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## June 2018 Garden Bird Watch this month 24 – 30<sup>th</sup> June

### Garden Bird Watch.

We have had returns from 16 people this month recording 42 species from 273 records. Swifts seem to have been late coming with small flocks of between six to eight birds seen in a number of places with a potential for nesting. We noticed on the Waterworks buildings nest boxes for both swifts and swallows. There seems to be more house martins than swallows with the latter seen in only small numbers. There have been plenty of reports of successful broods of the common birds such as blue and great tits, house sparrows, blackbirds, magpies, woodpeckers, chaffinch and robins. Pied wagtails have appeared in good numbers with one visiting my garden on many days feeding on lawn grubs. Dorothy has been delighted to see a family of yellowhammers visiting her feeder with both mum and dad supervising their young.

### Emergent bat survey.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of June, four of us visited the Waterworks buildings to check on emergent bats. The score ended up being 15 common pipistrelle emerged from various places on the main pump areas and the Museum office. Colin recorded two distant passing serotine and two distant noctule bats somewhere over the fields. Common pipistrelle numbers were down on numbers recorded last summer. The following Friday we were back for National Moth Night. Rita and Colin recorded over 100 emerging from the Museum office.

### Butterflies and moths:



*Adonis blue butterfly John Newbould*



*Buff-tip moth John Newbould.*

Towards the end of May and the beginning of June, we made a number of sorties to the Waterworks bowl where good numbers of Adonis Blue were present somewhat later than

normal. There were also better numbers of small heath, meadow brown were just starting and small numbers of wall, green hairstreak and common blue were observed. Although, a recorder from outside the area commented that numbers today are poor with present management.



The grass bank above the path has benefited from winter trampling by walkers.



Rockrose, mouse-eared hawkweed and horseshoe vetch all important plants in the chalk grassland.

Later in June, Colin and Rita noted a few Lulworth Skipper and small skipper on both West Hill and Wimslow Hill and by 12<sup>th</sup> June with many more meadow brown.

### National Moth Night

This event ran three nights 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> June. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, we were at Hardy's Cottage with a Skinner trap, a Lucent trap and a six-watt Heath trap. We made 18 records of 17 species with green arches, heath rivulet and Brussel's lace being of interest. The public always like to see and handle buff-tip.



Buff tip moth



Mullein moth – rarely seen but larvae are common enough on mullein.

In Sutton Poyntz on Friday night, Dave, Rita and Colin and John ran moth traps at home, whilst we also ran a 160w light in the waterworks plus leaving a six-watt Heath trap overnight in the meadow. At the waterworks we had a grassland moth the Drinker, small emerald and an ash tree feeder the coronet. John had. A good number of large elephant hawk-moth and privet hawk-moths. Rita and Colin had the mullein moth, grey arches and mottled rustic all of which required consultation and discussion.