



Next Garden Bird Watch 21st – 27th August.

During the last week of July, Ros was at Lodmoor RSPB, where there were eight great white egrets, five little egrets and two herons all in one small area and clearly visible to the naked eye on the wetlands early (ish) one morning during the hot spell. The great egrets were flapping around and hunting in a most flamboyant fashion. There were a few birdwatchers there but not many and all agreed that it was a spectacular sight. One speculated that the great egrets may have been part of the same family, given the way that they were behaving. Ros has very large piles of house martin poo on her conservatory roof and window ledges. They were even trying desperately to nest in the half cup above my kitchen but were unable to make it whole due to the lack of available mud. They have been numerous in the sky around the close.

Dot at Wyndings had a sparrow hawk visit and eat a wood pigeon on her front lawn after taking the feathers off first fascinating, it then flew off taking its prey with it. I have also had six slow worms under the corrugated, one was very dark almost black in colour. Butterflies are scarce with not as many as usual included small heath, speckled wood, gatekeeper, wall, small and large white, peacock, red admiral, small skipper, holly blue and painted lady. There are bats flying around at the back of the house at dusk every night but only one frog too in the pond.

Swifts seem to have left in early August. Generally there have been less swallows and house martins in 2022.

Mammals

Dave Emery reported using two remote cameras for a week each month and publishing them via the YOUTUBE channel as a video diary. Last month we had recordings of more species of deer than we were expecting which has provoked something of a debate about identifying them. Certainly we have Roe Deer and possibly others. If anyone else wants to join in contact me and I will send them a link to the site.

Colin used an Anabat Meter, overnight on 12th -13th August on Puddledock Lane. This revealed the presence of some soprano pipistrelle (a National BAP Priority Species), common pipistrelle, a single passage noctule and a single serotine. No evidence of water vole in the River Jordan, although Jon Waterman spotted two eels in the section along Sutton Road. Eels are an Endangered species.

Garden pests:

A rust fungus Puccinea malvacearum on common mallow *Malva sylvestris* Sutton Poyntz SY70664683680 yet a plant 1m away not infected, Redfern and Shirley also state hollyhocks are also infected so in my garden, it is abundant SY7051383642. There are no records on the NBN Atlas for Dorset.

The *Gynosporangium sabiniae* rust is again abundant on next door's pear SY7054483024 but 400m south on Sutton Road a pear has just one small area SY7053883531

The pear also had *Contarinia pyrivoia* the pear midge with one fruit infected (see left below). There was also numerous examples of the pear-leaf midge (see right below) *Dasineura pyri*. SY7053883531. Apart from the *Gynosporangium* all were new to me.



A rust fungus *Puccinea malvacearum* on common mallow *Malva sylvestris* Sutton Poyntz and Preston

Orchards with five old trees are a Priority Habitat. If you have such an orchard, Rita, Colin and John would like to survey.



A lot of gardens in Sutton Poyntz and Preston have this variety of hardy fuchsia, coloured red and blue. There appears to be many varieties with these colours, but this one variety seems to be the only one where the leaves at the end of a stem coalesces together to form a gall. My plant gall book suggests *Fuchsia magellanica* with the gall caused by yellow or reddish mites *Aculops fuchsiae*. Other varieties appear to be free of the disease, e.g. pink varieties. Just walking round Preston and Sutton Poyntz, I have seen it at least in ten to twelve place. All the records on the NBN Atlas are from the Royal Horticultural Society.