

# DRONFIELD WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

## *Newsletter No.32 - September/October 2020*

SECRETARY  
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### SEPTEMBER

#### METEOROLOGICAL

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

From 1st-6th most days had a mixture of sun, rain and cloud. 7<sup>th</sup> was a rainy day and 8<sup>th</sup> dull and cloudy. 9th-11th were again dull and cloudy but with some sunny spells and 12th-15th sunny with spells of rain. 16th-21st went back to cloudy dull but with sun on 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> and rain on 21<sup>st</sup>. 22<sup>nd</sup> was sunny all day, 23<sup>rd</sup> dull with rainy periods. 24<sup>th</sup> was a mixture of sun and rain and 25<sup>th</sup> dull with sunny spells. It was windy from 25th-30th. 26th-28th stayed sunny and cool and 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> were still cool with sunny spells.

#### GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

The most numerous birds in 9 gardens (monthly totals)

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>None at</b>	<b>Most at</b>
1	House Sparrow	1142	-	382 at [18], 213 at [4], 211 at [20]
2	Starling	544	[1][8][20]	330 at [18]
3	Woodpigeon	409	-	106 at [15], 70 at [4], 45 at [6]
4	Blackbird	199	-	53 at [3]
5	Dunnock	173	[1][8]	60 at [4]
6	Blue Tit	162	-	53 at [3]
7	Goldfinch	150	[3][20]	127 at [4]
8	Robin	106	[15]	32 at [20]
9	Magpie	97	-	27 at [3]
10	Great Tit	63	[3][15][18]	49 at [1]
11	Collared Dove	43	5 gardens	30 at [3]
12	Greenfinch	26	5 gardens	21 at [8]
13	Coal Tit	21	[3][18][20]	7 at [8]
14	Carrion Crow	20	5 gardens	17 at [3]
14	Jackdaw	20	6 gardens	20 at [15]

#### Others

A Wren in garden [4] on 25<sup>th</sup> and 1 in garden [6] on 20<sup>th</sup>. Long-tailed Tits in garden [1][15] each on a single occasion. Nuthatch in garden [1] on 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rooks & Black-headed Gulls seen flying over[3][4]. Sparrowhawk flying over [15], Buzzard flying over [6], House Martin flying over [18].

## ORNITHOLOGICAL

1 <sup>st</sup>	22.20hrs Tawny Owl heard calling near Henry Fanshaw School (357785)	G&EG
9 <sup>th</sup>	12.30hrs Sparrowhawk flying North over rear garden [15]	G&EG
11 <sup>th</sup>	Kestrel and Song Thrush overhead at Peak Resort, Unstone (3776)	R&JS
12 <sup>th</sup>	Great Tit, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Robin, Carrion Crow, Woodpigeon & Magpie in Dronfield church yard (3578)	BSS
	10.50hrs 2 Buzzards flying Northwest over Snape Hill Lane (355790)	G&EG
14 <sup>th</sup>	17.05hrs 2 Sparrowhawks circling together over Green Lane (357790)	G&EG
15 <sup>th</sup>	Carrion Crow, House Sparrow, Blackbird, Red Shank in area from Gosforth Drive, Dronfield Woodhouse to Cowley (3777)	BB
17 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Linacre – Middle Reservoir (3372)</u> – Moorhen, Mallard, <u>Top Reservoir (3272)</u> – Mallard, Blackbird, Moorhen, Dunnock.	BB
20 <sup>th</sup>	14.25hrs C30 Starlings flew East over rear garden [15]	G&EG
21 <sup>st</sup>	14.05hrs C20 Starlings flew North over rear garden [15]	G&EG
25 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Metapic Wood</u> – bottom of Half Acre Lane, Unstone – Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Woodpigeon, Robin, Great Tit, Blue Tit, House Sparrow (3777)-(3677). <u>Troway-Summerley (3879)-(3778)</u> – House Sparrow, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Woodpigeon, Robin, Magpie, Skylark.	CS/BSS/MS
26 <sup>th</sup>	Kestrel over Unstone (3777).	R&JS

