



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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November 2019 Garden Bird Watch this month 24th -30th November

Garden Bird Watch – October 2019

Records were received from fifteen people who recorded 37 species, which is quite good in a month between the summer flocks and winter flocks. Warm enough that yellowhammer is not needing the top up feed found in gardens, yet not cold enough for winter thrushes such as redwing and fieldfare. Ruth saw a mistle thrush, which is a real rarity in Sutton Poyntz these days, but nobody recorded song thrush, which is unusual as there are often two or three records. Wagtail numbers have declined from summer months, with only three records of pied and none of grey. There must be plenty of ants with green woodpecker holding numbers strongly found in eight gardens. Surprisingly only five people reported flocks of goldfinch although there are plenty in the wider countryside. House sparrow numbers have held up with up to forty seen in some gardens, but also good numbers in non-participants gardens.

Six people reported tawny owl. Rook numbers seem steady with flocks of around thirty seen gathering at dusk. There are some resident herring gulls, but in the later dawns I see them flying inland following an overnight roost in Weymouth Bay. Two hundred starlings flew over Plaisters Lane on Saturday 9th November with some people reporting flocks of thirty starling around their garden.



David sent me this excellent photograph of a gadwall on the edge of the pond, which was still there on 14th November – quite tame.

Watch out for black redstart seen in coastal areas since early November. There are a few redwing about in some areas but not here.

Very few butterflies about with Dot reporting a solitary peacock.

Photographs of interesting items are always welcome.

