

SECOS WINTER GARDEN BIRD SURVEY FOR OCTOBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022



Following the retirement of Trevor Clowes from the role as Survey Organiser for the SECOS Winter Garden Bird Survey (SWGBS), the role is now split between Nick Harrison and myself, Ian Taylor. Nick and I would like to put on record our thanks to Trevor for all his hard work organising the survey and producing this report in the past and for all the help he has given us to achieve a seamless transition - we hope! Nick has taken responsibility for the administration of the survey and has input the data into an Access database for me, Ian, to prepare and analyse the data before writing the survey report. We hope that the SECOS members and non-members who have provided all the counts and observations of the birds in their gardens will continue to do so and that others will be motivated to join them this coming winter. Without those who collect the data, we wouldn't have anything to report. Hopefully our thoughts on your observations will be of interest to you and we welcome any feedback on the content.

This winter bird recording season started on the 3rd October 2021 and finished week beginning 27th March 2022. The number of participants has fallen from 48 in 2020/21 to 32 for this survey 2021/22 of whom 20 are SECOS members and 12 are non-members. While this is disappointing, we were pleased to welcome two new participants to the survey and look forward to welcoming back previous participants who have supported the SWGBS in the recent or distant past. All records are welcome even if you feel that holidays or other absences from your garden will mean some missed weeks, please don't worry some data is better than no data. We thank all those participants who have provided data from their garden observations.

The Participants

Table 1 below identifies the people who participated in this survey together with their registration number. Please note your number for the next survey. Since the first survey in 1985, a total of 124 have taken part.

Table 1

Registration Number	Name	Registration Number	Name
8501	Hilary Clowes	1533	David Cookson
8502	Bryan Perkins	0334	Bill Bellamy
2104	Arthur Abbott	9636	Geoff Yarwood
8505	David and Elaine Meakin	0838	Richard Howells
1306	Roy Broughton	0639	Chris Parry
0107	Christine Howarth	0343	John and Wendy Fuller
1010	John Nixon	2046	John Kay
8511	Alan Soper	0347	Sylvia Jarvis
9813	John Thompson	1358	Graham Bailey
9814	Colin Lythgoe	2049	Martin Watson
1215	Louise Adams	1351	Ray Broughton
0316	Paul and Margaret Harvey	0556	Bill and Jean Fox
0720	Rachel Heath	0758	Brian and Susan Plowright
1022	Mike and Christine Brooks	2103	David Harrison

Registration Number	Name	Registration Number	Name
9923	Janet and Peter Roberts	2108	Susan Davies
1825	Kate Whittles	1727	Mike Tonks

The Cumulative All Time Bird Species List

Table 2 shows no additions to the *Cumulative All Time Bird Species* list seen in the gardens during the SWGBS. There is a space ready for species number 83! Should this be the Guinea fowl seen in a Holmes Chapel garden? This bird is native to Africa and is found in exotic collections across the UK, so is probably an escapee. In addition, Guinea fowl isn't on the British Ornithologist Union (BOU) list, hence it is not being treated as the 83rd species.

