



Nature Notes

With such variable weather, wildlife seems to have struggled a little this spring. Just before I started these notes I had an email from Colin reporting orange tip and small heath butterflies on West Hill where rock-rose, horseshoe vetch, common milkwort and germander speedwell are in flower. Bluebells are stunning in west Dorset hedgerows and woods

Colin and Dave have put out small mammal traps in the waterworks field yielding wood mouse, common shrew and bank vole from 12 traps on each of three nights with thanks to the Wildlife Trust for their loan. We have the temporary use of two Ananbat Express meters, which have yielded traces of common pipistrelle and serotine bats in the southern part of the village.

We have had reports from members of house martins at St Andrew's Church and on Sutton Close whilst Jon and Sue Campbell and I have seen small numbers of swift over the village.

Moth trapping is patchy depending on night time temperatures, with late spring species such as brimstone and heart and dart.

Monthly walk will be emailed out

Garden bird watch

22 – 28th May 2016

Use the summer list – watch out for swifts

Please send lists after 1st June

GARDEN BIRD WATCH May 2016

I have received returns this month from 15 houses with just shy of 300 records of 41 species. The most impressive is how the yellowhammer from West Hill have started to visit gardens around Wyndings who provide bird seed. Six members reported starlings with one person reporting their breeding and they certainly have visited my lawn in early morning feeding on grubs competing with blackbirds, house sparrow, great tits and even a pair of goldfinch. Four members reported song thrush whilst seven people reported green woodpecker, which takes advantage of the prevalence of ants around our gardens. Once again people are reporting that rooks are acting like thugs around bird feeders again.

Dot Emblem reported slow-worms from her garden. Look under stones in a warm sunny spot. She also reported a few Brimstone butterflies, whilst I mainly have seen small white in my garden. I have also noticed quite a lot of thale cress, not only in my garden but elsewhere in waste places when I would have expected shepherd's purse. Colin also reported a single holly blue from by the pond. Yellow flag iris (illustrated) is out by Bellamy Cottage and in the pond.



Sparrowhawk © Dave Emery



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