



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

With the sun – back came Bees and Hoverflies

Garden Bird Watch

August has been a quiet month with little to report. A family of Little Owl was seen in the orchard at Northdown Farm indicating nearby breeding. Janet Craig reported successful breeding of Goldcrest in the copse behind her house with six fledglings in June.



Remember this image of the Buff-tip caterpillar last month. Janet Craig placed a number in special compost she had prepared and within two days most had pupated and buried themselves to overwinter. Next year, with luck this will be the result .



BTO - Winter Thrush Survey

BTO are concerned that Blackbird, Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush (illustrated) numbers are declining. For more information visit www.bto.org/winter-thrushes-survey or if you wish to supply information locally you can through me.



OTHER WILDLIFE REPORTS

Towards the end of August, coastal areas through Dorset have seen a noticeable migration of Red Admiral butterflies and Silver Y moths. On a recent trip to the White Nothe there were 100s of Silver Y. The autumn migration south has started, with Whinchat, Redstart and Lesser Whitethroat feeding up on scrub in the waterworks on Monday 3rd. Swallows are gathering elsewhere. With the last few months of recording for the *British Dragonfly Atlas* drawing near, I welcome any records for this group for inclusion. Dorset has nearly all been covered, with one area on Portland where there are no records.

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Garden Slugs:

It is now official – the wettest summer on record and I suspect as a result, we have seen more slugs and had more damage to plants than for years. Most of my beans have been eaten and just one dahlia survived the onslaught in early July.

The big slug, which is most commonly seen, has the scientific name *Arion ater*. This slug may measure up to 150mm when fully extended. However, most slugs are very difficult to identify by external characters. Scientists are preparing to use DNA testing to work out how many species of *Arion* are found in the typical British garden. There are seven (possibly more) common slugs. There is a smaller *Arion* slug up to 70mm long when extended, grouped under the scientific name *Arion hortensis*, which is probably three separate species.

They do serve a useful purpose eating at the rotting deleterious found in every garden. Put them on the compost heap where they will do the most good.



SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP 2012
Garden Wildlife Watch - Month 9: 23rd – 29th September, 2012

Name

Address

Post Code

Grid.Ref.

Date	Species	Number	Comment/Activity
	Blackbird *		
	Blackcap		
	Blue Tit		
	Brambling		
	Bullfinch		
	Buzzard		
	Carrion Crow		
	Chaffinch		
	Chiffchaff		
	Coal Tit		
	Collared Dove		
	Common Pheasant		
	Dunnock		
	Fieldfare *		
	Goldcrest		
	Goldfinch		
	Great Tit		
	Greater Spotted Woodpecker		
	Green Woodpecker		
	Greenfinch		
	Grey Wagtail		
	Grey Heron		
	Herring Gull		
	House Sparrow		
	Jackdaw		
	Kestrel		
	Long-tailed Tit		
	Magpie		
	Mistle Thrush*		
	Moorhen		
	Nuthatch		
	Pied Wagtail		
	Redwing*		
	Robin		
	Rook		
	Song Thrush*		
	Sparrowhawk		
	Starling*		
	Tawny Owl		
	Wood Pigeon		
	Wren		
	Yellowhammer		

Please return to 3 Brookmead Close, Sutton Poyntz, DT3 6RS after 30th September. Thank you

BTO Thrush Survey: please report activity e.g. feeding on berries or fruit.

If you wish to email the information, I can send an electronic list. Please email me.

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