



Editor: John Newbould 01305 837384 [Johna72newbould\[at\]yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk)

April 2018 Garden Bird Watch this month 22nd – 28th April 2018

NEW DATA PROTECTION RULES:

The group has no formal standing but a collection of like-minded friends, who contribute to the village life but telling us each month their wildlife observations. However, we do have to be careful not to send out unwanted emails. The list of birds seen in gardens (with addresses) on page 2 is restricted to those people who have asked to be on my mailing list in the past and have contributed to our bird list.

I propose that with effect from May, you will continue to receive this bulletin if you contribute bird lists, accepting that for domestic reasons you may not be able to contribute every month. If you have not contributed a bird list in the last six months but wish to continue to receive the bulletin, please email me to confirm. You may also confirm that you do not wish to be emailed. A public abbreviated version is available on the village website.

GARDEN BIRDS

Firstly, an apology. I photographed the wrong bird on the pond. Jack has sent a correction of the GADWALL mine was a female mallard.



We received reports from 16 people ultimately. There were 285 records of 37 species averaging 18 per garden. What we have not seen is migrating swallows and house martins although a friend tells me that there are plenty coming through Dorchester. The late winter weather produced a late record for redwing, but song thrush numbers are down on the previous month. Chiffchaff numbers seen down on what I would have expected,

yellowhammer present in the gardens on the hill of Plaisters Lane. Green Woodpecker seems to be pairing up and plenty of small birds have got over the cold spell and looking for nesting materials. Looking in the wider countryside rooks appear to be well behind with nesting. Birds numbers are not good and a report just in from BTO tells of 2017 being one of the worst years for butterfly numbers.

Skylark seems to be doing well on the hill top.

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

It was only last night (18/4/2018) Colin and I felt that it was worth putting the moth traps out when we both had six species. Good numbers of Hewbrew character, common Quaker, and early grey. There were small numbers of small Quaker, twins-spot Quaker, brindled pug and a late spring usher. This was the first successful trap since mid-February.

On sunny days, brimstone butterflies, small tortoiseshell, peacock and small white in my garden.

AMPHIBIANS

This year, I have had no reports of tadpoles in garden ponds for the first time since we started this bulletin nine years ago. Nor has there been any dead frogs killed on Sutton Road. Please tell me if I am wrong.

WILD FLOWERS



With all the salt applied to Preston Road has come this small saltmarsh plant on Fisherbridge. It is known as Danish Scurvy-grass *Cochlearia danica*. Lesser celandine have at last started flowering, primroses are doing really well and cowslips are in flower on my lawn.