



*Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity
Group Newsletter August 2023*

Next Garden Bird Watch 20th – 26th August 2023 - if away please do it before or after

The wet weather we have had since the end of June, has made life difficult for our pollinating insects with plants such as lavender attracting insect such as humming bird hawk-moths on a number of occasions and many bees.



Another plant, which seems to have attracted good numbers of bees, wasps and hoverflies is this Japanese spindle *Euonymus japonicus* especially in late July and early August. This evergreen bush confused me as I knew the flowers well but did not associate it, with the spindle we see occasionally in the wider countryside in hedgerows *Euonymus europaeus*. Google eye was quite helpful followed by checking the answer on the Royal Horticultural Society website. Interestingly buddleia has not attracted many butterflies this year. Photograph is a hoverfly *Myathropa florea*

Butterflies and moths

Generally, moth trapping here in Sutton Poyntz for the past two years has been grim. Many nights have had strong north-easterly winds which do not encourage moths towards our lights. However, this month has seen good numbers of Jersey tiger moths seen in the day, with this one conveniently nectaring on a buddleia. I have run my moth trap twice recently with nothing exciting to report. There have been very few grass land moths and hardly any common moths such as heart and dart. Our team of five has managed the butterfly walk round the waterworks with a good sighting of dark-green fritillary and Brown Argus, last week. There have been very few Adonis and common blues, but an occasional holly blue in my garden.



Garden Bird Watch:

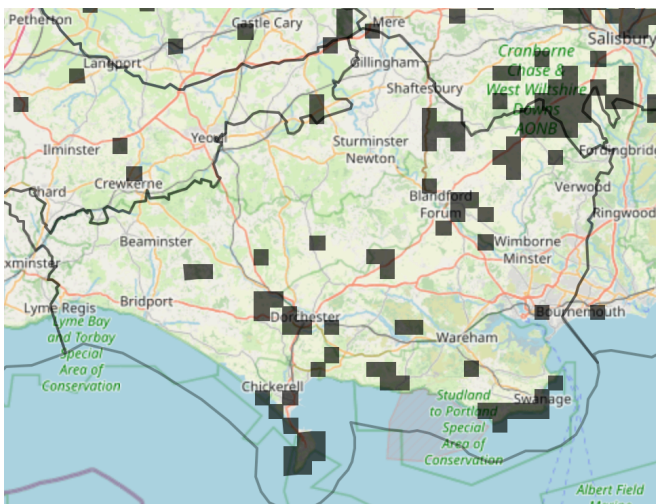
Many people have commented how quiet it is on the bird front. Yet from the 14 lists received you have seen 36 species. The grey wagtail was seen at the pond firstly in gravel then secondly by me last week sat on a stone. Those gardens with the highest score tend to have countryside adjacent, whilst those of us living in a more urban type environment do least well. Although on saying that, I was watch my back garden from our dining room window and at least 30 chaffinches flew across from west to east only turning when they came across the houses to the east, although a few did stop in our cherry tree for a few minutes. Ros still has nesting house martins with a few other reports of nesting birds such as wrens.

Generally walking round Sutton Poyntz and Preston early in a morning, I am not seeing many house sparrows. It really is difficult at this time of the year to assess how birds are doing as many are moulting and keep their heads down. On the 2nd August Jack, reported that there are no swifts

In the River Jordan

On 2nd August Geoff Hewlett reported European eel by Brookmead SY705830. Eels are classed as critically endangered so it is good to know they are still using the Jordan.

Wild Flowers



One plant, I do not see very often in Dorset, is sainfoin *Onobrychis viicifolia*. It is a miserable weedy looking plant easily seen by the wall on Mission Hall Lane. It was also seen in five out of the six lengths we do on the butterfly walk. A member of the pea family present on the chalk and as you can see from the dot map representing 2 x 2 km squares Portland and the coast near Swanage is a good place to look. Yet every year it does well here in Sutton Poyntz. Thank you to the BSBI on Line Atlas 2020 for the map. The plant is really so insignificant, I really should have used a macro-lens but again it is a good 450mm tall.