. During this spell, I had 41 species on the 13th including 74 common wainscot, 14 flounced rustic and 12 shuttle shaped darts. By the end of the month these numbers had tailed off, with just 20 species recorded on the 27th including just 11 common wainscots. Rita and Colin have had many orange swifts reflecting the nearby grassland, whilst at Brookmead Coxcomb prominent have been regulars reflecting the nearby woodland.

Butterflies:



There seems to be very few butterflies about – a few gatekeepers, meadow browns and small whites. However, I did manage to photograph this speckled wood on the edge of one of the camping fields. Watch out for migrant painted ladies and clouded yellow.

There is often late common blue, wall, small tortoiseshell and small copper to watch out for.

Wild flowers:

It is coming to the end of the main wild flower season, Watch out for autumn lady's tresses, which may appear in garden lawns, such as the one on Plaisters Lane.