

# DRONFIELD WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

## *Newsletter No.30 – May/June 2020*

SECRETARY  
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### MAY

#### METEOROLOGICAL

#### **WEATHER REPORT from DRONFIELD –from garden bird surveys– BSS.**

The month started cloudy with some showers. From 2nd-9th it was sunny with variable amounts of cloud. 10th-12th were again cloudy with rain and sunny spells on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. It was again from 13th-21st with light cloud. There was overnight frost early on 14<sup>th</sup>. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> were very warm, there was overnight rain on 22<sup>nd</sup> and early rain on mornings of 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. It was again wall to wall sunshine from 25th-31st. A total of 27 days had sun.

#### GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

The most numerous birds in 11 gardens (monthly totals)

	Species	Total	None at	Most at
1	House Sparrow	1273	-	264 at [4], 229 at [3], 207 at [18]
2	Starling	752	[3][17]	258 at [16], 126 at [4], 117 at [20]
3	Woodpigeon	718	-	103 at [15], 86 at [3], 84 at [14]
4	Blackbird	690	-	132 at [18], 106 at [15], 71 at [1]
5	Dunnock	467	[1]	102 at [16], 73 at [18], 62 at [3]
6	Blue Tit	351	-	73 at [3], 62 at [16], 37 at [1]
7	Robin	299	-	47 at [16], 27 at [14], 25 at [8]
8	Magpie	218	-	78 at [3], 28 at [15], 20 at [4][20]
9	Goldfinch	201	-	71 at [16], 42 at [8], 24 at [18]
10	Collared Dove	149	[14][17]	56 at [3], 42 at [15], 19 at [8]
11	Great Tit	109	[3][4][6][18][20]	30 at [1], 24 at [14], 10 at [15]
12	Carrion Crow	97	[1][8][18][20]	45 at [14], 37 at [3], 11 at [4]
13	Greenfinch	59	6 gardens	25 at [18], 23 at [8], 5 at [16]
14	Mallard	53	10 gardens	53 at [14]
15	Coal Tit	48	[4][17][20]	23 at [18], 11 at [8], 4 at [15]

#### Others

4 sightings of Great Spotted Woodpecker at [1] and [14]. 43 Jackdaw sightings at [15]. Wrens reported from [1][16][17][18], Long-tailed Tits at [1][16][17][18]. Birds flying over – Sparrowhawk [14][15], Black-headed Gulls [3]. Grey Heron [3][6][18]. Mistle Thrush [17]. Swallow [14], House Martin [3][18]. Swifts [6][18] and Buzzard [6][14][15][17][18]. A Tawny Owl was heard a number of times at [4] Coal Aston.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL

1 <sup>st</sup>	Kestrel hovering over field next to Horse & Jockey PH Unstone (3776). Also 3 Canada Geese flew over.	R&JS
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Woodpigeon sat on nest under garage lean-to at garden [14] Coal Aston. 2 Buzzard flying over Peak Resort Unstone near by-pass, also 2 Kestrel.(3776)	P&MK R&JS
5 <sup>th</sup>	2 Goldfinch in garden of 191 Stonelow Road eating seed heads of Dandelion (3675). Buzzard over Apperknowle (3878).	BSS R&JS
12 <sup>th</sup>	3 Mallard, 2 males and 1 female, on garden pond [14] every day until end of month Coal Aston.	P&MK
18 <sup>th</sup>	Great-spotted Woodpecker at Peak Resort Unstone and 2 Buzzard flying over. (3776) Buzzard harassed by Carrion Crow at edge of Frith Wood, Stonelow Rd (3678)	R&JS
20 <sup>th</sup>	Blackbird, Dunnock, Blue Tit, Wren, Robin and Chiff Chaff at Unstone next to old railway line (3777).	AB
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bullfinch feeding on seed clocks of Dandelions on lawn at garden [8]	CS
27 <sup>th</sup>	Blackbird, Dunnock, Robin, Blue Tit, Wren, Chaffinch, Blackcap, Pheasant in Smekley Wood (3076)	AB
28 <sup>th</sup>	Tufted Duck, Moorhen, Mallard on Linacre top reservoir, Coot with young, Blackbird, House Sparrow, Robin, Dunnock (3272)	BB
29 <sup>th</sup>	2 Buzzard circling low in Owler Car Wood (3779)	P&MK
30 <sup>th</sup>	2 Buzzard flying over Sainsbury's Dronfield at 12.30 pm (3578) Kestrel at Peak Resort Unstone	CS R&JS
31 <sup>st</sup>	Kestrel in field next to Horse & Jockey PH Unstone (3776)	R&JS

