

# DRONFIELD WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

## *Newsletter No.35 – March/April 2021*

SECRETARY  
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### March

#### METEOROLOGICAL

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

The first three days of the month started with mist and were mainly cloudy. From 4th most days had varying amounts of cloud and rain to the 28th, except 5th, 7th, 9th, 15th and 20th-25th which were sunny with light cloud and windy on some days. 29th, 30th and 31st were also sunny and warm.

#### 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	618	-	166 at [15], 138 at [3], 125 at [4]
2	Woodpigeon	470	-	126 at [15], 104 at [14], 88 at [3]
3	Blackbird	437	-	126 at [3], 53 at [[14][15], 51 at [1]
4	Starling	386	[1][17]	233 at [4], 86 at [3], 40 at [6]
5	Blue Tit	276	-	73 at [3], 54 at [15], 36 at [6]
6	Dunnock	243	[1]	66 at [3], 55 at [4], 40 at [8]
7	Magpie	175	-	61 at [3], 34 at [4], 30 at [15]
8	Great Tit	157	[3][4]	72 at [1], 38 at [8], 30 at [14]
9	Robin	122	-	32 at [1], 27 at [15], 15 at [8]
10	Carrion Crow	120	[1][6][8]	56 at [3], 32 at [14], 19 at [4]
11	Collared Dove	115	[4][6][17]	62 at [3], 20 at [15], 16 at [8]
12	Goldfinch	98	[3]	76 at [8], 8 at [14], 5 at [6]
13	Greenfinch	85	[3][4][6][15][17]	79 at [8], 4 at [1], 2 at [14]
14	Chaffinch	76	[3][4][6][15][17]	46 at [1], 19 at [14], 11 at [8]
15	Coal Tit	74	[4][17]	26 at [14], 21 at [8][15], 3 at [1]

#### Others

There were 60 sightings of Long-tailed Tits, 18 of Nuthatch and 15 of Wren during the month in gardens [1][3][18] and [17]. Single Song Thrush were seen at [1] and [14]. Siskin seen were 4 at [3] and 2 at [8]. Garden [4] had 6 rook during the month on the garden wall backing onto fields and Sparrowhawk was seen at [3] and flying over [15]. Also at [15] were Blackcap, Goldcrest and Jackdaw. There were Bramblings on 2 days at [8]. Mistle Thrush were seen over [1], Black-headed Gull over [3][4][14][17]. A single Grey Heron flew over [3] on 11th and [6] on 30th. Bullfinch visited [14]. Buzzard flying over [6] on 3 occasions and Tawny Owl were heard at [14] in adjacent woodland.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL

	Large flocks of Corvids on Barnes Farm fields most days	BB
1st	11.35 hrs Female Blackbird collecting nesting material [15] (357792)	G&EG
2nd	13.15 hrs Buzzard circling over field opposite end of Ash Lane (377787). Lapwing in field off Ash Lane (377795) Moorhen at Peak Resort, Unstone (3776)	G&EG J&RS
3rd	10.00 hrs Collared Dove collecting twigs for nesting [15] (157792)	G&EG
6th	2 Buzzard flying over Peak Resort, Unstone (3776) 13.45 hrs Sparrowhawk flew west low over rear garden [15] (357792) 2 field mice in garden [2]	J&RS G&EG S&GR
8th	Lesser Black-backed Gulls over Stubley Lane, Dronfield (3478)	CS
9th	C20 Starlings on Gorseybrigg school fields (3378) 3 buzzards seen over Hundall (3877)	CS J&RS
11th	Great Spotted Woodpecker calling in Frith Wood (3678). Also on 24th	BSS
12th	Male Pied Wagtail at 1315 hrs in car park next to Green Lane (3578)	BSS)
13th	Buzzard mobbed by Gulls and numerous Lapwings seen at Peak Resort, Unstone (3776)	J&RS
14th	Dipper seen on River Drone, Mill Lane (3578). Grey Wagtail on Lea Brook, Civic Centre (3578)	CS
15th	21.45 hrs Goldcrest, 6 Long-tailed Tits and 2 Great-crested Grebes seen around the lake at Holmebrook Valley Park, Newbold (360730)	G&EG
16th	2 Redwing feeding on lawn 1715 hrs Cross lane Coal Aston (3679)	P&MK
17th	3 Buzzard over Gosforth Valley fly-over (3478) Grey heron flying over Sicklebrook Lane. (3879)	J&RS S&GS
19th	Dipper on River Drone in Metapic Wood area (Old Gas Works) (3578) Pair of Grey Wagtail on River Drone (3677) and Nuthatch in same area Buzzard flying over Frith Wood towards Unstone at 1250 hrs (3678) Also on 22nd at 1630 hrs and on 23rd at 1215 hrs.	MS/CS BSS
20th	14.45 hrs 2 Buzzard circling over Frith Wood (368792)	G&EG
21st	15.45 hrs pair of Grey Wagtails seen on River Drone at Mill Lane (357783)	G&EG
22nd	13.30 hrs 3 Pied Wagtail on bowling green in Cliffe Park (358784) Kestrel hovering over field just past Travellers Rest PH. Several Skylarks in the area both on the ground and in the air (3877)	G&EG M&LF
23rd	14.15 hrs Jackdaw collecting nesting materials on rear garden [15] (357792) Male Brambling with nearly complete black head in garden on Stubley Lane (3479)	G&EG CS
25th	Male and Female Pheasants at Peak Resorts Unstone (3776)	J&RS
26th	12.15 hrs Sparrowhawk flew west over front garden [15] (357791) 14.30 hrs Sparrowhawk flew north over front garden [15] (357791)	G&EG
27th	Great-spotted Woodpecker Drumming in Frith Wood at 12.30 hrs (3678) Also each day to end of the month	BSS
28th	Song Thrush at Peak Resort, Unstone (3677)	J&RS

