



Recent sunrise 6.45am

## Garden bird watch

24-30<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Please send lists after 1<sup>st</sup> October

In putting together this newsletter, I welcome photographs of interesting plant and animals and other aspects of the countryside around Sutton Poyntz

### VILLAGE WILDLIFE August – September 2017

We have received garden bird lists from 14 houses this month with many regulars on holiday. There is some good information here helping towards the village plan. A new cat on Old Bincombe Lane has brought devastation to one member's garden bird population, which she has carefully looked after over many years. Highlights include red listed grey wagtail in four gardens and seen along the Jordan. No yellowhammer or bullfinch often reported from the top of Plaisters Lane probably due to good hedgerow feeding. Blackbird numbers often dip by half in late August but although not seen as often numbers have held up. No song thrush but two in the waterworks area.

In the wider countryside, spotted flycatchers have been seen twice on the Osmington Drove, and in fields near our boundary in White Horse Farm and in August in the northern Waterworks wood. Also on the Osmington Drove, two redstart, whinchat and four wheatear.

On warm days there have been plenty of migrant hawkers dragonflies about and the occasional golden-ringed dragonfly. There are plenty of red admiral butterflies about, especially as ivy is just starting to flower. Nobody has reported clouded yellow, although I have seen records from the coast in the last few days. A good number of Adonis blue were seen above the reservoir, on Wimslow Hill and from Osmington Drove. Moth trapping has been interesting with all the night-time heavy rain, but Pat Dodge sent the photograph of angle-shades from her garden. (see: picture right). Dorothy Emblem reported six slow worms and an adder from under corrugated sheet at Wyndings.

In the wider countryside, some ash appear sick but are showing no symptoms of ash die-back and many have no fruit.

## Village Plan

During August Colin Marsh has been busy writing up a summary survey of hedgerows in the village. Nationally there is no biodiversity statement, which just covers hedgerows but is now called boundaries, which can include walls and earth banks. The traditional hedgerows are important not just for the birds, insects, flowers and other wildlife associated with the hedges. Some work done in the last few years based on Dorset hedgerows and woods has compared the amount of woody species in the countryside in 2010 to the amount in the 1930s using advancing scanning of maps held at the County Museum and modern Ariel photography. They calculated that the CO<sub>2</sub> caused by modern agriculture is reduced to zero by the increased wood production. Walls are interesting with older brick walls built in the 1930s using lime mortar having a good range of ferns. Rusty back fern is found on the old limestone cement of some stonewalls. See below.



Puss Moth



Editor:

John Newbould  
01305 837384

Email:

Johna72newbou  
ld@yahoo.co.uk