



Himalayan Balsam

Pebble

Garden bird watch
21st - 27th August 2016
 Please send lists after 28th August 2016
 On 26th August @ 9.30am opening of overnight moth traps at 3 Brookmead Close – suitable for accompanied children.
 I will arrange for you to see autumn lady's tresses.

Nature Notes

Last month I commented on the biodiversity of the River Jordan at the junction of Sutton Road and Plaister's Lane. Since then, a single spike of false fox sedge *Carex otrubae* has grown over a meter tall. Normally here we see this plant at about 300mm in the water meadow to the north of the waterworks.

An Environment Agency team on Bridge Inn Lane earlier this week, caused me to stop and look what was happening there. It is a few years now since the flood defense works were completed and I was interested to see how overgrown the area has become. Pendulous sedge and buddleias predominate. On the south side of the bridge along Fisherbridge, there is a large area of Himalayan balsam, which if felled now would not be spreading seed down the water course. This was of course left with the main benefit being what a good plant it is for pollinating bees and hoverflies.

I was pleased to see river water crowfoot doing well in open areas along with branched bur-reed along Bridge Inn Lane, which is scarce here.

Many bumble bees are using garden lavender for pollination



GARDEN BIRD WATCH July 2016

We have had returns from 16 houses for the last week in July. July and August are traditionally the worst months for garden birds with plenty of food in the wider countryside. Thirteen people recorded green woodpecker, which really did not surprise me as I hear it most mornings calling as I walk round the village and must reflect the number of ants living in our gardens. Everybody reported house sparrow, with numbers slightly down on last year. Similarly everybody reported blackbird, which traditionally leaves gardens during August and September and all but one reported robin. There were seven reports of tawny owl calling reflecting open windows at night in the warm weather.

Both Wyndings and my garden reported slow worms again a red data species. Green-veined white has been to most active butterfly in my garden.

Jon Campbell did a Wessex Water bird survey around the waterworks bowl on 21st July. In the woodland area he reported the National Biodiversity priority species – a pair of bullfinch. There were good numbers of linnet, yellowhammer, whitethroat and skylark from the cut meadows. He also reported a single corn bunting perched on a telegraph pole. Gatekeeper butterflies were present in the hedgerows and

good numbers of marbled white and meadow brown during the survey.



Greater spotted wood pecker – Pat Dodge



Larvae of elephant hawk moth

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