

# DRONFIELD WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

## *Newsletter No.34 – January/February 2021*

SECRETARY  
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### January

#### METEOROLOGICAL

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

There was snow on the ground at the beginning of the year and more fell on 2nd, 6th and 14th. It was a cold month with frosts on a number of mornings and snow laying on the ground. There were sunny spells on 2nd, 4th-7th, 9th-12th, 16th, 21st-23rd and 25th.

Rain fell on 1st, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 11th and 13th. The 3rd, 4th and 10th were overcast, the 8th was foggy with cloud and drizzle. the 11th was mainly rainy with some sunny spells and rain again on 13th.

There was some more snow on 14th which had gone by 18th. Mainly rainy days on 19th and 20th. The sun shone again on 21st and 22nd. Also sunny on 23rd but with flurries of snow. Frost 21st-24th, with a heavy frost on the 24th which lasted all day. The 25th and 26th were a mix of frost, sun and rain. Snow had gone again on 27th which was overcast.

Rain all day again on 28th and 29th, 30th had a mixture again of sun and rain. 31st was cloudy following an early frost.

A very wintery mix for the month.

#### 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	1356	-	370 at [20], 256 at [15], 240 at [3]
2	Woodpigeon	530	-	126 at [15], 88 at [3], 82 at [4]
3	Blackbird	466	-	127 at [3], 81 at [18], 66 at [20]
4	Blue Tit	318	-	84 at [3], 67 at [14], 54 at [15]
5	Robin	146	-	29 at [1], 28 at [18], 22 at [14]
6	Magpie	143	-	59 at [3], 31 at [15], 23 at [4]
7	Great Tit	121	[4][17][20]	84 at [1], 32 at [14], 8 at [14]
8	Carrion Crow	74	-	33 at [3], 30 at [14], 10 at [4]
9	Long-tailed Tit	69	[3][18][20]	37 at [15], 24 at [1], 4 at [14][17]
10	Collared Dove	46	[14][18][20]	32 at [3], 10 at [15], 2 at [1]
11	Goldfinch	40	[4][15][17][18][20]	20 at [8], 9 at [14],
12	Coal Tit	35	[4][17][18][20]	16 at [15], 14 at [14], 4 at [1]
13	Wren	28	[18][20]	12 at [14], 11 at [3], 3 at [14]
14	Jackdaw	23	9 gardens	23 at [15]
15	Chaffinch	3	8 gardens	3 at [14]

## Others

There were 9 siskins during the month at [3]. The only Dunnock sightings were 8 at [17] and 13 at [14]. Nuthatch had 4 sightings at [1] and 1 at [14]. 5 blackcap were noted during the month at [15]. Black-headed Gulls had 2 at [14] and 174 flew over [1] with others flying over [4], [17] and [18]. Only 1 Rook at [15] with 157 flying over [1] and others at [15]. Garden [1] had 4 Mistle Thrush on 7th and 2 flew over [17] on 4th. Grey Heron flew over [3] and [14]. Sparrowhawk flew over [15] on 2nd. Lesser Black-backed Gulls flew over [18] and [17]. Buzzard flew over [14] on 5th and 22nd. Tawny Owl was heard on six occasions at [14] and on the 27th at [17].

## **ORNITHOLOGICAL**

2nd	09.05 hrs. Sparrowhawk flew low over rear garden heading west [15] (357792)	G&EG
3rd	11.30 hrs. 6 Fieldfares in trees in Cliffe Park (358784)	G&EG
4th	15 Black-headed Gulls and 2 Mistle Thrush on Gladys Buxton playing fields (3678)	BSS
5th	14.25 hrs. 4 Redwing in trees in Cliffe Park (358784)	G&EG
6th	7 Black-headed Gulls and 1 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Gladys Buxton playing fields. (3678)	BSS
7th	Robin, Nuthatch, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Coal Tit, Wren, and a flock of Rooks in Gorsebrig Copse, Dronfield Woodhouse. (3378)	AB
9th	09.30 hrs. 6 Magpies seen in trees near Lenthall School, Marsh Avenue (357793)	G&EG
10th	1 Dipper seen on the River Drone just downstream of Mill Lane Nature Reserve (3677)	MS
11th	3 Great Black-backed Gulls on fields at (3379)	BB
12th	11.20 hrs. Green Woodpecker flying around Oakhill Medical Centre (363788) 13.00 hrs. C20 Redwing in trees in Cliff Park (358784)	G&EG
17th	33 Black-headed Gulls and 1 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on field (3379)	BSS
18th	Robin, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Wren, Starling, Black-headed Gull, Rook, in Lea Brook Valley (3478)	AB
19th	1 Dipper seen on Lea Brook just below the bridge at the bottom of Fanshaw Bank (3578)	MS
21st	Grey Wagtail seen on pavement at Callywhite Lane/Chesterfield Road (356784) 2 Buzzard flying over Peak Resort, Sheepbridge (3776)	G&EG J&RS
22nd	10.15-11.00 hrs. Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Robin, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Nuthatch and C25 Redwing seen on Peak Resort footpath. (375760) 10.30 hrs. Pair of Mallard seen on River Drone at The Brushes (374755) 11.15 hrs. 3 Mistle Thrush, Wren, Dunnock and Jay seen near Ouzlebank Cottage (3676)	G&EG
24th	Buzzard flying over at Hundall (3877)	J&RS
27th	Tawny Owl calling in Frith Wood at 0330 hrs (3678)	BSS
28th	19.25 hrs. Tawny Owl heard from Stonelow Road callin near Cliffe Park area (358787) 70 Black-headed Gulls and 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Gladys Buxton playing fields (3678)	G&EG BSS

