

DRONFIELD WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter No.36 – May/June 2021

SECRETARY
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May

METEOROLOGICAL

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

Generally cloudy but with sunny spells. There was heavy rain on 3rd, showers on 4th, late rain on 6th. Rain on 8th-11th, showers on 13th, rain afternoon of 15th, rain 17th-24th, sunny on 25th, then rain again on 26th. It was sunny and hot on 30th and 31st.

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

The most numerous birds in 9 gardens (monthly totals)

	Species	Total	None at	Most at
1	House Sparrow	492	-	158 at [15], 63 at [3], 31 at [1]
2	Woodpigeon	414	-	117 at [15], 72 at [14], 55 at [3]
3	Blackbird	291	-	88 at [15], 62 at [3], 48 at [1]
4	Dunnock	192	[1]	53 at [3], 32 at [15], 18 at [14]
5	Blue Tit	157	-	62 at [3], 28 at [15], 25 at [1]
6	Magpie	143	-	48 at [3], 17 at [8], 11 at [1][15]
7	Starling	142	[1][3][8][14][17]	81 at [18], 31 at [4], 15 at [15][20]
8	Robin	90	[17]	27 at [15], 22 at [1], 18 at [8]
9	Great Tit	64	-	35 at [1], 15 at [8], 11 at [14]
10	Mallard	63	-	63 at [1]
11	Goldfinch	48	-	32 at [8], 6 at [15], 5 at [1][3]
12	Carrion Crow	45	[1][8][17]	23 at [1], 16 at [3], 6 at [15]
13	Collared Dove	44	[4][14][18]	22 at [15], 16 at [3], 3 at [8]
14	Greenfinch	29	7 gardens	28 at [8], 1 at [1]
15	Long-tailed Tit	9	7 gardens	7 at [1], 2 at [15]

Others

1 Songthrush at garden [1], 2 Wren at garden [14], 4 Chaffinch at garden [1]. Coal Tit at 4 gardens [1][8][14][15], Jackdaw at garden [15], 8 Bullfinch at [8]. Flying over: Sparrowhawk garden [15], Swift garden [15], Rook garden [3], Feral Pigeon garden [14], Buzzard and Nuthatch garden [1], Bullfinch garden [3], Swallow and Buzzard garden [8]. Tawny Owl heard at garden [4].

ORNITHOLOGICAL

	Mallards visiting pond at 31 Cross Lane, Coal Aston most days during month [14]	P&MK
1st	to 7th Adult and juvenile Blackbirds foraging in garden [15] (357792) Leucistic House Sparrow on front garden [15] (357791)	G&EG
2nd	Song thrush heard in Summerwood area (3478)	CS
3rd	09.40 hrs Sparrowhawk circling over Summerfield Road (358793) 17.40 hrs Grey Heron flying south over house [15] (357791)	G&EG
4th	Swallows in area of Ouzle Bank (3676)	J&RS
10th	Sparrowhawk on hedge in rear garden [15]	G&EG
14th	Pheasant and Red-legged Partridge in fields at back of Unstone Hall (3677)	CS/MS/BSS
18th	09.45 hrs Sparrowhawk circling over rear garden [15] (357792)	G&EG
19th	Pheasant heard in fields from garden [4] 2 Swallow flew over Stubley Lane and higher up a Buzzard was circling (3479)	BB CS
20th	09.30 hrs Crow harassed by 4 Jackdaws over Green Lane (358789)	G&EG
21st	2 Feral Pigeon hears at Stubley Lane (3479)	CS
23rd	Carrion Crow harassed by 4 Jackdaws over Green Lane (358789) 2 Nuthatch, juvenile Robin and Jay at Metapic Wood side of Half Acre Lane (3677) Grey Wagtail on River Drone at rear of Steels Dronfield bottom (3578)	G&EG G&EG CS
24th	15.30 hrs 2 Swift feeding over rear garden [15] (357792). Our first sighting of 2021. 18.00 hrs Crow harassed by 2 Jackdaw over Green lane (358789)	G&EG
26th	11.30 hrs 6 swift feeding over fields near Barlow Lees (336767) 11.45 hrs Numerous Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Chaffinch and Yellowhammer seen on hedgerows on Barlow Lees Lane (338764) 14.05 hrs Crow harassed by 2 jackdaw over Green Lane (358789)	G&EG
28th	Willow Warbler seen on River Hipper behind Ravenside Shopping Centre (384705)	G&EG
29th	2 Swift feeding over Derwent Road/Green Lane (359793)	G&EG
31st	A Charm of 5 Goldfinch twittering and feeding on Crab Apple and Birch trees at [3] Blue Tits nesting in bird box at [14] and feeding grubs at the end of the month.	AB P&MK

