



February 2011

*Sutton
Poyntz
Biodiversity
Group News*

Hazel catkins, February 2011 © John Newbould

January brings relief to local wildlife. Is spring near?



In the autumn of 2010, we received a grant from the OPAL project to buy equipment. As part of this grant, we were asked to make a presentation in the next village to see if a similar group can be established. An exhibition accompanied by a presentation at 3.00p.m. will be held in:

**Osmington Village Hall
1.30 to 4.00pm**

Saturday 5th March

**Tea & Coffee will be
available.**

Can you help?

www.opalexplornature.org

Garden Bird Watch

We are now running into year three of this project. Interestingly people are becoming better. In January 2011 you recorded a total of 44 species against 42 in 2010 and just 32 in 2009. Song Thrush is outstanding recorded on 16 gardens – the highest ever. Mistle Thrush has also scored well. Is Greenfinch fighting back in 11 gardens? Bullfinch was recorded from two gardens in Plaisters Lane. Has anybody seen Siskin? Jon Campbell and I saw two Linnet in a hedgerow on 8 February. Walks on the hill have not proved productive recently, especially on windy days.

Lapwing and Redwing were present under East Hill for most of January, but little was to be seen on February 7th

The Snowdrops season is starting with the first seen by John in a Sutton Poyntz garden was on 12 January. Willow catkins are also just starting to appear.

We began January wondering how much damage had been done to the local bird populations. Friends in the north of England thought that many small birds had suffered. Here, things seem to be fine. There are plenty of Blue Tits, Great Tits, Chaffinch and Goldfinch. Two gardens reported Brambling in late December and the end of January, whilst four were seen under East Hill on January 31st. David Emery and Jon Campbell reported a passing Hen Harrier whilst on February 7th, Andrew Mc Larty drew our attention to a bird in scrub in the valley bottom. This turned out to be a pair of Firecrest identified by David Emery. Another Sutton Poyntz first, Firecrest are distinguished from Goldcrest by the white patches around the eyes.

Firescrest BTO Images



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

Email john_newbould@btinternet.com

SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP
Garden Wildlife Watch - Month 2 - 20th - 26th February 2011

Name

Address

Post Code

Grid.Ref.

Date	Species	Number	Comment
	Blackbird		
	Blackcap		
	Blue Tit		
	Brambling		
	Buzzard		
	Carrion Crow		
	Chaffinch		
	Chiffchaff		
	Coal Tit		
	Collared Dove		
	Common Pheasant		
	Dunnock		
	Fieldfare		
	Goldcrest		
	Goldfinch		
	Great Tit		
	Greater Spotted Woodpecker		
	Green Woodpecker		
	Greenfinch		
	Grey Wagtail		
	Grey Heron		
	Herring Gull		
	House Sparrow		
	Jackdaw		
	Kestrel		
	Long-tailed Tit		
	Magpie		
	Mistle Thrush		
	Moorhen		
	Nuthatch		
	Pied Wagtail		
	Redwing		
	Redstart		
	Robin		
	Rook		
	Song Thrush		
	Sparrowhawk		
	Starling		
	Treecreeper		
	Wood Pigeon		
	Wren		
	Yellowhammer		

Please return to 3 Brookmead Close, Sutton Poyntz, DT3 6RS after 26th February. Thank you

If you wish to email the information, I can send an electronic list. Please email me.

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