



October 2011

Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group News Newsletter

2011 – Remembering the 90th Anniversary of the Poppy Appeal

Garden Wildlife

Thank you to all who returned the bird recording sheets. Late holidays has meant that we have smaller contribution this time.

It was good to see that two houses reported Grey Wagtail for the first time for many months. I was beginning to think that the bird was lost due to hard winters. Song Thrush is back on the list with birds also seen adjacent to hedges under Winslow Hill. Barn Owl and Tawny Owl were only reported once, but I have heard owls calling on my dawn walks and in an evening all round the area. Siskin was also reported from one house on Sutton Road with a description. Well spotted.

Keep a good look out for Fieldfare and Redwing as the colder weather approaches. There are still plenty of apples to feed them still on trees.

Promoting biodiversity to the wider community

As part of the OPAL funding, mentioned in the last *Newsletter*, the group provided a display at the first of the village coffee mornings. We have also prepared a banner display for events such as the street fayre also funded through the OPAL project. A reduced version is shown to the right.

The bright October sunny days have attracted many insects to IVY, which has been in flower since the beginning of the month. These include many hoverflies, wasps, Comma butterflies and the IVY bee *Colletes hederæ*. I will send our village records to the national recording scheme.



SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP

For some time now, many communities have been encouraged to develop a community plan to inform local planning

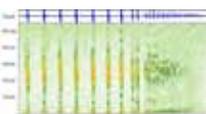


Many of the existing plans consider the environment and its conservation important but how many residents know where to start and how to document their findings.

In Sutton Poyntz, five people with natural history skills decided to investigate the issues and started by compiling a list of birds, where they were found and if they were breeding in the area.



Regular surveys are undertaken for bats using bat detectors and other animals.



This graph shows Daubenton's Bats flying over the village pond at dusk. Seven species are considered resident in the area.



Gardens are an important resource for wildlife with orchids turning up in lawns; even new garden ponds are soon humming with wildlife including dragonflies, butterflies and moths.



Male Black-tailed Skimmer.

Visit www.suttonpoyntz.org.uk - biodiversity



A number of people volunteered to form a garden bird watch scheme, which has been running for over two years with around 20 homes taking part, including people who are unable to access the wider countryside.

We discussed our plans with landowners and other environment groups working in the wider countryside. Surveys were organised of the plants, birds and animals of the area, with key biodiversity habitats identified.



Moth trapping now takes place on a regular basis in around six locations in the village as part of a comprehensive audit of species, with data supplied to Dorset Environmental Records Centre.



White Horse Hill is a Special Site of Scientific Interest with an important range of rare butterflies, which require chalk grassland. The Gorse is important too as a breeding area for Linnet, Yellowhammer, Whitethroat, Stonechat and occasionally Dartford Warbler. Group members regularly survey this area to monitor numbers.



What data are required?

It is important to know what has been seen; the place it has been seen at; a national grid reference for the place and who saw it. For some rare or difficult species it may be necessary to get an expert to confirm the identification. See: <http://www.nbn.org.uk/Guidebooks.aspx>



Distribution of House Sparrow in Sutton Poyntz

Wildlife Walks – Mondays from Fox Cottage near the Mission Hall at 9.30am. All welcome.

Newsletter – John Newbould who welcomes your notes and pictures 01305 837384

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