



Small Copper ©D. Emblem

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

Garden Bird Watch

The gold star for a good record this month comes from Puddledock Cottage, when Maureen noted Yellow Wagtail by the pond. This red data bird is usually an autumn migration species in Dorset. They like to breed in wet meadows, where the grass is just tall enough to camouflage the nest. This is a bird I usually seek in the Yorkshire Dales.

The other significant event, was reports, from residents of Puddledock Lane and Old Bincombe Lane of migrating swallows, swifts and house martins congregating over the paddocks before moving on at dusk. Once again, in poor weather Sutton Poyntz seems to provide shelter whilst these birds feed up before beginning their long journey.



ClouDED Yellow © J. Craig

Other reports:

Firstly a correction, after I had written last month's report concerning the small beetles on the old wall, I went and collected some. Once under the microscope, I realised that the creatures were mites, which have 8 legs. Beetles are insects with 6 legs. The next day, I was at the Natural History Museum in London and left the sample for expert determination. I am still waiting. People with natural history expertise in many local museums are just not there.

Great green bush cricket.

David Emery reported this insect on his thatch early in October. It is one of our largest crickets and in Dorset is mainly a coastal species but does spread inland with the most northerly place being Hod and Hambleton Hills where this photograph was taken. These insects can 'sing' late into the night on warm evenings favouring nettle beds and scrub. An excellent *Atlas* is available from Dorset Environmental Records Centre for Dorset grasshoppers and bush crickets, with a national *atlas* scheduled for publication in 2015.



Great-green bush cricket © John Newbould

Plants on walls

At the beginning of the month, I managed to secure a place on a National Trust training course, investigating issues about plants on buildings. Quite a time was spent on issues, with ivy, including visiting the estate's old slaughterhouse, which is inundated with ivy. The building surveyors of course were concerned with cost benefit, whilst the ecologists were concerned with the potential benefits. Interestingly, a consultant has recommended that Wessex Water remove some ivy from a wall. My view is that the ivy is doing no damage. It only penetrates walls where the mortar is loose and the wall concerned is an excellent place for autumn hoverflies, the ivy bee and late butterflies, especially the red admiral.

The Trust has published an excellent handbook entitled: *When nature moves in*, which I am sure will be a standard work for building conservators and ecologists.



Ivy is a common problem attaching to buildings but provides shelter and nectar for late summer invertebrates.

EDITOR: JOHN NEWBOULD
01305 837384

suttonpoyntz.org.uk/biodiversity
EMAIL: johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk

BUTTERFLIES

Once again, gardens with autumn flowering daisy families have done well with butterflies. Janet Craig reported our first ClouDED Yellow of the year, although I have seen a few in Dorset and Hampshire