



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

GARDEN BIRD WATCH

Mixed results during June's garden bird watch. Two people reported Grey Wagtail and Keith Dring reported the first Nuthatch for some time. Green Woodpecker was present in six gardens feeding on ants in the lawn. Four gardens recorded over twenty species, whilst others reported problems with Magpies and other corvids. Yellowhammer was reported from four gardens. Bullfinch with breeding in two gardens and a single Song Thrush are all important. However some 42 species were reported against a list of 56 birds we report on during the year including two reports of House Martin for the first time this year. It was disappointing that only one person reported Swift, although I regularly see them at the bottom of Verlands. On top of the hill, Skylark were definitely breeding, although cattle grazing may have reduced numbers

Will the Olympics bring the sun back to Weymouth?



Lesser Stag Beetle

Dorothy Emblem showed me a Lesser Stag Beetle in late June. It has a broad head and large jaws and is found in woodlands, parks and hedgerows across England. They rely on old trees and rotting wood to lay their eggs. Larvae then feed on the decaying wood making it an important nutrient-recycler.

Whilst in Harrogate recently, I found that the Parks Department had constructed a box for various types of dead wood in one of their biodiversity beds



A day flying Six-spot Burnet moth, which may be seen walking round the Springhead

OTHER WILDLIFE REPORTS

Moth trapping has been severely hampered with the cold wet nights and strong winds. I have hardly used my moth trap since mid June and even then there was little of interest just the usual Heart and Dart. The weekend of July 20th looks more promising and I will be trying again in what is usually the peak month. Many mothers are saying this is the worst year since 1992.

big butterfly count

14th July – 5th August

Once again the big butterfly count has started. The objective is to sit down for 15 minutes in a comfortable place and count the butterflies and moths you see. The information may then be submitted on line on <http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/> where full instructions are found, together with an identification chart.



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