



Garden bird watch

23rd – 29th April 2017

Please send lists after 26th March 2017

In putting together this newsletter, I welcome photographs of interesting plant and animals and other aspects of the countryside around Sutton Poyntz

GARDEN WILDLIFE March 2017

Jack Winspar reported seeing a water rail in the River Jordan as it passes along Puddledock Lane. In the same area Colin reported that green woodpecker are breeding and that he sees a male greater spotted woodpecker drumming on a BT plastic box to attract a female. He also reported a pair of grey wagtail by the Mill. Mick Haines heard a cuckoo during Easter week, whilst in his allotment.

From the 14 lists returned, it was good to see that five people reported greenfinch and two people yellowhammers. Everybody had a robin and certainly during my recent winter weeding efforts, robin has been busy picking over the weed free soil. Three people only reported starlings, yet they have been busy on my lawn most days feeding on grubs. Only four people reported the common pheasant, yet the fields to the north of the village have had more than ever.

We have started moth trapping on the warmer nights with varying numbers of moths. Mine lists have included powdered Quaker for the first time, muslim, brimstone moth, nut tree tussock as well as the ever present Hewbrew character and common Quaker.

Nature Notes

I use my phone to record butterflies and I note that last year my last record for Sutton Poyntz was on 16th October and my first for 2017 was 11th March with an over-wintering small tortoiseshell followed by a brimstone and then into April with holly blue, orange-tip, small white and peacock.

I have had a number of reports of early purple-orchids in flower on West Hill and near Redcliff Point. In most places, ransoms and bluebells are well into flower, but the Waterworks wood is a little colder and we are still waiting.

Watch out for oil beetles. We have found good numbers on the coast across the Golden Cap estate of both black and violet oil beetle, which has been seen here in the past.

We also saw a hare, whilst driving to Dorchester on 21st April. A rare sighting indeed here.



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