



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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August 2019 Garden Bird Watch this month 25th – 31st August 2019

Or if away one week either side.

Garden Bird Watch

I have received returns covering 14 gardens for July, which is always a bad month with adult birds taking cover whilst moulting and juvenile birds having fledged. The wet weather has also been against nature watchers with reductions in the number of butterflies seen – mostly green-veined white, small white and the migrant painted lady. Colin has reported small numbers of red admiral. I have not managed to walk on the hill to check for Adonis blue mainly due to suitable days being tied up with other activities.

Around four people reported swifts but these seemed to disappear on migration in early August. Similarly, house martins and swallows with four people reporting numbers into the teens, which is quite good. These are still around with swallows seen towards Osmington in the middle of August and I have seen house martin elsewhere in Dorset. One bird, which has appeared in larger numbers in many gardens is the blackbird with one person reporting five and five people reporting four when usually it is one s or twos. Green woodpecker appears to be thriving seen by twelve people suggesting good feeding of ants.

A rare stonechat in a Plaisters Lane garden. Five people reported tawny owl, which I can no longer hear, three people reported starling and pied wagtail featured regularly but only one grey wagtail, which is in trouble nationally. Fox Cottage still holds the monopoly on Nuthatch.



We have not done much moth trapping this month, but Rita caught the red underwing seen left on a wall and saved it for me to photograph quickly before it flew off. Many people have seen Jersey tiger on the right> otherwise the traps have shown little of interest. I always like to see rosy footman in a period when it is possible to see four or five species of foot-men. Dusky sallow is another nice moth indicating autumn is approaching.

Last month, I commented on seeing two flowers scarce in Dorset in different places viz sainfoin and corn parsley. The former liking chalk and the latter the alkaline clay soils of the hedgerows of the camping fields. I was amazed, whilst walking on Mission Hall Lane to see the pair growing from a crack in the bottom of a wall together.

