

January 2011

*Sutton
Poyntz
Biodiversity
Group News*



White Horse Farm, December 2010 © John Newbould

Winter Snows bring hardships to local wildlife populations.



Fieldfare © Janet Craig

Just before Christmas there was a substantial passage of Thrushes travelling south-west. Flocks of around 50 Fieldfare passed over Puddledock Lane on December 23rd and 24th stopping to eat apples left on garden feeding stations or on fruit trees. There were smaller numbers of Redwing and Song Thrush present. With the thaw on December 27th over 250 Fieldfare were counted in the fields between the village and Osmington.

Three group members have commented on the absence of Greenfinch. However, an analysis of the 2009 returns and 2010 returns shows the ratio of birds per gardens in the survey is about the same. BTO reports on "an emerging protozoal disease on British populations of greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* and chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, two of the most common birds in Britain. Morphological and molecular analyses showed this to be due to *Trichomonas gallinae*, which emerged as a novel fatal disease of finches in Britain in 2005 and rapidly became epidemic within greenfinch, and to a lesser extent chaffinch, populations in 2006. By 2007, breeding populations of greenfinches and chaffinches in the geographic region of highest disease incidence had decreased by 35% and 21% respectively, representing mortality in excess of half a million birds." © 2010 Robinson et al. See www.bto.org.uk

Snow first fell on 2nd December, with Sutton Road and Plaisters Lane closed to all but 4 x 4 vehicles. The safest place to walk was the fields towards Osmington where Snipe, Lapwing, Golden Plover, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush and Redwing were around in the fields. It starting thawing the following day, but road conditions was never the less not good. It was quite cold from 6-16th December with sub-zero night temperatures and hard frosts. Snow returned with vengeance on 17th December, when many Blackbirds were present in gardens, thawing on the 27th..



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

Greenfinch © BTO Images



Garden Bird Watch 2010

December News

A big thank you to all who returned their record sheets at such a busy time of the year. We recorded 42 species on the sheets plus two gull species not on the sheets – the highest number of species in 2010. Although BTO organise a national recording scheme, there are very few, which concentrate on rural communities. With a third year starting, we may well begin to see trends. In addition, through GBW we are also finding additional information on the wildlife of village. Members who over-look the River Jordan running through Puddledock Lane have recently reported Little Egret new to the village list. It is also becoming noticeable that it is the bigger gardens, with trees and bushes, which have the biggest list.

In December, we usually only think of birds but Jon Campbell reported Winter Moth at his kitchen window on New Years Eve. I have noted three wildflowers in bloom. One member reported the presence of Water Vole in a small stream off Plaisters Lane.

Redwing © Janet Craig 2010



Pat Bellis photographed this juvenile Barn Owl in her garden at Sutton House in July 2010.



Sutton Poyntz Garden Bird Watch 2010 – a review of the year

Twenty-two gardens registered for the village garden bird watch scheme in 2010. Out of our list of 59 birds, just three returned a zero score – Nuthatch, Brambling and Cuckoo. A few people heard the Cuckoo south of Wimslow in April. In addition, in December, Black-headed Gull was present in many gardens. Common Gull was present in Old Bincombe Lane in December. I suspect that many of the gulls, which roost in Weymouth Bay found the roof of certain houses warmer and the food more certain. The average number of bird species ranged from a little over 12 in September when food in the wider countryside is plentiful to 19 plus in January and December when the bird feeders are busy. Grey Wagtail was conspicuous by its absence during the summer months. Goldcrest, which was present in most months in 2009

was quite scarce. Yellowhammer was present in larger numbers for longer periods in 2010. Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush records were up on 2009 with peaks in both years in January and December. Barn Owl was noted just once in 2010 against five times in 2009. Tawny Owl records were little changed and there is one record, which requires confirmation for Little Owl. House Sparrow has increased and we are seeing more Starlings about.

In addition to the birds seen during the year, members have reported on Butterflies, Mammals, Moths Amphibians and Dragonflies during 2010. I have sent all these reports to Dorset Environmental Records Centre. Thank you.



