



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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July 2020 Garden Bird Watch this month 26th July – 1st August

From Dot

I have had an amazing month for young birds this week two young bullfinches with all four come in together and take over two feeders with the sunflower hearts causing a queue of various tits and greenfinches impatiently waiting nearby - great fun watching them. Two young greater woodpeckers still come for fat balls, but I have only seen one young green woodpecker out, being taught how to peck for ants on the lawn. The long-tailed tits come in as a family young little balls of feathers some really white.

Not many butterflies yet and too windy I suspect just still meadow browns. large white, one peacock, first three marbled white on 23rd June, a scarlet tiger, a humming-bird hawk moth and first ringlet. Badgers, fox, and rabbits still busy and skylarks on the hill.

The field by Rimbrow sounds wonderful I used to walk that area a lot as a child and teenager and never in those days found any orchids they were all higher up on the hill behind us but sadly no longer. Needless to say, shortly after our visit, Colin reported sheep were busy eating all before them.

From Ros



Such an interesting month but all quieting down now apart from the thousands of butterflies. There have been clouds of meadow browns especially in the long grass of the camping fields and on the brambles beside the path down the edge of the main camping field. I have walked through clouds of meadow browns at times but just haven't managed to capture the sight in a photograph but did manage a single one (see above). Lots of marbled whites over a couple of days, especially around the reservoir springhead. The swifts were a thrill as was the comma (See above) in my garden.

Garden Birds

We have received reports from eleven people. After ten years of these surveys some results are predictable such as the houses at the top of Plaisters Lane reporting yellowhammer. What is really good, after what I perceived to be a decline in the number of records is that six people reported swifts and I regularly saw them in the early morning over the stables on Puddledock Lane. We have also had some good numbers of starlings. Nine reports of swallow and eight of house martins is quite amazing as there has been little opportunity for mud for nest building. There have been no reports of owls and grey wagtail.

Dave recommends everybody goes on Google and types Nuthatch call as he considers the bird is well under recorded.

Jon's Wessex Water bird list for June was quite promising with yellowhammer, stonechat linnet, skylarks (again over by Rimbrow Copse by Rita and Colin), meadow pipet and corn bunting. He also noted. a pair of Lulworth skippers, peacock and small heath.

Bats – Colin.

We have had a full spectrum bat meter continuous recording night time bats in the centre of the village. Further report for the period 4th to 17th July

Despite extremely low levels of **Common pipistrelle** activity on 4th and 5th activity levels were very high for the rest of the period and although moderating after several hours generally continued until dawn. First detection from 15 to 25 minutes after sunset each night with intense feeding activity and final detection 15 to 25 minutes before sunrise. The times of emergence and return along with the frequent intense activity in the hour before sunrise (indicating dawn swarming) suggest a roost in the immediate vicinity.

Multiple transits of **Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*** each night from 25 minutes after sunset although often much later. The signal pattern indicates transitory flight from a more distant roost. Brief single transits of **Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pymaeus*** on two nights.

Very clear and significant signal of **Nathusius pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*** on 5th some 15 minutes after sunset and 9th some 3 hours before sunrise.

Single brief transit of **Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*** on 16th around 25 minutes after sunset. Single transit of probable **Leislars *Nyctalus leisleri*** two hours before sunrise on 9th. This has to be treated with caution although all data aligns to suggest this except the peak frequency is marginally high. The only other possibility is Serotine which call shape, duration and other data does not support.

Occasional trace of *Myotis sp.*, almost certain Natterers on the 9th. Colin considers these results significant and compare favourably with some of the best recording sites we have undertaken for the National Trust in West Dorset.

Flowering plants:



We are now in the silly season in the garden where there is mainly petty spurge, requiring daily patrols and groundsel. However, I was please to see the above musk mallow *Malva moschata* by Fisherbridge on Bridge Inn. Lane. There is also an impressive display of evening primrose on Miller's Close to attract the night time moths and other insects.