



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News

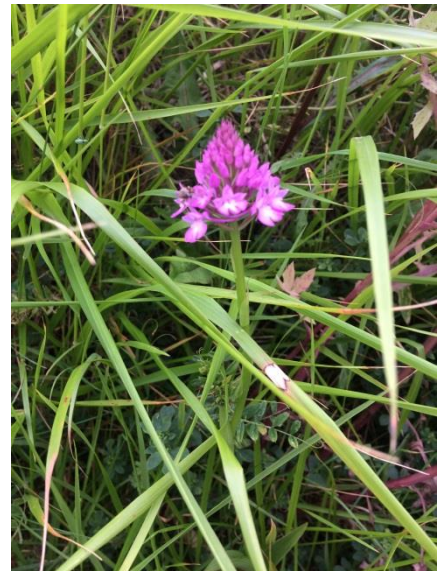


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July 2019 Garden Bird Watch this month 21st -27th July



Common lizard on Puddledock lane



Pyramidal orchid

We had a disappointing number of bird records sheets with just twelve this month with an average of seventeen species. However, there has been some interesting happenings about. Last Sunday, I walked round the block and due to my present poor walking rested up on the Mission Hall bench. Looking up, one of the tall houses on Mission Hall lane supported a really small house martin's nest with the occasional martin visiting, although around ten birds were feeding up in the area. The following day, I showed Colin the same and whilst walking his neighbour's dog he kept an eye on the same. By Wednesday evening, he counted around twenty martins feeding up with the occasional visit to the nest. It looked as though this could be the start of a migration back to Africa.

Chris on Puddledock Lane showed Colin, the photograph on the left. This turned out to be a common lizard, which is a rarity in Sutton Poyntz.

Earlier Ros, who seems to walk everywhere drew my attention to the solitary pyramidal orchid growing about 20m north of the last house on Plaisters Lane. For many days, I took great delight in slowing the traffic up, whilst I checked nobody had picked it. So, what happens? The Council who had diligently left the verge uncut all summer with superb displays of bird's-foot trefoil and horseshoe vetch organised a contractor to cut the verge. It

is always the orchids they knock down. Still it has a tuber and I look forward to seeing if it flowers again in 2020.



Today, Dot emailed through this picture of peacock butterfly caterpillars on nettles. Always a delight to see as the butterflies have not been all that common this year.

I cannot walk very far and only go into the wider countryside with a companion as I would struggle to get up if I fell. Plenty of meadow brown around brambles, marbled white are not seen as often as last year, ringlet appear to be scarce. There were a few gatekeepers around bramble earlier this week as well as large skipper. We have not seen any Lulworth skippers yet this year. There are quite a few green veined white around and occasional small white.

Painted ladies have made an occasional brief appearance but red admirals are quite scarce.

Moth trapping is continuing occasionally. I am afraid, I have done little this summer as I take some getting my hands moving in a morning. We are entering the late summer season with species such as uncertain, willow beauty and phoenix. Kent black arches is a Nationally notable B immigrant moth recorded on the south east coast mainly associated with bramble, which turned up on the 5th July in Rita and Colin's trap. I have seen a humming bird hawk-moth in my garden whilst privet hawks have turned up in the traps.

Fox and cubs *Pilosella aurantiaca* is an orange member of the daisy family. It spreads both by seed and stolon and appears to be at the side of the pond from a neighbour's garden. The plant on the left is square-stemmed St John's-wort. Elsewhere, Sainfoin – a plant of chalk grassland is rarely found in Dorset in flower at the north end of Millennium walk. Corn parsley is another Dorset rarity found on calcareous clay soils in the coastal belt and is in flower on the west hedgerow of the camping field.

