

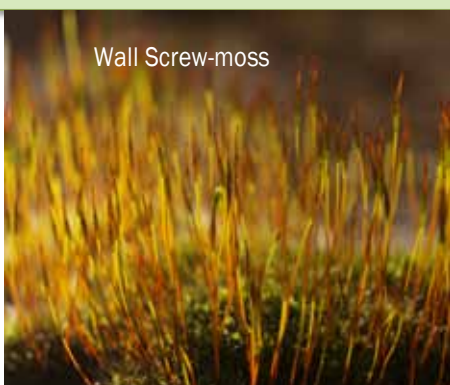


Capillary Thread-moss

Wildlife Walks – 7th March 2014 when we will walk to the Ridgeway past Margaret's Seat for spring birds. Meet at the Mission Hall at 9.00a.m, with indoor footwear if staying for coffee. If the weather is cruel, I will show slides of some of the survey work we do for the National Trust

7th February walk

The weather on February 6th was appalling with sheet rain all day. John Newbould decided that it may be totally unreasonable to go into the muddy fields so arrangements were made to look at mosses and lichens in the garden by the bus stop. We then moved to John's house where he had set up microscopes with samples collected the previous day. Nine people turned up to look at lichens and mosses – groups, which most field naturalists turn away from. Keeping things simple, John explained that bryophytes derived from the Greek word meaning mosses may be found in four groups. Sphagnum found in bogs, acrocarps, which grow upright and have capsules at the top of their stems (see picture above); pleurocarps, which form mats with capsules arising from the side of the main stem (not illustrated) and a leafy moss known as a Liverwort. Examples of all three types were looked at under the microscope. Finally we looked at lichens, which are a combination of a fungus and an algae. See picture on the right.



Wall Screw-moss

Garden Bird Watch January 2014.

Some very interesting numbers behind January's Garden Bird Watch with heavy rain and strong winds altering birds' behaviour patterns. Some of the more exposed gardens had really low numbers of birds whilst those with shelter from bushes and trees reporting the usual numbers. Bullfinch is again resident half way up Plaisters Lane. Yellowhammer is turning up in gardens, which provide corn. Six gardens reported blackcap, possibly European migrants. There was no fieldfare, redwing or mistle thrush but two gardens had song thrush. A brambling was seen at Wyndings, greenfinch was seen in four gardens.

Jon and Sue Campbell's list from the monthly Wessex Water count included stonechat at two locations with skylark on the Ridgeway along with kestrel, meadow pipet and raven not reported from the gardens. Janet Craig reported tawny owl calling on the 16th.



Frog spawn © Janet Craig

Other wildlife.

Snowdrops were out by late January and lesser celandine and primrose soon followed. Interestingly Jon and Sue turned up small tortoiseshell butterfly on the 14th whilst Janet Craig reported it on the 16th. Dorothy Emblem and Janet reported frog spawn on the 12th whilst I saw my first frog road kill at the junction of Puddledock Lane on the 18th, which I think is a week later than normal.



Blackcap © Jack Winspar

A *Nadisia* lichen on wet wood

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January 26th - 1st February 2014 Species	Wyndings	Valley Cottage	Spinneys	Springbank	2 old Bincombe La	5 Old Bincombe Le	7 Old Bincome & 3 Brookmead	8 Old Bincombe	17 Old Bincombe	19 Old Bincombe	86 Sutton Rd	Northdown Farm	St Brivels	Fox Cottage	2 The Puddledocks	3 The Puddledocks	The Cottage P Lar	Bellamy Cottage	69 Sutton Road	79 Sutton Road	55 Sutton Road	The Old Bakehous	Weymouth garden	Maximum	Minimum	Median	
Barn Owl																								0	0	0	##
Blackbird	10		3	1		2	2	4		2	2	2	2	6	2	1	3	2		2		2	4	18	10	1	2
Blackcap	3		2									1	2	1						1				6	3	1	2
Black-headed Gull																								0	0	0	##
Blue Tit	6		2	2			3	2		2	1	3	2	2	2	4	3	2		3				15	6	1	2
Brambling	1																							1	1	1	1
Bullfinch	3		1																					2	3	1	2
Buzzard				1				1				1	1		1							1		6	1	1	1
Carrion Crow				6		4				1					3	6	20			2	2	2		9	20	1	3
Chaffinch			4			2	4	3				2	4	6	2		3			3				10	6	2	3
Chiffchaff																								0	0	0	##
Coal Tit	2													1										2	2	1	2
Collared Dove	6		2			2	7		7	2	2	2			6		2	2		2			12	7	2	2	
Common Pheasant	1		1				4	2									2							5	4	1	2
Cuckoo																								0	0	0	##
Dunnock	4		6			1	4		4	2	2	1	6							4	2	2		12	6	1	3
Fieldfare																								0	0	0	##
Goldcrest																								0	0	0	##
Goldfinch	12			5			9	1	30	8	2	5			2	1			4				11	30	1	5	
Great Tit	7					3	4	2		2	2	2	2	2	2	4			2		2		12	7	2	2	
Gr. Sp. Woodpecker	1		1				2								2	1	1						6	2	1	1	
Green Woodpecker							2			1					1									3	2	1	1
Greenfinch	4																	1		3		2		4	4	1	3
Grey Wagtail				0						1														1	1	0	1
Grey Heron			1				1			1			1	1			1					2		7	2	1	1
Herring Gull	2			4		3	4		6	6	6				4		6	2		5		5		12	6	2	5
House Martin																								0	0	0	##
House Sparrow	40		8	9		5	6	22	9	12	8	4	30	12		15			15		4		15	40	4	9	
Jackdaw	3			7		5			3	5	3	4			2				8				9	8	2	4	
Kestrel															1									1	1	1	1
Linnet																								0	0	0	##
Long-tailed Tit	6		5			3	3			2	6	8	5	1	2					10				11	10	1	5
Magpie	11		2	2		2	2	4		2	2	3		2	5	5	4		2		1	2	16	11	1	2	
Mallard				1																				1	1	1	1
Mistle Thrush																								0	0	0	##
Moorhen																								0	0	0	##
Nuthatch																								0	0	0	##
Pied Wagtail				2		2				1					1									4	2	1	2
Redstart																								0	0	0	##
Redwing																								0	0	0	##
Robin	2		2	1		1	1	6		1	2		1		3		2			2		2		13	6	1	2
Rook				13		2	8		5	5		6			14		4			6				9	14	2	6
Siskin																								0	0	0	##
Song Thrush										1			1											2	1	1	1
Sparrowhawk										1			1					1						3	1	1	1
Starling				12		4	9		7						20		3			12				7	20	3	9
Stonechat																								0	0	0	##
Swallow																								0	0	0	##
Swift																								0	0	0	##
Tawny Owl																								0	0	0	##
Treecreeper																								0	0	0	##
Whitethroat																								0	0	0	##
WillowWarbler																								0	0	0	##
Wood Pigeon	7		4	2		2	2	4		3	3	3	2	2	8	3	4			2	2	1	4	18	8	1	3
Wren	1						1			1	1		1	2										6	2	1	1
Yellowhammer	5		7				13																	3	13	5	7
* New on SP List																											
Counts	22	0	16	15	0	7	16	22	0	16	16	18	15	16	23	8	18	7	0	19	3	6	9	0	0	35	
Total Species seen	35																						No of 0	20			
Total Records	307																										
Average	15																										
		Total No of Gardens																					19				