Other birds sightings for May - G & E G

1/5/20 19.35 hrs Dipper seen on River Drone near Mill Lane 362781  
. 19.50 hrs Chiff Chaff heard then seen at Dronfield Nature Park 365780  
. 19.50 hrs Kestrel flew over Dronfield Nature Park 365780  
. 20.10 hrs Jay flew over Mill Lane 358781  
. 20.15 hrs Dipper seen on River Drone near Chesterfield Road bridge 356783  
. 20.25 hrs Pair of Dippers seen on River Drone near Soaper Lane bridge 354785  
3/5/20 14.00 hrs Buzzard circling over Hartington Road 355787  
. 19.15 hrs Pair of Grey Wagtails on River Drone/ Chesterfield Road 355785  
. 19.25 hrs Pair of Dippers on River Drone near Chesterfield Road bridge 356783  
. 19.30 hrs Pair of Grey Wagtails on River Drone/Mill Lane near Railway bridge 357783  
. 19.35 hrs Dipper seen on River Drone/ Mill Lane 357784  
4/5/20 19.20 hrs 2 Swifts over Eckington Road, Coal Aston 368795  
. 20.10 hrs Buzzard over Sicklebrook Lane 377797  
. 20.20 hrs Pair of Kestrels hunting over Sicklebrook Lane/Eckington Road 337795  
7/5/20 14.10 hrs Pair of Grey Wagtails on River Drone/ Mill Lane near Railway bridge 357783  
8/5/20 09.20 hrs 4 Swifts over Shireoaks Road 364787  
. 09.40 hrs 2 Treecreepers seen at Metapic Wood 368777  
. 11.15 hrs 2 Buzzards and a Sparrowhawk circling over Hundall 387776  
. 12.30 hrs Several House Martins and Swallows over Summerley 374787  
11/5/20 11.40 hrs Rook on street light on Snape Hill Lane 354786  
12/5/20 11.05 hrs 2 Swifts over Snape Hill Lane 357791  
13/5/20 19.10 hrs 2 pairs of Grey Wagtails on River Drone near Soaper Lane bridge 354785  
. 19.25 hrs Pair of Dippers on River Drone near Chesterfield Road bridge 356783  
15/5/20 10.10 hrs 3 Buzzards circling over Binkley Wood 400770  
18/5/20 19.10 hrs Pair of Grey Wagtails on River Drone/ Mill Lane near Railway bridge 357783  
19/5/20 15.00 hrs Buzzard circling over Troway 385797  
. 15.30 hrs Pair of Kestrels hunting over Sicklebrook Lane/Eckington Road 337795  
24/5/20 20.30 hrs 10 Swifts feeding over Firth Wood 365787  
25/5/20 14.00 hrs 2 Jays flew over Sicklebrook Lane 375797  
. 14.10 hrs Green Woodpecker flew North over Eckington Road 370795  
26/5/20 20.00 hrs Grey Wagtail on River Drone/ Mill Lane near Railway bridge 357783

