

DRONFIELD WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter No.37 – July/August 2021

SECRETARY
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July

METEOROLOGICAL

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

A mostly sunny month to 22nd. It was hot from 14th to 22nd, very hot 19th and 22nd. It was also cloudy on 2nd, and also rainy from 3rd to 7th and rainy all day 12th and 13th. From 23rd to 31st it was cloudy and also rain on 27th, 28th and 30th. I was warm on 25th and sunny and hot on 26th. It was windy on 29th.

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

The most numerous birds in gardens (monthly totals)

	Species	Total	None at	Most at
1	House Sparrow	1205	-	317 at [18], 315 at [4], 219 at [20]
2	Woodpigeon	416	-	91 at [4], 85 at [15], 69 at [8]
3	Blackbird	357	-	102 at [20], 77 at [18], 38 at [15]
4	Dunnock	256	[1]	110 at [20], 80 at [4], 22 at [8]
5	Starling	186	[17]	99 at [18], 33 at [20], 27 at [3]
6	Great Tit	151	[3][4][17][18]	100 at [1], 31 at [9], 18 at [14]
7	Magpie	150	[18]	36 at [4], 32 at [20], 31 at [15]
8	Blue Tit	139	[3]	66 at [1], 39 at [9], 16 at [14]
9	Greenfinch	87	5 gardens	80 at [9], 5 at [1], 2 at [18]
10	Goldfinch	85	5 gardens	54 at [9], 24 at [15], 4 at [1]
11	Robin	75	[4]	24 at [9], 18 at [1], 13 at [18]
12	Coal Tit	39	[4][15][17][18]	21 at [3], 9 at [9], 6 at [1]
13	Collared Dove	35	[4][14][18]	8 at [15][20], 7 at [9], 6 at [1]
14	Carrion Crow	33	5 gardens	20 at [4], 7 at [15], 5 at [14]
15	Chaffinch	27	8 gardens	27 at [1]

Others

There were 3 Wren at [14], 2 at [1] and [17]. There were 5 Long-tailed tit at [1], a Sparrowhawk at [9], [18] and [20]. A single Bullfinch at [1] and [17], 3 Nuthatch at [1], 2 Song Thrush at [1]. a Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen at [4] and 2 at [1]. A single Kestrel was seen at [4], 1 Feral Pigeon at [20]. Birds seen flying over were Black-headed gull at [3], Jackdaw at [1], one Swift at [1] and [15]. A Tawny Owl was heard at [14].

ORNITHOLOGICAL

1st	Rook, Blackbird and House Sparrow seen in Kitchen Wood area (3377)	BB
2nd	Song Thrush heard in Lea Brook Valley (3578)	CS/BSS
	2 Lapwing seen at Peak Resort also on 3rd with addition of a Juvenile and Juvenile Robin (3776)	J&RS
7th	5 Swift flying over/feeding over Stonelow Road/Shireoaks Road area.(363787) Also on 10th.	G&EG
11th	Buzzard flying North over Green Lane at 1900hrs (357790)	G&EG
16th	4 House Sparrow seen on top of crops in fields to top side of old Unstone railway station (3777)	CS/MS/BSS
18th	2 Swallows flying over Stubble Hollow area (3379)	CS
21st	C30 Swifts feeding over Rapeseed field at Cutthorpe (348738)	G&EG
26th	8 Carrion Crow gathered in Poplar trees off Marsh Avenue at 0830 hrs (357792). 6 Swift feeding high over Green Lane at 1915hrs (357790)	G&EG
29th	Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Linnets seen on hedgerow near Unstone Hall at 0620hrs (368771)	G&EG

Garden Bird Survey
9 Gardens

Garden Birds

Total Species for month- 27

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	19				1						3	12		4	20		14
Starling			15	4				FO							1			6		20
Blackbird	3		3	2				2						2	3		4	4		6
Blue Tit	5			2				3						2	1			1		2
Collared Dove	2		2					2												3
Magpie	2		2	3				2						2	2		1			3
Chaffinch	4														2					
Duncock			2	3				2						2	1		1	1		6
Robin	1		1					3						1	1			2		1
Greenfinch	2							7										1		
Song Thrush	2																			
Great Tit	9							2						3	1					1
Wren	1													1						
Coal Tit	1							1						1						1
Carrion Crow			2	3										2	5					1
Mistle Thrush																				
Woodpigeon	4		2	5				5						4	5		2	3		3
Rook				6																
Jay																				
G.S.Woodpecker	1			1																
Goldfinch	1							3							3					2
Sparrowhawk			FO																	
Pied Wagtail																				
Long-tailed Tit																				
Yellowhammer																				
B.H. Gull																				
Goldcrest																				
Treecreeper																				
Jackdaw			FO												2					
Feral Rock Dove																				1
Bullfinch	1																			
Kestrel				1																
Nuthatch	1																			
Pheasant																				
Grey Heron																				
L.B.B. Gull																				
Blackcap																				
Fieldfare																				
C.Buzzard								FO												
Swift								FO							FO					
Siskin																				
Tawny Owl														Hd						
Redwing																				
Total	17		11	11				16						12	14		5	9		15

