



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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December 2018 Garden Bird Watch this month 27th December to 3rd January 2019

Garden Birds:

The weather during garden bird watch week was appalling. Rain, rain and more rain but three people managed to record 22 birds. Well done in the poor light my eyes are just not good enough to see everything. Three people recorded greenfinch, which is quite good as this species has suffered from the virus infection. Four gardens with grey wagtail is quite promising as this is another species declining in the hill country it favours. I was quite surprised to see that only 11 gardens out of 17 recorded house sparrows. I do not think this bird has declined here or has it? I certainly see a few as I walk around Preston, but there used to be many in the bramble at the end of Verlands Road. Only two people recorded song thrush, no mistle thrush nor redwing and fieldfare. Small flocks of blackbird are starting to appear in the wider countryside. Three people recorded starlings and again numbers are variable in the wider countryside but we often see them on the Whitcombe road.

In the surrounding fields:

Colin reported a regular tawny owl in the early evening on Puddledock Lane. Ros reports on good numbers of yellowhammer in the hedges north of West Hill. Jon C continues with the Wessex Water bird survey around the Waterworks and West Hill. He was surprised by an over-wintering chiffchaff feeding with other birds in elder, bullfinch and song thrush in Waterworks wood with five redwings flying over. Apart from these, the birds of the hedgerows and gorse scrub are similar to those found in your gardens, with the exception of stonechat.



Seasons greetings to all our readers.