

## Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group News Newsletter

Please do garden bird watch w/c 28 August

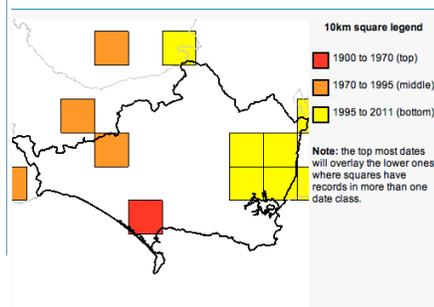


### Autumn Fruits

During one of the Monday wildlife walks, we walked from West Hill towards Wyndings. To my surprise, there were a couple of trees covered in the red cherries illustrated in the field hedgerow. Other autumn fruit doing well includes Sloes (for the Sloe Gin devotees) and apples (for Crab apple jelly fans). Why are autumn fruits so early. Well speculation; the very cold winter followed by a warm spring and the relatively wet July and August to swell the fruits. I wonder if we will welcome more migrant thrushes this autumn.

### Garden Wildlife

Last month, in addition to the bird list, I circulated a butterfly chart. Many members filled this in with some interesting finds ranging from a single Holly Blue, to 86 Gatekeepers at Wyndings. No Painted Ladies this year, but one butterfly, which is considered under threat – the Small Tortoiseshell featured in many of the lists. We had only 19 bird returns, but it appears that last of the Swifts disappeared around the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, but I saw one in Swaledale last weekend. There is an occasional Barn Owl calling along the Puddledocks.



© Janet Craig

Returning home from a weekend away, I was amazed to find this photograph of a **Lesser Stag Beetle** taken by Janet Craig in her garden on Old Bincombe Lane. The map below (courtesy of the NBN Gateway and DERC) shows just five post 1995 records in the County. Please check your log piles for this relatively scarce beetle. The lesser stag beetle is smaller than its larger cousin and grey-black in colour. The males do not have enlarged mandibles (pincers or antlers) as the stage beetle does and they are never larger than 30mm. The C-shaped larvae are very similar, though smaller than those of the stag beetle and tend to be found in decaying wood, which is dryer and above the soil level. (From Natural History Museum and NBN gateway)

Wildlife Walks – Mondays from Fox Cottage near the Mission Hall at 9.30am. All welcome.

Newsletter – John Newbould who welcomes your notes and pictures 01305 837384

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