

High tide at the autumn equinox 23rd September



Autumn approaches

The Royal Horticultural Society have conducted a survey at RHS Wisley to determine the best planting mix with natives and non-natives in gardens to improve the potential for pollinators. The result published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology* suggests a mix of natives and near natives but with some exotics to extend the flowering season. Having for many years marvelled at the mix of bees and hoverflies pollinating Himalayan Balsam, the result does not surprise me.

With the latest edition of the *Garden*, is a leaflet drawing our attention to the demise of the hedgehog. I rarely see one alive in Dorset, please tell me if you see one dead (some north Yorkshire roads have many flattened hedgehogs) or alive. For more information on garden wildlife visit the website: wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk

We have continued moth trapping on suitable nights when rain is not forecast. We are entering the winter moths' season with species such as bearded chestnut, feathered ranunculus and lunar under-wing.



Friday 13th November 2015
Meet by the red telephone box at 1.45p.m for an autumn wildlife walk

GARDEN BIRD WATCH September 2015

Members have commented on how quiet the birds visiting their gardens have been, with scores averaging 13 birds. It was pleasing to see nuthatch recorded in two gardens again. Let us hope this bird is here to stay. Six people recorded hearing tawny owl. Owl numbers have dropped after the wet winters probably due to the lack of prey with only one wood mouse being recorded each night in mammal tracking sessions. Four people recorded grey wagtail, which we saw in the River Jordan at the start of our walk on 1st October. I have been delighted to see it feeding on my lawn twice. A number of people reported house martin mostly feeding up before migration. Barbara Harrison reported a large flock in the field behind her home on 1st October, whilst on our walk on the same day we saw a good number feeding on the parish boundary with Osmington.

At Northfield Farm, many of the grass fields have chicory still in flower. Goldfinches are finding the flowers attractive with Colin and Rita seeing over 100 birds below Wimslow Hill. On our walk we noted around 30 meadow pipets with Colin and Rita seeing around 70 on the Tumuli on Wimslow Hill the following day. As we entered the fields two green woodpeckers were attacking a cable post and a single skylark flew overhead.

In the water meadows, 3-4 reed bunting were present in the reed the following day.



Oak bush-cricket

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