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July 2018 Garden Bird Watch this month 22nd – 28th July

Sutton Poyntz Garden Bird Watch June 2018

Fifteen people supplied records resulting in 259 records of thirty-eight species of birds. What a month virtually no rain and I am beginning to wonder what birds are finding to eat. In gardens round Brookmead Close, pied wagtails have taken to feeding on our lawns with eight people reporting the birds. Ours seem so tame. They ignore me whilst crossing the lawn, but if a herring gull flies overhead they are off in the opposite direction. Song thrush numbers look up with Rita and Colin reporting one in their walled garden eyeing the cherries. Unusually yellowhammer is reported from two places whereas normally they are only in the fields by June. Derek at the top of Plaisters Lane reported what could well have been a marsh tit regularly using his garden pond.

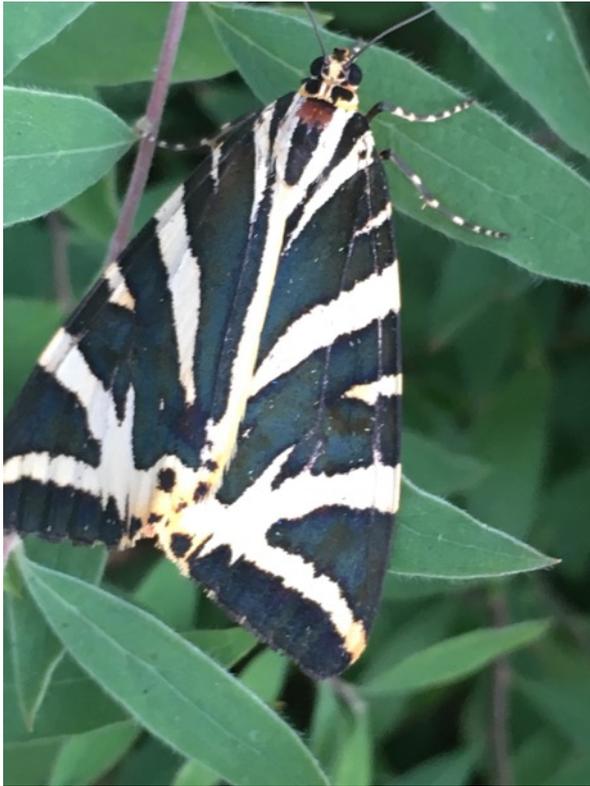
BTO are organizing a tawny owl call survey this autumn. Jack is the local organizer. I will ask him which squares are available.

Butterflies:

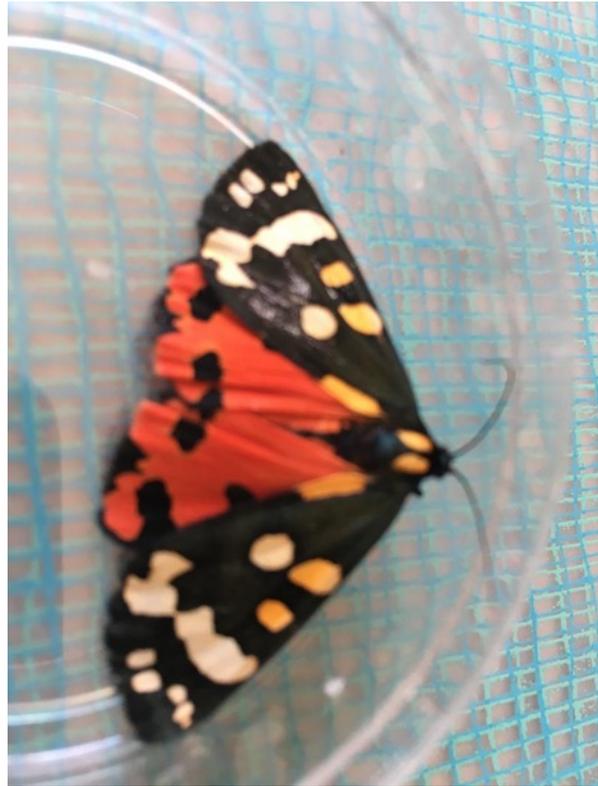
There has been a newly emerged batch of commas in the area along with all the usual whites, gate-keepers ringlets, marbled whites, common blues seem scarce. On the hill small and Lulworth skippers have been seen. Meadow browns seem to be tailing off. The lavender in my garden is certainly keeping green-veined white happy. The dark-bordered bee-fly *Bombylius major* is still patrolling Puddledock Lane.

Moth trapping:

We have run four moth traps in the village recently with one on Puddledock lane, one on Brookmead Close, one on Old Bincombe Lane and one; off Mission Hall lane. We have also trapped one bight at the waterworks. My list has over 600 records for the year with more to come in. This week the Nationally Notable A Kent Black Arches has been recorded at two locations, Jersey tigers are back in force with 14 in my trap one recent morning. The first day of common footman resulted in a dozen specimen and I have had 11 large elephant hawk-moths on one recent session. Other moths of interest as they have beautiful wing markings include gold spot, scarlet tiger (by day) , coronet (an ash feeder) and brown-tailed moths. These latter when caterpillars emerge can cause a nasty reaction so keep clear. These have been alongside yellow-tailed and white satin (an aspen feeder found on the corner of Puddledock lane).



Jersey Tiger moth



Scarlet Tiger moth



Coronet – an ash feeder



Elephant hawk-moth cozying up with an iron prominent.

Bat Surveys;

We have undertaken three emergence surveys at the waterworks as part of a National Survey in June of known bat roosts with two visits required for a common pipistrelle roost. A little over 100 were seen emerging from the Museum office roof space. Passing bats included serotine and noctule. On 16th July, three serotine were feeding in gardens on Brookmead Close at dusk.