BOTANICAL

Red Clover, White Clover, Tufted Vetch, Small flowered BB
Cranesbill, Daisy, dandelion, Red Campion, Bramble, Knotgrass,
Foxglove, Lesser Trefoil in area of Gosforth Drive to Cowley and
Kitchen Wood (3377)

MAMMALS

Daily Mole activity J&RS
Bat (probably Pipistrelle) seen hunting at dusk during the first week of the G&EG
month in garden [15]
Badger seen on two occasions on Firthwood Avenue (3679)
1st Grey Squirrel in garden [17] at 1350hrs (365789) BSS
3rd Grey Squirrel robbing bird feeder in garden [8] CS
Wood Mouse seen in rear garden [15] G&EG
16th 2 Squirrels in garden [1] J&RS
19th Squirrel in garden [1]. Also 20th, 21st, 24th and 29th J&RS
27th Grey Squirrel on fence next to french windows at 1300 hrs in garden [17] BSS
29th Fox on Firthwood Avenue at 0100hrs (3679) S&GR
0445hrs 8 Rabbits and 2 Brown Hares seen in field near Unstone Hall (368771) G&EG
0625hrs Fox seen in field near Unstone Hall (371772)

REPTILES

8th Adder seen in garden [1] J&RS

INSECTS

Butterfly sightings in garden [15]: Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White, G&EG
Large White, Green-veined White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Common Blue
and Small Skipper
Other insects seen in garden [15]: Carder Bee, Buff, White, Red-tailed G&EG
Bumblebee, Vine Weevil, Lily Beetle, Wasp, Tree Bumblebee, 7-spot Ladybird,
Hoverfly Sp., Green Shield Bug.
Butterflies seen in garden [3]: Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Small White. AB
Also a variety of Bumblebees seen feeding on flowers
4th Small Tortoiseshell, White-tailed Bumblebee in garden [8] CS
8th Hawker Dragonfly (Common Aeshna?) flying in garden [3] AB
11th Magpie Moth emerging on the lawn, resting then fluttering it's wings and AB
eventually landing onto a stone in the sunshine, where a Blackbird immediately
snapped it up- a brief existence for a beautiful moth not seen before in garden
[3]
15th Cockchafer seen garden [1] R&JS
16th Flying ants seen in garden [1] J&RS
Orange Tip Butterfly in garden [4]. and on most days BB

18th	Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly in garden [4] On walk Stubley Hollow- Golf Course (3379): Ringlet, Speckled Wood Butterflies and Buff-tailed Bumblebee	BB CS
28th	Carder Bee on Lavender in garden [8]	CS
30th	Large White Butterfly in garden [4]	BB

August

METEOROLOGICAL

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

A mixed month with sun and cloud from 1st to 5th and 9th to 13th. It rained on 5th to 8th and 10th was hot. The 14th and 15th were cloudy, 16th to 20th were cloudy with sunny spells. There was rain again on 21st and 22nd. It was mainly dull and cloudy from 23rd to 31st with the sun showing occasionally on 25th to 28th.

The most numerous birds in 7 gardens (monthly totals)

	Species	Total	None at	Most at
1	House Sparrow	1097	-	286 at [20], 215 at [4], 201 at [3]
2	Woodpigeon	347	-	96 at [15], 68 at [3], 65 at [8]
3	Blackbird	305	-	96 at [3], 79 at [18], 67 at [20]
4	Dunnock	181	[1]	122 at [20], 64 at [4], 40 at [3]
5	Blue Tit	172	[20]	79 at [1], 44 at [3], 42 at [14]
6	Great Tit	120	[3][4][15][20]	90 at [1], 29 at [14], 1 at [18]
7	Magpie	113	-	35 at [15], 30 at [3], 29 at [4]
8	Robin	69	-	19 at [1][20], 13 at [15], 9 at [3]
9	Chaffinch	44	[3][14][15][18][20]	43 at [1], 1 at [4]
10	Goldfinch	31	[3][4][14][20]	18 at [1], 9 at [15], 4 at [18]
11	Collared Dove	28	[4][14]	15 at [3], 5 at [1], 4 at [15]
12	Coal Tit	26	[4][15][18][20]	15 at [1], 6 at [3], 5 at [14]
13	Carrion Crow	23	[14][15][18][20]	12 at [3], 11 at [4], 2 at [1]
14	Jackdaw	13	6 gardens	13 at [15]
15	Nuthatch	6	6 gardens	6 at [1]