**Garden Bird Survey**  
**9 Gardens**

**Garden Birds**

**Total Species for September - 25**

**Maximum numbers seen together**

<b>Garden No.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
House Sparrow	19		125	213		69									116		7	382		211
Starling			FO	51		105									16			330		
Blackbird	6		53	25		6		1							33		9	38		28
Blue Tit	27		53	11		20		6							35		4	1		5
Collared Dove	13		30												FO					
Magpie	4		27	23		2		1							17		11	10		2
Chaffinch	17																			
Dunnock			44	60		26									3		3	16		21
Robin	16		10	7		11		6									3	21		32
Greenfinch	1		4					21												
Song Thrush																				
Great Tit	49			2		1		2									4			5
Wren				1		1														
Coal Tit	5			1		2		7							6					
Carrion Crow			17	2											1					
Mistle Thrush																				
Woodpigeon	12		38	70		45		35							106		7	53		43
Rook			FO	FO																
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker																				
Goldfinch	3			127		8		9							FO			3		
Sparrowhawk															FO					
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	8														8					
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull			FO	FO																
Goldcrest																				
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw								FO							20					
Feral Rock Dove																				
Bullfinch																				
Kestrel																				
Nuthatch	2																			
Pheasant																				
Grey Heron																				
L.B.B. Gull																				
Blackcap																				
Fieldfare																				
C.Buzzard						FO														
House Martin																			FO	
Siskin																				
Tawny Owl																		Hd		
Redwing																				
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>10</b>							<b>14</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>8</b>

## MAMMALS

4 <sup>th</sup>	Grey Squirrel in garden[1]. Also on 12 <sup>th</sup> .	R&JS
6 <sup>th</sup>	Field Mouse in garden[20].	S&GR
16 <sup>th</sup>	Dead Badger on Crow Lane, Unstone (3777)	S&GR
19 <sup>th</sup>	Field Mouse in garden[20].	S&GR
25 <sup>th</sup>	Grey Squirrel in Metapic Wood (3776)	BSS

## INSECTS

	<u>BUTTERFLIES IN GARDEN [15] during month</u>	G&EG
	Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White, Large White, Peacock, Green-veined White	
	<u>OTHER INSECTS IN GARDEN [15] during month</u>	
	Carder Bee, White-tailed Bumblebee, Red-tailed Bumblebee, Honey Bee, Green Shieldbeetle, Brown Shieldbeetle, Vine Weevil, 7 Spot Ladybird with larvae, Lily Beetle, Wasp, Crane-fly	
	Butterflies in garden [4] during month - Peacock, Gatekeeper,	BB
1 <sup>st</sup>	Small Tortoiseshell in garden [4]. Also 15 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> .	BB
2 <sup>nd</sup>	First sighting of the year of a Painted Lady on the Cuckoo Way towpath, Chesterfield (387716)	G&EG
	A pair of Southern Hawker Dragonflies mating at Poolsbrook Country Park (435727)	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Small Whites mating in garden [15]	G&EG
	2 Small White and 4 Small Tortoiseshell on Red Valerian [8]	
6 <sup>th</sup>		G&EG CS
14 <sup>th</sup>	Small Tortoiseshell at [8].	CS

## OCTOBER

### METEOROLOGICAL

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

A mixed month with 22 days having some rain and 13 days having some sun. 1st&2nd were cloudy with sunny spells and it rained most of the day on 3<sup>rd</sup>. From 4th-19th most days were cloudy with rain or showers. There were sunny spells on 5<sup>th</sup>,10th,11th,15th and sun all day on 17<sup>th</sup>. 20<sup>th</sup> was sun and cloud all day and 21<sup>st</sup> was rainy. Again a mixture of sun and rain followed - 22<sup>nd</sup> was sun and cloud, 23rd mostly rain with sunny spells. 24<sup>th</sup> and most of the rest of the month was cloudy and mostly rain, 25<sup>th</sup> however was sunny.

### GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

The most numerous birds in 10 gardens (monthly totals)

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>None at</b>	<b>Most at</b>
1	House Sparrow	2315	[8]	347 at [18], 256 at [20], 245 at [4]
2	Woodpigeon	423	[14]	77 at [4], 66 at [3], 57 at [1]
3	Starling	376	[1][20]	157 at [6], 123 at [18], 85 at [4]
4	Blackbird	256	-	87 at [3], 42 at [18], 41 at [15]
5	Blue Tit	196	-	63 at [3], 49 at [15], 29 at [14]
6	Dunnock	182	-	60 at [4], 54 at [3], 14 at [6][14]
7	Robin	121	-	30 at [20], 21 at [18], 18 at [1]
8	Magpie	112	[1]	33 at [3][15], 18 at [4], 15 at [17]
9	Carrion Crow	89	[6][14][18][20]	50 at [3], 19 at [1], 10 at [4]
9	Goldfinch	89	6 gardens	78 at [4], 7 at [14], 3 at [6]
11	Coal Tit	70	[1]	23 at [3], 13 at [20], 10 at [15]
12	Great Tit	64	[14][20]	41 at [1], 9 at [3], 8 at [14]
13	Jackdaw	19	9 gardens	19 at [14]
14	Nuthatch	15	8 gardens	10 at [1], 5 at [8]
15	Wren	14	[1][15][17][18]	4 at [1][20], 2 at [6][14], 1 at [4][8]

#### Others

No data supplied.

