



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

The weather

Anthea has reported that in December 2012, 209mm of rain fell on the village, representing 15.53% of the 2012 total of 1343.5mm. During much of this time, the Jordan was full to the brim opposite the Cartshed with water occasionally reaching the bus stop. We, nevertheless had some sunshine with my photo-voltaic cells generating more electricity than in December 2011.

I strongly suspect that there will be consequences for village wildlife. Whilst seed eating birds will get by with many households providing bird feeding stations, those birds requiring insects will have suffered. A Wren needs to find 50% of its body weight each day, just to get through a winter night. I also would not be surprised if over-wintering insects will be prone to fungal infections.

The plant kingdom is doing well with much lush growth in 2012.

Spring Street on Christmas Day
© Janet Craig



HAVE YOU LOOKED CAREFULLY AT YOUR GARAGE OR HOUSE ROOF?

During a gap in the rain, I decided that I had better clean out the gutters. This gave me an opportunity to look at the moss and lichen communities growing on the roof tiles. I have not yet learnt the keys for identifying lichens, but can see that there are at least twelve species growing there. The National Trust organised a training day to encourage beginners to start identifying mosses and liverworts in November. Since then a small group has assembled at my house each Thursday with microscopes. So far, we have identified around ten species in the village. There are no doubt more, but the weather conditions have deterred us from going far. We can manage two more people if anybody would like to start. You will need the *Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland* published by the British Bryological Society and a magnifying glass up to x 20. Contact John Newbould



EDITOR: PHONE
JOHN NEWBOULD 01305 837384

www.suttonpoyntz.org.uk
EMAIL: johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk



Peter Sheeves has organised scrub clearance in the waterworks meadow on one day each week since mid-December. This is an essential job as the stream was becoming totally enclosed by bramble with possible consequences for the Water Vole population, which prefers green vegetation. If you are willing to help, please contact Peter.



Female Blackcap © D Emery.

BTO report that the provision of food in gardens is assisting this species to remain in the UK over the winter, where as it would normally migrate to the continent. See www.Bto.org.uk

Garden Bird Watch appears over the page

Sutton Poyntz Garden Bird Watch 2012

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Average no of gardens in survey	12.67	19.58	21.42	20.33
Total no of records	2268	3642	4012	3815
Total species seen in the year	52	51	49	50
Largest number of records	Robin	Blackbird	Robin	Blackbird
House Sparrow records	130	193	212	213

In the four years, since we started the survey there has been an increase in the number of birds seen by individual recorders as their skills increase. There are also a small number of species, which do not appear in the village list e.g. Garden Warbler, usually seen by one person each year and Little Owl, which appears to have taken up residence on White Horse Lane. Although, the summary charts do not show the numbers, those houses with older gardens and many trees and shrubs do better. The provision of feeding stations reflects the species present, especially where ground feeding is provided Yellowhammer is encouraged. In 2012, a maximum of 25 gardens provided information with some very regularly whilst others only sporadically.

During the winter months there were less reports of Fieldfare and Redwing in 2012, than in previous years, whilst similarly in the wider countryside there were no Lapwing or Golden Plover. In the summer months Swift were only present from May to July in 2012 against April to August in 2011. Swallows on the other hand were still passing through in late October, whereas in 2011 it was August and early September. There were no reports of breeding House Martin with numbers reported down in 2012.

The number of breeding bird records, received through Garden Bird Watch was down in previous years but Janet Craig managed to photograph Goldcrest in her garden. In the wider countryside Jon Campbell reported breeding Corn Bunting in the hedges between West Hill and the arable fields of the ridge.

The summer of 2012 has been described by Matthew Oates (a National Trust Nature Conservation Advisor) as one of the worst for many years for insects. It was certainly one of the worst for moth trapping and butterflies I can remember with Jon Campbell and I sending just over 400 records to the County Moth Recorder. Most of the usual butterflies were seen by one or the other of us, but in substantially smaller numbers especially Small Heath. Dorothy Emblem reported Lulworth Skipper in late June. The Dorset Proceedings 2011 reported that this species seems to be out earlier and has extended its range to just west of Weymouth. In my garden moth trap Kent Black Arches on two nights was a good record whilst Jon had Lobster Moth in June. Burnished Brass (below) was a welcome record from my garden in September.