- 30th Grey Heron flying east from Cross Lane, Coal Aston (3679) P&MK  
 11.40 hrs Skylarks seen and heard in fields near Hazlebarrow farm (366814) G&EG  
 12.15 hrs Grey Wagtail on stream in Newfield Spring Wood (375811)  
 13.10 hrs Buzzard rising on thermals over Cook Spring Wood (375805)  
 13.55 hrs Great-spotted Wood pecker heard drumming in Owler Carr Wood  
 (376804)  
 14.10 hrs Skylarks seen and heard in fields near Owler Car Lane (377803)
- 31st Fantastic view of a Male Wheatear, sitting and moving along hedgerow on road M&LF  
 between Travellers Rest PH and Hundall (3877). Our first sighting of this bird  
 in our area. Also Skylarks in same area.

**Starlings gathering in Poplar trees at (357792)**

C30 on 1st, 29 on 2nd, 23 on 4th, 11 on 5th, 13 on 6th, C30 on 7th, 12 on 8th, 9 on 9th, C30 on 16th, 4 on 17th, 13 on 18th, 11 on 20th, 11 on 21st, 8 on 22nd, C20 on 23rd, 9 on 25th, 6 on 28th, 4 on 30th.

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

**Garden Birds**

**Total Species for March- 32**

**Maximum numbers seen together**

Garden No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
House Sparrow	3		11	15		9		2						2	8			11		12
Starling			9	28		4		1						1	5			6		
Blackbird	4		6	3		2		3						5	3		4	4		3
Blue Tit	3		4	2		2		2						3	4		1	2		1
Collared Dove	2		2					2						3	2					1
Magpie	3		2	2		1		1						4	2		1	2		2
Chaffinch	4							2						2						
Dunnock			32	3		2		2						2	2		2	2		3
Robin	2			1		1		2						2	2		2	2		2
Greenfinch	1							5						1				Hd		
Song Thrush	1													1						
Great Tit	4					2		2						2	2			Hd		
Wren			1											1	Hd		1	1		1
Coal Tit	1		1			1		2						2	2		1	1		2
Carrion Crow			3	2										2	1		1			
Mistle Thrush																	FO			
Woodpigeon	9		5	4		3		4						11	9		1	4		2
Rook			FO	2																
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker																				
Goldfinch	2			1		2		4						1	2		1	FO		
Sparrowhawk			1												FO					
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	2							2						1			3	2		
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull	FO			FO										3						
Goldcrest															2					
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw														2						
Feral Rock Dove																				
Bullfinch														1						
Kestrel																				
Nuthatch	2							1						2						
Pheasant																				
Grey Heron			FO			FO								1						
L.B.B. Gull																				
Blackcap														2						
Feral Pigeon														1						
C.Buzzard						FO												FO		
Brambling								2												
Siskin			2					1												
Tawny Owl														Hd						
Redwing																				
Total	15		17	12		13		18						24	18		12	15		10

## BOTANICAL

21st	Lesser Celandine, Blackthorn, White Dead Nettle at side of Chesterfield canal (3973)	BB
22nd	Dandelion and Gorse in flower (3877)	M&LF