Table 2

SECOS Winter Garden Bird Survey					
List of All Species 1985 to 2022					
No.	Bird Species	No.	Bird Species	No.	Bird Species
1	Black-headed gull	28	Grey wagtail	57	Red-legged partridge
2	Blackbird	29	Hawfinch	58	Redpoll (Lesser)
3	Blackcap	30	Herring gull	59	Redwing
4	Blue tit	31	House martin	60	Reed bunting
5	Brambling	32	House sparrow	61	Ring-necked parakeet
6	Bullfinch	33	Jackdaw	62	Robin
7	Buzzard	34	Jay	63	Rook
8	Chaffinch	35	Kestrel	64	Siskin
9	Chiffchaff	36	Kingfisher	65	Skylark
10	Coal tit	37	Lapwing	66	Snipe
11	Collared dove	38	Lesser black-backed Gull	67	Song thrush
12	Common gull	39	Lesser spotted woodpecker	68	Sparrowhawk
13	Corn bunting	40	Linnet	69	Starling
14	Crow	41	Little owl	70	Stock dove
15	Dunnock	44	Mallard	71	Swallow
16	Feral pigeon	45	Marsh/ willow tit	72	Tawny owl
17	Fieldfare	46	Meadow pipit	73	Tree sparrow
18	Garden warbler	47	Mealy redpoll	74	Treecreeper
19	Goldcrest	48	Merlin	75	Water rail
20	Goldfinch	49	Mistle thrush	76	Waxwing
21	Greater black-backed gull	50	Moorhen	77	White wagtail
22	Great spotted woodpecker	51	Mute swan	78	Willow warbler
23	Great tit	52	Nuthatch	79	Woodcock
24	Green woodpecker	53	Pheasant	80	Woodpigeon
25	Greenfinch	54	Pied wagtail	81	Wren
26	Grey heron	55	Raven	82	Yellowhammer
27	Grey partridge	56	Red-headed bunting	83	

The 2021/2022 Survey

The 32 gardens surveyed over the 26-week period gives the opportunity to produce a maximum of 832 garden-week records (32 x 26 = 832). 798 garden-week records were submitted, which is 34 records fewer than possible, reflecting odd weeks missed by participants due to holidays or a mislaid record sheet as one person found to their frustration. This represents a 96% return rate, the same as the 2020/21 survey.

The Listed Species

Table 3 shows the species entered on the *Listed Bird Species* section of the input forms A1 and A2. In order to show a measure of the *Listed Bird Species* occurrence in participants gardens for this survey they are listed in descending order of their garden-week records together with the number of gardens they visited, with the highest count plus the corresponding participant's registration number (see table 1). The bracketed () numbers show the figures for the last survey in 2020/21.

The woodpigeon has returned to the top of the table as the most common bird species recorded in participants gardens; the blackbird, which displaced woodpigeon last year has returned to second place, just 16 garden-week records short of the woodpigeon. Both species were present in every participant's garden and while the maximum number recorded for blackbird in a garden stayed constant at 14 across the last two years the maximum number recorded for woodpigeon in a single garden increased from 17 to 21.

Table 3

Rank	Species	Number of Garden-Week Records out of 798 (1198)	Number of Gardens Visited out of 32 (48)	Highest Single Count	
				Number	Participants Registration Number
1 (2)	Woodpigeon	773 (1130)	32 (48)	21 (17)	1533, 0639
2 (1)	Blackbird	757 (1155)	32 (48)	14 (14)	1351
3 (4)	Blue tit	743 (1095)	32 (48)	22 (18)	2103
4 (3)	Robin	696 (1115)	32 (48)	5 (7)	8505, 0720
5 (5)	Dunnock	629 (929)	32 (48)	15 (15)	1351
6 (7)	Magpie	598 (838)	32 (48)	14 (9)	2103
7= (6)	Great tit	584 (862)	32 (47)	13 (11)	1351
7= (8)	House sparrow	584 (821)	30 (46)	35 (30)	2046
9 (9)	Goldfinch	530 (754)	29 (46)	24 (45)	8511, 1025
10 (11)	Starling	444 (599)	29 (42)	100 (34)	9813
11 (12)	Collared dove	407 (537)	24 (40)	15 (8)	1351
12 (13)	Chaffinch	382 (521)	29 (40)	23 (24)	1306
13 (15)	Jackdaw	333 (482)	22 (33)	45 (36)	0334
14 (16)	Greenfinch	314 (454)	28 (35)	20 (16)	1351, 9923
15 (10)	Coal tit	290 (646)	28 (44)	5 (6)	1351
16 (17)	Long-tailed tit	278 (374)	28 (43)	20 (18)	9813
17 (14)	Wren	274 (486)	29 (46)	3 (2)	1351
18 (18)	Crow	255 (364)	25 (33)	6 (5)	2108
19 (19)	Nuthatch	146 (215)	16 (20)	3 (3)	1351
20 (20)	Great spotted woodpecker	126 (169)	13 (25)	3 (2)	1351
21 (21)	Sparrowhawk	94 (145)	21 (34)	2 (2)	0639, 1351
22 (22)	Song thrush	64 (97)	15 (19)	2 (2)	2103, 0107, 0556

