

June 2012

SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP NEWSLETTER



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

Bird's-foot Trefoil.

GARDEN BIRD WATCH

Early in May, I had a short break on the Scilly Islands based on St Mary's. Whilst there, we were walking around dusk near the Anglican Church when I noticed a bird watcher. Ever keen to use other people's knowledge, I enquired what was of interest. The gentleman reported that Swifts were roosting in the belfry - a rare event there. It was with interest that I looked out for Swift on returning home but none were seen until the 25th when I noted six at the end of Verlands and also along Puddledock Lane. House Sparrows seem to have thrived in the cold wet weather as have Pied Wagtail with a pair seen on our lawn regularly. Stonechat appears to be thriving around the Springhead with up to three pairs.



OTHER WILDLIFE REPORTS

Butterflies have had a hard time in April and May, but we were lucky on our 28th May Monday walk with Adonis Blue (above left) seen in the Waterworks feeding on Horseshoe Vetch. Moth trapping returned to form, after a series of cold wet nights with Poplar Hawkmoth illustrated above on the right. In other cases, instead of seeing the insect, I rely on plant galls with *Dysaphilis crategi* (see below) one of three galls on Hawthorn on Puddledock Lane. In other instances, I use leaf mines to identify insects. There is an excellent website available to guide field naturalists on this interesting area. Visit www.leafmines.co.uk/



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DORSET MAMMALS

My appeal for information about Hedgehog produced a result with Caroline Crisp and friends seeing one on Sutton Road on the 14th. The animal was not in good shape and was removed from the road and taken to a place of safety. Please keep looking for Hedgehog and Hares.

Pear Rust Disease

In common with many rusts, two host plants are involved.

On pears: Bright orange spots on the upper leaf surface. As summer progresses brown, gall-like outgrowths develop on the corresponding lower leaf surface. Fruit may be affected, but this is much less common. In mainland Europe the fungus can also cause damaging perennial cankers (sunken lesions in the bark) on the stems.

On junipers: Perennial swellings on stems and branches, producing orange, horn-like outgrowths in spring. I am not sure the pear I looked at had this disease, but I did see two plant galls including Pear Midge, which causes the fruit to go black.