



The weather

January brought a mixture of rain and snow in the middle of the month. This resulted in a good invasion of thrushes especially Fieldfare and Redwing across the County. We had good numbers around 14th January, especially in the camping field. There were also good numbers of Lapwing seen on the east side of the village with smaller numbers reported from the western fields. These flocks were mixed with Golden Plover, which were also seen on the arable fields along Coombe Valley road right through to Whitcombe.

On two occasions I saw a large flock of up to 500 Starling at dusk with, on one occasion, a large whooshing sound as they flew over Brookmead Close.

The bad news for me is that with waterlogged fields and very poor light I have to raid the distant past for photographs to illustrate this Newsletter. Any help appreciated. The Lapwings above were photographed at Lodmoor.



Garden Bird Watch

Late January was fairly quiet in Sutton Poyntz gardens, but as February has progressed we are witnessing early morning bird song with Robin calling all along Sutton Road before dawn. Goldfinch appeared in good numbers when fed with Niger seed but this month only one garden reported Goldcrest. Grey Wagtail seems to be about more this year and I have additionally seen the bird along the Jordan around the Cartshed. Green Woodpecker can be heard calling along the Puddledocks most mornings. I also noticed a Jay with patches of white feathers.

Early flowers include Snowdrops and Primroses with Hairy Violets in flower in occasional gardens. It was the first week in February before I saw the first Lesser Celandine in flower compared with New Year's Day in 2012.

Dorothy Emblem reported her first frogspawn on 6th February but I have not seen the road casualties normally seen mid February.



EDITOR: PHONE
JOHN NEWBOULD 01305 837384

www.suttonpoyntz.org.uk
EMAIL: johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk

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



In the January Newsletter, I reported on the considerable progress made clearing scrub in the wet Waterworks meadow. The improved habitat has resulted in Snipe being found on Friday 15th February by David Emery. Snipe have been seen along the valley in recent years, during inclement weather but this area is a new place in habitat favoured by Snipe



Robin ©John Newbould

BTO says watch out for the early nesting birds such as Blue Tit, Robin and Blackbird. They were the ones that successfully bred in 2012, whilst migrant such as Swallows arrived to very poor conditions. Moorhen is another early starter along with both our woodpeckers.