

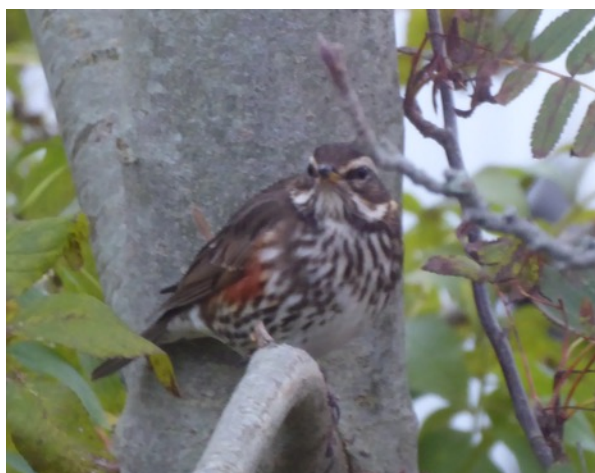


Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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November 2021 Garden Bird Watch this month 21st – 28th November 2021



Redwing on Old Bincombe Lane Sue



Chaffinch - John

Garden Bird Watch:

Returns from twelve gardens with 43 species seen. Highlights include two people reporting mistle thrush, but no song thrush. Last week redwings started to appear with a handful at Lodmoor and the Golden Cap estate and excitingly one feeding on a rowan outside Sue and Jon's window on Old Bincombe Lane. BTO report that fieldfare were two weeks later than usual coming into the north of England. There have been some reasonable flocks of starlings about with 200 on Sutton Road on the 3th November and a number in the ash trees on Puddledock lane earlier in the month as well as Sutton Court Lawns. Grey wagtail is still about with five reports. There was a single siskin feeding with chaffinch at Wyndings on the 4th. Canada geese are still migrating east from lodmoor but numbers seem to be smaller with 100 flying over the village on the 16th.

In October, Rita and Colin reported remarkable numbers of wood mouse in the waterworks fields. I would have expected this to have related to more reports of owls, but just one barn owl and two tawny owls from dot at Wyndings and one tawny owl from Northdown Farm. My hearing has gone, but I must try and listen with the hearing aids on when it is dark.

Jon reported yellowhammers from the Ridgeway on the Wessex Water survey and a few stonechat including a recent fledgling, but best of all a small party of golden plover flew in off the sea.



Butterflies and moths:

Penny, our new neighbour on Brookmead reported a red admiral and a small tortoiseshell in their walled garden on 1st November.

The picture on the left is the underside of harts-tongue fern. Common enough you will say, However, one of my colleagues in the National Trust showed me this larval frass from a micro-moth *Psychoides filiciivora*. The photograph was taken by the bridge at the south end of the pond.

Grassland Fungi

It has been a great autumn for waxcap fungi and their allies. Rita and Colin recently explored the field around the Chalbury Reservoir finding an earthtongue, and four waxcap species namely, snowy, golden, cedarwood and scarlet. These fungi are scored by what is known as CHEGD scores, which equals five making the area locally important.

I photographed this cedarwood in a garden on Brunel Drive. However, woodland fungi have been scarce.



Our gardens

Lastly it would be remiss not to comment about the mild autumn so far after a particularly wet, cold and blustery May. It is not often we see bedding plants in November and roses of this quality, not damaged by wind and rain.

