



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

Male and female Bullfinch
© Derek Dodge

GARDEN BIRD WATCH

Once again, we had a mild month, with a cold spell on the second week and just 25mm of rain. Christine Gates reported a Brambling (1st for 2012). Yellowhammer favoured the well-supplied gardens of Old Bincombe Lane and also came lower down West Hill to Wyndings in the colder weather. Bullfinch appears to be a regular, especially on the bend on Plaisters Lane. The mild winter has also helped the tit family with good numbers of Great Tit calling not only in Sutton Poyntz, but elsewhere in the County. We had Song Thrush in four gardens as well as the Waterworks Copse together with Mistle Thrush in three gardens. Grey Wagtail seems to be making a revival with four reports including in the River Jordan by the Cartshed. There were ten reports of Greater-spotted Woodpecker including most mornings tapping on an Ash on Puddledock Lane.

Garden Flowers

Bees, Butterflies and Blooms: Sarah Raven, a gardener, was reminding people to choose flowers for their garden, which encourage bees in a BBC 2 programme on 23rd February. Below is a typical wildflower mix at RHS Harlow Carr.



OTHER WILDLIFE REPORTS

I have been getting reports from members of frog spawn, in garden ponds, from late January and one report of Toads mating. Dorothy Emblem commented that 23rd February was nine days later than 2011. During the same week, the annual massacre on Sutton Road started with ten squashed frogs and two squashed toads seen on the morning of the 22nd between Puddledock Lane and Verlands Road.

Pond Conservation Trust is doing a count on spawning dates. See: <http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/bigponddip/BigSpawncount>

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Ringed Pied Wagtail

In the middle of February, Janet Craig, reported seeing a ringed bird but could only see four numbers. I passed this observation to Jack Winspar, who used his BTO contacts to tell us:

The bird is L055800 and ringed as an adult male Pied Wagtail at Weymouth on 6th February 2010. It could well be a returning bird from the north of England/Scotland.. It has not been seen in the Weymouth area since ringed so is probably not a local bird. It will be interesting to see if it hangs around.

Let us know if it turns up again.



Frogs mating © Janet Craig