## **Starlings gathering in Poplar Trees at (357792)**

C30 on 1st, C50 on 2nd, C20 on 3rd, C20 on 4th, C30 on 5th, C30 on 6th, C20 on 7th, 11 on 8th, 14 on 9th, C20 on 10th, C20 on 11th, 14 on 13th, C20 on 14th, C20 on 15th, C20 on 16th, C30 on 17th, C30 on 18th, C20 on 19th, 16 on 21st, 14 on 23rd, 10 on 24th, C30 on 26th, C40 on 27th, C30 on 28th, 10 on 30th, 10 on 31st. G&EG

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

**Garden Birds**

**Total Species for January- 30**

**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		11	12		6								1	16		3	12		16
Starling			5	16		4									8			11		
Blackbird	3		5	2		4		3						3	4		1	4		3
Blue Tit	4		4	2		3		2						5	3		3	2		1
Collared Dove	1		2	1				1							2		1			
Magpie	2		4	2		1		2						2	2		1	1		2
Chaffinch	2													2						
Dunnock			3	3		1		1						1	2		2	2		5
Robin	2		1	1		1		1						2	1		1	1		2
Greenfinch			1					2												
Song Thrush																				
Great Tit	6					1		2						5				1		
Wren	1		1	1		1								1	1		1			
Coal Tit	1		1					2						2	2					
Carrion Crow			2	2		FO		FO						2	FO			1		
Mistle Thrush	2																	FO		
Woodpigeon	4		5	4		2		2						7	8		2	3		2
Rook			FO	FO											1					
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker																				
Goldfinch	3		5					3						3						
Sparrowhawk															FO					
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	10			Hd				3						2	8		4			
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull			FO	FO				FO						2			FO	FO		
Goldcrest								1												
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw															2					
Feral Rock Dove																				
Bullfinch																				
Kestrel																				
Nuthatch	1													1						
Pheasant																				
Grey Heron			1			FO														
L.B.B. Gull																	FO	FO		
Blackcap															1					
Fieldfare																				
C.Buzzard						FO														
Curlew																				
Siskin			1																	
Tawny Owl														Hd			Hd			
Redwing																				
Total	15		18	14		13		15						17	17		14	12		7

## BOTANICAL

Yellow male Hazel Catkins in Lea Brook Valley (3478) and also AB  
Gorsebrigg Copse (3378)

## MAMMALS

Badgers digging large hole in flowerbed at Cross Lane, Coal Aston (361794) P&MK  
7th Grey Squirrel in Gorsebrigg Copse, Dronfield Woodhouse (3378) and Lea AB  
Brook Valley woodland (3478-3578)  
12th 2 Grey Squirrels at Unstone (3777). Also on 20th. J&RS

## February

## METEOROLOGICAL

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

The month started cold with periods of frost and snow up to the 15th. It was cold although there were sunny spells. From the 15th it was milder with rainy periods. It was foggy on the 14th and windy on 23rd and 24th. There were frosts again between 25th and 28th.

Days that had sunny periods were: 1st, 4th, 5th, 11th-13th, 17th, 18th and 24th-28th.

Days with some rain or snow were: 2nd-4th, 6th-10th, 14th, 15th and 17th-23rd.