Garden Bird Survey
9 Gardens

Garden Birds

Total Species for month- 31

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	4		4	12				1						2	8		4	12		6
Starling				5											3			8		5
Blackbird	3		3	2				2						4	5		3	5		5
Blue Tit	2		4	2				1						2	2		2	2		2
Collared Dove	2		2					1							2		1			2
Magpie	2		2	2				1						2	2		1	1		1
Chaffinch	1																			
Duncock			3	3				2						2	3		2	2		3
Robin	1		1	1				1						1	2			3		2
Greenfinch	1							2												
Song Thrush																				
Great Tit	4			1				2						2				1		
Wren														1						
Coal Tit	1							1						1	1		1	1		5
Carrion Crow			3	1										2	4					
Mistle Thrush																				
Woodpigeon	3		4	5				4						8	11		2	4		2
Rook			FO	FO																
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker	1																			
Goldfinch	3		5					2							2				FO	
Sparrowhawk																			FO	
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	2														1					
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull			FO	FO																
Goldcrest																				
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw															2		1			
Feral Rock Dove														1						
Bullfinch	2							2												
Swift															FO					
Nuthatch																				
Pheasant				Hd																
Grey Heron																				
L.B.B. Gull																				
Blackcap																				
Fieldfare								FO												
C.Buzzard	FO																			
Curlew																				
Swallow								FO												
Tawny Owl														Hd						
Mallard														4						
Total	17		12	13				15						14	15		9	11		10

BOTANICAL

18th Bluebells, Greater Stitchwort, Ramsons, Dog Violet in Kitchen Wood (3377) BB

MAMMALS

13th Wood Mouse in compost heap at [15] 13th to 15th, 17th G&EG
18th Rabbit in Kitchen Wood (3377) BB
21st Badger has dug a large hole in garden where there was a Bee's Nest. [14] P&MK
Grey Squirrels at 89 Stubleley Lane (3478) 6th-10th, 12th, 14th-17th CS
Grey Squirrels in garden at Unstone (3776) 4th, 7th, 11th, 18th, 27th-29th J&RS
Wood Mouse in garden at Unstone (3776) 7th, 24th, 26th J&RS
Weasel ran across road between Unstone and Apperknowle (3777) J&RS

INSECTS

Butterflies seen in garden [15]: Common Blue, Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Orange Tip, Peacock, Small White G&EG
Other insects seen in garden [15]: White, Red, Buff-tailed Honeybees, Honeybee, Tree Bumblebee, Carder Bee, Vine Weevil, Lily Beetle, Wasp, 7 Spot Ladybird, Green Shieldbeetle, Brown Shieldbeetle, Hoverfly sp. Greenbottle Fly. G&EG

June

METEOROLOGICAL

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

From 1st-16th it was sunny and warm with light cloud cover. It was hot on 1st, 2nd, 5th, 9th and 16th. It rained on 16th in the morning. From 17th-21st it was mostly overcast and showery. 22nd-26th it was sunny but it rained on 25th. 27th to 30th was mainly overcast.