**Garden Bird Survey**  
**11 Gardens**

**Garden Birds**

**Total Species for May – 32**

**Maximum numbers seen together**

<b>Garden No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
House Sparrow	2		10	11		5		1						3	10	12	4	8		5
Starling	2			7		12		1						3	3	14		12		15
Blackbird	4		3	4		2		3						3	6	12	2	6		3
Blue Tit	2		3	3		2		2						2	2	2	3			3
Collared Dove	2		2	2				2							3	1		1		2
Magpie			4	2		1		2						2	2	1	2	1		1
Chaffinch	2							2												
Dunnock			2	3		1		1						3	1	6	2	3		2
Robin	1		1	1				1						2	1	2	1			
Greenfinch	1							3						1		2		2		
Song Thrush	1																			
Great Tit	2							2						2	2	1		2		
Wren	1			1										1	1		1			
Coal Tit	1		1			1		2						1	1	1		2		
Carrion Crow			2	2		1								4	1	1	FO			
Mistle Thrush																	FO			
Woodpigeon	3		5	4		4		3						5	6			4		3
Rook			FO	2																
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker	1													1						
Goldfinch	2					5		6						2	4	4	2	4		2
Sparrowhawk																				
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	1															6	1	1		
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull			FO	FO										FO						
Goldcrest																				
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw															4					
Feral Rock Dove																				
Bullfinch								2												
Kestrel																				
Nuthatch																				
Pheasant				Hd																
Grey Heron			FO			FO													FO	
L.B.B. Gull																			FO	
Blackcap																				
House Martin			2																	FO
C.Buzzard						FO								FO			FO	FO		
Mallard														3						
Sparrowhawk														1	FO					
Swift						FO													FO	
Swallow														FO						
Total	16		14	14		13		15						21	16	15	12	18		9

## **BOTANICAL**

6 <sup>th</sup>	Carpets of Bluebells in Monk Wood (tree-felling has let light in). Also Yellow Pimpernell, Hedge Mustard. (3577,3576,3575,3475,3375,3376,3377)	CS
14 <sup>th</sup>	Bluebell, Herb Robert, Dandelion, Cow Parsley, Wood Avens, Garlic Mustard, Golden Saxifrage, Meadow Buttercup along the Unstone Line (3677-3777)	AB
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cow Parsley, Alkanet, Foxglove, Yellow Poppy, Ransoms, Meadow Buttercup, Herb Robert, Wood Avens, Nipplewort in Oxclose Lane, Dronfield Woodhouse (3378)	AB
28 <sup>th</sup>	Bluebell, Creeping Buttercup, Garlic Mustard, Hedge Mustard at side of Linacre top reservoir (3372)	BB
31 <sup>st</sup>	5 Orchids have appeared in lawn at [8] after not appearing last year – possible Southern Marsh Orchid.	CS

## **MAMMALS**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Brown Rat in garden [20] Coal Aston, also on 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	S&GR
8 <sup>th</sup>	Brown Hare seen in Ramshaw Wood amongst Bluebells at 10.00hrs (377769)	G&EG
16 <sup>th</sup>	Lots of Mole activity in garden [1] Unstone	R&JS
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Field Vole in distress on pavement on Holmley Lane (removed to safety of plant cover) at 19.30hrs	G&EG
23 <sup>rd</sup>	2 Grey Squirrels in garden [1] Unstone, also on 29 <sup>th</sup> .	R&JS
24 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog continuing to eat food left in its “house” & also to leave droppings [3]	AB

## **AMPHIBIANS**

23 <sup>rd</sup>	2 Common Frogs in garden pond [18] Coal Aston	M&LF
31 <sup>st</sup>	1 Common Toad sitting in bottom of grate from kitchen at [18] Coal Aston	M&LF

## **INSECTS**

### Butterflies -

	Seen in garden [15] Large White, Small White, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Orange Tip, Brimstone	G&EG
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Orange Tip in garden [17]	BSS
9 <sup>th</sup>	Orange Tip in garden [1] also on 19 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	R&JS
14 <sup>th</sup>	Speckled Wood, Small White, Small Tortoiseshell in Smeekley Wood (3076)	AB
19 <sup>th</sup>	Small White in garden [1] also on 21 <sup>st</sup>	R&JS

25 <sup>th</sup>	Peacock in garden [1] also on 28 <sup>th</sup> .	R&JS
27 <sup>th</sup>	Peacock, Small White, Green-veined White in garden [3]	AB
	<u>Others -</u>	
	Seen in garden [15] – Green Shield Bug, Brown Shield Bug, Lily Beetle, Red-tailed, Buff-tailed, White-tailed Bumble Bees, Honey Bees drinking from bird bath, 7 Spot Ladybird.	G&EG
18 <sup>th</sup>	Male Red Damselfly ( <i>Pyrrosoma nymphula</i> ) on & around garden pond at [18] (3679)	M&LF
	White-tailed Bumble Bee [8]	CS
31 <sup>st</sup>	Red-tailed Bumble Bee Dronfield Woodhouse (3278& 3279)	CS

