



SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Garden bird watch 19-25th March 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 FEBRUARY 2017

Nature Notes

Some residents spoke to me about the foam in the River Jordan opposite the Cartshed on 4th March. It appeared much worse at 7.15am when I took this photograph. I had seen this on numerous occasions when I lived in Yorkshire, mainly during the winter. I contacted my colleague Albert Henderson of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union who confirmed that it is caused by an aquatic hyphomycetes (a micro – fungi). The conidia are very pretty under magnification. It leaves a favourite substrate so often abundant in autumn/early winter. Its life cycle is underwater. The large concentrations seen in the photograph below are often seen after prolonged rainfall.

It is of a purely natural origin. There is no cause for concern as by chance later in the day, Colin and I had to learn how to use a conductivity and pH meter for another survey on the Golden Cap Estate and the meter readings were of a good quality.

Eighteen people took part in February's garden bird watch. Nobody reported any frog's spawning in garden ponds and I have only noted three frog casualties on Sutton Road. I have counted up to 12 in previous years. Butterflies are beginning to emerge on warm days such as Thursday 9th March when Brimstone and peacocks were seen.

There are masses of primroses on hedge banks and plenty of lesser celandine. Blackthorn is beginning to flower and there is plenty of willow in flower attracting the occasional bumble bee.

We recorded a total of 39 bird species with Janet having 28 in her garden, followed by Dorothy with 25. Only one person did not report Robin, which can be heard all down Sutton Road on my early morning walk. Green woodpecker can be heard calling all over and 11 people reported seeing the bird plus I had one other report from the village.

Common pipistrelle bats have started emerging from the Waterworks buildings on warm nights and one moth trapping night both Colin and I had the same common plume moth.



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