



Centre-barred sawfly moth

Nature Notes

On 29th July, we held an evening moth trapping in the waterworks car park. Prior to moth trapping, Colin and Rita were monitoring the common pipistrelle bats emerging from the eaves of the Museum office. Around 35 emerged from the east side eaves. Two weeks later, another survey noted 25 emerging from the west side. What was really interesting during the July session, was to see bats in the dusk glow looking west feeding over the Weymouth pines on the waterworks western boundary. Elsewhere in the village serotine bat seems to be foraging around houses.

Shirley Saunders reported seeing a family of a mother and four young weasels driving back from Dorchester. Waking round, I have seen grey squirrel and a fox on Plaisters Lane.

Colin will be doing a small mammal transect on a few nights later this month. Such events are weather dependent but if interested contact Colin. Often the only result is wood mouse, but we never know our luck.



Wood mouse before release

Garden bird watch

25th September – 1st October 2016

Please send lists after 2nd October 2016

GARDEN BIRD WATCH August 2016

We have had returns from 16 houses for the last week in August. July and August are traditionally the worst months for garden birds with plenty of food in the wider countryside. One of the interesting things about our garden bird watch is that we have seven years of data and changes can be monitored. Below is a graph of blackbird records between 2010 (1) and 2016 (7) in blue, whilst the number of gardens surveyed is red. Some years most gardens have blackbirds, whilst in other years they follow the national pattern of a reduction. Ros Evans reported that her house martins have disappeared, but there is a new brood next door, still being fed. Generally swallows and martins are migrating. I saw over 500 on wires behind the National Trust's Golden Cap Estate office at 2.00pm 7th September. Five minutes later they were gone and the next flight were assembling. It is also interesting on this occasion; no single bird was present in every garden. Usually wood pigeon features.

Green woodpecker numbers are down also this month, whilst house sparrow and robin continue to thrive.

Butterflies have been disappointing, this season. Apart from a recent holly blue and a single common blue I have mostly seen white butterflies in my garden together with an occasional red admiral. Moth recording has gone particularly well with some large catches at the end of August and the first week in September and now the autumn moths are beginning to come to our traps. This is the last year for the moth atlas, so any records/lists are welcome.



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