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	1088	-	231 at [20], 228 at [4], 210 at [18]
2	Woodpigeon	619	-	129 at [15], 94 at [15], 93 at [3]
3	Blackbird	484	-	133 at [3], 86 at [18], 45 at [20]
4	Starling	378	[1][17][20]	180 at [4], 81 at [18], 62 at [3]
5	Blue Tit	358	-	69 at [3], 53 at [15], 52 at [18]
6	Dunnock	286	-	75 at [3], 49 at [5], 39 at [20]
7	Magpie	156	-	53 at [3], 28 at [15], 27 at [4]
8	Great Tit	152	-	63 at [1], 37 at [8], 30 at [14]
9	Robin	140	-	26 at [18], 24 at [15], 22 at [1]
10	Collared Dove	88	[5][17][18][20]	54 at [3], 22 at [15], 7 at [1]
11	Carrion Crow	83	[1][5][16][17][20]	35 at [3], 33 at [14], 14 at [4]
12	Coal Tit	66	[18][20]	23 at [14], 21 at [8], 11 at [1]
13	Long-tailed Tit	51	[3][4][5][17][18][20]	27 at [1], 22 at [8], 1 at [14][15]
14	Chaffinch	46	7 gardens	45 at [1], 1 at [8]
15	Goldfinch	46	7 gardens	30 at [8], 12 at [14]

### Others

**No report**

## ORNITHOLOGICAL

2nd	A fall of snow brought Song Thrush, Pied Wagtail, Siskin and Coal Tit to the garden for food and water [3]	AB
3rd	Flock of Redwing feeding in grass and pools of melted snow [3] 09.35 hrs Grey Heron flew over heading South [15]	AB G&EG
4th	35 Black-headed Gulls on Stonelow Playing Fields (3678)	BSS
5th	15.05 hrs Pair of Pied Wagtails on bowling green in Cliffe Park (358784) Sparrowhawk flew past below shop awning at Barnard Avenue shops over footpath just above my head. 936790	G&EG BSS
6th	Great Spotted Woodpecker in tree tops at top of garden at 191 Stonelow Road (3678) 10.00 hrs Rook on lamp post on Snape Hill Lane (355788)	BSS G&EG
7th	10.10 hrs Magpies collecting branches and twigs for nesting in Snape Hill Lane (357792)	G&EG
10th	Flock of Redwing feeding on leaf litter at Gorsebrigg Copse (3378) and 2 Redwing on berries of Golden Holly Bush [3]	AB
11th	14.30 hrs Pied Wagtail on grass in Cliffe Park (358784)	G&EG
12th	09.50 hrs Woodpigeon collecting nesting materials on rear garden [15] 09.55 hrs 4 Goldfinch flew over rear garden [15] 13.30 hrs Grey Heron flew over Snape Hill Lane heading South (357791)	G&EG G&EG
13th	11.45 hrs 3 Redwing foraging in leaf litter on front garden [15] 14.15 hrs Sparrowhawk flew East over Green Lane (357791) 6 Redwing on Henry Fanshawe School together with 6 Black-headed Gulls, 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls and 8 Starlings (3578)	G&EG BSS
15th	14.05 hrs 2 Fieldfare seen on ground in field above Frith Wood (370791) 15.30 hrs Buzzard harassed by 4 gulls over Green lane (358790)	G&EG G&EG
16th	13.30 hrs 3 Fieldfare in trees and C30 Redwing foraging on ground on school field and cricket ground off Stonelow Road (362786) 14.15 hrs House Sparrows collecting nesting materials [15]	G&EG
17th	08.45 hrs 7 Carrion Crow gathering in Poplar trees (357792)	G&EG
18th	09.15 hrs Single Redwing flew over [15]	G&EG
20th	10.25 hrs Single Redwing flew over [15]	G&EG
21st	Tawny Owl heard calling in Frith wood at 1840 hrs (3678) 19.00 hrs Tawny Owl heard from Stonelow Road calling in Frith Wood (366788) 2 Buzzard and C1000 Rooks, Starlings etc in Kitchen Wood area, Dronfield (3377)	BSS G&EG AB
25th	13.20 hrs Male and Female Blackcap seen together in rear garden [15] 2 Buzzard over Hundall (3877)	G&EG J&RS
27th	11.45 hrs C12 Goldfinch in Poplar Trees (357792) Siskin seen at [8] Tawny Owl heard from [14] regularly during second half of month Blackcap seen on 7 occasions at [15]	G&EG CS P&MK G&EG

## **21st February - The Brushes, Peak Resort, Ouzlebank Cottage and Drone Valley Circular Walk**

11.15 hrs Buzzard circling over Brierley Bridge (375762)

11.30 hrs Several mallards on river Drone alongside Peak Resort path (374755)