Changes to the ranking order for most of the other species were minor such as blue tit and robin switching from 3rd & 4th from last year's 4th & 3rd respectively. Several places were unchanged: dunnock 5th, goldfinch 9th and the last five in the list 18th– 22nd, namely crow, nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker, sparrowhawk and song thrush respectively. Eight species moved up just one place: woodpigeon, blue tit, magpie, house sparrow, starling, collared dove, chaffinch and long-tailed tit, whilst jackdaw and greenfinch moved up two places. However, three species; blackbird, robin and great tit fell by one ranking place, two species, wren and coal tit fell down the ranking by five and three places respectively. The movement of coal tit may be explained by natural variation from year to year as it did move up to 10th place last year.

The top seven species in the table were present in all 32 gardens in the survey, one more species than in last year's survey. Unsurprisingly, the species recorded in the fewest gardens were nuthatch (16), song thrush (15) and great spotted woodpecker (13). A *google* search revealed that song thrushes are recorded in approximately 1 in 5 gardens and our survey showed approximately 1 in 2 gardens, indicating that the song thrush is doing well in our area or that it may not have needed to migrate south due to our recent string of mild winters. The presence of woodland or trees in a garden may influence the incidence of great spotted woodpecker sightings as well as the increased use of fat and suet balls on the garden feeding menu which encourages great spotted woodpeckers to visit.

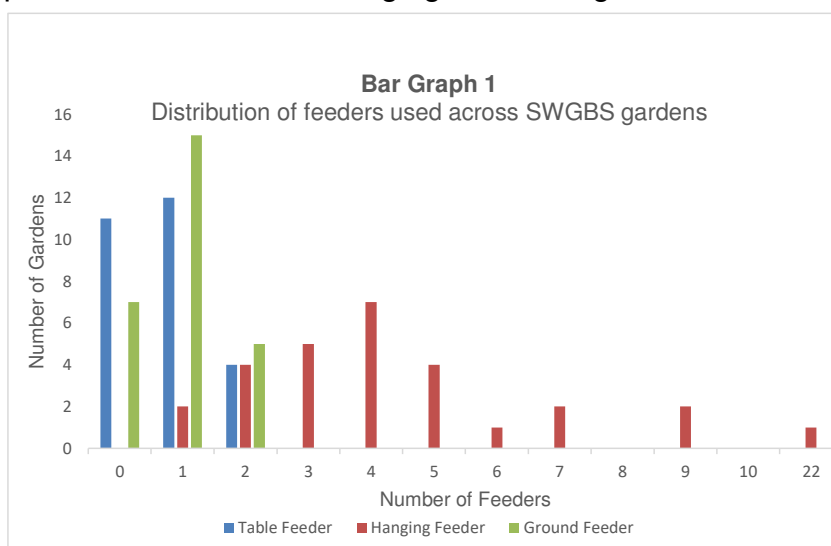
While exploring the highest single count figures the maximum of a hundred starlings seen in participant 9813's garden is amazing but knowing as we do, that starlings like to roost with others forming on occasions a murmuration of many millions of birds, we must remember that although we may see starlings locally in great numbers, they feature on the RSPB's UK Red list of breeding birds. Thirteen species recorded an increase in highest single counts, four were lower and five showed no change. In addition to the starling count change of 66, the other larger increases were jackdaw (9), collared dove (7) with house sparrow and magpie (5). The four that decreased were robin (2), goldfinch (21), chaffinch and coal tit (1).

The highest or joint highest single count for a species in a garden was spread across sixteen participants, with registration number 1351 recording 10 highest *listed species* counts, one more than in the 2020/21 survey with 9 highest *other species* counts. Unfortunately, the number of feeders in this Shavington garden were not noted on this year's survey return. The only information we have is nine hanging, one table and one ground feeder when the participant joined the survey in 2013.

