

January 2017

SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP NEWSLETTER



Nature Notes

In addition to our garden bird watch, reports keep coming in on the wider countryside. As the planning group get down to the more detailed work on the village plan, they will need to consider biodiversity. In planning terms, this usually consists of bats and newts. There is however more to the planners' life than those. Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 requires public bodies to take account of some rare species, e.g. the violet oil beetle *Meloe violaceus*, which is reported to me at least twice a year. Jon Campbell has reported seeing Dartford warbler above the waterworks. This is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Redwing and fieldfare are similarly protected, whilst corn bunting is a Section 41 NBAP species usually seen on the northern hedgerows. These species will have to be reported separately to Dorset Environmental Records Centre.

Recently there has been a good flock of redwing (Photo above) with smaller numbers of fieldfare to the east of Came Wood, whilst Colin and John have seen smaller numbers in Sutton Poyntz.

Garden bird watch

22-28 January 2017

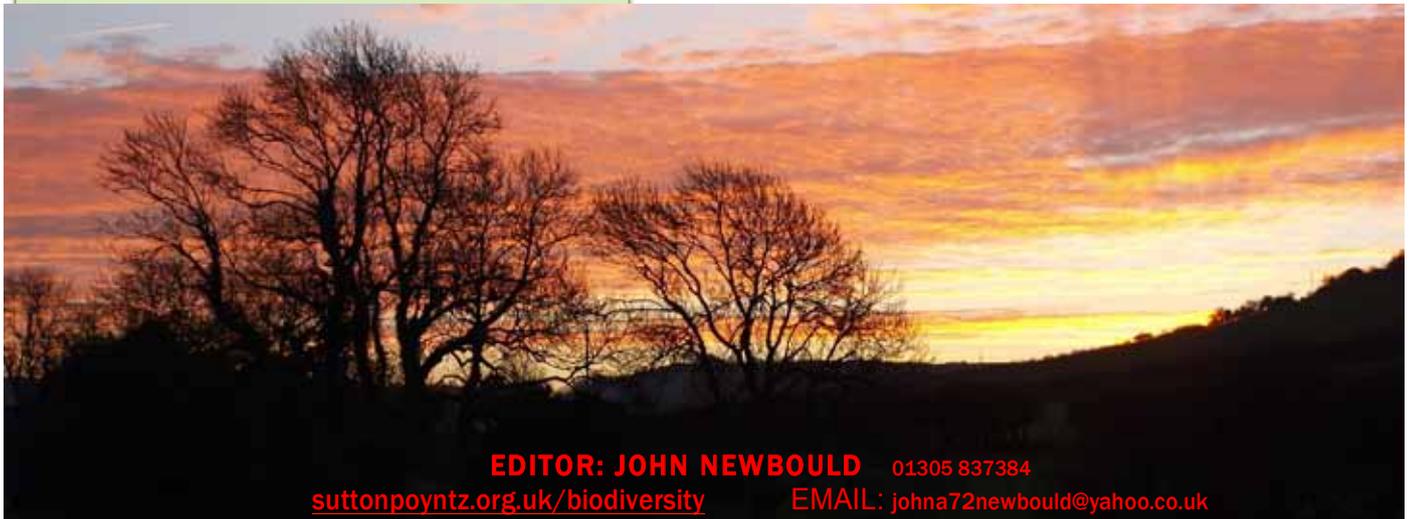
Please send lists after 29th January 2017

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

GARDEN BIRD WATCH 2016

During 2016, you have managed to supply 3049 records of birds in your gardens. On average, I received 16 returns each month, which is slightly down on previous years. This is the seventh year of garden bird watch and if any of you are statisticians, there are some interesting facts to be delved into. For example, nuthatch has been recorded regularly in at least one garden through 2016, whereas in previous years there have been few records. I have looked back at three other species. In 2015, we had no records for mistle thrush (now a red data bird). The best year was 2011 with 22 records and then a decline with 2014 just 3 records whilst in 2016 we have had six records. Grey wagtail peaked during 2010 with 31 records, then we had a harsh winter and the numbers dropped to 17 records but with milder winters the numbers are back up. It is a different story in the northern uplands where numbers have slumped and the bird is red data. Interestingly, we have recorded grey wagtail on the Golden Cap estate for the first time in 2016.

Blackbird and robins are joint top with 177 sightings, closely followed by wood pigeon (176) and house sparrow with 170. Rarely seen birds include treecreeper (1), swift, seven records (they seemed to arrive later this year) one record of barn owl, which has been moved to the green list in the UK, We have had no records of brambling despite plenty of beech mast and no siskin.



