

Female Lulworth skipper



Male Lulworth skipper

Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group

November 2026

At the review meeting held on 25th October, it was announced that John Newbould would be retiring from editing the monthly *Biodiversity Newsletter* with effect from the December 2026 edition. This is due to increased duties as a carer and the passage of time on his critical parts (his legs) not being up to the job. As part of his editing duties John has kept an eye on wildlife recording activities since the Group was formed in 2009, including Garden Bird Watch and founding the very important Butterfly transect around the water works in SY7084. To date nobody has volunteered to take on John's duties except Penny Fenwick, who will take over management of the rotas and data for the Butterfly Transect including the important IUCN rated **near threatened** Lulworth skipper, which is also a **S41 Biodiversity Action Plan** priority species. This butterfly is only found on tor-grass *Brachypodium rupestris* lightly managed coastal grassland slopes between Purbeck and Burton Bradstock. Butterfly conservation have a project running to develop more data on the Lulworth skipper.

Garden Bird Watch



This activity needs a co-ordinator who is reasonably proficient in Excel to summarise the data collected from around 15 regular participants. John will revise the data collection tables to reflect current membership before handing over. Here, we do not follow the BTO rules, which require the bird to have an activity in the garden such as feeding, nesting regular perching etc. To encourage increased identification skills, we have allowed any bird observed from the garden or nearby surrounds. In 2027, BTO will be collecting data for a new *Atlas.* I have not seen the recording protocols yet but hope Group members will contribute.

Lastly a *Newsletter* editor

Is there anybody out there who would be willing to produce a *Newsletter* periodically? They are all on the village website if you wish to see what has been reported.

Any queries on these requests to Colin Marsh safcol@aol.com or myself John Newbould Johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk

Wildlife Reports:

Jon reported a European Eel dead at the north end of the pond early November where later in the month a grey wagtail was seen feeding in the gravel. I also saw a southern hawker dragonfly on 8th November, which has been verified on iRecord. With regard to small mammals, the most common animals seen in many places around Sutton Poyntz and Preston has been grey squirrel.

With regard to Garden Bird Watch, Sue and Jon reported a mistle thrush feeding on mistletoe (host tree rowan) on Old Bincombe Lane and many first year (probably migrant) blackbirds whose beaks have yet to turn yellow. In addition to grey wagtail on the pond, one record from Verlands is one of the most southerly records I have noted over the years and also one from Puddledock Cottage.

Another uncommon record from Verlands and Mullions has been siskin, which is often associated with alder. It has been a good autumn for house sparrows with reports from 12 gardens plus other places where we have no observer. This is definitely an increase and does not consider records from the north end of Silver Street. Another uncommon sighting again from Mullions is a single redstart.

We have no members who regularly report from the Ridgeway, but today, I had altered my regular early morning walk and Roy from Millers Close reported skylarks and corn buntings in the hedgerows of the fields leading towards Broadmayne.

Very few fungi about. I thinks we are about to learn the importance of summer rain in the life cycle of such organisms, which are neither plant or animal.

Garden Bird Watch 22nd to 29th November. Please send results as soon as possible after.

Post script:



Just as I was about to send the reports out, I noticed this longhorn beetle on a bedroom window. I captured it and photographed it sending the result to my National Trust volunteer colleague Dr Andy Foster who reported a western conifer seed bug *Leptoglossus occidentalis.* A non-native beetle first recorded in Dorset in 2007. He sees one every couple of years in his Bridport moth trap.