

P.

SECOS Garden Bird Survey 1985/6

Many thanks for your participation in this survey and the records which you have supplied. It was well supported with 18 members completing the survey on a regular basis. Having finally got all the record sheets in I have attempted the rather daunting task of analysing all the data and presenting the results to you in an easily understood form.

The attached sheets are a method of showing the occurrence of species in each garden during the survey. The figures represent the total number of weeks in which a species was recorded but does not indicate how many of each species occurred. The figure at the top of each column is the number of weeks which observations were carried out for, since not all participants were able to carry out observations for the full 26 weeks.

The commonest bird was easily the blue tit, being recorded in 423 of a possible maximum 426 weeks. The next nine commonest species in order were blackbird, robin, starling, great tit, chaffinch, house sparrow, dunnock, collared dove and greenfinch.

At the other end of the scale nine species were recorded only once in one garden:- common gull, herring gull, heron, corn bunting, moorhen, kestrel, woodcock, chiffchaff and willow warbler, with the willow warbler being seen on the very late date of mid-December. However the rarest species must surely have been the redheaded bunting seen in a Congleton garden for most of March. Although this is an Asian species it is commonly kept as a cage bird and this one is considered to be an escape.

The effects of the freezing weather from end of January through February were not as hard as expected. Some species such as chaffinch showed a slight increase in numbers at the time of the onset of the hard weather and the starving little owl in a Barthomley garden and the woodcock feeding on a Tarporley lawn were also obvious results of these weather conditions. However, most species showed a consistency of numbers which I found surprising.

Other items of interest were the late summer visitors with a chiffchaff in mid-October, a willow warbler in mid-December (overwintering?) and a male blackcap in mid-December and early February (definitely overwintering).

Sparrowhawks were seen in 5 gardens and identified prey included blue tit, house sparrow, male blackbird -taken by a female sparrowhawk- and female blackbird -taken by a male sparrowhawk!

Siskins were recorded in 10 of the 18 gardens. Virtually all of these were recorded first in week 17 or week 18. This coincided with the freezing weather but could also have been related to the exhaustion of their natural food supply.

I have taken this opportunity to send you recording sheets for the coming winter 86/87 in anticipation of you continuing to support this survey. I enclose a list of all participants and registration numbers. Please continue to use the number which you already have, new numbers will only be given to new starters.

Since this is the first year in which we have carried out this survey and presented the results, I would be pleased to receive any comments or suggestions which you may have to improve the organisation.

Once again many thanks for your last winter's efforts and good luck for your next winter's efforts!

Species and Number of Weeks Observed 1985/86

Reg. No.	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Max. Weeks	26	26	26	23	26	20	26	26	26	22
1 Blue tit	26	26	26	23	26	20	26	26	26	22
2 Blackbird	26	26	26	21	26	18	21	26	26	19
3 Robin	26	24	26	23	26	20	15	26	26	15
4 Starling	26	26	26	23	26	20	26	23	24	22
5 Great tit	26	17	24	23	15	20	25	26	26	21
6 Chaffinch	25	15	22	21	17	20	24	22	26	21
7 House sparrow	26	26	26	23	26	20	26	26	26	22
8 Dunnock	13	22	24	22	05	20	21	26	25	06
9 Collared dove	23	26	26	06	03	07	25	26	--	22
10 Greenfinch	26	05	24	18	15	19	26	21	22	01
11 Magpie	19	--	26	19	22	15	09	13	11	13
12 Song thrush	07	16	11	21	15	11	04	26	13	12
13 Coal tit	25	01	18	18	--	05	25	11	10	05
14 Wren	11	02	14	15	18	16	02	22	12	07
15 Pied wagtail	21	11	11	22	06	18	09	04	10	08
16 Crow	12	02	10	--	02	19	05	--	09	07
17 Mistle thrush	--	04	13	11	--	08	02	13	12	03
18 Blackheaded gull	09	--	--	11	01	20	06	--	01	20
19 Nuthatch	--	--	--	01	--	--	--	--	26	--
20 Siskin	06	01	--	01	--	--	08	01	--	08
21 Jackdaw	--	--	17	11	--	--	--	--	--	--
22 Redwing	02	01	--	--	--	03	--	--	03	03
23 Woodpigeon	03	--	05	--	--	--	--	--	16	--
=24 Reed Bunting	--	14	--	--	--	01	09	--	--	--
=24 Jay	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=26 Rook	02	--	--	--	--	15	02	--	01	--
=26 Bullfinch	--	--	--	09	02	--	--	--	--	--
28 Fieldfare	04	--	--	06	--	03	01	--	--	01
29 Sparrowhawk	--	--	11	01	--	--	--	--	--	--
30 Treecreeper	03	--	--	--	--	--	--	01	--	--
31 Marsh tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=32 Goldfinch	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=32 Yellowhammer	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
34 Greatspotted woodpecker	--	--	02	--	01	--	--	--	01	--
35 Tree sparrow	--	--	03	--	--	01	--	--	--	--
=36 Marsh/Willow tit	--	--	--	05	--	--	--	--	--	--
=36 Longtailed tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	01
=38 Brambling	--	--	--	--	--	03	--	01	--	--
=38 Redheaded bunting	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
40 Redpoll	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=41 Little owl	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=41 Blackcap	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=43 Chiffchaff	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=43 Common gull	--	--	--	--	--	--	01	--	--	--
=43 Herring gull	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=43 Heron	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=43 Willow warbler	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=43 Corn bunting	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=43 Moorhen	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=43 Kestrel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=43 Woodcock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

