



## Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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### August 2020 Garden Bird Watch this month 27<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October



Towards the end of August, I visited the house on Plaisters Lane where **autumn lady's-tresses** grow in the front lawn. They were still thriving but not looking as well as in the photograph. With just 12 flowering spikes. The best we have seen over the years has been 47, but this year, the dry April to June period provide too little water for the rhizomes to develop into flowering shoots. When the flowers finish, a rosette of leaves forms to provide the food for next year's flowers.

We all receive various animal visitors into our gardens. This month, whilst tidying the garden, I moved a stone to find a slow-worm.

Later, I decided the greenhouse was a mess (still is at the time of writing). Over the years, plant pots had been parked up pending further use (not happened yet) when I found one full of these nuts.

What are the nuts? Clearly not hazel. Rita decided they were from a *Prunus* tree, which Liz decided was next door's ornamental cherry.

The final question was to identify what had been feeding on them. Fortunately, the Field Studies Council has an excellent chart to identify, which animal has chewed nuts. Colin decided it was wood mouse.

Common enough.



**Butterflies:** Mostly whites but at the end of August Dot has red admiral, peacock and three small copper.

## Sutton Poyntz moths – Rita and Colin, Sue and Jon and John N.



*Black rustic – Sue*



*L-album wainscot John*

Rita and Colin have moth trapped every night. With large wainscot (twice), light emerald, burnished brass, barred fallow and engrailed. Sue and Jon just overnight Sunday/Monday whilst John has only done three nights in quite strong windy conditions with the egg cartons scattered about. Never-the-less, John had two brown-spot pinions, a late shuttle-shaped dart, white point (twice), double square spot and the beautifully marked L-album wainscot above. Sue and Jon had the black rustic and a start of the forecast lunar underwing increased numbers as well as angle shades.

Humming bird hawk-moth was reported by Dave E, Dot and John in their gardens and Dot had a last Jersey Tiger around August 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Sutton Poyntz Birds:

Sue and Jon did their August Wessex Water walks on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were good numbers of second-generation stonechats and blackcaps feeding on elder berries. Linnets had started to disperse. Whitethroat and willow warblers were feeding together on bramble and elder at the top of the hill and a single kestrel. He also saw two spotted flycatcher, yellowhammer two bullfinch and three yellow wagtails. The latter are summer migrants returning to Africa after breeding in places like the Yorkshire Dales. Here, they often seen on the coast with cattle.

We had returns from 13 gardens, although your list only shows 12. I could not have saved the file with one paper entry, for which I apologise. Later August is always a quiet month with many birds moulting. A recent BTO report suggests that in their massive garden bird watch programme, song thrust drops to 3% of records, where as peak season it becomes 13% of records and unusually you recorded none. We are seeing the last of the swallow and house martins, which all seem to have gone back to Africa. Caroline sent an email to say she had seen a juvenile grey wagtail but did not send a list.