11.30-12.00 hrs Male and Female Blackbirds, Robin, Great tit, Blue Tit, Woodpigeon, Dunnock, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Bullfinch, House Sparrow, Starling seen from Peak Resort path (373755-364764)

12.00 hrs Wren, Robin, Magpie, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Carrion Crow, and another Buzzard seen at Ouzlebank Cottage (363766)

12.45 hrs Numerous Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Goldfinch, and Linnets seen on hedgerows walking down towards Unstone Hall (369772)

13.15 hrs Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Robin, House Sparrow, Starling, Carrion Crow, Magpie, and Woodpigeon seen at Siscar House, Unstone (376774)

14.05 hrs Pair of Grey Wagtails on River Drone near Ramshaw Lodge (376768)

14.40 hrs Two Green Woodpeckers seen near Peak Resort path (374755)

### **Starlings gathering in Poplar Trees at (357792)**

C20 on 1st, C30 on 2nd, C30 on 4th, C40 on 5th, 14 on 6th, C50 on 7th, C40 on 8th, C30 on 9th, C30 on 10th, 25 on 11th, C30 on 12th, C20 on 13th, C20 on 16th, C20 on 17th, 110n 18th, 23 on 21st, 14 on 23rd, 14 on 23rd, 15 on 22nd, 13 on 24th, 6 on 25th, C20 on 27th, 22 on 30th.

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

**Garden Birds**

**Total Species for February- 30**

**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		9	13		7		2						3	10			10		13
Starling			4	17		9		1						1	10			10		
Blackbird	2		6	2		3		2						4	3		4	5		3
Blue Tit	3		3	4		3		2						5	3		4	2		1
Collared Dove	2		4	1				1							2					
Magpie	2		2	2		1		2						8	2		1	FO		1
Chaffinch	3																			
Duncock			3	3		2		2						2	3		3	1		2
Robin	2		2	1		1		1						1	1		1	2		2
Greenfinch			1					3						1						
Song Thrush	1		1											1						
Great Tit	5		2			2		2						2	2		1			
Wren			1											1	1		1			
Coal Tit	2		1			1		2						2	1		1			
Carrion Crow			3	2				FO						3	FO			1		
Mistle Thrush																				
Woodpigeon	12		6	4		2		3						9	12		3	4		2
Rook			FO	1										FO	1					
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker																				
Goldfinch	1							4						4	FO					
Sparrowhawk			1															1		
Pied Wagtail			2																	
Long-tailed Tit	4							6						1	1					
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull			FO			FO								FO				FO		
Goldcrest																				
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw															4					
Feral Rock Dove																				
Bullfinch																				
Kestrel																				
Nuthatch	1													1						
Buzzard						FO													Hd	
Grey Heron																				
Lapwing																				
L.B.B. Gull																				
Blackcap															2					
Fieldfare																				
Grey Wagtail																				
Bullfinch	1																			
Siskin			2					1												
Tawny Owl														Hd						
Redwing			2			1														
Total	16		21	12		13		16						20	18		9	12		7

## BOTANICAL

- 21st First sightings of 2021 of Lesser Celandine near River Drone alongside Peak Resort G&EG path (374755)
- 26th Primrose, Gorse and Dandelion at Linacre (3372) Also male Catkins of Alder AB

## MAMMALS

- 3rd 2 Grey Squirrels in garden [1]. Also on 28th. J&RS
- 17th Grey Squirrel eating a nut perched in a small tree at Gorseybrigg Copse, Sindelfingen Park (3378) AB
- 19th Wood Mouse in garden [1] J&RS

## INSECTS

- 25th Small Tortoiseshell B/y flew over garden [15]. First sighting in garden for 2021 G&EG
- 28th Peacock B/y on Viola flower at [3] AB

## February sightings 2021 – M & L Fairest

Feb 11

Flock of mainly Redwing with Fieldfare on snowy field opposite houses on road between Travellers Rest and Hundall (SK38/77)  
Gorse in flower in same field.

Feb 21

Good showing of **Male Stonechat** sitting and moving along hedgerow on road between Travellers Rest and Hundall (SK38/77). Our first sighting of this bird in our area.  
Also Skylarks in the area.

Feb 22

Sparrowhawk sitting on ridge tiles of house opposite garden [18] for several minutes before swooping down towards [18] back garden (3679)

Feb 27

Small Tortoiseshell butterfly amongst the Snowdrops. Also White-tailed Bumble Bee (SK38/77) opposite houses on road between Travellers Rest and Hundall.

## Contributors

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