



## Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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June 2021 Garden Bird Watch this month 20-26<sup>th</sup> June 2021



### Garden Bird Watch May 2021

Dave sent this picture of a pair of bullfinches feeding on his garden feeder – amazingly five people reported this BAP Priority species, which is in decline due to orchards being grubbed out. We have lost a few here in Sutton Poyntz in the 20 or so years I have lived here. Of the forty species reported by twelve people five also reported greenfinch – a species likely to be added to Britain's red list later this year, together with house martin seen by three people. Five people reported swifts and six reported starlings, which I have been seeing daily searching for grubs in the lawn. Rita and Colin reported a nightingale singing from the dense blackthorn to the west of Church Road, Preston on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

### Butterflies and moths



The weather for moth trapping did not pick up much until 27<sup>th</sup> May and since then my trap has been out on 14 nights but the results have been quite poor at the side of 2020. Maybe the summer was so hot last year that the larvae did not do well, but butterfly numbers have been reasonable. The moth illustrated is a **figure of eighty**, which has been in both Rita and Colin's trap and John's. Five species of hawk-moth including what is rare for us lime hawk in both John and Dave's trap.

The butterfly walks have been done twice so far in June with Lulworth skipper starting its season seen on both the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Speckled wood usually mostly seen near Wyndings

have increased with 18 seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were also good numbers of small heath but first generation Adonis blues are over. We also have had the first small tortoiseshell of the season.

Illustrated below are two rarely recorded moths:



Alder moth in John's trap



Least black arches is a very small moth (Colin's)

### Wild animals

The most important national survey was the first of two for the Bat Conservation Trust's summer roost count, which Rita, Colin, Richard and John did at the Waterworks on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June, when we counted 79 common pipistrelle emerge. In addition, Rita and Colin reported a dead stoat, which had been attacked by another animal (possibly a fox) in a garden off Puddledock Lane, a badger dug a courgette plant up in John's garden on the 16<sup>th</sup> and Rita and Colin reported a slow-worm basking in the sun on the track up to Chalbury hillfort.

### Wild flowers



Hedgerow cranesbill *Geranium pusillum*

Common star of Bethlehem *Ornithogallum umbellatum*

Rarely seen hedgerow cranesbill near St Andrews shows at the corner of Puddledock Lane  
Common star-of Bethlehem sporadically shows at the corner of Puddledock Lane

On the next page: rosy garlic I have long known from Abbotsbury Hill but this year there is plenty all round Sutton Poyntz and Preston in gardens and roadside verges. Walking from Bowleeze in the meadow to the west of Waterside in May there were a number of plants of pale flax, along with goat's-beard. There are two plants of caper spurge growing from the Rectory wall on the Weir. I have only seen this plant before at Ranworth on the Norfolk

Broads. Italian arum appears occasionally in Dorset especially on Portland but here in the path alongside Wyndings and bladder campion, I first found years ago north of Margaret's Seat but here photographed to the north-west of the pond.



Rosy garlic *Alium roseum*

Pale Flax *Linum bienne*

Caper spurge *Euphorbia lathyris*



Italian arum *Arum italicum*

Bladder campion *Silene vulgaris*

The images have been compressed to keep the file size reasonable. If there is a good quality image you would like, please ask.

Please send results of Garden Bird Watch after the 29<sup>th</sup>.