



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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February 2020 Garden Bird Watch this month 23rd – 29th February 2020



I am writing this *Newsletter* during a lull in storm Ciara, which hit the area on Sunday 9th. Ground conditions are not good and dog walkers are asking for suitable places to walk their hounds. This means, I have had to access my library of photographs as I did not wish to add to the mud on my boots. Colin reminded me that cherry plum is just coming into flower. A member of the Rose family, it is the first of three species of *Prunus* to flower with a scientific name of *Prunus cerasifera*.

The second member of this sub-family to flower is blackthorn *Prunus spinose*, which as its name suggests as spines with flower coming in late March – April **before** the leaves, whilst greengage or *Prunus domestica* flowers in April along with its leaves.

Last month, I mentioned the absence of lesser celandine, which Anthea and I saw just three flowers in Osmington churchyard; but no-where else.

Otherwise my natural history exploits are confined to lichens and mosses where we are looking at the differences between species on oak and ash.

Garden Bird Watch:

This month our sixteen respondents reported a total of 39 species from 291 records averaging 17 per garden. Well done thank you.

Of note: mistle thrush back at Bellamy Cottage, nine people reported song thrush, which must be a record but no redwing or fieldfare. Bird feeders are encouraging blackcap in five gardens. One person reported the scarce grey wagtail, whilst nuthatch appears to have adopted the garden of Fox Cottage or has Dave a secret ingredient for his feeder. Three bullfinches off Old Bincombe Lane is a nice find.

At Golden Cap, Colin has been doing some work with trail finder camera watch feeding stations with interesting results.

