



## Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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### June 2020 Garden Bird Watch this month 21<sup>st</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### Bat Report;



On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, Colin, Rita and John made the first of our two annual visits to the Sutton Poyntz Waterworks Museum office to undertake our annual common pipistrelle bat emergence survey.

The waterworks is presently coming towards the end of a major improvement project involving amongst other things Ultra-violet filtration to improve the water quality. This has meant that all the internal road surfaces have been ripped up to allow new inspection hatches to be installed. Colin contacted the site operations manager, who arranged fencing to provide a safe area for the three volunteers.

The count both visual and with a spare Anabat was **83 common pipistrelle** emerged mostly flying eastwards towards Osmington with a few flying south over the village. We wish to thank Wessex Water for their co-operation.

In addition, the two meters we have deployed in the village highlighted two good records: **Greater horseshoe bat** was logged by the meter at the north end of the waterworks wood, whilst a rare **barbastelle** was recorded at the other meter located in a garden in the middle of the village.

Further report for the period 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June with the meter located in the north west corner

**Common pipistrelle** activity was evident each night at moderate and occasionally high levels. First detection was 5 to 25 minutes after sunset followed by continued presence for between one and four hours and final detection 25 minutes before sunrise. Levels of activity consistent with dawn swarming on 3<sup>rd</sup> June only.

**Myotis nattereri (Natterers)** were present on five nights from 32 minutes after sunset for several hours although at reduced levels than for the previous period except for intense activity for ten minutes after emergence (32 minutes after sunset) on 8th June.

## RIMBROW – Sutton Poyntz. SY6983

Situated to the south of the ridge between Coombe Valley Road and Sutton Poyntz is a large south facing grass field. There is a footpath along the southern boundary leading to Chalbury Hillfort. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, Rita and Colin were walking their neighbour's dog along the footpath when they noticed animal activity in the adjacent field and rather than have to vigorously control their charge, they diverted along the northern hedgerow towards Rimbrow Coppice. First of all they found grass vetchling *Lathyrus nissola*; then a patch of yellow vetchling *L. alphaca*. The leaves of this plant surround the stem. Nearby a few bee orchids and pyramidal orchids and lastly common broomrape *Orobanche minor* by the hill fort wall.



*Pyramidal orchid*

*Bee Orchid*

*Common Broomrape*

This is a large field for two people to survey adequately so two days later my wife and I met up with Rita and Colin to explore this field. A lot more ground was covered especially on the ridge and even so we considered that 100 pyramidal orchids and a similar number of bee orchids was a minimum. In addition, a small area of hairy vetch *Vicia hirsuta*, large patches of horseshoe vetch with smaller areas of bird's-foot trefoil and mouse-eared hawkweed. I also found corky-fruited water drop-wort. There were many small heath butterflies, a first marbled white on 10<sup>th</sup> June and Colin recorded a single late Adonis blue. There were also good numbers of meadow browns. Up to 12 Skylark were singing overhead with many stonechat in the hedgerows.



*Yellow. Vetchling*

*Grass vetchling.*

In the hedgerows, the April/May flowering cow parsley has been replaced by rough chervil *Chaerophyllum temulum*. The pink blackberry like flower is dewberry, which is attracting many pollinators on sunny days.

## Our gardens

Dot from Wyndings reports four great-spotted woodpeckers, two of which are young with the red flash on their crown, feeding. Also, she saw two bullfinches feeding regularly until the last few days when he is coming alone so she must be sitting on a nest. Sunflower hearts have tempted them back this year. I have seen a few butterflies only on the hot day's: meadow brown, large skipper, large whites, small heath, brimstone still, peacock, speckled wood in shady areas No more adders just about four slowworms under a corrugated sheet. We have the usual fox and rabbits but only two badgers this year no young ones yet.

Ros reports that the house martins are feverishly nesting or attempting to nest in almost all the eaves in the Close with the resultant dramatic aerial displays. A couple took exception to me and my dog sitting underneath where they were, way up in the apex outside on the same wall as my kitchen door, and dive bombed my dog. That behaviour took me right back to my youth when one of our farm cats caught a house martin and they never forgot, dive bombing him year after year.

There are lots of stonechats in the bushes around the hillsides. I have had baby blackbirds, wrens, house sparrows and blue tits in the garden and a lizard in my guttering. Also, a dead slow worm in the road at the top of Plaisters Lane. Cuckoo in beach at Wyndings on 14<sup>th</sup> June The grey wagtail is still seen occasionally in the waterworks entrance.

Bird reports from fourteen gardens this month with all reporting blackbirds, house sparrows and wood pigeons. Dave reported willow warbler – (hard to separate from chiffchaff). Only two people reported song thrush and amazingly only two reported chiffchaff. This bird, when we started the biodiversity group, was everywhere. Goldfinch are following the national trend and seen by many people. However, I do believe more are reporting greenfinch and many are reporting chaffinch despite a national decline due to virus.

### **Moth trapping:**

Four people are moth trapping on suitable nights. Species numbers have increased in recent days with 23 species in my trap on the tenth of June. There are large numbers of heart and dart with up to 40 in my trap on some nights. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, there was quite a lot of rain when I was pleased to find two Cream-bordered Green Pea – a Nationally Scarce moth associated with willows Also. of note was clay triple-lines, white point, brown rustic and Figure of Eighty, (below left) associated with nearby aspen and poplars. Another unusual species was gold spot. (below right).