Burnished Brass Moth (left) & Goldcrest with young (above)

2012	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Records
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
Blackbird	21	19	20	22	18	17	19	12	14	19	22	19	222
Blackcap	6	8	6	4	1	2	1	0	2	0	2	7	39
Black-headed Gull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	5
Blue Tit	21	19	20	18	13	10	15	12	13	18	18	16	193
Brambling	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Bullfinch	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	1	0	0	1	2	23
Buzzard	2	4	6	6	6	6	9	8	9	5	3	2	66
Carrion Crow	14	12	11	13	11	12	12	7	11	12	13	9	137
Chaffinch	15	16	17	13	10	9	7	8	6	12	17	14	144
Chiffchaf	0	3	6	2	3	1	2	1	4	0	2	2	26
Coal Tit	5	7	6	3	5	6	3	2	5	5	11	8	66
Collared Dove	17	16	16	15	12	15	15	16	13	11	15	12	173
Common Pheasant	7	4	8	6	3	4	1	2	0	3	7	7	52
Cuckoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunnock	16	17	16	14	13	12	14	13	0	14	15	14	158
Fieldfare	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Goldcrest	1	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	6	1	4	4	24
Goldfinch	10	15	11	15	11	6	9	7	12	10	11	10	127
Great Tit	17	16	14	17	12	11	11	12	1	14	15	15	155
Gr. Sp. Woodpecker	9	10	8	2	2	5	7	2	6	8	9	8	76
Green Woodpecker	5	6	4	3	4	8	13	9	5	4	6	4	71
Greenfinch	9	11	13	9	7	9	8	5	4	5	6	7	93
Grey Wagtail	2	4	1	2	0	2	2	1	4	5	2	5	30
Grey Heron	8	2	3	5	2	3	2	4	3	4	6	3	45
Herring Gull	7	11	13	11	4	9	13	3	1	5	10	7	94
House Martin	0	0	0	1	2	2	5	3	17	1	0	0	31
House Sparrow	19	19	20	21	17	19	19	17	9	18	19	16	213
Jackdaw	14	15	13	17	11	11	15	8	2	12	13	10	141
Kestrel	2	4	1	3	2	2	1	3	0	0	1	3	22
Linnet	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	9
Long-tailed Tit	9	10	5	2	0	1	3	5	15	3	11	12	76
Magpie	19	18	17	19	14	18	18	16	1	18	17	16	191
Mallard	1	4	4	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	3	1	20
Mistle Thrush	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7
Moorhen	4	3	3	3	2	1	0	2	0	1	3	2	24
Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pied Wagtail	3	6	8	7	6	4	3	1	3	3	4	7	55
Redstart	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Redwing	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Robin	23	19	19	20	16	15	19	15	15	20	20	17	218
Rook	13	11	12	18	11	12	12	11	10	10	12	10	142
Siskin	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Song Thrush	3	4	1	4	4	1	0	0	1	2	4	4	28
Sparrowhawk	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	5	5	1	5	3	36
Starling	8	5	6	10	7	6	4	3	4	6	8	6	73
Stonechat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swallow	0	0	0	5	7	5	6	6	1	1	0	0	31
Swift	0	0	0	0	4	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	11
Tawny Owl	1	3	1	1	3	5	0	5	7	3	4	3	36
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	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Wood Pigeon	21	19	19	18	14	17	20	15	16	20	19	18	216
Wren	11	9	9	8	8	5	9	8	9	10	13	10	109
Yellowhammer	5	5	5	43	2	4	0	0	0	1	3	3	71
Counts													3799
Total Species seen	40	42	38	43	40	42	39	37	39	36	42	41	
Total Records	396	370	348	354	276	285	313	250	259	287	356	321	3815
Average per survey	16.5	18.7	15.8	13.6	15.3	15	14.9	13.9	14.4	13.7	16.2	16.9	
No of gardens in survey	23	21	22	22	18	19	21	18	18	21	22	19	20.3