

SECOS Winter Garden Bird Survey 1987/88.

The Winter Garden Bird Survey was carried out for the third winter from October 1987 to April 1988. Twenty members participated during this period, four of these for the first time.

The survey produced no exceptional results this year, due no doubt to the very mild weather all winter. There was a brief spell of snow in late January, gale force winds in early February and occasional frosts throughout, but no prolonged spells of hard weather.

All the results have been analysed and summarised but unfortunately I have not had time to have them all typed. However, I have included a summary of species recorded which uses the term "garden / weeks" as an index for each species. This is the number of weeks in which a species is recorded in all gardens without considering the actual numbers of birds seen. This index is used to assess how common a species is and the results are tabulated in order with Blue Tit the most common. The information on actual numbers of birds is used to assess how abundant species are at different times of the season, especially as the weather changes. I have also included a column to show the number of gardens in which any species was recorded, to give an indication of how widespread a species is i.e. whether all records were in a few gardens only or spread thinly over more gardens.

A total of 49 species was recorded, two fewer than last year, with only one species - Green Woodpecker - being recorded for the first time. The ten most common were Blue Tit, Blackbird, House Sparrow, Robin, Starling, Great Tit, Chaffinch, Dunnock, Magpie and Collared Dove.

A sign of the mild winter was the infrequent visits by the scarcer species like Brambling, Goldcrest, Fieldfare etc. with Siskin being the best example. There were only 10 records of Siskins and these were spread over 8 gardens.

I have taken this opportunity to send you recording sheets for the coming winter in anticipation of your continued support for the survey. I enclose a list of all participants and registration numbers, please continue to use the registration number which you have.

Many thanks for your efforts of last winter and good luck for next winter.

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Tel.: 582642

SECOS Garden Bird Survey

List of Participants 1987/88.

8501	Hilary Clowes	Wistaston, Crewe
8502	Brian Perkins	Crewe
8504	Ann Baker	Alsager
8506	Basil Davies	Alsager
8507	Alan Robinson	Shavington
8508	Beryl Brindley	Congleton
8509	Geoff Pollard	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	Pam Kirkland	Sandbach
8721	Lindsay Fowler	Holmes Chapel
8722	Arthur Fisher	Wistaston, Crewe
8725	Elizabeth Deas	Alsager
8726	Bronwyn Pixton	Sandbach

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Garden</u> <u>Weeks</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Gardens</u> <u>Recorded</u> <u>in</u>
Blue Tit	470	20
Blackbird	448	20
House Sparrow	446	20
Robin	442	20
Starling	437	20
Great Tit	434	20
Chaffinch	423	20
Dunnock	396	20
Magpie	341	20
Collared Dove	316	19
Greenfinch	312	20
Wren	241	20
Crow	192	14
Coal Tit	148	13
Song Thrush	140	18
Black-headed Gull	98	10
Pied Wagtail	95	13
Mistle Thrush	56	9
Nuthatch	50	5
Sparrowhawk	47	7
Jay	47	4
Reed Bunting	38	4
Woodpigeon	30	5
Great Spotted Woodpecker	27	4
Bullfinch	22	6
Goldfinch	19	8
Tree Sparrow	15	4
Blackcap	12	3
Fieldfare	12	3
Siskin	10	8
Treecreeper	9	5
Yellowhammer	9	1
Jackdaw	8	3
Feral Pigeon	8	1
Rook	7	4
Long-tailed Tit	5	3
Kestrel	4	3
Goldcrest	3	3
Grey Heron	3	3
Grey Wagtail	3	3
Tawny Owl	3	2
Brambling	2	2
Linnet	2	2
Little Owl	2	1
Willow Tit	1	1
Willow Warbler	1	1
Pheasant	1	1
Green Woodpecker *	1	1
Redwing	1	1

Total number of species is 49. * = new species.

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Interim Results of Records from 14 Gardens.

Species	No. of gardens in which recorded	Max. No. of birds seen in any one garden
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Starling	14	52
Blue Tit	14	18
Great Tit	14	15
Blackbird	14	9
Robin	14	3
House Sparrow	13	25
Chaffinch	13	12
Dunnock	13	4
Magpie	13	4
Wren	13	3
Collared Dove	12	14
Greenfinch	12	6
Coal Tit	11	4
Pied Wagtail	11	3
Song Thrush	11	2
Crow	8	(40)
Mistle Thrush	7	4
Jay	6	2
Black-headed Gull	5	27
Nuthatch	4	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	1
Sparrowhawk	4	1
Siskin	3	20
Treecreeper	3	2
Bullfinch	3	2
Long-tailed Tit	2	7
Grey Wagtail	2	1
Goldfinch	2	1
Goldcrest	2	1
Woodpigeon	2	1
House Martin	1	30
Swallow	1	12
Tree Sparrow	1	4
Reed Bunting	1	3
Rook	1	2
Redpoll	1	2
Jackdaw	1	2
Woodcock	1	1
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	1
Kestrel	1	1
Chiffchaff	1	1
Brambling	1	1
Tawny Owl	1	1

Number of species recorded to date = 43