



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity News



Editor: John Newbould 01305 837384 [Johna72newbould\[at\]yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Johna72newbould[at]yahoo.co.uk)

January 2022 Garden Bird Watch this month 23rd – 29th January 2022

Birds:

There appears to have been some large flocks of starlings passing through the village around sunset. On 27th December, John noticed around 1000 passing along the line of the stream westwards probably to either Lodmoor or Radipole where they would roost in the reeds. On the 29th December, a large mixed flock of carrion crows with some jackdaws were forming a sort of murmuration over the waterworks. Dave commented that he had seen up to 300 crows in the same area in the middle of January before going off to roost, which could have been either Osmington or Lorton. In the first week of January Ros saw a couple of snipe in the field middle right above with some thrushes. Jon went the next day and reported 15 redwing, whilst John saw around 50 redwing the next day in the camping fields at Came and again on the 20th. Grey wagtail has been around most of the month with reports from the Mission Hall roof to the River Jordan at the junction of Sutton Road and Plaisters Lane and in the pond

The star of the month comes from Jon and Sue Campbell, who witnessed a glossy ibis at Lodmoor and the disgrace of the month is crows clearing up after a beach party last weekend.



Glossy Ibis Lodmoor last week



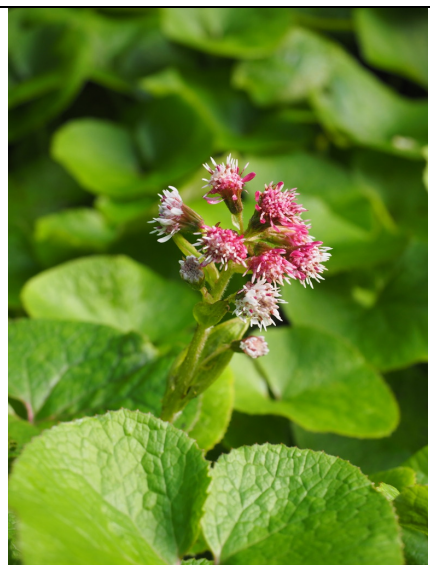
Carrion crows on Weymouth beach.

From garden bird watch, only one song thrush seen, blackbirds seen in 11 gardens but generally a good number walking round the village and Preston. Redwings generally very low numbers due to the mild weather. I get the impression that house sparrow numbers have dropped with lower than usual numbers even at Fox Cottage. Half the reports contained long-tailed tits and at least eight reports of starlings. Green woodpecker is becoming vocal again and interestingly the only bird everybody reported was wood pigeon. Attached is a summary of the years results.

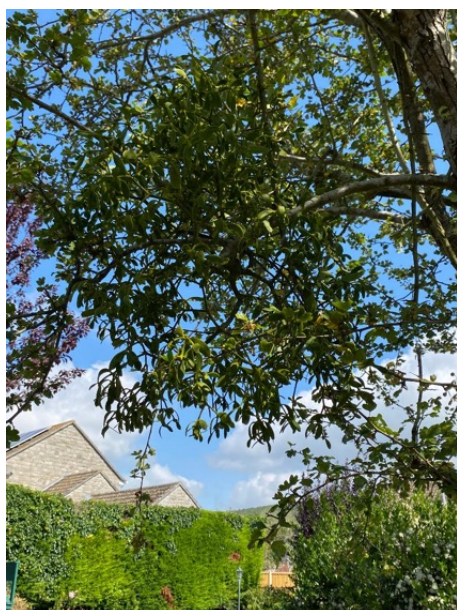
Butterflies: Janet photographed a small tortoiseshell on Christmas Day and Dot also had one at Wyndings in early January.

New Year Wildflower hunt organised by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland

This is an annual event taking place for a three hour period on any day between 1st and 4th January. Rita, Colin and John had a walk around 1km square SY7083, Preston and Sutton Poyntz, where we managed 36 plants in flower. Not many were as easy to see at this winter heliotrope common on roadside verges around the village. Lesser Celandine on 1st January on Preston Road beats my previous earliest of 4th January. There were minute examples of green alkanet and red-dead nettle, although white dead nettle was easy to see. Hairy bitter-cress in flower took some finding but John was rewarded with a rare rust on the under-side of a leaf on a bank on Plaisters Lane.



Dorset Mistletoe hunt



Members who subscribe to the Dorset Flora Group WhatsApp group have started to look for mistletoe in their area.

John has three locations in the Sutton Poyntz – Preston area where mistletoe is doing well but we have lost mistletoe from Bellamy Cottage where the tree died; from the new development at the corner of Wimslow Road and Sutton Road and there was a small amount in another house on Sutton Road where the trees seem to have disappeared. The mistletoe on the left was chopped down last summer.

If you have any mistletoe in your garden or nearby please let John know.

Waxcaps:



The waxcap season is all but over after the frosts of this past week. However Colin found **snowy waxcap** in a most unusual place in a grass verge at the junction of Coombe Valley Road and Littlemoor Road under an ash tree. All the wrong ecological conditions but there were nine fruiting bodies around the New Year.