Nick Harrison and Mike Tonks have explored the historical SWBGS data since about 1985 for *Listed Species* at an individual species level to produce charts depicting how their numbers in participants gardens have changed with time. These make interesting reading and can be found on the SECOS website.

Bar Graph 1 shows the distribution of feeders used across all the SWGBS gardens, to illustrate which feeder types and how many were present in how many gardens throughout the survey period. Some participants only recorded their number of feeders in one half of the survey and it was assumed the number of feeders was constant. Seven participants increased the number of hanging feeders in their gardens during the survey period, putting out more during November and December. The graph reflects the higher number of hanging feeders used. Four participants didn't record how many feeders they used during this survey; please could I ask all participants to complete this section on the survey form for next winter's survey.

There is a wide range in the number of hanging bird feeders per garden, with 22 in a Sandbach garden by far the highest. Most participants use three to five hanging feeders together with, one table and one ground feeder. The highest single species count also came from registration number 1351's Shavington garden. The high amount of feeder space together with the food type and location probably helps to attract high numbers of different species. In comparison registration number 0838 in Sandbach with the 22 hanging feeders did not record one highest count for a species. Two participants on their survey returns, recorded 9 hanging, 2 or 1 table and 1 or zero ground feeders in their Alsager and Sandbach gardens respectively, the



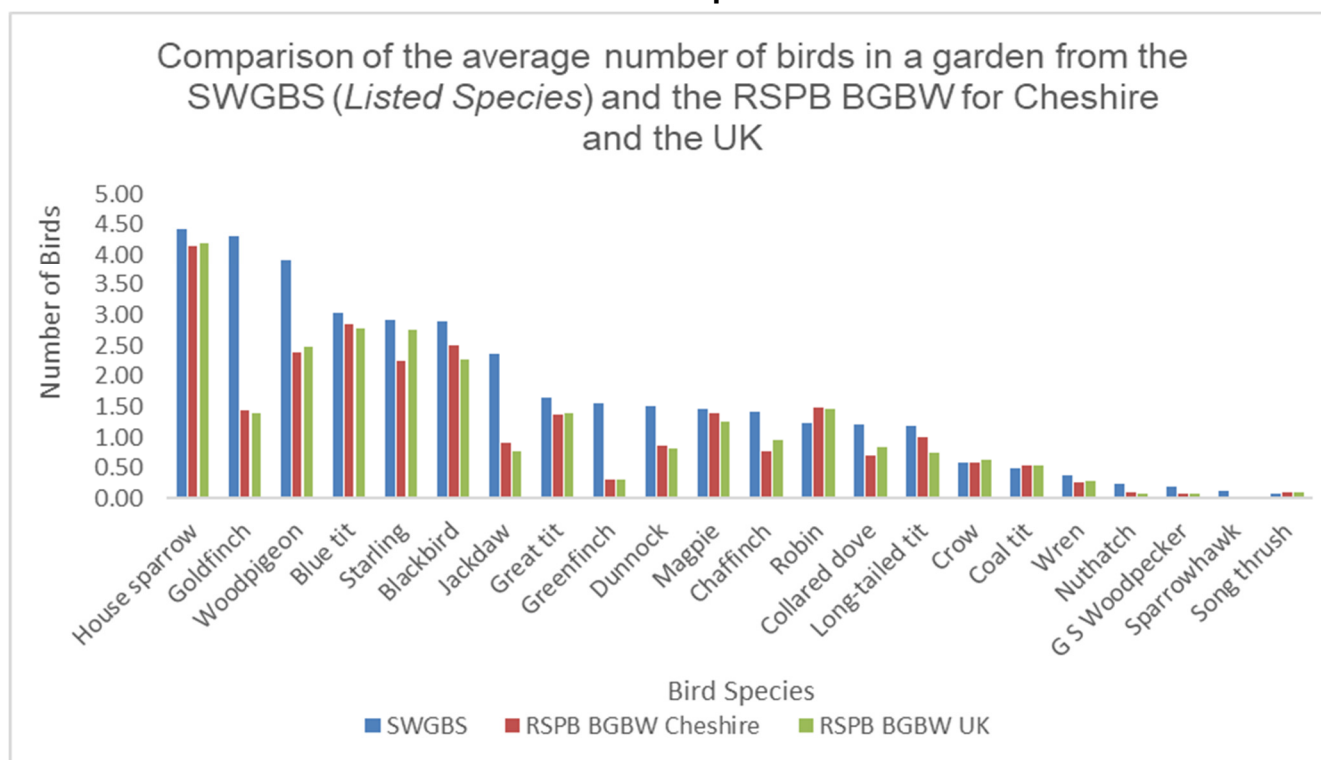
Alsager garden didn't have any highest counts while the Sandbach garden recorded 3 highest *listed species* counts and 4 highest *other species* counts. I would suggest that location and food type are the key to high numbers of a single species in your garden. However, if you ensure a plentiful, varied and constant supply of food to keep the birds interested, you will attract not only numbers but a variety of species to your garden.