Others

There were 3 Long-tailed Tit on 28th at [1], Sparrowhawk seen at [3]. The only Summer visitors were House Martin at [3] at the end of the month. Birds seen flying over were Buzzard at [1][3][14][17][18], Rook at [3] and [4], Black-headed Gull at [4] on 26th and Lesser Black-backed Gull at [18] on 6th. A Bullfinch was heard on 2nd at [1], and a Tawny Owl was heard at Cross Lane Coal Aston.

ORNITHOLOGICAL

4th	1130hrs 3 Juvenile Robin on rear garden [15]	G&EG
7th	C10 Swallow, C10 House Martin, C10 Juvenile House Martin and C8 Swift feeding over Chesterfield Canal near Bluebank Loop (400749) C20 Jackdaw flying west over Snape Hill Lane, Dronfield at 2030hrs	G&EG
8th	Green Woodpeckers in woods at bottom of garden [1] Unstone	R&JS
11th	Buzzard flying over Unstone. Also on 30th (3777)	R&JS
12th	2130hrs Tawny Owl seen at dusk on roof near Miners Arms PH at Hundall (385772)	G&EG
15th	1315hrs Pair of Grey Wagtail and two Wrens seen on River Drone near Mill Lane, Unstone (377770).	G&EG
20th	0930hrs 6 Swallow feeding over Snape Hill Lane (35771)	G&EG
25th	1725hrs Sparrowhawk cicling over Snape Hill Lane (357791)	G&EG
27th	1105hrs Green Woodpecker flying East over Mill Road, Eckington (433797) 1335hrs Green Woodpecker flying East and then West over Mill Road, Eckington, probably the same bird. 1135hrs 4 Buzzard circling over Renishaw Park Golf Course (Looked like 2 adults and 2 juveniles) (437795). 1215hrs C40 Swallow and House Martin feeding together at Birley Farm near Renishaw. (443789)	G&EG

Garden Bird Survey
7 Gardens

Garden Birds

Total Species for August- 26

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

BOTANICAL

No Reports

MAMMALS

5th	2000hrs Roe Deer seen in field near Binkley Wood, West Handley (401779)	G&EG
15th	Grey Squirrel in garden [1] Unstone	R&JS
30th	Grey Squirrel in garden [20], Also on 31st Wood Mouse seen in garden [20]. Also on 31st	G&SR

INSECTS

Butterflies seen in garden [15]: Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper, Holly Blue. G&EG

Other insects seen in garden [15]: Red, White, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Early Bumblebee, Carder Bee, Honey Bee, Lily Beetle, 7-Spot Ladybird, Hoverfly Sp., Green Shieldbeetle, Wasp.

Butterflies seen in garden [4]: Orange Tip, Red Admiral, Peacock, Large White BB

13th	Butterflies seen in garden[3]: Peacock, Speckled Wood, Large White, Common Blue, Small White.	AB
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25th	Painted Lady Butterfly seen in garden [3]	AB
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VISIT TO WHITWELL WOOD ON WEDNESDAY 18th AUGUST 2021

Three members, Charles Seymour, Brian Smithson and Graham Gill joined Jim Russell, the speaker at our August meeting two weeks earlier, at Whitwell Wood for our first outing after an 18 month absence due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The weather conditions were a lightly overcast sky, but reasonably warm with a forecast of some sunshine in the afternoon. This bode well for our intention of seeing some Silver Washed Fritillary butterflies that the wood is known for having good numbers.

After putting on the boots we started our flower count on the wide grass verge between the wood and the A619 Worksop Road and managed to see a total of 28 on here. We also had a chat with the lady owner of the Route 619 café who told us that they had counted a total of 74 orchids on the verge a few weeks earlier. This was up from only 3 the previous year despite the council's intermittent and unnecessary mowing of the verge. A few more flower species were added to the list as we walked down to the main entrance to the wood. We stopped at the information board and map just inside the entrance and planned our route. The tracks and paths are arranged in a number of radials from the centre with a circular path linking the radials up. Jim explained that this layout was chosen by a former Duke of Portland who had seen a similar layout whilst on a shooting holiday in France.

