



High tide at Bowleeze Cove on 30th December during storm Frankie

January walk
to be arranged see poster

**Garden bird
watch
24-30th January
2016**

Bullheads *Cottus gobio*

It is not often that we have the chance to report a freshwater fish. On December 29th, I decided to take an afternoon walk round the village and found three children in the north end of the pond. In their bowl they had caught 26 bullheads from under the large stones. It is now some six years, since Dave Emery turned one up under a stone in the River Jordan within the waterworks wood. Colin and Rita told me that their grandchildren have also turned them up on the beach under stones where the Jordan reaches the sea. The fish are protected under Article 17 on the European Community Directive on the Conservation of natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna. It is an annex 2 non-priority species. The fish requires clean water in semi natural river reaches with a stony substrate free from excessive silt and sufficient overhanging vegetation. Rivers with water crowfoot such as the Jordan are ideal. Although the maps, shown bullheads are found over much of England and Wales, excluding the Fens, I am not convinced they are so common. Most Dorset records seem to be in the period 2000 -2009 on the NBN gateway



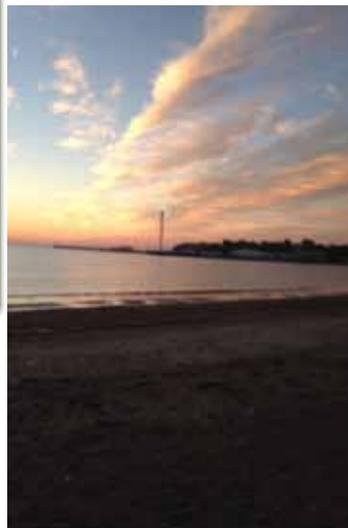
GARDEN BIRD WATCH December 2015

Some of the best bird information has come away from our gardens with Richard Porter reporting barn owl from just north of Waterside Holiday Park. On 18th December, Jon Campbell report two reed bunting by the gate above the waterworks bowl together with good numbers of yellowhammer and a few linnet.

Dave Emery reported that he sees two nuthatches in his garden regularly and was pleased to see them investigate a nest box. Four gardens were visited by song thrush. One other house reported an early morning chorus but did not do a bird list.

The most recorded bird in 2015 turned out to be wood pigeon, closely followed by robins and blackbirds. There were just three records of tawny owl and a similar number of barn owls records. Treecreeper and willow warbler were recorded just one each.

Dorothy Emblem saw a painted lady butterfly on 5th January.



David Emery has started conservation work in the north end of the Waterworks Wood, accompanied most weeks by a small band of helpers. He would welcome additional help for two – three hours one morning a week.

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	2015												Total Records
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Blackbird	18	15	13	16	14	14	15	11	12	10	14	12	164
Blackcap	5	9	3	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	24
Black-headed Gull	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	8
Blue Tit	16	15	14	14	15	10	9	9	13	11	9	12	147
Brambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	2	2	3	3	2	3	1	2	1	0	2	2	23
Buzzard	5	4	8	4	5	6	6	6	8	3	2	3	60
Carrion Crow	13	9	10	8	8	8	11	6	5	6	8	5	97
Chaffinch	11	12	10	9	7	7	6	6	7	4	7	8	94
Chiffchaf	1	1	5	3	0	1	2	3	3	1	2	3	25
Coal Tit	3	2	1	2	3	1	0	1	2	5	4	4	28
Collared Dove	15	15	14	14	12	10	14	13	14	10	14	10	155
Common Pheasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Cuckoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunnock	16	11	13	13	10	12	10	9	0	9	11	9	123
Fieldfare	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Goldcrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	2	3	13
Goldfinch	5	8	9	9	8	8	9	5	7	5	8	9	90
Great Tit	14	10	11	13	11	11	5	8	2	10	8	11	114
Gr. Sp. Woodpecker	6	6	6	5	4	3	4	1	4	4	4	5	52
Green Woodpecker	6	7	8	6	6	5	10	6	2	7	6	4	73
Greenfinch	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	3	4	2	2	3	39
Grey Wagtail	2	3	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	3	1	2	20
Grey Heron	3	2	5	2	1	1	2	6	7	4	5	4	42
Herring Gull	11	8	9	7	8	7	13	6	5	8	11	6	99
House Martin	0	0	1	0	3	4	7	3	14	0	0	0	32
House Sparrow	15	12	12	13	14	13	16	13	9	12	9	11	149
Jackdaw	13	10	10	13	13	10	12	9	1	10	10	9	120
Kestrel	2	3	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	4	3	1	22
Linnet	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	5
Long-tailed Tit	9	6	4	6	2	3	5	3	15	6	9	8	76
Magpie	15	13	14	15	11	12	14	14	0	12	14	11	145
Mallard	1	2	6	3	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	18
Mistle Thrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moorhen	2	3	4	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	18
Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	1	7
Pied Wagtail	2	2	2	4	2	3	3	0	0	3	5	2	28
Redstart	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robin	16	16	14	14	12	12	15	13	15	13	14	13	167
Rook	13	11	13	13	12	7	10	10	10	11	11	8	129
Siskin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Song Thrush	2	1	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	4	17
Sparrowhawk	0	4	5	4	2	3	2	2	2	0	4	3	31
Starling	6	4	5	6	3	2	3	1	3	1	5	4	43
Stonechat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swallow	0	0	0	5	5	7	8	6	7	1	1	0	40
Swift	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	1	0	0	0	10
Tawny Owl	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	0	6	3	3	3	27
Treecreeper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Whitethroat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willow Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wood Pigeon	18	15	15	16	13	13	15	13	15	12	13	11	169
Wren	8	6	8	8	5	6	5	8	6	9	8	5	82
Yellowhammer	3	2	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	18
Counts													2853
Total Species seen	37	37	36	37	37	39	43	37	36	33	37	37	48
Total Records	322	256	267	265	227	225	254	208	223	203	238	198	2886
Average per survey	16.9	16.3	16.7	11	15.1	16.1	14.9	13.9	13.1	14.5	15.9	16.5	
No of gardens in survey	18	17	16	16	15	14	17	15	17	14	15	12	15.5