



## Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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### March 2020 Garden Bird Watch this month 22<sup>nd</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Waterworks woodland conservation.**

The group planted 60 trees last Friday partially restoring a hedgerow and also planting some Alder in the wet wood below the spring basin. Attached shows age is no limited for group activities even Octogenarians can join in.

The Whips were supplied by Wessex Water

Wet woodland plants now in flower include kingcups and opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage.



#### **Wessex Water Bird survey – Jon C.**

The late February survey was again done in the afternoon, due to strong winds. The time is not as effective as an early morning survey. There were only two sightings of linnets although Jon has noticed parties elsewhere on the Ridgeway as indeed I have on Cogden beach. Again there are few skylarks here but on the day we were at Cogden, ten were seen in 90 minutes. There were no stonechat, which is a surprise. A song thrush was seen in the wood as well as a single yellow hammer on the hilltop.

#### **Wildflowers:**

The snowdrops are now finished to be replaced with three cornered-leek (feels the stem) – a plant, which seems to have over-run the hedge banks in west Cornwall. By the post box at the junction of Preston Road and Sutton Road, there is a single meadow buttercup (a plant not normally seen until May). Plenty of lesser celandine and primroses. Watch out for cowslips, which have just started to flower in my garden and on the Tesco roundabout. Blackthorn has replaced cherry plum in the hedgerows and there is some crab apple in flower.



I have seen a single brimstone on 16/3/2020 in my garden.

### **Birds**

Dave sent this photograph of a large flock of rooks about to settle in the Waterworks trees at dusk recently. There must be good numbers about because 63 were recorded from Old Bincombe Lane. To be effective the picture should really have been bigger.

There are plenty of parties of house sparrows around the village, with nearly every garden recording some.



Blackbirds seem to be looking for mates with most gardens reporting seeing them. On 15<sup>th</sup> March I had a party of ten starlings feeding on my lawn, but only three people reported seeing any. Jack had a bullfinch on Sutton Road, which is unusual as they are normally a bird of the top of Plaisters Lane where yellowhammers are again feeding in two gardens. Three goldcrests were seen but watch for firecrest, which we have only seen once in the village.