Comparison with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch (BGBW)

In January each year the RSPB hold their Big Garden Birdwatch (BGBW) and I would expect that many of our SWGBS contributors and readers took part. Where the SECOS data is gathered over 26 weeks the RSPB survey is a one-hour snapshot so the comparisons are just a guide and shouldn't be taken as absolute.

Bar Graph 2 shows the comparison between the RSPB's BGBW (Cheshire and UK) and the SECOS surveys with the SECOS survey showing a higher average number of birds visiting gardens for several species. This is probably due to the longer length of time the SECOS survey is operational not just an hour on a specific day. The biggest differences were with greenfinch, jackdaw, goldfinch and woodpigeon with chaffinch and dunnock close behind. In the last decade goldfinch numbers have increased by 18% and woodpigeons have shown a massive 1,133% increase since 1979 so clearly these two species have been doing exceptionally well in the SECOS area compared to Cheshire and the UK as a whole. In the RSPB BGBW survey the house sparrow maintained its long-standing position at number 1 for the average maximum number of birds (4.2) seen in a garden. The top ten RSPB BGBW birds were 1. house sparrow, 2. blue tit, 3. starling, 4. woodpigeon, 5. blackbird, 6. robin, 7. goldfinch, 8. great tit, 9. magpie, 10. chaffinch. The top ten for the SECOS survey were 1. house sparrow, 2. goldfinch, 3. woodpigeon, 4. blue tit, 5. starling, 6. blackbird, 7. jackdaw, 8. collared dove, 9. great tit, 10. greenfinch. Only the robin showed a greater presence in the RSPB BGBW top 10 birds average maximum number. Also of note is the higher numbers of greenfinch and dunnock seen locally in gardens. This is particularly pleasing for greenfinch as numbers were in decline since 2006 when the causal link to Trichomoniasis infections was noticed and this suggests a possible recovery in the local area.

Bar Graph 2



The Other Species

Table 4 for the species entered under *Other Species* section of the input form are listed in descending order of the number of garden-week record occurrences, a measure of their