## JUNE

### METEOROLOGICAL

#### **WEATHER REPORT from DRONFIELD –from garden bird surveys– BSS.**

The first 2 days were sunny. It then rained from 3rd-7th. It was dry and overcast on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Another spell of rain lasted from 10th-14th with a thunderstorm late on 14<sup>th</sup>. It was sunny again on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup> had a misty start followed by cloud. It rained on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and was sunny from 20th-26th. It was breezy from 19th-22nd. It was hot after this from 23rd-26th and ended with a storm on 26<sup>th</sup>. More rain fell from 27th-29th and it was quite breezy. The 30<sup>th</sup> was cloudy, bright and had showers. There were 14 days with some sun and 16 with some rain.

### BOTANICAL

- 14<sup>th</sup> Dyer's Rocket (Weld), Horse Radish, Heart's Ease on land disturbed by work on wetland on Gosforth Drive, Dronfield Woodhouse (3378)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Single Common Spotted Orchid at Dronfield Nature Park (364779) G&EG  
Broad-leaved Helleborine alongside fence at Stonelow School (359786)

**Garden Bird Survey**  
**10 Gardens**

**Garden Birds**

**Total Species for June - 33**

**Maximum numbers seen together**

<b>Garden No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
House Sparrow	2		8	11		5		1						5	10		4	11		6
Starling			FO	16		22								1	3			6		26
Blackbird	3		3	2		3		2						4	4		3	6		3
Blue Tit	5		2	1		3		3						3	3		1	3		7
Collared Dove	3		2	1				2						1	4			1		2
Magpie	5		5	2		1		2						3	3		2	1		2
Chaffinch	2							2						2						
Duncock			2	3		1		2						2	2		1	2		3
Robin	2			1		1		2						2	1		1	1		
Greenfinch	2			1				5						1				2		
Song Thrush	1																			
Great Tit	5			1		1		2						2	2					
Wren				Hd										1			1			
Coal Tit	1		1											2				2		
Carrion Crow	1		3	2		1								3	FO					
Mistle Thrush																				
Woodpigeon	5		4	4		4		3						6	9		2	4		4
Rook			FO	2																
C. Buzzard	FO																	FO		
G.S. Woodpecker	2													1						
Goldfinch	1		1	1		4		4							5		1	2		4
Sparrowhawk																				
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	2							4												
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull			FO	FO										FO						
House Martin			FO															FO		
Swift			FO			FO									FO					
Jackdaw																				1
Feral Rock Dove														1				3		
Bullfinch	2							2						2						
Kestrel			FO																	
Nuthatch	1																			
Pheasant																				
Grey Heron																		FO		
Lapwing																				
L.B.B. Gull																	FO	FO		
Blackcap																				
Mallard														3						
Grey Wagtail																				
Brambling																				
Swallow														1						
Tawny Owl														Hd						
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>15</b>						<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>9</b>

The most numerous birds in 10 gardens (monthly totals)

	Species	Total	None at	Most at
1	House Sparrow	1,083	-	263 at [18], 229 at [4], 175 at [15]
2	Woodpigeon	654	-	110 at [15], 90 at [18], 87 at [3]
3	Blackbird	528	-	130 at [8], 76 at [15], 72 at [3]
4	Starling	480	[1][8][17]	168 at [20], 161 at [6], 76 at [18]
5	Magpie	276	-	110 at [3], 35 at [15], 28 at [14]
6	Blue Tit	236	-	42 at [14], 40 at [3], 37 at [8]
7	Dunnock	213	[1]	48 at [3], 23 at [20], 22 at [14][18]
8	Goldfinch	146	-	48 at [8], 32 at [15], 28 at [6]
9	Great Tit	126	[3][17][18][20]	64 at [1], 28 at [8], 27 at [14]
10	Collared Dove	108	[6][17]	37 at [15], 26 at [3], 21 at [8]
11	Carrion Crow	103	[8][17][18][20]	39 at [3], 37 at [14], 22 at [4]
12	Greenfinch	77	-	50 at [8], 12 at [18], 5 at [1][13][14]
13	Robin	67	-	19 at [8][14], 14 at [1], 6 at [18]
14	Chaffinch	47	7 gardens	25 at [1], 12 at [8], 10 at [14]
15	Jackdaw	27	8 gardens	26 at [15], 1 at [20]

