



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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October 2019 Garden Bird Watch this month 27th October to November 2nd 2019

Butterflies:



Ruth has had peacock butterflies and bees feeding on ivy. Dot has had humming bird hawk-moths, painted ladies, large and small whites, small tortoiseshell, speckled wood, three small copper, a single wall, small heath, peacocks and red admirals with the latter hibernating in her outhouse. Butterflies in John's garden have been more modest with just green-veined whites in smaller numbers and a red admiral. We have felt the weather to be against moth trapping as we have little shelter.

Garden Birds:

Firstly, for members who use the attached word. Form, we are now using the winter list although amazingly Ruth reports swallows feeding up during the second week of October by the pond in late afternoon and whilst on a National Trust survey on the Ringstead Coast on the 15th there was house martin. So, as I am writing the wind has changed to a cold north-easterly and with little rain forecast for the week, when will we see our first winter thrushes?

Dot reported a barn owl, which is always a pleasure. The mild autumn has been good for small animals such as wood mouse. Blackbirds are back in our gardens, with one one person not witnessing one in the garden. Generally the top scoring birds in terms of peoples gardens are the same old culprits of wood pigeon (13), robin and magpie (12), dunnock, jackdaw (11) with house sparrow, blue tit, great tit and collared dove. Dot had a nuthatch for the first time and was one of only two people who reported coal tit.

Wild flowers:

As the end of the wild flower season approaches, I am always interested to see which plants make a final spurt to flower. This year in the River Jordan, there has been one plant of yellow flag iris, some hemp agrimony was cut down just before it flowered but secondary growth has flowers, whilst older plants are looking quite worn. By the bench of the west side of the pond is a couple of flowering plants of fox and cubs. This is a distinctive, orange coloured member of the Daisy family.



I have received one or two photographs of fungi, which are always difficult to identify using photographs unless, one of the brightly coloured waxcaps. Many are like this example, a field mushroom, but pink-gills have been seen in grassland. However, it is in woods where the most interesting fungi are at this time.

Please send results of garden bird watch as soon as possible after 2nd November, together with any other wildlife news.