## MAMMALS

6th	Dead Badger at side of Dronfield Bypass at Bowshaw (3479) 2 Field mice seen in garden [20]	CS S&GR
8th	Grey Squirrel and Wood Mouse in garden [1] Unstone. Squirrel also on 16th and 23rd. Wood Mouse also on 14th,27th-29th.	J&RS
10th	Wood Mouse seen in garden [18]. Also seen on 11th and 12th	M&LF
14th	10.42 hrs 2 Dead Badgers seen along Dronfield Bypass at Bowshaw end(348798)	G&EG
30th	11.05 hrs Small Deer footprints ( probably Muntjac) in field off Dyche Lane (362803). 13.10 hrs Wood Mouse at Dowey Lumb (376805). 13.50 hrs Wood Mouse in Owler Carr Wood (376804)	G&EG

## AMPHIBIANS

15th	2 lots of frog spawn in pond in garden [18]. Also 1 lot of frog spawn on 16th and 18th	M&LF
19th	Common Frog (docile) on rear garden [15] (357792)	G&EG

## INSECTS

	Butterfly sightings for this month in garden [15]- Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Small White. Other insects seen- White-tailed, Red-tailed, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Honey Bee, Tree Bumblebee, Hoverfly sp.7 spot Ladybird, Green Shieldbeetle.	G&EG
16th	3 large Wasps in garden [1] Unstone	J&RS
18th	2 7-spot Ladybirds in garden[1] Unstone	J&RS
30th	Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly Orange Tip Butterfly in garden at Longcroft Road Dronfield Woodhouse (3378) 3 Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock Butterflies in garden on Stonelow Road, Dronfield (3678)	M&LF BB BSS
31st	Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock Butterflies Peacock Butterfly in garden on Longcroft Road, Dronfield Woodhouse (3378)	M&LF BB

## April

### METEOROLOGICAL

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

A cloudy start to the month up to the 4th which was sunny with a strong wind. It continued sunny up to the 8th with some patchy snow on 5th. The 9th was overcast and there was rain and hail on the 10th. It was sunny from 11th to 22nd with early frost on 12th, 25th and 22nd.

The most numerous birds in 7 gardens (monthly totals)

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>None at</b>	<b>Most at</b>
1	House Sparrow	754	-	302 at [18], 266 at [4], 174 at [20]
2	Blackbird	238	-	102 at [18], 70 at [20], 41 at [4]
3	Woodpigeon	207	-	78 at [4], 72 at [18], 46 at [20]
4	Dunnock	150	-	58 at [4], 48 at [20], 35 at [18]
5	Starling	116	[17]	83 at [4], 21 at [18], 12 at [20]
6	Blue Tit	75	-	33 at [18], 24 at [20], 18 at [17]
7	Robin	68	[20]	58 at [18], 6 at [4], 5 at [17]
8	Magpie	60	-	46 at [4], 9 at [18], 7 at [17]
9	Coal Tit	29	4 gardens	26 at [20], 2 at [12], 1 at [18]
10	Carrion Crow	19	6 gardens	19 at [4]
11	Wren	7	3 gardens	3 at [20], 2 at [18], 1 at [4][17]
11	Great tit	7	4 gardens	3 at [17], 2 at [4][18]
13	Collared Dove	6	5 gardens	4 at [20], 2 at [18]
14	Long-tailed Tit	6	3 gardens	2 at [17][18], 1 at [17][20]
15	Goldfinch	5	4 gardens	4 at [20], 1 at [17][18]

### Others

3 Greenfinch were seen during the month and Buzzard flew over. Other birds seen flying over were: Black-headed Gulls and Rooks gardens [4][17], Herring garden [18], Buzzard gardens [12][18][20], Grey Heron garden [17], Great Black-backed Gulls garden [17]. Great-spotted Woodpecker was heard from Frith Wood at garden [1].

### ORNITHOLOGICAL

2nd	09.35 hrs Grey Heron flying north over Snape Hill Lane (357792)	G&EG
3rd	15.15 hrs 8 Skylarks seen in fields near New Whittington (405757)	G&EG
7th	11.40 hrs Buzzard harassed by 4 gulls over Stubble Lane (347786)	G&EG
	12.30 hrs Pair of Pied Wagtail on grass in Sindelfingen Park, Dronfield Woodhouse (337782)	
9th	10.35 hrs Grey Heron flying south over Snape Hill Lane (357791)	G&EG
10th	16.15 hrs Grey heron flying North over Snape Hill Lane (357791)	G&EG
11th	12.45 hrs Jackdaw collecting twigs for nesting [15] (357792)	G&EG
12th	13.30 hrs Buzzard circling over Dronfield Bottom (354785)	G&EG
14th	18.05 hrs Sparrowhawk circling, then swooping, over Marsh Avenue (356791)	G&EG
15th	13.20 hrs 2 Greenfinch, 2 Goldfinch, 3 Wren seen at balancing pond, Lea Brook Valley (346784). 14.05 hrs Pair of Grey wagtails on River Drone behind Steele's Shop. (356785)	G&EG

