



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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March 2019 Garden Bird Watch this month 24th – 30th March

The last of winter might have blown over as a write with the gale force winds and rain petering out this week. The mild weather has blown a few swallow and martins through Portland Bird Observatory but none reported in Sutton Poyntz. Ros Evans has continued walking her dog through the wet meadows putting up snipe occasionally. Jon C has been away, so I have no information on the Wessex Water bird survey. Song thrush is still calling from the ash on Puddledock Lane. The ten mistle thrush on the record sheet is very likely ten redwing but the sun was in Ruth's eyes at the time.



Pied wagtail © Janet Craig

Two people reported grey wagtail with five reporting pied wagtail. I am surprised that more gardens are not reporting house sparrow because there are good numbers in places. However, there are more cat's resident on Old Bincombe Lane. Six people reported song thrush whilst nearly everybody had a blackbird, which are quite scarce in my garden. The milder winter means yellowhammer numbers are down in the gardens at the top of Plaisters Lane and no bullfinch. Dave E is still reporting nuthatch, which seems to be plentiful in the wider Dorset countryside.



Palmate newt Janet

I have seen no butterflies since the flush towards the end of February, but Janet C has reported palmate newt and frogs mating in her garden pond. Jon Waterman has photographed a good sized (600mm long) European eel in the stream along Silver Street so cleaning the pond out did no harm to that endangered species.

Snowdrops are over but primroses are everywhere with many lesser celandine in places.



Cowslips starting to flower in my lawn



As well as false oxlip.

False oxslips are a hybrid between primrose and cowslips. I guess they will wipe out my natural cowslip population. Elsewhere three cornered-leak is starting to flow whilst on the main Preston Road opposite the Spice Ship there are many new flowers of Alexanders.