Table 4

Rank	Species	Number of Garden-Week Records out of 798 (549)	Number of Gardens Visited out of 32 (48)	Highest Single Count	
				Number	Participants Registration Number
1 (2)	Stock dove	104 (97)	9 (14)	14 (13)	1351
2 (3)	Jay	82 (96)	11 (10)	5 (5)	1351
3 (6)	Rook	76 (72)	7 (7)	23 (17)	1306
4 (5)	Feral pigeon	70 (94)	5 (9)	6 (12)	1215
5 (1)	Bullfinch	60 (124)	7 (11)	5 (6)	1351
6 (4)	Pied wagtail	57 (95)	12 (17)	4 (3)	8511
7 (8)	Black-headed gull	43 (68)	9 (11)	11 (20)	9636
8 (10)	Goldcrest	37 (60)	10 (11)	2 (2)	0838, 0639
9 (24)	Brambling	30 (9)	8 (4)	4 (5)	1351, 9923
10 (7)	Blackcap	23 (71)	12 (16)	1 (2)	#1
11= (11)	Siskin	22 (54)	11 (17)	10 (6)	0758
11= (16)	Tawny owl	22 (22)	2 (4)	2 (2)	0639
13 (16)	Mistle thrush	21 (22)	5 (8)	2 (3)	0334, 1533, 1025
14 (12)	Redwing	17 (39)	8 (14)	15 (42)	1351
15= (13)	Fieldfare	16 (33)	5 (10)	12 (19)	0334
15= (22)	Mallard	16 (12)	5 (5)	4 (3)	2103, 0556
17 (16)	Reed bunting	13 (22)	6 (4)	1 (3)	#2
18 (-)	Red-legged partridge	12 (-)	2 (-)	2 (-)	9923
19 (15)	Buzzard	11 (23)	4 (6)	1 (4)	#3
20 (21)	Chiffchaff	10 (13)	5 (10)	1 (1)	#4
21 (9)	Common pheasant	9 (62)	4 (13)	2 (4)	1351
22 (23)	Treecreeper	7 (11)	5 (7)	1 (1)	#5
23= (25)	Grey heron	5 (7)	4 (2)	1 (1)	0639
23= (26)	Moorhen	5 (4)	1 (4)	2 (1)	0556
25= (19)	Grey wagtail	4 (17)	3 (5)	2 (1)	9814
25= (-)	Herring gull	4 (-)	2 (-)	1 (-)	0316, 1351
25= (27=)	Lesser black-backed gull	4 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	1351
28 (27=)	Tree sparrow	3 (1)	3 (1)	2 (1)	0556
29= (-)	Kestrel	1 (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)	2108
29= (14)	Lesser (common) redpoll	1 (31)	1 (8)	1 (7)	2094
29= (20)	Marsh/willow tit	1 (16)	1 (1)	1 (2)	2108

#1 Participant's registration Number: 2103, 1306, 0107, 9813, 9814, 0720, 1533, 0838, 0639, 1348, 1351.

#2 Participant's registration number: 8501, 2103, 1306, 1215, 1348.

#3 Participant's registration number: 0334, 0639, 0556, 0758.

#4 Participant's registration number: 0556, 2103, 2108, 1025, 0639.

#5 Participant's registration number: 0556, 0639, 1351, 0758, 9923.

their abundance in the garden. Thirty-one species were recorded from 32 gardens, the same number as reported in last year's survey but from 16 fewer gardens. Two species were not present this year, house martin and grey partridge, these were replaced by kestrel and red-legged partridge.

Stock dove was the most common bird in the table regaining top spot from last year's position 2, although it appeared in fewer gardens, nine compared to fourteen during the 2020/21 survey. Last year's top bird was bullfinch which fell to fifth position with approximately 50% of the garden-week records with four fewer gardens visited, although the maximum number recorded was maintained, five compared to six last year.

A general observation is that fewer gardens were visited by each species compared to last year. The largest changes were pheasant (9) and redwing (6), the remaining eighteen species decreased from between two and five gardens. The pheasant observation probably reflects how many have been released locally for shooting, whereas the redwing being a regular winter migrant has high and low years for numbers depending on the weather. Jay bucked this decrease trend and was seen in one more garden this year to move up one place in the ranking. This bird collects acorns in the autumn and is becoming a more regular garden bird as it stocks up its food supplies for the winter. Brambling was also present in double the number of gardens compared to last season, visiting eight in total. This last winter saw a great increase in brambling migration with large irruption counts being reported across Europe, so an increase in sightings and a significant move from twenty-four to nine in the rankings is not a surprise.

