Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News December 2016.

Next Garden Bird Watch 27th December – 3rd January.



Afternoon shot over the pond

Garden Bird Report:

We have had returns from 16 recorders this time. Thank you.

With a good spell of really cold weather in late November, we have started to see winter thrushes such as fieldfare and redwing, although there have been no reports of fieldfare here. Ros Evans and Barbara Harrison reported mistle thrush, which used to be a regular at Bellamy Cottage in winter. There have also been three sightings of song thrush, whilst most people had blackbird. There have been a good number of reports of grey wagtail. I am quite surprised that from the houses near the top of Plaisters Lane no reports of yellowhammer.

Jon Campbell keeps doing a monthly walk over Wessex Water land. Once gain, most surprisingly no reports of yellowhammer but two sightings of corn bunting, a pair of Dartford warbler just below Margaret's Seat, stone chat at three places, redwing at one. Work that Jon and Sue, Colin, Rita and I have been doing with the National Trust will help us highlight the important species for the neighbourhood plan in due course.

Colin and Rita ran their moth trap on 21st November with just two species – redlined Quaker and feathered thorn, both of which are rarely recorded as most people stop trapping towards the end of October. I have combined all the moth records, from Sue and Jon, Colin and Rita with mine and sent in over 900 records from the village for the year. This is a good effort for use towards the *National Macro-moth atlas* due for publication towards the end of 2018.