'Max. Weeks' is the number of weeks observations were carried out for.

The figures represent the total number of weeks in which a species was recorded in any one garden.

Species and Number of Weeks Observed 1985/86

Reg. No.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Max. Weeks	25	26	26	26	26	24	13	13	426
1 Blue tit	23	26	26	26	26	24	13	13	423
2 Blackbird	22	26	26	26	26	20	13	13	408
3 Robin	18	26	26	25	26	24	13	13	398
4 Starling	23	04	26	26	26	22	13	13	395
5 Great tit	18	26	26	24	26	24	13	13	393
6 Chaffinch	18	23	25	25	24	24	13	13	378
7 House sparrow	21	03	26	26	26	01	13	13	376
8 Dunnock	22	26	26	21	22	21	13	13	343
9 Collared dove	05	19	26	23	23	06	07	13	286
10 Greenfinch	10	04	26	12	09	16	13	12	279
11 Magpie	16	22	24	21	10	21	13	01	275
12 Song thrush	09	15	18	05	11	13	12	11	230
13 Coal tit	06	02	25	12	20	16	10	09	218
14 Wren	05	08	09	12	10	04	13	02	182
15 Pied wagtail	04	12	07	05	--	03	11	11	172
16 Crow	02	07	18	--	01	03	05	--	102
17 Mistle thrush	--	05	06	05	03	02	13	01	101
18 Blackheaded gull	01	--	01	01	--	01	--	--	72
19 Nuthatch	--	--	--	--	01	13	13	01	55
20 Siskin	05	--	04	07	09	--	--	--	50
21 Jackdaw	--	--	--	--	01	--	11	--	40
22 Redwing	01	--	02	01	03	04	08	--	31
23 Woodpigeon	--	--	01	--	01	--	--	--	26
=24 Reed bunting	--	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	25
=24 Jay	--	--	--	--	--	14	04	07	25
=26 Rook	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21
=26 Bullfinch	04	--	02	--	03	--	--	01	21
28 Fieldfare	--	03	--	01	01	--	--	--	20
29 Sparrowhawk	--	02	03	01	01	--	--	--	19
30 Treecreeper	--	--	--	--	--	02	07	--	13
31 Marsh tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	11
=32 Goldfinch	01	04	02	--	--	--	--	--	8
=32 Yellowhammer	--	08	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
34 Greatspotted woodpecker	--	--	--	--	--	01	02	--	7
35 Tree sparrow	--	--	01	--	--	01	--	--	6
=36 Marsh/Willow tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
=36 Longtailed tit	01	--	--	--	--	03	--	--	5
=38 Brambling	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
=38 Redheaded bunting	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	04	4
40 Redpoll	--	--	01	02	--	--	--	--	3
=41 Little owl	--	02	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
=41 Blackcap	--	--	--	--	02	--	--	--	2
=43 Chiffchaff	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=43 Common gull	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=43 Herring gull	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=43 Heron	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=43 Willow warbler	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=43 Corn bunting	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=43 Moorhen	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=43 Kestrel	--	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	1
=43 Woodcock	--	--	--	--	--	--	01	--	1

Max. Weeks is the number of weeks observations were carried for.

The figures represent the total number of weeks in which a species was recorded in any one garden.

SECCS Garden Bird Survey

List of Participants

8501	Hilary Clowes	Shavington <i>Crewe</i>
8502	Brian Perkins	Crewe
8503	Roy Goodier	Alsager
8504	Ann Baker	Holmes Chapel
8505	Dave Meakin	Crewe
8506	Basil Davies	Alsager
8507	Alan Robinson	Shavington
8508	Beryl Brindley	Congleton
8509	Geoff Pollard	Alsager
8510	Trudy Fields	Alsager
8511	Alan Soper	Congleton
8512	Chris Clowes	Barthomley
8513	Brenda Dean	Haslington
8514	Joan Lowe	Alsager
8515	Polly Proudlock	Alsager
8516	Vera Riggall	Congleton
8517	Dennis Crowther	Calveley
8518	Ann Pym	Congleton
8619	<i>Pam Kirkland</i>	<i>Sandbach</i>
8620	<i>Mary Robinson</i>	<i>Holmes Chapel.</i>