



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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October 2018 Garden Bird Watch this month 21st -27th October 2018

Garden Bird Watch:

August and September are always the quietest months for garden birds and this September is no exception with the 13 people who responded averaging 15 species per garden. Walking around the village and surrounds it seems to me that house sparrow has had a good year in our gardens with really good numbers in some places such as the end of Verlands Road in the bramble on Sutton Road, Seven Acres hedges, Wyndings on Plaisters Lane, just off Mission Hall Lane and by the farm on Puddledock Lane. However good news for one species is bad news for thrushes with not a single thrust notified. Three people notified tawny owl, which could be added to the BTO survey (see instructions attached). There were good numbers of pied wagtail with a single seen associated with the streams of Sutton Road. Ros did not submit a return but emailed to say that martins and swallows were feeding up in the fields behind her house on the 26th September prior to departure.

Butterflies

Towards the end of September, butterfly numbers started to drop. No whites in my garden but an occasional comma. In the wider countryside and in Dorothy's garden small heath, red admiral, which have been scarce this year, small copper but no clouded yellow despite the winds. Speckled wood was seen in the waterworks area. During September, I had a few holly blues in the garden as well.



Photo Red Admiral.

Wider Countryside:

Rita and Colin have set the Longworth traps loaned by DWT in the waterworks meadow and on a damp night 14th October had two wood mice. John saw a juvenile red fox at 8.45am on Plaisters Lane on 12th October. Sea trout has been seen near Brookmead in the River Jordan.

Jon has undertaken a Wessex Water bird count with over thirty linnets at one location on West Hill with forty swallows feeding up in the waterworks bowl. Two yellowhammers and a sparrow hawk were seen at the same location.

Rita and Colin reported that flowering plants on the chalk grassland were 'burnt out' with just a few small scabious, devil's bit scabious by the waterworks railings and greater knapweed.

Moth trapping

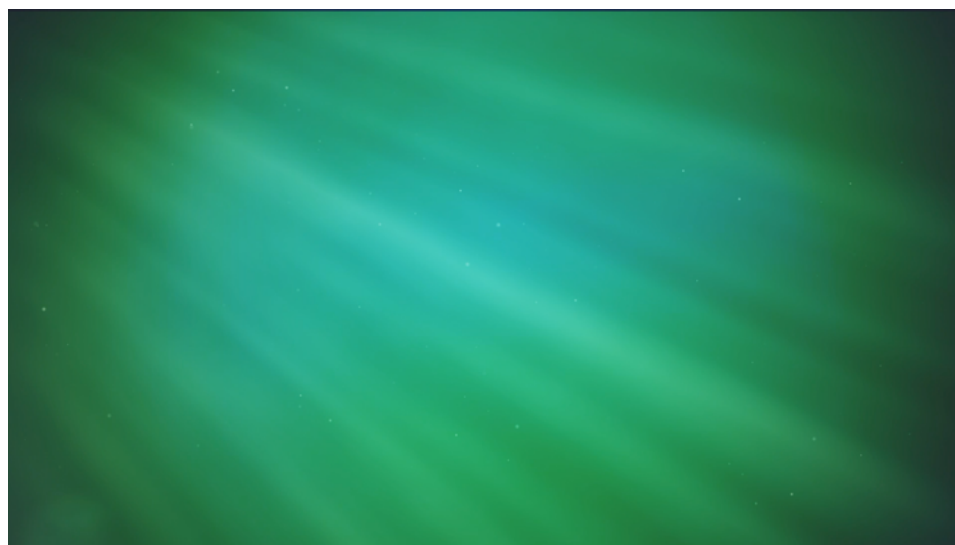


Black Rustic John Newbould



Red lined Quaker – Sue Campbell.

Sue and Jon, Rita and Colin and John N have continued moth trapping during October producing good numbers on warm damp nights. Although the big numbers of moths this year have mainly been lesser yellow underwing and lunar underwing, we have had both red lined and yellow lined Quaker, chestnut, bearded chestnut, black rustic and feathered ranunculus. All our Sutton Poyntz data is now in Excel with over 1,150 records. Sue and Jon have improved their moth trap this year leading to 350 records, which took me a day to enter.



The National Trust South West Region has issued a video, which we have been asked to share highlighting the importance of nature to the well being of our community. This is the link if you wish to see it.

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