



## Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



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December 2020 Garden Bird Watch this month 24<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Garden Bird Watch December 2020

We have had returns from twelve houses this month. This is the lowest number for some time, with illness and one member moving resulting in fewer observations in fact below 200 for the first time for many years. If you have a new neighbour who may be interested in taking part, please let me know. Never-the-less some 37 species have been recorded, which is around the usual number. Missing is yellowhammer, which seems to have disappeared from the gorse and hedgerows on the Ridgeway as well. Indeed, it was missing at Ringstead, where I had a recent walk in places where I would have expected it. No redwing or fieldfare, which is disappointing in view of the cold weather.



Four people reported over-wintering blackcap (Thank you to Janet for the photograph.) in line with national trends considered to be the way many people keep their bird feeders topped up. Also, on a positive note, it was good to see three people report red listed grey wagtail with other reports from the pond as well. Robin is the most frequently recorded bird, which is also seen on countryside walks in hedgerows. Blackbirds are plentiful and I suspect there is an over-wintering migration.

Wessex Water Survey: Jon sends me his monthly report of bird sightings at six places on Wessex Water owned land. Unusually this only covered one sheet of A4, with three of the stopping points having no birds. There were only two birds seen, which were not included in garden bird watch: viz. a raven flying along the Ridgeway and just two stonechats at stopping point six.

### Wild flowers:

The most frequently seen wild flower over the New Year period was winter heliotrope in many of the hedgerows. The first snowdrops I saw were in Osmington churchyard on January 10<sup>th</sup> with lesser celandine by Osmington Brook on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Primroses, which have flowered fairly consistently in my garden since September seemed to take a hit with the cold spell around Storm Bella but now seem to be recovering.



Thank you to Janet for these photographs to complete what is a short report.

### **Birds from nearby:**

Ros reported a mandarin duck in a ditch at Lodmoor, where there have been good views of marsh harrier and 500 plus lapwing. Rita and Colin reported three ringed plover on the gravel near the Oasis. John had excellent views of a peregrine diving for prey on the White Nothe Cliffs at Ringstead.

With this report there are the December bird figures plus a summary sheet of birds seen during 2020.

Thank you everybody for your support.