



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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November 2017 Garden Bird Watch this month 26th November - 1st December



Sutton Poyntz Beacon 11th November 2018



St Andrews Church 11th November 2018.

November 11th 1918 -2018 Remembrance Sunday – *lest we forget*



Mistletoe *Viscum album* During the nearly twenty years of living in Sutton Poyntz, I have watched mistletoe come and go. Sometimes the host tree usually here apple dies but often trees have been lost due to development. However, probably thrushes seem to find the remaining bunches, eat the seed, which is sticky and clean their beaks on a nearby tree. Sometimes apple, but in this case poplar along the genal from Puddledock Lane to the Bridge Inn. False acacia and limes are also popular as hosts.

Moths

The mild weather since mid-October has meant that moth traps have been put out occasionally. Dave Emery sent me this picture of a Merveille du Jour. This moth feeds on ivy flowers of which there are plenty within 20m of his moth trap. Its larvae hide, by day, in crevices in the bark, feeding at night. Although mapped all over Britain, this is only the second time I have come across this moth.

We now have over 1250 moth records this year, which will be forwarded to Dorset Moth Group.



Merveille du Jour

Butterfly records have virtually dried up. During the last week in October, I recorded a red admiral. Watch out for ladybirds, they are hibernating for the winter. Again, during the last week in October, Colin visited Abbotsbury when there were thousands of Harlequin, hundreds of seven-spot and a few pine ladybirds on the walls of buildings on the main street.

Garden Birds.

I have received returns from 15 houses this month. With an average of 13 species per house and a total of 35 species all together. House sparrow seems to be maintaining numbers and the good thing is that as I walk round the Seven-acres estate, there are good numbers chattering away in front gardens. We have had no thrushes and it has been too mild for the winter thrush's redwing and fieldfare. Surprisingly only twelve gardens reported blackbird. Also, interestingly, there was no single species in every garden including robins. There was only one report of starlings, but I have occasionally seen decent flocks in the wider Dorset countryside. Watch out for flocks of chaffinches, which again I have seen occasionally whilst out. We had a few records of grey wagtail – a declining red data species. ,kkl

Small mammals

Colin has borrowed the DWT Longworth traps to do the autumn transects in the waterworks meadows. He reported five traps each night with wood mice but is concerned that there is no grassland management in the southern meadow. It would be difficult to mow with grazing being the only solution but there are access difficulties.

Freshwater invertebrate sampling



David Emery is proposing to start some freshwater invertebrate sampling with Jack. He invites any member who wishes to join in to contact him. Not only will there be 'pond' dipping but usually some microscope work.

Gadwall has been present in the pond from 15th November.