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Wildlife Photos from 2016

Moths and Butterflies: Generally 2016 was a poor year for butterflies. In my garden, I was mainly recording large white, green-veined white and red admiral. Colin and Rita kept an eye on the chalk grassland with Adonis blue only really showing for the second generation. There were reasonable numbers of marbled white whilst many other species including meadow brown were poor.



Oak beauty on 20 April 2016.



Jersey Tiger July 2016 when we had good numbers until the end of August.



Four-spotted footman is mainly a coastal moth of the south east and south west coast August 2016



Black arches is usuallu associated with oaks and recorded at the Waterworks in August

Colin and Rita have bought a new moth trap. It is a twin 20w Lucent, which has a low output blue light so as not to disturb neighbours. whilst I continued to share my twin 30w Skinner trap with the National Trust's Golden Cap Estate mainly moth trapping here at weekends. John collated all the records, including those from Jon and Sue and two sessions at the Waterworks. The result was a credible 900+ records sent to the Dorset moth recorder for inclusion in the *National Macro-Moth Atlas* scheduled for 2018. We now have a dataset of over 5500 records contributed by the above and Dave Emery. A number of these are National BAP priority species but unfortunately to identify and calculate the numbers this will be a manual process for later in the winter. I am also concerned to identify those species associated with ash due to the potential to loose trees due to ash-die back.

	2016												Total Records
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Blackbird	16	14	16	17	14	11	16	15	12	15	14	17	177
Blackcap	6	6	6	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	36
Black-headed Gull	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
Blue Tit	17	14	13	15	13	9	11	12	10	14	12	17	157
Brambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	2	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	17
Buzzard	0	7	5	7	4	4	2	7	5	3	5	3	52
Carrion Crow	8	8	9	7	9	6	6	7	6	8	9	9	92
Chaffinch	7	10	10	10	6	8	5	4	4	6	6	9	85
Chiffchaf	4	3	4	6	4	3	2	4	5	2	1	0	38
Coal Tit	4	2	3	3	0	2	0	2	4	3	3	4	30
Collared Dove	14	15	15	12	13	11	11	13	13	12	12	16	157
Common Pheasant	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	9
Cuckoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunnock	12	11	9	12	12	11	12	11	0	11	10	12	123
Fieldfare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldcrest	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	4	1	1	1	14
Goldfinch	7	9	9	9	9	9	4	4	7	8	4	7	86
Great Tit	13	13	14	12	10	7	6	11	4	11	10	15	126
Gr. Sp. Woodpecker	3	5	7	8	4	5	5	5	11	3	4	7	67
Green Woodpecker	8	6	10	7	6	6	13	7	3	8	6	9	89
Greenfinch	3	3	5	4	3	4	5	5	4	2	2	3	43
Grey Wagtail	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	4	5	5	25
Grey Heron	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	6	3	1	3	28
Herring Gull	10	11	11	13	9	7	9	10	1	8	10	10	109
House Martin	0	0	0	0	6	6	7	3	12	0	0	0	34
House Sparrow	13	14	14	15	13	12	16	15	12	16	13	17	170
Jackdaw	12	9	13	14	13	9	14	11	2	12	13	13	135
Kestrel	2	3	4	5	3	1	1	2	0	2	5	4	32
Linnet	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	8
Long-tailed Tit	8	9	7	6	4	3	4	7	12	9	7	8	84
Magpie	16	14	14	16	14	11	11	13	1	15	14	12	151
Mallard	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	9
Mistle Thrush	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	6
Moorhen	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	11
Nuthatch	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	12
Pied Wagtail	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	2	14
Redstart	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redwing	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Robin	17	15	15	17	14	12	15	15	12	14	14	17	177
Rook	12	9	12	14	11	6	10	12	9	10	11	14	130
Siskin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Song Thrush	4	4	1	4	2	0	0	1	2	1	3	10	32
Sparrowhawk	2	2	4	5	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	5	29
Starling	4	2	6	6	5	3	2	2	0	1	2	5	38
Stonechat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swallow	0	0	0	5	7	4	7	5	3	0	0	0	31
Swift	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	7
Tawny Owl	2	2	1	1	3	2	7	3	6	3	4	7	41
Treecreeper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Whitethroat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Willow Warbler	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Wood Pigeon	16	15	15	16	15	12	13	15	12	16	15	16	176
Wren	9	8	10	7	7	5	6	8	8	11	7	10	96
Yellowhammer	2	2	2	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
Counts													3015
Total Species seen	38	41	38	41	38	40	37	39	36	39	38	36	50
Total Records	303	263	282	298	249	206	236	241	214	244	232	281	3049
Average per survey	15.9	19	17.6	13	15.6	17.2	14.8	15.1	15.3	14.4	14.5	16.5	
No of gardens in survey	18	15	16	18	16	12	16	16	14	17	16	17	15.9