



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



Editor: John Newbould 01305 837384 Johna72newbould[at]yahoo.co.uk August 2018
Garden Bird Watch this month 19th -25th August 2018

Garden Bird Watch

We have had returns from 15 people with everybody commenting what a quiet month it has been. Dave Emery claimed that very few people could have had so few blackbirds in their garden as in his. In fact four people had four birds. I did research this with the British Trust for Ornithology in the past who from their garden bird watch figures put it down to the increase in food available in the wider countryside plus many birds are molting and restricting movement. Once again Pied Wagtail have done well appearing in seven gardens including mine until this week. Nuthatch is back in Dave's garden. Colin reported a barn owl by Came Wood at 4.45am on Friday 3rd whilst a neighbour on Cornhill Close reported a tawny owl sitting in the ash trees until midnight around the same time. Swifts reported from the waterworks area and by the Old Dairy on Puddledock Lane. Green woodpecker with young reported by three people.

The Wessex Water survey of their woodland and West Hill scrub reported linnets, yellowhammers, stonechat and whitethroat in the scrub.

Butterflies:

From Wyndings all three whites, brimstone newly emerged, comma, peacock, red admiral and common blue. In my garden small tortoiseshell, common blue and all three whites. There are very few painted ladies about in the wider countryside. The Wessex Water survey revealed two wall butterflies in the grassland at the top of the hill. This butterfly has been missing off my radar this year until the 8th August when we had four at Liscombe in East Devon.

With all the heat photographing butterflies has been hard. I managed this common blue around 10.00am whilst the sky was cloudy. Generally, this butterfly has been in quite good numbers during early August.



Common blue

Moths

Numbers have started declining since July, which I have always considered the peak month.



Gold Spot moth

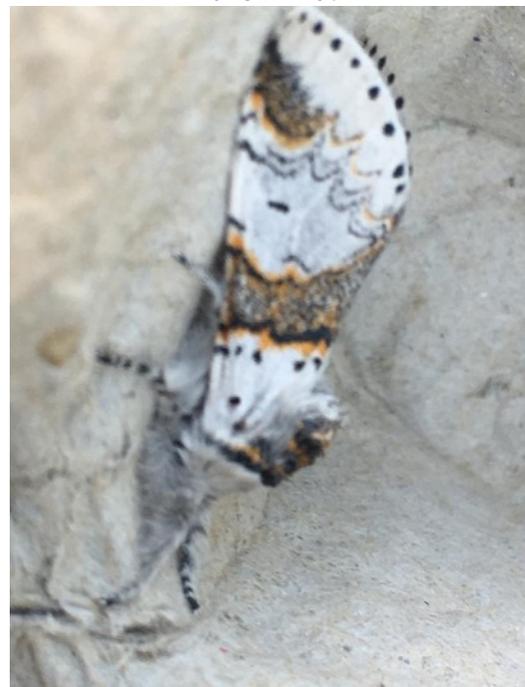


Mullein Moth

Colin and Rita together with John have run their moth traps on a number of nights over the past month. Jersey Tigers are still around and have been seen during the day. Dingy and common footman numbers peaked in mid-July and have since dropped. This month John has had sharp angle-peacock and for the first time this sallow kitten (see picture right), which also feeds on nearby aspen. The two moths above are from early August.

Autumn moths are starting to be recorded with Rita and Colin recording rosy rustic, square spot rustic, dusky thorn, lychnis and lesser broad-bordered yellow-underwing.

Generally, my garden is very dried out but bees are foraging well on lavender and a bush with red and white flowers I know as hot-lips.



Last year I was given this common evening primrose plant in a flower pot. It was 'dumped' by our kitchen door and forgotten about. Yet despite having full sun beating on it during the middle of the day, it has grown to about 1m with in the day the flowers withering and dying back setting seed.

I was quite surprised one hot evening when I went out at dusk to switch on the moth trap, to find the plant in full flower. The plant is seen occasionally in the village but prefers the sandy soils of the heaths.

