



Trees down by the pond after the St Jude day storm

**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

Thank you all for your support of Garden Bird Watch and your encouraging notes. There is a very mixed bag of results this month. Early in October, rain and high winds caused the abandonment of our regular Frome Valley winter bird count. Everything was hiding away from the wind and rain and similarly during the last week of October for Garden Bird Watch. The houses near the top of Plaisters Lane were visited by a Kestrel, which coupled with adverse southerly winds kept small bird numbers down. Other members reported results in single figures, which is most unusual.

There seems to be an inward migration of Starling with a good 100 passing over Brookmead Close around dusk on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Those of you who use the road to Whitcombe will note the regular roost of about 200 birds just south of the riding stables. Grey Wagtail seems to be resident again, especially on the river by Bellamy Cottage and we also have had breeding Moorhen at last. Thrushes are conspicuous by the absence, but we did see small a flock of Fieldfare near Tinctleton on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Robins seem to be taking up positions in our gardens ready for the winter. Whilst gardening last weekend, one was coming within a few feet of my fork. Green Woodpecker is also doing well although I miss its yaffle on winter mornings from the pasture along Puddledock Lane. Martins and Swallows were still around on October 10<sup>th</sup> on West Hill.

### Canada Geese:

I have had many comments on the Canada Geese. What seems to happen is around 7.15a.m., they leave Lodmoor where they have spent the night. Some fly out to sea before retuning inland over Jordan Hill, others fly directly along the Preston brook valley before flying over the Seven Acres estate at a very low altitude and landing in the fields west of Old Bincombe Lane. I have counted flocks of over 200 fly over me, but in truth, I suspect the flock to be around 400. They are a pest and not even fit for the pot. I am told that even after six hours cooking they are uneatable. The major problem for the R.S.P.B. is the amount of guano such numbers leave behind causing nutrient enrichment. The problem for farmers is grazing of winter barley.

**EDITOR: JOHN NEWBOULD**

01305 837384

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

EMAIL: [johnna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk)



Kestrel ©Peter Sheeves



Canada Geese

© Janet Craig

### BUTTERFLIES

Ruth Eggerton reported Clouded Yellow and Small Copper near the Beacon on 10<sup>th</sup> October with Red Admiral in the garden on sunny days throughout October