



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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January 2019 Garden Bird Watch this month 27th January to 2nd February



Winter heliotrope Petasites fragrans.

Flower. Winter heliotrope was one we expected then and in was well in flower just south of Old Bincombe Lane. We counted twenty in flower that day including the old favourites daisy and dandelion but also the pest plants in my garden such as petty spurge, field speedwell and hairy bitter-cress. On the bank between Wimslow and Verlands there was a hawkweed with black blotched leaves, which I have never managed to key out and prickly hawkbit. All good fun and a reminder that our native flowers can be with us all year round.

In the early 1980s, living in South Yorkshire, along with a group of friends, we joined the Wildflower Society.

<https://www.thewildflowersociety.com>

The objective was to become top of your branch in the number of flowers seen; move up to a winner's group for two years and then join a cumulative *Valhalla* branch. All good fun, we shared petrol, which was cheaper and chased all over the country. At the end of December, I walked down Sutton Road with Anthea and we counted the number of wild flowers actually in flower. The WFS actually had a New Year

Thank you everybody for returning your garden birdwatch information with 15 homes taking part. There is the monthly results sheet together with a cumulative summary for the year.

What is also interesting is birds seen in the wider countryside. Shirley reported a teal on the pond, which Jack considers to have flown in with the mallard from Lodmoor. Ros Evans reports snipe from the water meadows to the east of the village. Puddledock Lane has been a hive of activity with tawny owl around 5.00pm most evenings. On the second week in January there were many blackbirds on the tall trees



Pied wagtails on garden fence © Janet Craig

Green woodpecker was heard most mornings and flocks of long-tailed tits. Chaffinch appear to have been scarce around here but we have seen plenty in west Dorset. Colin reported an increase in stonechat above the waterworks. I have seen a heron over-flying.

N gardens, everybody has seen blackbirds, blue tits and robins. Six other birds made double figures – all the usual suspects. As usual in late December, yellowhammers come off the hill to feed in gardens at the top of Plaisters Lane. Surprisingly only 12 people reported house sparrow and only two starlings.

No redwings, fieldfare or mistle thrush.



Thank you for your support in 2018.