



Water Speedwell

National Moth Night 9 -1 1<sup>th</sup> June

**Garden bird watch**

**24 – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Please send lists after 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016

Moth trapping in the water works 9.30 29<sup>th</sup> July

### Nature Notes

We tend to walk past the River Jordan noticing its place along Sutton Road, without particularly looking at its biodiversity unless noticing a grey wagtail.

Blue water speedwell is in flower at the moment. It is found alongside most of the main Dorset Rivers, but rarely in west Dorset. Stream water crowfoot is a plant of clean unpolluted chalk streams, especially the River Frome upstream of Wool. Chalk Rivers are of European importance, with Hampshire and Dorset being England's main places with a few places in east Yorkshire. Other interesting plants included: wild angelica (illustrated), hemlock water-dropwort a very poisonous plant, hemp agrimony, yellow flag iris, fool's water-cress, great hairy willow-herb and hemp agrimony.

Tutsan (a woody St John's-wort) and hart's-tongue fern are increasing, whilst smaller plants seen included scarlet pimpernel, herb Robert and the diminutive mind-your-own-business *Soleirolia soleirolii* growing on the damp walls; no doubt introduced from the nursery trade.

### GARDEN BIRD WATCH July 2016

We have had a quiet month for reporting garden birds this time. Janet did not send a list but reported breeding song thrush, robin and blackbird. This would have made 41 species from 13 gardens. Colin and Rita reported Swift, which are still seen over the Rectory at the end of Sutton Road. Ros Evans reported that two of the house martin nests had fallen off but amazingly, I have seen five sites by chance across Dorset this month for breeding house martin including two in West Lulworth.

Once again reports of slow worms have been received from two gardens and grass snake from Janet (see photo below). Both species are red data. Butterflies seem to be struggling this year. I hear of the occasional comma, plenty of green veined white, meadow brown, reduced numbers of marbled white on the chalk and reduced numbers of small heath. Gatekeepers or hedge brown are just starting but there are very few blue butterflies about. The numbers of moths recorded are quite low for July both here and on the Golden Cap estate, where my moth trap has been based most of the summer.

Frog on lily in garden pond © Pat Dodge



Wild Angelica

a pair of garden tiger on a green bin



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# Wildlife Photos from May - July 2016

Janet Craig and John Newbould have contributed photographs of a selection of interesting animals. The mullein moth, which is quite common could easily be confused with the larvae of striped lychnis, which generally feeds on dark mullein, but is now confined to Hampshire Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxford and west Sussex. The green beetle below is easily identified by its swollen thighs on its back legs and is not scarce. Grass snakes have been reported from Old Bincombe Lane in previous years.



Mullein moth caterpillar, which with its friends totally decimated the plant.



Grass snake, © Janet Craig



A beetle *Oedermera nobilis* © Janet Craig



Green silver lines with peppered moth

Colin and Rita have bought a new moth trap. It is a twin 20w Lucent, which has a low output blue light so as not to disturb neighbours. These are good value traps suitable for connecting to the mains for home use. John uses a twin 30w Skinner trap again with a blue light. Moth numbers have been poor this year with a number of cold nights caused by northeasterly winds. Never-the less, old favourites have turned up including poplar-hawk, elephant hawk-moth, privet hawk in at least four gardens and John had two eyed hawk moths on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Interesting *Geometridae* moths have included sharp-angled peacock, small seraphin, barred straw and scorched carpet. Some of the regular large noctuid moths such as large yellow under-wing, dark arches, heart and dart, which normally appear in large numbers have been quite scarce in 2016 whilst others such as bright-line brown-eye, which traditionally appear in small numbers are present with their usual numbers.

Weather permitting, we will have an open evening moth trapping at the waterworks on 29<sup>th</sup> of July.