



## **Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News**



Editor: John Newbould 01305 837384 [Johna72newbould\[at\]yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk)

September 2018 Garden Bird Watch this month 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September

### BTO Tawny Owl Surveys

Jack has asked me to circulate these instructions from BTO. Instructions have just become available about the BTO Tawny Owl Calling Survey. The survey runs from 30<sup>th</sup> September until 31<sup>st</sup> March next year. With the south side of Sutton Poyntz in SY7083 and the north side in SY7084, we can add records to two squares.

It asks for participants to register the point where they want to listen from and then once a week for 26 weeks to listen out for owls for a period of twenty minutes. It's recognised that it's unlikely that one person can do it every week, but in our village situation if several people sign up, whilst they may all be listening out for the same owls, it's unlikely that it will at the same time and night plus it increases the probability that the full 26 weeks will be covered.

The full instructions are included

at [https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/tawny\\_owl\\_calling\\_survey\\_instructions\\_final.pdf](https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/tawny_owl_calling_survey_instructions_final.pdf)

### Garden Bird Watch.

August is always the worst month of the year to produce a report. Many members were away and just thirteen lists received. Katrina reported swallows and martins gathering for their migration but whilst out in West Dorset, I have felt that there were smaller numbers than usual. Jon reported seeing two redstarts on Coombe Valley Road as well as 30 martins over Old Bincombe Lane., whilst Colin reported six swifts over Puddledock Lane. Very few chiffchaffs reported. Have these birds taken a hit? Ten years ago, when we started the Biodiversity Group, I was fed up with hearing their song. Only two song thrush, no grey wagtail and a few starlings.

On the Wessex Water survey, Jon reported a single whinchat, yellowhammer, wheatear and a single meadow pipet.

For October, we will change to the winter list, although with current temperatures, I am not expecting much of interest.

### Butterflies

Again, on the Wessex Water survey, Jon reported eleven Adonis blue on West Hill. Small heath by the waterworks. There have been a small number of holly blue in the gardens around Brookmead Close but mainly the usual green-veined and small white.

## Moths –

My last Jersey Tigers were on 19<sup>th</sup> August and we are certainly now into the autumn moths with dusky thorn, small blood-vein, a lot of large yellow underwing moths and some migrants including L-album wainscot, two delicate moths new to me frosted orange and lunar underwing all on 17 September.



Small blood-vein



Autumn lady's-tresses

## Flowering Plants

I managed to check the lawn on Plaisters Lane for autumn lady's-tresses during the second week of September when I counted 28 flowering spikes against none last year. Results have been patchy on the sites I check, but the fields around Westhay Farm on the Golden Cap Estate have been exceptional this year.

## Small Mammals

In addition to grey squirrel seen in many places, a late evening drive along Plaisters Lane saw a badger scrambling up a bank to safety. Colin has had the short term use of a static bat meter and added Natterer's bat to the know serotine and common pipistrelle by the Puddledocks.