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Records
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Blackbird	17	17	21	20	21	17	19	15	16	18	19	22	222
Blackcap	5	7	6	6	3	1	0	0	0	3	2	9	42
Blue Tit	15	17	20	19	18	15	12	16	15	15	17	21	200
Brambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	0	1	0	1	1	5	1	1	0	0	1	2	13
Buzzard	3	1	1	4	2	4	6	7	3	5	3	7	46
Carrion Crow	7	8	11	11	13	11	5	6	8	8	9	12	109
Chaffinch	13	14	18	18	15	12	7	12	8	13	14	18	162
Chiffchaf	1	0	5	4	2	4	6	2	4	2	2	0	32
Coal Tit	4	4	6	5	5	3	1	3	5	6	9	8	59
Collared Dove	16	14	15	16	16	14	15	15	15	17	17	15	185
Common Pheasant	3	5	5	3	4	3	2	1	2	5	6	6	45
Cuckoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duncock	12	12	16	19	15	14	11	12	15	15	15	16	172
Fieldfare	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	15
Goldcrest	1	2	3	1	0	2	0	0	7	0	1	2	19
Goldfinch	11	12	13	15	13	13	12	9	12	9	12	17	148
Great Tit	14	12	16	17	13	12	10	12	1	14	15	18	154
Gr. Sp. Woodpecker	7	4	9	5	6	4	2	3	3	4	7	8	62
Green Woodpecker	5	2	2	0	1	0	3	3	6	2	2	1	27
Greenfinch	8	10	15	14	15	11	12	10	2	7	6	12	122
Grey Wagtail	5	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	5	2	31
Grey Heron	2	2	6	2	1	3	3	3	1	3	1	3	30
Herring Gull	8	7	7	4	4	5	7	7	2	4	6	10	71
House Martin	0	2	0	3	6	4	5	2	15	0	0	1	38
House Sparrow	14	12	18	18	17	17	16	18	12	16	17	18	193
Jackdaw	8	11	13	13	17	13	11	11	0	11	10	13	131
Kestrel	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	3	0	1	1	1	21
Linnet	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	8
Long-tailed Tit	8	5	8	4	1	1	0	2	16	5	5	14	69
Magpie	16	14	17	17	20	15	17	16	0	17	13	15	177
Mallard	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	12
Mistle Thrush	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	12
Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	4	4	12
Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied Wagtail	8	4	6	4	6	4	3	1	2	10	11	16	75
Redstart	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Redwing	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	23
Robin	16	17	20	19	17	17	16	17	16	21	18	21	215
Rook	9	9	12	9	10	9	6	9	6	9	7	9	104
Siskin	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Song Thrush	10	6	4	4	4	3	1	1	0	1	3	15	52
Sparrowhawk	0	1	2	0	1	4	1	5	2	5	6	3	30
Starling	5	9	8	9	15	12	7	4	3	4	6	9	91
Stonechat	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Swallow	0	0	2	8	10	3	4	4	2	1	0	0	34
Swift	0	0	0	0	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	9
Tawny Owl	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	3	2	2	17
Treecreeper	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Whitethroat	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
WillowWarbler	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	4
Wood Pigeon	17	16	20	18	18	17	17	18	16	19	17	21	214
Wren	11	8	14	8	7	4	7	4	8	8	11	12	102
Yellowhammer	4	3	5	5	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	8	33
Counts													3655
Total Species seen	40	40	36	37	41	40	36	36	34	36	40	42	
Total Records	294	281	349	336	331	288	253	257	232	293	305	423	3642
Average per survey	19.3	16.9	16.6	16	15.8	16	13.3	12.9	12.2	14	16.1	19.2	
No of gardens in survey	17	18	21	20	21	18	19	20	19	21	19	22	235

SUTTON POYNTZ BIODIVERSITY GROUP
Garden Wildlife Watch - Month 1 - 23-29th January 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		
	Duncock		
	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, DT3 6RS after 30th January. Thank you

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

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