

December 2011

Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group News Newsletter

Remember December 2010? – Seasons Greetings to our readers

Village Wildlife

During the summer I have been reporting on the various ways the group have been collecting biodiversity data from around the village. Often, we use just our eyes aided by binoculars or a magnifying glass. At other times, insects are collected for examination using nets or other techniques. Many people were present to count out the bats from the Museum office using the Anabat equipment. Increasingly, naturalists are resorting to technology such as cameras with surveillance technology providing interesting observations on nocturnal animals. David Emery has obtained this shot below of a Badger and also Polecat.



Back to the House Sparrow

Seventeen of the 21 reports received have records for House Sparrow. In addition, I have looked around Preston to see where else House Sparrow can be seen. Well the first thing I learned, is that Robin and Song Thrush sing before dawn breaks, but do not look for House Sparrow until the streets are aired.

Looking at other bird behaviour, Black-headed Gulls roost overnight in Weymouth Bay. At dawn up to 1000 birds start moving inland, feeding on the grass on the cliff top. They then move inland with around 500 birds seen at Whitcombe around 9.30 in the sheep paddocks. By 10.30 they have moved on.

Dorset Explorer

One of the most useful tools available to Dorset naturalists is a mapping tool provided by Dorset CC found at:

<http://195.49.180.76/dorsetexplorer/?&ref=redirect>.

I have been asked to give a talk to a Wildlife Trust group in the new year. I decided to look how well we are recording the area. Even with such a small scale, you can see the concentration of our wildlife data available. Dorset Explorer helps you locate all sorts of information from parish boundaries to Doctor's surgeries.



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

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Visit www.suttonpoyntz.org/biodiversity for video footage

Wildlife Information held by DERC for the South Dorset Ridgeway. The green areas are the Bird Reserves.