



Pussy willow

Monthly walk see notice board
after Easter

Garden bird watch
21st - 27th March 2016

Please send lists after 28th

Nature Notes

The heavy rain and winds of the early winter of 2016 have not been kind to the soft cliffs of our Dorset coast with falls at Bowleeze Cove and just this week at Eype (see below).

Butterflies are starting to stir with Rita reporting a brimstone from Chalbury Corner on 11th March, whilst there have been some reports in the village of small tortoiseshell. We have not started moth trapping yet as the nights are so cold.

Interestingly for the past few years, I have counted numerous frogs flattened on Sutton Road between Puddledock Lane and Verlands Road but not one in 2016. The frogspawn is doing well in Janet's pond and a new neighbour needing to clear out a deep garden pond has brought me some smooth newts.

There are some excellent displays of primrose in many places but as I write this in 12th March, the first flowering spike on cowslip has appeared in my garden. The early flowering three cornered leek is in flower on Plaisters Lane with ransoms sure to follow quite quickly in the wood.

GARDEN BIRD WATCH February 2016

During garden bird watch, we recorded a total of 41 species from 15 gardens with two records of yellowhammer and four of song thrush. Dave Emery continues to report nuthatch, which he says seems to come to his garden from Plaisters Lane with Dorothy reporting a single bird from Wyndings. Six people reported blackcap, which seems to be relying on winter feeding in gardens and none seen in wider countryside surveys members of the group are doing elsewhere in Dorset. Grey wagtail is still present along Puddledock Lane and in the River Jordan. Six people reported green woodpecker, which earlier in the month was distinctive around dawn with its yaffel call. Robins are particularly vocal at the moment with good numbers present due to the mild winter. Once again, members living at the north end of Plaisters Lane report bullfinch with Colin and Rita reporting a bird on West Hill. Dorothy reported the large flock of redwing in the trees of Came Wood, whilst Colin and Rita reported two or three from the horse field on Puddledock Lane. Just three people reported greenfinch with Jon reporting just one on the Wessex Water survey on 18th of February, Just two reports of starling, but during early March I have seen one



Soft cliffs at Eype

Three-cornered leek
on Plaisters LanePrimroses have been in flower
since January

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