



# Bristol Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity No. 235494

## Wildlife News: Week 06 – February 11<sup>th</sup> 2010

### Weather.

Another cold week, Average 5.6C, and year to date 4.6C, winter to date 5.0C, last twelve months 13.6C. Dominated by high pressure NE winds, but only three frost nights. A dry week too. This week was not as cold as this time last year, but the winter temperature will probably be the coldest since 1962/3. There have only been seven winters below 5.0C since 1853, and it looks as if this one will be as cold as 1940, and only 1917, 1947 and 1963 will have been colder since 1900.

### Spring events.

Though Snowdrops are out, and Daffodils are well clear of the ground, Croci are about to open, and some Camellia buds are close to opening, everything else has shut down. This is much the latest spring I have yet recorded.

### To Look out For

this week, if it gets any warmer.- Elm flowers, Barren Strawberry, Purple Plum, Corn Salad, and Celandine.

### Frogspawn Sorry this is a repeat.

I have had no reports of Frogspawn yet. Please keep a watch on your pond from now on, and let me know by e-mail ([richardbland@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:richardbland@blueyonder.co.uk)) when your first spawn arrives, and count the maximum number of frogs you can see. I just want the date and your postcode (or address). The national picture can be found at [www.phenology.org](http://www.phenology.org). The accumulated temperature so far is just 193 degrees, still below the 224 which is normally when I get the first frogspawn sighting. If the temperature stays at around 4 C, the first report of frogspawn should come about Feb 18th, and the average first sighting in the region will not be until March 14<sup>th</sup>

### National nest Box Week .

This runs from February 14<sup>th</sup>. The best advice is to have three nestboxes and one will be used. Make sure old ones are cleaned out, and register any existing boxes at [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org) and follow the nest box links. You don't have to be a BTO member, and there are no strings attached. The BTO wants all nest boxes to be registered and then record what happens to them. The data base, set up with the help of the BBC last year, will then give instant feedback about what is happening elsewhere in the country; the whole scheme will provide crucial information on the value of nest boxes, dates of building, hatching and fledging, second broods etc.

## **House Sparrows.**

The Avon Wildlife Trust have launched their interactive Sparrow website on [www.wildsparrows.org.uk](http://www.wildsparrows.org.uk). This is an exciting new initiative by the Trust, to gather information on a website, and encourage a variety of activities to improve the status of the sparrow. Please support this actively. We already know more about House Sparrows in Bristol than do most towns, but we still don't understand their distribution or what we need to do to encourage them

## **Training for the Breeding bird Survey.**

Saturday 13 March is the date of the annual Training day for the Breeding bird Survey. Contact John Tully on [john.tully4@aol.com](mailto:john.tully4@aol.com) if you are interested in this FREE half day event, starts 8.00am Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> at Westbury Library on Falcondale Road.

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