We strolled down the main central track heading for the centre of the wood as this is the best spot for butterflies (excuse the pun) but although our flower and bird counts grew, alas no butterflies! We stopped at the picnic table and had elevenses and waited a while for the sun to break through. Still no butterflies so we continued on the part of the main track known as Bondhay Drive. On reaching the circular path we turned right and followed this to the next radial where we turned left towards the bottom of the wood.

The sun at last was beginning to break through the cloud and as we neared the bottom of the wood we spotted our first butterfly, a Speckled Wood. This was quickly followed by several more and in a boggy meadow alongside the stream we added Small White, Green-veined White and Red Admiral. This stream marks the historic boundary between the lands of the Duke of Portland and the Duke of Leeds and has a marker stone carved with D.P and D.S on the corresponding sides. It is also is part of the boundary between Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. At the corner of the golf course we turned left and made our way back along Bondhay drive to the centre of the wood for our lunch stop. A Green Woodpecker was heard and then seen along here. Arriving at the picnic table again we spotted a Scorpion Fly on one of the legs which then obligingly flew onto the table top, so out came the cameras to photograph this strange looking insect from quite close up.

After finishing our lunch we started looking around the adjacent clearing and were rewarded with several Silver Washed Fritillaries, a Holly Blue and a male Southern Hawker Dragonfly. We then took the radial path next to the picnic table and at the circular path turned left. This particular stretch is normally another good area for butterflies but this time we didn't manage to add anything different to the list. Continuing on the circular path we crossed the main track to the small pond in the south-east corner of the wood. Here there were good numbers of dragonflies hunting high above the clearing but their speed and height made identification very difficult. Our best guesses were a mixture of Hawkers and Ruddy Darters. We did manage to see a couple of Azure Damsel fly and our final addition to the flower list was White Water Lily on the pond. From here it was a short walk back to the layby and the cars. Despite a sizeable flower list, it was probably not our best visit to the wood in terms of numbers of species, but a worthwhile and enjoyable one, and a good start to resumption of our outings at long last.

Reporter Graham Gill

WHITWELL WOOD SPECIES LIST

WEDNESDAY 18th AUGUST 2021

FLOWERS

Red Clover, White Clover, Milkwort, Field Scabious, Eyebright, Black Knapweed, Centuari, Kidney Vetch, Yarrow, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Yellow Wort, Black Medic, Selfheal, Fairy Flax, Ragwort, Ribwort Plantain , Hogweed, Dandelion, Daisy, White Deadnettle, Creeping Buttercup, Meadow Buttercup, Spear Thistle, Chickweed, Groundsel, Prickly Sowthistle, Field Bindweed, Creeping Thistle, White Campion, Herb Robert, Nipplewort, Red Campion, Wood Avens, Great Hairy Willowherb, Meadowsweet, Rosebay Willowherb, Hemp Nettle, Bifid Hemp Nettle, Meadow Vetchling, Tufted Vetch, Angelica, Stinging Nettle, Enchanter's Nightshade, Betony, Red Bartsia, Woundwort, Lords & Ladies (fruit), Gromwell, Bramble, Creeping Cinquefoil, Figwort, Hemp Agrimony, Tormentil, Broad-leaved Willowherb, Water Mint, Ladies Bedstraw, Bush Vetch, Rest Harrow, St. John's Wort, Agrimony, Hedge Bedstraw, White Water Lily.

TOTAL 62

BIRDS

Wood Pigeon, Jay, Nuthatch, Wren, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Buzzard, Robin, Green Woodpecker, Blue Tit, Carrion Crow, Kestrel

TOTAL 11

INSECTS

Speckled Wood, Red Admiral, Small White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Silver Washed Fritillary, Holly Blue, Scorpion Fly, Southern Hawker Dragonfly, Tree Bumblebee, Red-tailed Bumblebee, Honey Bee, Buff-tailed Bumblebee, Common Carder Bumblebee, , Azure Damselfly, (Probably) Common Hawker Dragonfly, (Probably) Ruddy Darter.

TOTAL 17

FUNGI

King Alfred's Cakes, Birch Polypore, Many Zoned Polypore, Jew's Ear, Artist's Fungus.

TOTAL 5

MAMMALS

Mole Hills, Grey Squirrel

TOTAL 2

Contributors

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