



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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January 2018 Garden Bird Watch this month 21st -27th January

GARDEN BIRD WATCH 2017

We started Garden Bird Watch in 2009 and now have a continuous record of eight years of sightings. The birds seen are generally those seen from our homes and may more accurately be described as rural birds with a few houses such as mine being described as in a semi-rural setting. Generally, the gardens with the highest scores are where the more experienced bird watchers live, but over the years, one can see skills developing. Not only that, a few of the more dedicated members visit wet and muddy fields seeing species such as yellowhammer and corn bunting in the hedgerows on the Ridgeway, together with varying numbers of skylarks. The gorse occasionally yields a Dartford warbler but stonechat, linnet and whitethroat are common enough. In colder wet times, such as now, snipe may turn up in the water meadows. (Ros Evans has been reporting a wader for the last couple of weeks). Lapwings are increasingly rare.

In our gardens, mistle thrush is a rarity and we rarely see fieldfare. Redwings are often seen in the woodland at Came and occasionally with just five reports in 2017 in the village. Song thrush is reported most months with the most records in January and December, whilst blackbird was reported 178 times during the year making it champion bird. Bullfinch appears to have declined this year and we had one report of cuckoo in April.



Robin Janet Craig



Kestrel Janet Craig

We have small numbers of reports of greenfinch, occasionally suffering from *Trichomonosis*. Please clean your feeders. Grey Wagtail (now a red data bird) long known from the River Jordan is reported most months whilst green woodpecker seems to be increasing.

BAT MONITORING:

We have continued bat monitoring, mostly using hand held meters and emergence surveys. The best every emergence survey at the waterworks in July with just under 100 bats seen emerging from the office and a few from the main buildings. Some were seen feeding over the Weymouth pines. Smaller numbers of serotine, noctule, soprano pipistrelle and possibly Natterer's bat are also in the area.

WILD PLANTS

What a strange winter we are having. Primroses have been in flower since October. The first snowdrops, I saw were between Christmas and the New Year. I have seen a hawkweed (a member of the daisy family) out on a wall on Sutton Road, which is normally in flower on the grass bank opposite in May and in the stream outside Bellamy Cottage is a tiny yellow flag iris in flower in January, normally late April early May.

Janet has sent through four more pictures to share.



Starling



Grey Wagtail



Song Thrush



Wren

Finally, in addition, to our sightings of eel during 2017 in the River Jordan, we have had reports of roach and brown trout as well as bullfinch under stones.

Thank you for your support during 2017, especially those of you who use the Excel recording form, which makes life so much easier. Next month, I will hopefully report on our moth recording in 2017.

2017	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Records
Barn Owl	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Blackbird	17	18	14	13	17	17	11	11	14	16	15	15	178
Blackcap	4	5	3	3	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	27
Black-headed Gull	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
Blue Tit	18	18	13	12	13	11	7	10	11	16	11	14	154
Brambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bullfinch	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	6
Buzzard	3	5	2	2	6	3	4	4	4	3	4	2	42
Carrion Crow	9	7	9	9	11	8	7	6	7	7	7	7	94
Chaffinch	8	11	9	8	9	5	5	6	4	6	5	6	82
Chiffchaf	2	1	6	6	5	3	4	3	4	2	2	2	40
Coal Tit	5	5	2	1	0	1	2	1	2	3	3	2	27
Collared Dove	14	15	14	11	14	14	11	14	13	14	12	12	158
Common Pheasant	2	3	4	4	3	2	0	0	0	4	2	3	27
Cuckoo	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dunnock	13	12	13	9	12	12	8	10	0	11	11	10	121
Fieldfare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Goldcrest	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	2	3	4	15
Goldfinch	7	10	9	8	8	7	5	4	11	6	7	6	88
Great Tit	14	14	11	10	11	7	7	8	4	11	10	11	118
Gr. Sp. Woodpecker	5	7	7	8	5	3	5	3	7	5	5	7	67
Green Woodpecker	9	11	7	6	9	8	6	8	3	8	8	7	90
Greenfinch	4	3	5	2	3	2	5	3	4	1	4	3	39
Grey Wagtail	1	4	2	1	0	2	1	4	3	6	3	2	29
Grey Heron	6	2	0	2	1	0	1	3	8	1	6	2	32
Herring Gull	12	13	9	9	11	11	7	9	2	5	9	8	105
House Martin	1	1	0	0	5	4	3	4	12	0	0	0	30
House Sparrow	15	15	13	11	15	15	10	14	11	15	11	13	158
Jackdaw	15	15	13	12	15	14	5	9	4	12	10	13	137
Kestrel	0	1	2	5	4	3	2	2	0	3	6	5	33
Linnet	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	10
Long-tailed Tit	10	8	3	2	6	4	3	7	14	9	8	10	84
Magpie	15	15	13	12	16	16	10	11	1	16	12	13	150
Mallard	1	4	3	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Mistle Thrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Moorhen	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	8
Nuthatch	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pied Wagtail	2	3	3	3	9	10	5	3	5	4	5	4	56
Redstart	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Redwing	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5
Robin	17	17	14	13	17	12	10	14	12	17	14	12	169
Rook	12	13	10	10	14	11	6	11	7	11	6	9	120
Siskin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Song Thrush	8	5	2	3	4	5	0	0	0	1	7	8	43
Sparrowhawk	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	20
Starling	7	5	3	3	5	4	0	1	3	0	4	4	39
Stonechat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swallow	0	0	0	4	6	5	4	7	2	0	0	0	28
Swift	0	0	0	0	3	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
Tawny Owl	4	2	2	1	3	2	1	4	6	7	3	5	40
Treecreeper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willow Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wood Pigeon	15	17	13	13	17	16	12	14	13	14	12	13	169
Wren	10	11	10	8	9	6	10	10	11	9	10	9	113
Yellowhammer	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Counts													3005
Total Species seen	37	39	38	40	39	38	36	34	38	34	38	40	52
Total Records	327	301	251	233	300	257	184	222	230	249	250	235	3039
Average per survey	17.2	17.9	17.9	10.1	16.7	15.1	14.2	14.8	14.4	14.6	14.7	16.8	
No of gardens in survey	18	18	14	14	18	17	13	15	16	17	17	14	15.9