The most numerous birds in 9 gardens (monthly totals)

	Species	Total	None at	Most at
1	House Sparrow	763	-	198 at [18], 163 at [19], 113 at [4]
2	Woodpigeon	416	-	76 at [8], 68 at [15], 55 at [19]
3	Starling	316	[1][14]	158 at [20], 86 at [18], 33 at [17]
4	Blackbird	307	-	78 at [20], 75 at [18], 68 at [3]
5	Magpie	194	[18]	85 at [3], 37 at [20], 23 at [4]
6	Dunnock	155	[1][18]	81 at [20], 54 at [3], 33 at [4]
7	Great Tit	131	[3][4][15][20]	47 at [1], 27 at [8], 13 at [18]
8	Blue Tit	102	-	32 at [1], 25 at [8], 15 at [3]
9	Robin	100	[4]	25 at [8], 24 at [18], 17 at [1]
10	Carrion Crow	72	[8][18]	45 at [3], 12 at [14], 5 at [20]
11	Goldfinch	51	[3][4][14][18]	22 at [20], 20 at [15], 9 at [1]
12	Greenfinch	45	[3][4][14][15][20]	34 at [8], 6 at [18], 5 at [1]
13	Mallard	45	8 gardens	45 at [14]
14	Collared Dove	26	[1][4][14][18]	10 at [3], 9 at [20], 4 at [8]
15	Chaffinch	16	8 gardens	16 at [1]

Others

Seen during the month were 6 Jackdaw at [15], 7 siskin at [3], 5 Bullfinch at [8], and 4 at [1]. 2 Sparrowhawk at [18] and 1 at [20] with one flying over [15]. Single birds for the month were Feral Pigeon at [14], Long-tailed Tit at, Great-spotted Woodpecker, Grey Heron, Nuthatch at [1]. Tawny Owl seen at [18] and heard at [14]. Buzzard flew over [17] and 2 were heard at [1]. Rook flew over [3]. Swift flew over on the 19th at [15], the earliest sighting. Black-headed Gulls flew over [4] and [17]. Last winter 2020/21, a Magpie was observed burying objects in the lawn. Now Oak saplings are appearing! I thought it was Squirrels who buried Acorns (3478).

ORNITHOLOGICAL

3rd	12.30 hrs 2 Ravens flying S.E. over Snape Hill Lane/Green Lane (357791)	G&EG
	19.35 hrs Pair of Grey Wagtail on River Drone at Mill Lane (356782)	
5th	Buzzard circling over Holmesdale playing field (3678). Also on 8th and 23rd.	BSS
	16.50 hrs Common Buzzard circling over Unstone (370777)	G&EG
7th	18.55 hrs Common Buzzard circling over Frith Wood (366788)	G&EG
9th	10.30 hrs Kestrel hovering and C10 Swallow feeding at Holmebrook Valley Park	G&EG
	11.10 hrs Common Buzzard circling over Hall Farm, Cutthorpe (345732)	
	11.55 hrs Common Buzzard circling over Sudbrook Farm, Cutthorpe (347742)	
	Common Buzzard seen over West Handley (4077)	CS
10th	10.05 hrs 3 Swift feeding over Green Lane/Hartington Road (356788)	G&EG
12th	Common Buzzard over Peak Resort, Unstone [1]	J&RS
13th	08.30 hrs C30 Starling flying over Stonelow Road towards Frith Wood (362787)	G&EG
14th	09.10 hrs Sparrowhawk circling over Green Lane/Snape Hill Lane (357791)	G&EG
15th	10.30 hrs A Common Buzzard and 2 Jay in trees on Peak Resort, Unstone footpath (374755) 10.40 hrs Pair of Lapwing with 4 young, 2 Grey Wagtail and a Moorhen on pond alongside Peak Resort footpath (375760)	G&EG
19th	10.55 hrs Sparrowhawk swooped low over rear garden [15] (357792)	G&EG
	12.15 hrs 6 Swift feeding over Green Lane (360795)	
20th	Goldfinch feeding fledgling on Sunflower hearts feeder at Stubble Lane (3479)	CS
22nd	Lapwick and 2 chicks in reed beds at Peak Resort, Unstone (3775). Also on 24th and 25th.	J&RS
	Mallard, Blackbird, Rook, Moorhen, Coot, Dabchick, Great-crested Grebe and Tufted Duck at Linacre Reservoirs (3272 and 3372)	BB
24th	Yellow Wagtail at Peak Resort, Unstone (3775)	J&RS
25th	Swallows and Lapwing with 2 chicks at Peak Resort, Unstone (3775)	J&RS
26th	08.55 hrs 4 Swift feeding over Chesterfield Road/Cemetery Road (362779)	G&EG
	15.10 hrs 8 Swift feeding over Hills Farm (343778)	
27th	16.20 hrs Raven flying Southwest over Snape Hill Lane (357791)	G&EG
30th	13.30 hrs Rook on St. Pauls Church roof, Snape Hill Lane (357791)	G&EG

