

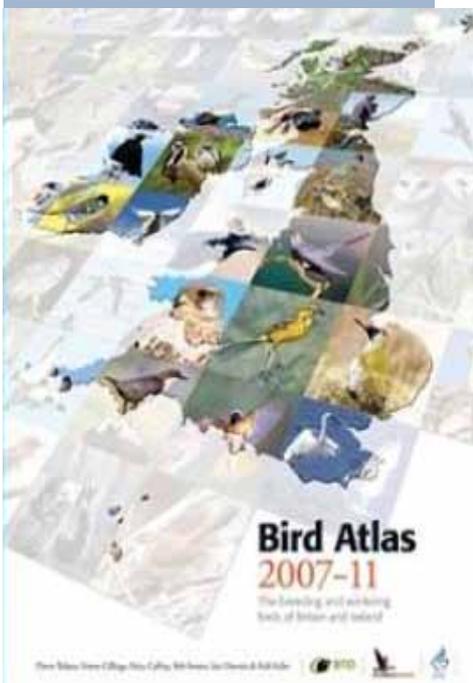


Song Thrush

## BTO Bird Atlas

### 2007-11

In the middle of November, the postman visited some homes in Sutton Poyntz, weighed down with this mammoth 720-page book. Over 40,000 bird watchers recorded winter tetrads and also breeding birds in the period 2007- 11 with the majority of the records sent on-line using Bird Track. None of this would have been possible without the assistance of the county recorders and verifiers. For Dorset was Jack Winsper, who regularly contributes to our garden bird watch was the recorder . A big thanks for all the hard work. A preview is available on the BTO website



**Wildlife Walks** – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month from Fox Cottage near the Mission Hall at 9.00am. then Coffee morning 10.30 at the Mission Hall. All are welcome.

## Garden Bird Watch and the BTO Atlas

Jon Campbell suggested that we compared our results since 2009, with the national figures. He picked four birds:

**Greenfinch:** *The Atlas* is reporting a 74% decline in winter visiting for gardens with the most recent decline considered to be due to the *Trichomonosis* virus. In 2009, we had 16 records from 13 participating gardens, in 2010 it was 122 from 20 gardens, in 2011 it was 111 records from 21 gardens and in 2012 93 records from 21 gardens, whilst so far in 2013 64 records from 15 gardens. How can you help? Thoroughly clean your bird feeders periodically.

**Song Thrush:** Overall the *Atlas* reports a 54% decline between 1970 to 2010 but there has been a small recovery since 1995. In Sutton Poyntz 36 records from 13 gardens in 2009; 52 records from 20 gardens in 2010; 34 records from 21 gardens in 2011; 28 records from 20 gardens in 2012 and 16 records so far in 2013 from 15 gardens. A possible cause is dryer soils in agricultural land not suiting a worm feeding bird.

**Yellowhammer:** Since the 1968-72 survey there has been an overall range contraction of 21% with a breeding population decline by 55%. Here it visits gardens on the edge of fields, especially if corn is provided with a sharp increase in records in 2013, due to the cold snap early in 2013. It is regularly seen on the ridgeway above the village and in the gorse shrub.

**House Sparrow:** The UK breeding population has declined by 69% between 1977 and 2010 with numbers possibly stabilising in the last decade. Here the average is ten birds per garden with maximum counts of 40 at Fox Cottage and Wyndings. It seems to be present in most villages, but absent in large urban areas such as Bournemouth. Here it seems to favour thick areas of bramble or hawthorn in gardens and by roadsides. I see very few in the Seven acre estate.



Yellowhammer

**EDITOR: JOHN NEWBOULD**

01305 837384

[suttonpoyntz.org.uk/biodiversity](http://suttonpoyntz.org.uk/biodiversity)

EMAIL: [johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk)



House Sparrow