



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

Seasons Greetings to all our readers

AWARD to our Editor

At the National Biodiversity Trust annual conference held on 23rd November 2012, at the Royal Society, London; John was awarded Honorary Membership of the NBN Trust by the Trust's Chairman Professor Michael Hassell. The award was in recognition of his long-term, dedicated support for the study of natural history and especially his support for amateur biological recording.

The award is quite special as the Trust has only eight Honorary Members, of which just two are amateur field naturalists.

The NBN Gateway also provides a comprehensive way of seeing wildlife distribution data with a dataset of over 80 million records. It is used extensively by government agencies and is supported by the NERC Biological Records Centre at Wallingford visit www.nbn.org.uk



Garden Bird Watch

With 22 reports to hand, it is possible to get a picture of the early winter garden bird life in the village. There has been just one report of Fieldfare and Redwing during the survey with four reports of Song Thrush and one of Mistle Thrush at Bellamy Cottage. Blackbirds have been seen in every garden often ground feeding, but many berried cotoneasters are becoming stripped and there is little sign of berries left on hawthorn.

Forty-two species have been recorded with two gardens having lists of 26 birds. Grey Wagtail appears on the list together with single reports of Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Siskin and Brambling. There have been a number of reports of Sparrowhawk, whether this is one bird or more around. A neighbour brought Janet Craig a dead Water Rail found near the waterworks. It did not appear injured.



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OTHER WILDLIFE REPORTS

The heavy rain in late November, brought many flooded fields across the east of the County, but here in Sutton Poyntz, the River Jordan changed from its usual clear water to a horrible chalky mess.

For those who did not venture past Fox Cottage, Wessex Water had two major problems. In the first instance the 9" main serving the Reservoir burst in the field, then later the 20" main from the source to the waterworks burst in two places. I am afraid that to repair the 2nd burst some hedge was lost but we have to thank water staff for working in appalling conditions to provide us with clean water.