Garden Bird Survey
9 Gardens

Garden Birds

Total Species for June- 29

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	2		5	11				2							8		3	13		12
Starling			FO	4				1							2			20		30
Blackbird	2		3	2				3							4		2	7		4
Blue Tit	4		2	1				4							1		1	2		1
Collared Dove			2					1							1		1			2
Magpie	4		4	4				1							1		2			2
Chaffinch	2																			
Duncock			2	3				2							2		2	1		5
Robin	2		1					1							2		1	2		1
Greenfinch	1							2										1		
Song Thrush																				
Great Tit	8							2							Hd			1		
Wren																				
Coal Tit								1							1			1		
Carrion Crow	3		3	1											2					1
Mistle Thrush																				
Woodpigeon	4		3	4				5							6			3		5
Rook			FO																	
Jay																				
G.S. Woodpecker	1																			
Goldfinch	4							4							4					2
Sparrowhawk															FO			2		1
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit	1																			
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull			FO	2																
Goldcrest																				
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw															2					
Feral Rock Dove																				
Bullfinch	2							1										2		
Kestrel																				
Nuthatch	1																			
Pheasant																				
Grey Heron	1																			
Lapwing																				
L.B.B. Gull																				
Blackcap																				
Fieldfare																				
C. Buzzard	FO																	FO		
Brambling																				
Siskin			1																	
Tawny Owl															FO			1		
Swift																				
Total	17		13	9				14							16		9	12		12

BOTANICAL

Flowers in garden[8] during June: Dandelion, Daisy, Self-heal, White Clover, CS
Common field Speedwell, Thyme leaved Speedwell, Slender Speedwell, Broad-
leaved Willowherb, Hairy Bitter Cress, Dog Violet, Orange Hawkweed, Yarrow,
Creeping Buttercup, Field Bindweed and 24 Orchids (Possibly Marsh Orchid) in front
lawn.

- 3rd Ragged Robin at Dronfield Nature Park (363780) G&EG
9th Southern Marsh Orchid at Holmebrook Valley Park (358732) G&EG
22nd Bramble, Herb Bennet, Herb Robert, Creeping Buttercup, red Campion, Foxglove, BB
Stinging Nettle, Yellow Rattle, Early Purple Orchid, Common Spotted Orchid at
linacre Reservoir (3372)
26th Good display of yellow Pimpernel on main path in Monk Wood (353763) G&EG
30th Good display of Southern Marsh orchid on roadside verges near Shillito Wood G&EG
(293747)

MAMMALS

- Bat (probably Pipistrelle) seen hunting at dusk throughout the month at [15] G&EG
1st 3 Brown Rats seen at [20] and 1 or 2 on 12 more occasions throughout the month S&GR
3rd 20.15 hrs Rabbits seen at Dronfield Nature Park (363780) G&EG
4th Grey Squirrel in garden[1] at Unstone also on 24th J&RS
5th Weasel on main road at Unstone (3777) J&RS
6th Wood? Mouse in garden[1] Unstone Also on 6th, 21st, 22nd, 26th J&RS
29th Grey Squirrel in garden on Stubble Lane (34.78.) CS

Contributors

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