

March 2015

SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Wildlife Walk – April 2015
10th April 2015 9.30a.m.
Waterworks Wood
Meet at the Mission Hall

Signs of Spring

Unusually I have only had one report of frogspawn in garden ponds plus one other of common newt. Usually around mid-February, there are at least 12 squashed frogs on Sutton Road in a morning, but this year, I have only seen one toad and two frogs both during the 1st week of March. Janet Craig has reported white frogspawn (see the photograph on the right). Whilst inspecting the coppice work in late February, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage and kingcup were starting to flower in the woodland. Primrose seems to be doing well, especially in Osmington churchyard. Janet also reported over-wintering small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies and I have seen at least two seven-spot ladybirds.

Winter Work parties:

Much of the winter coppicing and tidying up has now been completed. There is quite a wet area opened up at the north end of the wood with birds showing a strong interest in feeding. I have arranged for bird ringing to take place during the spring by a licensed ringer. For more information, please contact me.

Dave Emery



GARDEN BIRD WATCH FEBRUARY 2015

Only 16 people sent returns this time, with some members commenting how few birds are in the garden, whilst I received a number with 20 or more species. The recent *BTO Magazine* highlighted what a good year 2014 was for Barn Owl. It is sometime, since we received a record but I saw one by day at West Bexington in January. Keep a look out, especially if driving home at night. Just two gardens reported black-headed gull yet these birds fly to and from Weymouth Bay every day just after dawn and just before dusk. No goldcrest were reported, just four reports of greenfinch (still under pressure). There was just one report of chiffchaff although Janet Craig sent me a photograph last weekend. Jay are still about whilst green woodpecker is calling along Puddledock Lane every morning. Only one record for song thrush, but one was calling from the willow by the Cartshed.

Interestingly every report included the robin, 15 reports included blackbird, blue tit, wood pigeon and collared dove. Start watching out for: house martins and swallows, towards the end of the month. The occasional house martin has been reported on local websites.



Buzzard



Chiffchaff © Janet Craig

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