



### New to Dorset

Janet Craig recently sent me this photograph of yellow slugs found under a wet log in her garden. Slugs are notoriously difficult to identify but on the off-chance, I forwarded the picture to Adrian Norris who is the non-marine recorder for the Conchological Society of Great Britain. He quite quickly pronounced the slugs to be *Limacus maculatus* or the Irish Yellow Slug. Needless to say the NBN gateway shows plenty of records for Yorkshire where Adrian lives but very few south of the Seven – Wash line. Dave Hubble reported the species from Lyndhurst in Hampshire in 2011 having been found in 1884 at Christchurch (Dorset) but in VC11. It is reputedly found under large logs in moist places so worth looking out for. Janet's record is thus the first reported for the old county of Dorset VC9. It is considered to have been introduced into mainland Britain.



### Garden Bird Watch

Janet Craig reported 2 Redpoll in her garden during the first week in March. This bird is a scarce winter visitor to east Dorset, which occasionally breeds in the County. Song Thrush (illustrated below) was just seen in one garden, whilst Mistle Thrush had two reports (one appropriately reported the birds feeding on Mistletoe).

There is now plenty of bird song early in the morning, especially Robin with Green Woodpecker calling from the Puddledocks and Greater-spotted Woodpecker drumming in the same area. The migrating thrushes Fieldfare and Redwing seem to have disappeared from Dorset. I certainly have not seen any since early February. Chaffinch has been present in 14 of the 17 gardens for which I received reports with 15 being the maximum observed.

Three or four people reported Frog spawn a good month late and I can report <5 road kills whilst walking around.



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



Coastal cliff falls have been very much in the news over the past few months. This one close to houses at Overcombe Corner has probably reduced the beach by 3m as well as falling onto the concrete promenade. There is certainly more to come and care should be taken walking on cliff tops and on the beach, especially after heavy rain.



What will be interesting over the next few months will be to see what plants and animals make a home in this very mobile hostile environment. At Overcombe, the small colony of Colt's-foot has extended. I am intrigued as to how because it is one of the earliest flowering plants and here it appears to have seeded itself on newly exposed clay. Has there been a residual seed-bank in the clay?