



Fox

## OTHER WILDLIFE REPORTS

During October, there have been some very heavy downpours of rain, with the streams quite full and then within a short time bright sunshine. Butterflies have been confined to Red Admiral. Derrick Dodge sent me some video footage of a Badger and Fox outside his front door. This is a good way of monitoring wildlife.

### Osmington Brook



## Garden Bird Watch

With many of the October returns now with me, October produced some unusual records. David Emery reported 2 Swallows flying over during the last week in October, whilst Jon Campbell and I noted two passing south over Portland Bill on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Richard Porter reported Little Egret in the Puddledock Lane pond plus two Grey Heron together in his garden pond. Keith Dring reported Yellowhammer in his garden for the winter enjoying seed he provides. Caroline Crisp reported hearing Little Owl, which appears to be resident in the village. Shirley Saunders reported the only Song Thrush record for the month, but unfortunately this bird flew into a window and killed itself.

Blackbirds appear to have migrated in from the continent with some gardens reporting five or six birds at one time. This appears to be the case across the County. Jon Campbell commented how House Sparrow now appears to be the dominant species in his garden with up to fifteen birds at one time. However, whilst washing up I noted around 40 fly out of the coniferous hedge at the bottom of our garden. Watch out for Redwing, which we have seen in small numbers.

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

## *Atlas of the British Flora 1962-2012*

In 1950 (I was aged eight) members of the Botanical Society of the British Isles held a conference to discuss the best way forward to map Britain's wild flowers. Four years later, with funding obtained to employ staff, the project started with members recording flowers on the basis of a 10km square on the OS maps. Within eight years, the *Atlas* was published with many gaps. This *modus operandi* became the basis of wildlife recording across all groups.

Fifty years later, we are still recording but with the development of modern computers, information is becoming more refined and we can now collect data across wildlife conservation sites at a more detailed level. We can also track progress of our recording as we work towards producing a third plant atlas in 2020. Visit [www.bsbi.org.uk/maps](http://www.bsbi.org.uk/maps)

The NBN Gateway also provides a comprehensive way of seeing wildlife data [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)