Looking at the maximum numbers, rook increased from seventeen to twenty-three and siskin increased from six to ten, most others stayed constant although black-headed gull (20 down to 11), redwing (42 down to 15) and fieldfare (19 down to 12) showed the largest reductions. The winter thrushes decline was probably due to the weather conditions and the general state of migration numbers.

Twenty-three participants recorded the highest count for at least one species in their garden and participant 1351 had the highest or joint highest count for nine species, with participant 0639 coming second with seven species.

News from the Comments Section

Feeding habits

It was noticeable from the participants who made weekly comments that most fed sunflower hearts in their hanging feeders. To a lesser extent Niger seeds and fat balls were also put out. This may explain why goldfinches were regularly reported using the feeders, together with robin, house sparrow, bullfinch, siskin and nuthatch. A Haslington observer was pleased to see twenty house sparrows on his two garden feeders but then they disappeared and he was left wondering if his neighbours were serving better food? There was a happy ending though, as the house sparrows returned four weeks later. Bullfinches seemed very partial to sunflower hearts in an Alsager garden.

In a few gardens great spotted woodpeckers were seen visiting peanut, sunflower heart and fat ball feeders. The latter are popular and several species were reported using them e.g. blackbirds and jackdaws with the most exciting incident reported being twenty starlings in a feeding frenzy on a fat ball feeder. There were no reports this year of rooks seen hanging on fat ball feeders.

Three incidences of ground feeding were reported. Two were gardens in Alsager, one where chaffinches were observed searching the ground litter under the hanging feeders and the second was a pied wagtail which kept returning to the area under the feeder for morsels of food. The third was in Shavington where the participant used a cage on the ground feeder to stop larger birds taking all the food. No mention was made of what birds were seen or the food used.

Garden First and Returning Bird Events

Three birds made their observers very happy with first visits to their gardens. A tree sparrow was seen in a Holmes Chapel garden in December, a marsh/willow tit was reported in a Nantwich garden in late February with a male and female reed bunting visiting another Sandbach garden in February and March respectively.

A great spotted woodpecker was seen in a Haslington garden for the first time for several years. A jay was seen in an Alsager garden in late October and was considered a rare occurrence and they noted the re-appearance of chaffinches in late February.

Sparrowhawk events

Fifteen sparrowhawk events made the weekly comments page during the six months of the survey. Eight of these were reported from one Sandbach garden and as a result the population of blackbirds decreased by three, woodpigeon two, house sparrow and goldfinch one each. The eighth/ninth bird remains unidentified but presumed a successful kill as a pile of woodpigeon and blackbird feathers was all that remained, presumably the sparrowhawk had flown with its prey or the prey escaped. Other sparrowhawk sightings were birds sitting on fences or outbuildings or just flying through gardens causing mayhem to resident passerines, in particular starlings! Perhaps the most festive sighting of a sparrowhawk was while a family in Alsager were eating Christmas dinner, a bird landed on a garage. Also, there was a report of a sparrowhawk being mobbed by crows above a Nantwich garden and in January a goldfinch was taken while feeding on a *Verbena bonariensis* plant in Coppenhall.

Observed Bird behaviour

Two gardens, one in Smallwood and another in Alsager reported owl activity. In Smallwood a barn owl was heard at the end of October with a tawny owl being heard a week later and again in mid-December. In Alsager tawny owls were heard between October and December with a bird seen flying from a Lime tree in December. No further sightings were seen in 2022 at either location, perhaps indicating that they had found a nesting site away from these two gardens.

There were reports of birds singing, collecting nesting material, displaying, mating and nesting in the second half of the survey period. In total eleven different species in six different gardens were mentioned in the weekly comments' pages.

Blue tits were the most observed species showing signs of breeding. They investigated nest boxes (2), collected moss and other material for the box (2), demonstrated 'wing shivering' (1) and showed activity in the nest box (2). This was particularly pleasing for one participant in Nantwich because he only fitted his nest box last year.