### ORNITHOLOGICAL

1 <sup>st</sup>	7 Fieldfare seen in Graves Park, Sheffield (3582 just out of our area)	G&EG
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Grey Wagtail on River Drone near Soaper Lane bridge (353784)	G&EG
	5 Pied Wagtail on bowling green, Cliff Park, Dronfield (357785)	G&EG
4 <sup>th</sup>	Female Sparrowhawk trying to get at House Sparrows in Pyracantha and failed! [18]	M&LF
5 <sup>th</sup>	Buzzard harassed by 2 Crows over allotments off Snape Hill Lane (355785)	G&EG
7 <sup>th</sup>	Tawny Owl calling in Frith Wood at 1905 hrs (365787). Also on 19 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> .	G&EG/BSS
10 <sup>th</sup>	Buzzard over garden [15] harassed by Carrion Crow.	G&EG
	Skylark soaring over fields behind Old Dronfield Railway Station (3578)	CS/MS/BSS
	Birds seen at <u>Sheepbridge</u> Carrion Crow, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Nuthatch, Blackbird, Woodpigeon, Magpie. (3674)	
16 <sup>th</sup>	Kestrel over Peak Resort, Unstone (3776). Also on 17 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> .	R&JS
18 <sup>th</sup>	Tawny Owl heard calling from Stonelaw/Oakhill Roads (363786)	G&EG

20 <sup>th</sup>	2 Jays collecting Acorns at Holmebrook Valley Park (360727)	G&EG
22 <sup>nd</sup>	2 Ravens seen tumbling over Green Lane area at 0935 hrs (357790)	G&EG
	C40 Redwing near River Drone at Sheepbridge (374757)	G&EG
	8 Magpies seen in Peak Resort, Unstone.	R&JS
25 <sup>th</sup>	Blue Tit in and out of nest box [1]	R&JS
31 <sup>st</sup>	Skein of Geese (probably Greylag) flying over upper Gosforth Valley (3478)	AB

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

**Garden Birds**

**Total Species for October - 28**

**Maximum numbers seen together**

<b>Garden No.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
House Sparrow	22		119	245		63									169		8	347		256
Starling			FO	85		157		FO						1	FO			123		
Blackbird	5		87	34		7		3						10	41		4	42		24
Blue Tit	14		63	11		15		10						29	49		FO	4		1
Collared Dove	4		10					3							1					
Magpie	3		33	18		14		7						9	33		15	10		6
Chaffinch	4		2											1						
Dunnock			54	60		14								9	14		7	11		13
Robin	18		11	8		8		10						2	9		4	21		30
Greenfinch			5	1				6												
Song Thrush																				
Great Tit	41					1		9						8	4			1		
Wren	4			1		2		1						2						4
Coal Tit	7		23	3		4		29						1	10			9		13
Carrion Crow			50	10										19	FO		8	2		
Mistle Thrush																				
Woodpigeon	3		66	77		40		46						57	99		43	52		42
Rook			FO	FO																
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker																				
Goldfinch				78		3		1						7						
Sparrowhawk														2				2		
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	6		5											1			5			
C..Buzzard.						FO														
B.H. Gull			FO	FO										FO			FO			
Goldcrest																				
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw															19					
Feral Rock Dove																				
Bullfinch																				
Kestrel																	FO			
Nuthatch	10		5																	
Pheasant																				
Grey Heron			FO																	
Lapwing																				
L.B.B. Gull																	FO			
Blackcap																				
Fieldfare																				
Grey Wagtail																				
Brambling																				
Siskin								1												
Tawny Owl														Hd			Hd			
House Martin																				
Total	13		18	15		13		13						17	13		13	12		9

## **BOTANICAL**

Fungi at garden [8] – Sulphur Tuft, *Hypholoma fasciculare*; Club fungus, *Clavulinopsis helvola*; Puff CS Balls, *Lycoperdon pyriforme*; *Hygrocybe quieta*.

## **MAMMALS**

22<sup>nd</sup> A Badger had dug out a wasp's nest at Peak Resort, Unstone (3776). G&EG  
This had previously been a Bee's nest as both honeycomb and Wasp cell comb were present in the litter. A few confused Wasps were still attending remains of the nest.

## **INSECTS**

15<sup>th</sup> Small White butterfly in garden [15] G&EG  
Other Insects during month were:- Carder Bee, White-tailed Bumblebee, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, G&EG  
Honey Bumblebee, Vine Weevil and Wasp.

## **Contributors**

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