



Speckled Wood Janet Craig

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

Garden Bird Watch

I received 18 bird lists this month, which have all been added to my database. Late August and September are quiet months in gardens, with many birds seeking spilled grain from harvesting in the fields. The interesting features include, the house around the west end of Old Bincombe Lane and nearby Puddledock lane reporting a few Swifts on passage. House Sparrow numbers seem to have increased once again with most people reporting flocks in double figures, but walking round the village, I wonder if these numbers are too low. There are very few records of Black-headed Gull, which I seem to see most days around the village.



Redwing © Ruth Eggerton

Not included in the formal list, are reports of Garden Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and the Little Owl still associated with Northdown Farm. On 14th September, Janet Craig reported large numbers of Swallows and House Martins feeding in the field to the west of her house. These remained until the sun dipped over the horizon and moved on. It is about four years, since we saw similar flocks assembling in the bowl north of the waterworks.

Other reports:

Dorothy Emblem sent the photograph of the wasp spider from her garden. (see below).



Janet Craig sent me this photograph of the late instar of Dock Bugs *Corcus marginatus*, which I had never seen before.

Over the past month, I have been intrigued to see a number of very small beetles (<2mm) grazing on lichen on the old rectory wall at the bottom of Verlands Road. At first, I thought these were lichen fruiting bodies. Using a magnifying glass, examination revealed movement. Too small to photograph these will have to wait until next year for collection and determination. I suspect, that by now the beetles will have bred, laying eggs in cracks in the lime mortar.



Wasp Spider D. Emblem

BUTTERFLIES

Once gain many of you provided lists of butterflies, with one member commenting that there were more butterflies than birds. Nobody reported Clouded Yellow, which I was seeing in many places in Dorset through August. Janet Craig reported up to 60 Small Tortoiseshell on Buddleia on one hot August day. Other butterflies included Common Blue including the brown female form, Comma, Red Admiral a few Peacock, a few Adonis Blue, Brimstone and many Green-veined and Small White. Small Heath, which really has had two bad summers, was seen in small numbers on the hill. There was Humming Bird Hawk-moth at Wyndings and Jersey Tiger until mid-September. Some additional moth data has turned up from National Moth night, which I need to sort out.



Female Common Blue Butterfly © J. Craig

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