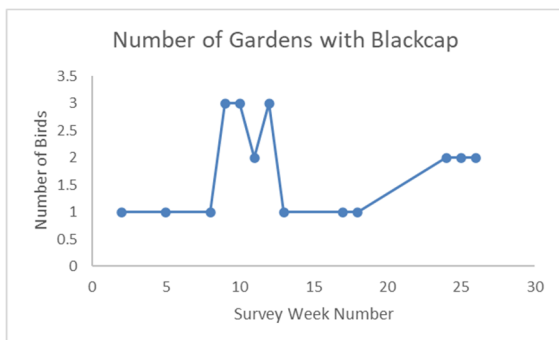
In February woodpigeons and collared doves were reported as nesting in a Sandbach garden and in a Crewe garden, magpies were collecting sticks throughout December and January. These three species certainly made an early start to nesting.

In January a dunnock and a song thrush were heard singing. The dunnock was heard again in March, could this have been the same bird? Whether this ended in successful breeding is unknown, they may have just been establishing territories for the coming spring but no further comments of birds carrying nesting material or food to a particular area were noted, which would have been indicative of nesting. Other reports of birds singing/calling were a brambling and great spotted woodpecker from an Alsager garden.

In mid to late March blackbirds, starlings and robins were actively singing, collecting nesting material and for one starling, it built it's nest in a convenient hole on the side of a building. A pair of robins were mating during the last week of March and in an Alsager garden the arrival of a third robin caused a dramatic arial fight! In late March, house sparrows were nesting behind a Clematis bush in a Nantwich garden.

Unusual bird behaviour included a large roost of greenfinches in a Woore garden, a tree creeper released after being trapped in a Smallwood garden shed (the observer noted the size of the bill in close up, it was almost as long as the bird's head!), two black-headed gulls and a grey heron on different roofs in Nantwich, a tree creeper working its way up the trunk of a Lime tree. One observer noticed an influx of Scandinavian blackbirds at the end of October, identifiable by their black beaks.

There were weekly comments in four gardens that reported blackcap in Haslington, Nantwich, Crewe and Alsager. The Haslington and Nantwich birds, a male and a female came in January to take advantage of the hanging feeders but they didn't stay long. The Crewe bird started singing on the 17th March and continued into the weekend to be seen on the Saturday. The Alsager bird was singing at the bottom of the garden in week beginning 27th March.



Blackcap usually migrate to the UK at the start of April, but with changing weather conditions due to global warming it's difficult to judge whether these are early migrants or birds that have overwintered in this country.

Returning to the *Other Species* table which records all bird sightings there are twenty-three blackcap entries with the Crewe garden recording blackcap in three consecutive weeks from the 17th March (Survey Week Numbers 24 to 26) until the survey finished, the other three weekly sightings were in different gardens. All other

entries were either one or two weeks with the peak occurring in November and December of three birds. These were either short lived overwintering birds or birds that were passing through to milder climes.

In early February a raven was seen flying over Crewe and a red kite flew over Smallwood in March. A kestrel swooped down into a garden in Nantwich but missed its prey probably because it was spooked by the observer.

Finally, if you have a pigeon problem in your garden and you want to deter them from eating all the available food on your bird table, then lower the bird table's roof, one participant advises. It allows the smaller birds to feed in comfort and keeps the pigeons out. This did appear to keep the pigeon numbers down for the participant, as they flew off to find easier pickings in Haslington – so if you noticed a sudden increase in your pigeon population you can guess the origin!

Weather Conditions

We were all very sad to hear of the passing of John Barker who will be very much missed by all those who knew him. John's passing also means we no longer have the benefit of his excellent weather records for the recording period. It is said you never miss something until you no longer have it – our report this year misses John's contribution as the only weather comment was the February Storm Eunice which brought some very wet and windy weather.

May I thank everybody who participated in this season's SWGBS and in particular Nick Harrison for collating all the information into the Access database. May I also thank Nick, Mike Tonks and my wife Lydia for their help proof reading and correcting my grammar!! Hopefully after reading this report it will motivate you to contribute to next season's survey.

Thank you

Ian Taylor
6th June 2022