16th	08.00 hrs Male and Female Blackbirds feeding 3 young on rear garden [15] (357792). 09.30 hrs Jackdaw collecting twigs for nesting material [15] (357792)	G&EG
17th	11.40 hrs House Sparrow collecting feathers for nesting material on front garden [15] 9357791). 11.45 hrs 4 Lapwing seen near Snowdon Lane/Moortop Road crossroads (39785). 18.45 hrs Grey Heron flying southwest over Snape Hill Lane (3557786). 19.20 hrs Sparrowhawk circling over Green Lane (357790)	G&EG
19th	10.30 hrs Buzzard circling over end of Callywhite Lane (367782). 11.30 hrs Male Blackcap seen and heard on Unstone Line (371777). 13.05 hrs Female Mallard with 5 ducklings on River Drone (3776767). 13.15 hrs First Swallow sighting this year at Unstone Green and Sparrowhawk flying east (374767).	G&EG
20th	10.55 hrs Buzzard circling over Jordanthorpe Greenway (365800). 12.10 hrs Great Spotted Woodpecker heard drumming in Owler Carr Wood 9376805). 13.20 hrs Grey Heron flying north over Nor Wood (364805).	G&EG
22nd	12.45 hrs A Lapwing and a hovering Kestrel near Eckington Road/Ash Lane junction (377796)	G&EG
23rd	08.30 hrs Grey heron flying north [15] (357791). 11.35 hrs First Cuckoo of this year heard at Little Oak Square, Clumber Park.	G&EG
26th	15.10 hrs Grey Heron flying south over botom of Snape Hill Lane (353786)	G&EG
27th	to 30th. Blackbirds feeding young on rear garden [15] (357792)	G&EG

**Garden Bird Survey**  
**7 Gardens**

**Garden Birds**

**Total Species for April- 28**

**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	3		5	15				2							8			12		9
Starling			2	9											4			3		8
Blackbird	FO		5	2				2							7			5		4
Blue Tit	1		4	2				1							4			2		2
Collared Dove			2					1							2			2		1
Magpie	2		2	2				2							2			2		1
Chaffinch	2							1												
Duncock			3	3				2							2			2		3
Robin	2		2	1				1							2			3		1
Greenfinch								3										1		1
Song Thrush	2																			
Great Tit	3			1				2							1			1		
Wren				1				1							1			1		1
Coal Tit								1							2			1		2
Carrion Crow			2	2											2					
Mistle Thrush																				
Woodpigeon	3		4	4				4							7			4		3
Rook			FO	FO																
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker																				
Goldfinch	3							4							3			1		2
Sparrowhawk																				
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	4							1										1		1
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull			FO	FO																
Goldcrest															1					
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw															3					
Feral Rock Dove																				
Bullfinch																				
Kestrel																				
Nuthatch																				
Mallard			FO																	
Grey Heron	2		FO																	
Lapwing																				
Herring Gull																		FO		
Blackcap																				
Fieldfare																				
Grey Wagtail																				
Chiff Chaff															1					
Siskin			2					3												
Tawny Owl																				
C. Buzzard																		FO		
Total	12		15	13				16							17			17		14



## MAMMALS

- 13th 10.55 hrs Dead Fox seen along Dronfield Bypass at Bowshaw end (348798) G&EG  
20th 12.10 hrs Wood Mouse at Dowey Lumb (376805) and Muntjac Deer heard in G&EG  
Owler Carr Wood (376805)  
29th Wood Mouse in compost heap in rear garden [15] (357792) G&EG

## INSECTS

- 19th 14.10 hrs Holly Blue and numerous Orange Tip butterflies seen near Half Acre G&EG  
Lane (368777)  
20th 11.15 hrs Bee Flies seen Coal Pit Wood (365808). 12.00 hrs Numerous Bee Flies G&EG  
seen at Dowey Lumb (377805)

### Insects seen in garden [15] this month

**Butterflies:** Small Tortoiseshell, Orange Tip, Peacock, Small White, Common Blue.

**Other Insects:** Tree Bumblebee, White, Red, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Honeybee, Vine Weevil, Wasp, 7-Spot Ladybird, Green Shieldbeetle, Bee Fly, Hoverfly sp.

### Contributors

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