



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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August 2021 Garden Bird Watch this month 22nd to 28th August 2021
Garden Bird Watch



Green woodpecker

Janet Craig



Chiffchaff

Thank you Janet for these excellent photographs of your garden birds.

Ros Evans reported that house sparrows had taken over a house martin's nest but six martins have fledged. She is also finding bird corpses in her garden but no sign of a sparrow-hawk and wonders if cats have been busy. Ruth reported blackbirds breeding at Northdown Farm and swallows had fledged. Swifts were around Puddledock Lane at three locations and just off Verlands Road early in the morning in early August whilst Rita reported the last day for swifts was 7th August. Sue and Jon reported that in addition to their garden bird list they noted a red kite and a pair of ravens flying over.

We received lists from 15 gardens. Thank you for your support as July and August are traditionally lean months, whilst birds moult and grow new feathers for winter protection. Interestingly it is the area around Old Bincombe Lane and Brookmead that most of the starling records are from. The parent birds spent many hours taking insects from my lawn during the summer. No song thrush and only at Wyndings was yellowhammer seen. Good to see bullfinch at Fox Cottage and Wyndings as they favour fruit trees. Eight gardens reporting green woodpecker was great at just one sighting of grey wagtail.

The two cuckoo mentioned in the list was a typing error.

Butterflies and moths.

We have continued the Butterfly Pollard Walks with data attached for the round – the waterworks walk attached. The first part from Wyndings to the Beacon became somewhat

difficult due to over-grown hedges. There is no chance of the County footpaths people doing anything to help so Colin and John took some clippers and cleared the worst. The Sutton Poyntz Society may have to consider additional working parties in some places. Conversely, the farmer at Northdown Farm camping fields has cut all the bramble back on the east facing hedgerow. So in 2020, one day John counted well over 100 meadow browns between White Horse Lane and the gate out of the camping field, but in 2021 that number was less than ten.



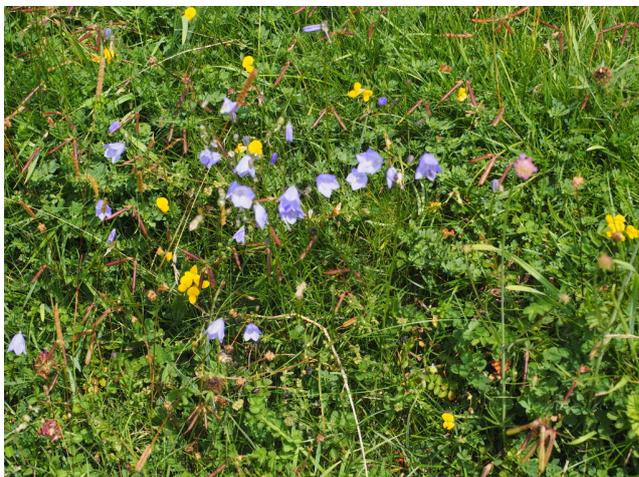
Female second generation Adonis blue



Small tortoiseshell on lavender

The indifferent weather in August has caused ti butterfly counts to seriously drop. We peaked at 394 individuals on the 10th of July to just 14 including the Adonis blue shown above on the 11th August. I suspect the second generation of the Adonis blue will be quite poor this year. On the few sunny periods whilst gardening, I was regularly treated to small tortoiseshell on my garden lavender. This seems to be an important pollinator plant.

There have been plenty of Jersey Tiger moths about. I have been seeing them most days. Rita and Colin have moth trapped regularly during the month as they have a light portable trap, whereas mine is a bulky plywood affair. On the 20th August, they showed me a yellow-barred brindle, which neither of us had seen before. More on their August moths next month.



Whilst doing the butterfly counts it was good to see harebells in the chalk grassland flowers round the waterworks. Sainfoin is doing well on the chalk and corn parsley is plentiful in the hedgerows of Northdown Farm. I rarely see these plants elsewhere in Dorset.

There have been a number of migrant hawker dragonflies about and a smaller number of golden-ringed dragonflies.