



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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September 2021 Garden Bird Watch this month 26th September – 2nd October

Autumn Mornings



From the footpath in Sutton Poyntz both @7.15am



From Church Road on the way to Bowleeze

Autumn is definitely approaching. Leaves are falling off the trees. We are having the early morning mists until the sunshine burns it off. Butterfly numbers have dropped except for red admirals, which later in the day are chasing pollen on the few flowers left on buddleia. There are the last generation of comma butterflies doing well but others such as meadow brown and common blues; we are seeing the last stragglers. Both small whites and green veined whites are doing well amongst the gardens. Lavender seems to have stopped producing pollen and honey bees are now chasing the purple flowered sedums. Ivy is just starting to flower providing late pollen for various bees such as the ivy-bee and hoverflies. Dorothy had up to 30 red admirals on the 7th plus small tortoiseshell, brimstone, painted ladies and a few peacocks.



Red Admiral.



Comma

We have succeeded so far in doing a standard Butterfly Conservation Pollard walk for 24 weeks with just two weeks to go. Thanks to Sue and Jon, Penny and Mike, Rita and Colin and John walking from Wyndings to the Beacon, down to the Waterworks, the along both the west and north sides round to Northdown Farm and back in the village. The results are attached to this week.

Garden Birds

This is one of our quietest months as most birds moult, so as you will see from our lists numbers are well down on usual. Thank you everybody who sent a list in. It was good to see two people record song thrush, one report of grey wagtail (I also saw one fly past Bellamy Cottage last week). Caroline and John saw a common redstart from their new garden summer house, which we rarely see. House Martins and swallows were still around, with the latter assembling on phone wires. I can no longer hear well enough but three people heard tawny owls.

The Canada Geese are flying into the farmed fields east of us at dawn, whilst I noticed two or three parties returning to Lodmoor at around 10.15am last Wednesday.

Small mammals:

Ros was walking in the meadow north of Margaret's Seat earlier in the month, where she saw a large brown hare. Badgers have been reported digging for worms in a garden along Puddledock Lane and on Old Bincombe Lane. I keep seeing grey squirrels all over both walking in Preston and in Sutton Poytnz.

We have been using an Anabat fixed point meter over open fields recently. Species recorded include common pipistrelle, occasional records of soprano pipistrelle, a single transit of serotine and a *Myotis* species either Natterer's or Bechsteins.

These, with the exception of common pipistrelle are biodiversity action plan species, which must be taken into account in planning decisions. Similarly brown hare is a BAP species.



Autumn Lady's – tresses

Sue and Jon reported a few from Bincombe Bumps late in August. I checked up at our garden site in the village during the first week in September, where this photograph was taken with 65 flowering spikes.

On our regular Golden Cap survey the best week was around 31st August where we recorded over 14,000 in eight fields. One week later they were going over. A very short season.

Moth Trapping:

We have moth trapped regularly during the period, except when over-night rain is forecast. However, with the shortage of electricity during the past week I have resisted as power is getting very expensive. Dusky thorn (right) is a regular autumn moth, along with canary shouldered thorn, rosy rustic many Vine's rustic feathered gothic, centre-barred sallow, red underwing in the catches of between 15 and 20 species each night.