Others

Feral Rock Dove at [14][18], Bullfinch at [1][14], Song Thrush at [1], Great-spotted Woodpecker at [1] in middle of month (7th-18th). Pair of Mallard at [14]. Birds seen flying overhead – Buzzard [1] [18], Lesser Black-backed Gull [17][18], Kestrel [3]. Grey Heron [18]. Swallow [14], House Martin [3][18]. Swift [3][15]. A Tawny Owl was heard from [14].

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lesser Black-backed Gull on Henry Fanshawe School Field (3678) BSS
- 4<sup>th</sup> Lots of Swifts and Swallows over Ouzle Bank (3676) J&RS
- 8<sup>th</sup> 2 Buzzards flying over Peak Resort, Unstone (3776) J&RS
- 2 juvenile Blue Tits now independent feeding themselves by holding Sunflower seeds and pecking them open (3478). CS
- 11<sup>th</sup> Lots of Swifts and Swallows over Peak Resort, Unstone, (3776) J&RS
- 13<sup>th</sup> Great-spotted Woodpecker feeding young [14] P&MK
- 15<sup>th</sup> Woodpigeons nesting under garage lean-to and 2 young fledged [14] P&MK
- 20<sup>th</sup> 10 large Gulls over Sainsbury's (Herring or Lesser Black-backed?) (34-3578) CS
- 25<sup>th</sup> 3 Swallows flying over 89 Stubble Lane (3478) CS

**MAMMALS**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grey Squirrel feeding 2 young [1] J&RS
- 10<sup>th</sup> Field Mouse in garden [20] S&GR
- 17<sup>th</sup> Hedgehog (adult) at [20] during daylight. Also young Hedgehog on 29<sup>th</sup> during daylight. S&GR
- 21<sup>st</sup> Bat (probably Pipistrelle) hunting around Snape Hill Lane at 2200 hrs (357791) G&EG
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dead Roe Deer on Dronfield bypass south bound near slip road to Sheepbridge at 1100 hours (368754) M&LF
- 25<sup>th</sup> Rabbit at Dronfield Nature Park at 1935 hrs. (364779) G&EG
- 26<sup>th</sup> Hedgehog and Field Mouse at [3] AB



## INSECTS

- 14<sup>th</sup> Buff-tailed and Red-tailed Bumblebees on White Clover in lawn CS  
24<sup>th</sup> Butterflies – Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood, Small White, Large White at [3] AB

### Sightings in garden [15] throughout June

G&EG

Large White, Small White, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies.  
White-tailed Bumblebee, Red-tailed Bumblebee, Buff-tailed Bumblebee,  
Tree Bumblebee, Honey Bee, Carder Bee.  
Green Shieldbeetle, Lily Beetle, 7 Spot Ladybird

### Dronfield Nature Park (3677) – 24 June 2020 - Botanical

M&LF

Bird's-foot Trefoil  
Bramble  
Broad-leaved Willow Herb  
Buddleia  
Common Mouse-ear  
Common Ragwort  
Creeping Bittercress  
Creeping Cinquefoil  
Creeping Thistle  
Daisy  
Dandelion  
Dog Rose  
Elder Flower  
Field Rose  
Forget-me-not  
Foxglove  
Germander Speedwell  
Goosegrass  
Herb Bennet  
Herb Robert  
Hogweed  
Jack-by-the-Hedge  
Lady's Mantle  
Lesser Trefoil  
Lords & Ladies  
Meadow Vetchling  
Moonpenny  
Nettle  
Red Clover  
Ribwort Plantain  
Salad Burnet  
Selfheal  
St. John's wort sp.  
White Clover  
Wood Avens  
Woundwort

Birds

Butterflies

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Blackbird  
Carrion Crow  
Chaffinch  
Chiff Chaff  
Herring Gull  
Song Thrush  
Swallow  
Woodpigeon

Large White  
Meadow Brown  
Small White

Contributors

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