

May 2014

SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP NEWSLETTER



Irish Yellow Slug *Limacus maculatus*

Wildlife Walk – Thursday 5th June 2014 when we will walk round Waterworks bowl to look at chalk grassland flowers and butterflies. Meet at the Mission Hall at 9.00a.m.

All welcome.

Local wildlife

I was walking along Preston Road, early in the month with camera in the hand, when I noticed the unusual slug pictured above. I sent an image to Adrian Norris – the national recorder who promptly identified the animal. I had a quick look on the NBN Gateway www.nbn.org.uk, which revealed that the slug is quite widespread in Ireland, whilst in the UK the M62 (Liverpool – Hull) corridor has many records and also along the M8 Glasgow to Edinburgh corridor. South of the M62, there are few records even in Wales, which has seaboard ferry links to Ireland. I would be interested to know how many people have it in their garden.

Also on Preston Road, just west of the Doctor's surgery under a hedge, I noticed a large patch of small-flowered buttercup *Ranunculus parviflorus*. This is a plant of neutral and calcareous soils, whose distribution is mainly south of the Humber – and Seven estuaries.

As you know the River Jordan runs alongside Brookmead Close. During the past 15 years, I have usually seen water vole and sea trout in the gully but these appear to have been absent for two years now or am I wrong? On the plus side, after a search using LED light, I have found an eel moving up stream. These critically endangered fish appear to have had a good run in 2014 with over 1.5 million seen in the River Parrott.

Small-flowered buttercup



Garden Bird Watch April 2014.

I have prepared the report with incomplete data, as I am awaiting a couple of returns. Forty species have been reported so far for April-early May. It was with some amusement that in a discussion about greenfinch declining in gardens recently that I was able to comment that in Sutton Poyntz, whilst never common, numbers are holding up, whilst referring to data we have built up since 2009. Once again reports on green woodpecker are holding up and elsewhere in Dorset on the Golden Cap estate, ten years ago it was quite a rarity, I hear it call on all my visits in 2014. Swallow and house martin seem quite scarce with people commenting, "Where are they?" We have not seen swifts resident in the area yet. Many people reported on successful breeding with house sparrows repeatedly returning to a nest with food in my garden.

In the second half of the month, unsettled weather and rain meant fewer moth trapping nights with muslin moth being of the few new ones for 2014. Orange tip butterflies have been quite common in the garden and I have seen a holly blue twice. My garden cowslips have done well flowering since early march and are just over, but still in good flower on the chalk grasslands in west Dorset. Bees and hoverflies have been scarce this month, which is bad news for those with fruit trees requiring pollination.

Twelve people attended the visit to the Waterworks wood, with ransoms in full flower, wild arum and just four spikes of early purple orchid in the usual place.



Wild Arum

GARDEN BioBlitz 31st MAY to 1st JUNE 2014

Join in the fun of the National Garden Bioblitz by recording the wildlife of your garden. How to do it? Visit www.gardenbioblitz.org



Ransoms

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April 27th -
May 3rd,
2014

	Wyndings	Valley Cottage	Spinneys	Springbank P L	2 old Bincombe Lan	11a Old Bincombe L 7 Old Bincombe & 9 Brookmead	8 Old Bincombe	17 Old Bincombe	19 Old Bincombe	86 Sutton Rd	Northdown Farm	St Brivels	55 sutton Road	Fox Cottage	The Cottage Puddle	2 The Puddledocks	3 The Puddledocks	Bellamy Cottage	Hillside	69 Sutton Road	79 Sutton Road	The Old Bakehouse	Total No of gardens	Maximum	Minimum	Meadian	
Barn Owl				1																				1	1	1	1
Blackbird	4		3	3		4	2	3		2	2	3	3	4		3	1		3	3	1	3		17	4	1	3
Blackcap																					1			1	1	1	1
Black-headed Gull						3																		1	3	3	3
Blue Tit	5		4	2		9	2	2		1	2	2		2		3	2		3	2	1	1		16	9	1	2
Brambling																								0	0	0	###
Bullfinch	2		2																	1				3	2	1	2
Buzzard	1			1			1									1				2		1		6	2	1	1
Carrion Crow	2		1	7		2	2						1			6			1	2	1	2		11	7	1	2
Chaffinch	6		2				1					4				1			4	3		1		8	6	1	2.5
Chiffchaff						1	2				1			6										4	6	1	1.5
Coal Tit	1																							1	1	1	1
Collared Dove	11		2			8	1	2	2		2	2	2			2	2				2	3	2	14	11	1	2
Common Pheasant	1							1			1													4	1	1	1
Cuckoo																								0	0	0	###
Dunnock	6		2			1	2			2		1	4	6		1			4	4	3			12	6	1	2.5
Fieldfare																								0	0	0	###
Goldcrest														1										1	1	1	1
Goldfinch	3					5	2					6		2		5			2	1				8	6	1	2.5
Great Tit	5		1	1		13	2	2	1		1	2	3	2		2	2		4	2		2		16	13	1	2
Gr. Sp. Woodpecker	1		1								1					1				1				5	1	1	1
Green Woodpecker	1			1			1				1			1		1	1		1	1				9	1	1	1
Greenfinch	4											1				1						2		4	4	1	1.5
Grey Wagtail						1																		1	1	1	1
Grey Heron				1																		1		3	1	1	1
Herring Gull				5		1	2	2	2			4				5					2	6		9	6	1	2
House Martin										2						1								2	2	1	1.5
House Sparrow	40			7		14	6	8	5		6	3	6	30		12			2	3	1			14	40	1	6
Jackdaw	2			9			4	4	1		6	4				3			6	2		4		11	9	1	4
Kestrel										1				1		1			1					4	1	1	1
Linnet																								0	0	0	###
Long-tailed Tit	2										2		1			2					2			5	2	1	2
Magpie	7		2	2		2	2			3		1		2		7	4		2	2				12	7	1	2
Mallard	2		2	5		2	3																	5	5	2	2
Mistle Thrush																								0	0	0	###
Moorhen																								0	0	0	###
Nuthatch																								0	0	0	###
Pied Wagtail				2				1																2	2	1	1.5
Redstart																								0	0	0	###
Redwing																								0	0	0	###
Robin	2		3	2		2	2	6		2		1	1	2		3	1		2	3				14	6	1	2
Rook	2			11		6	4	12	2		5	10				6	6				2			11	12	2	6
Siskin																								0	0	0	###
Song Thrush													1											1	1	1	1
Sparrowhawk														1										1	1	1	1
Starling						1	2	6	2		1					5	1			4	2			9	6	1	2
Stonechat																								0	0	0	###
Swallow				5						3	6			2		6								5	6	2	5
Swift																								0	0	0	###
Tawny Owl	1					1																		2	1	1	1
Treecreeper																								0	0	0	###
Whitethroat																								0	0	0	###
Willow Warbler																								0	0	0	###
Wood Pigeon	6		2	4		15	2	2	2		3	2	2	2		4	4		2	2	2	6		17	15	2	2
Wren	1									1				1		2								4	2	1	1
Yellowhammer	8		6				4																	3	8	4	6
	26	0	14	18	0	11	20	21	9	0	15	9	15	10	16	0	27	10	0	16	20	8	12	0	41		
Counts	41																						No of 0 re	15			
Total Records	##																										
Average	12																						Total no of gardens		18		