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SECOS Garden Bird Survey 1986/7

The Garden Bird Survey was carried out for the second winter from October 1986 through to April 1987 with 19 members participating during this period. The survey produced some valuable data on bird species and numbers in gardens as well as giving participants a greater sense of purpose to their garden bird-watching.

The weather during the survey period is briefly summarised as follows:- from October to December it was exceptionally mild with only occasional overnight frosts, the only period of really cold weather started on 7th January with freezing temperatures through to the 20th. Snow on the 14th stayed for a week. Thereafter, although there were overnight frosts there was no period of continuous freezing. Occasional snow showers and frequent heavy rain with some mild spells to the end of March.

The very mild weather to the end of the year no doubt accounted for the quiet time in the garden, with only average numbers of the common species being recorded. However, early January saw a big increase in the number of species being recorded for the first time this winter. These included redwing, fieldfare, woodpigeon, rook, siskin, yellowhammer, goldfinch, linnet, reed bunting and brambling which were driven to look in gardens for their food.

The other notable feature was that numbers of the already present common birds did not show much of an increase (perhaps they had already got a garden to go to!)

A grand total of 51 species was recorded during the winter with the 10 most common being blue tit, blackbird, starling, house sparrow, robin, great tit, chaffinch, magpie, dunnoek and greenfinch. Nine of these were in last year's top ten with collared dove dropping down to 11 and magpie coming in at 8. Meadow pipit, grey wagtail, lesser spotted woodpecker and feral pigeon were new species recorded for the first time this year.

I have been asked by one or two people whether birds not actually standing in the garden are eligible for inclusion. To clarify the position I would say that all birds flying over the garden and associated with it (e.g. sparrowhawk looking for prey) are eligible for inclusion but birds which just happen to be flying over (e.g. flocks of redwing or a herring gull moving past) are not. However, if these are records which you think I would be interested in then please record them on the page for comments.

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

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

Colin Lythgoe  
11 Waterloo Road  
Haslington  
Crewe  
Tele 582642



Species and Number of Weeks Observed 1986/87

Reg. No.	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	11
Max. Weeks	26	25	13	25	26	24	26	26	25	25
=1 Blue tit	25	25	13	25	26	24	26	21	25	20
=1 Blackbird	24	23	13	25	26	24	25	22	25	22
3 Starling	25	25	13	25	26	24	26	22	25	25
4 House sparrow	26	25	13	25	25	24	26	26	25	25
5 Robin	23	22	13	25	26	24	17	12	25	22
6 Great tit	25	19	08	25	18	21	25	20	25	18
7 Chaffinch	22	11	07	23	21	24	25	12	22	22
8 Magpie	25	15	08	24	16	23	10	25	25	23
9 Dunnock	08	10	11	23	22	24	23	09	21	14
10 Greenfinch	24	12	07	22	18	16	26	05	24	09
11 Collared dove	21	25	09	04	05	03	25	26	08	13
12 Song thrush	04	02	07	24	17	08	05	--	17	04
13 Crow	14	--	07	16	02	14	09	--	15	03
14 Wren	07	02	--	13	20	--	01	01	05	10
15 Pied wagtail	14	01	--	16	--	03	10	01	07	03
16 Coal tit	05	--	07	05	--	--	02	01	04	--
17 Mistle thrush	03	02	03	11	--	08	--	02	10	--
18 Blackheaded gull	07	--	--	01	02	20	04	06	--	04
19 Jay	--	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
20 Nuthatch	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25	--
21 Woodpigeon	08	06	--	--	--	--	01	--	--	--
22 Reed bunting	03	16	--	--	02	--	06	--	--	--
23 Gtspotted woodie	01	--	--	01	--	--	--	--	11	--
24 Brambling	07	05	--	02	02	01	03	--	--	03
25 Rook	--	--	--	--	--	17	02	--	--	--
26 Jackdaw	--	--	11	--	--	--	12	--	--	--
27 Bullfinch	--	--	--	02	01	--	--	--	01	05
28 Sparrowhawk	--	--	02	--	--	03	--	--	02	--
29 Siskin	--	01	--	06	--	--	03	--	01	01
=30 Goldfinch	01	--	--	01	--	--	--	--	01	--
=30 Tree sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	05
32 Yellowhammer	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
33 Fieldfare	01	--	--	--	--	01	--	--	--	--
=34 Redwing	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	02	--	--
=34 Marsh tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
36 Treecreeper	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
37 Linnet	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=38 Moorhen	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=38 Tawny owl	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	03	--
=38 Lapwing	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=41 Longtailed tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=41 Redpoll	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=41 Kestrel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	01	--	--
=41 Common gull	--	--	--	--	--	--	01	--	--	--
=41 Feral pigeon	--	--	--	--	02	--	--	--	--	--
=46 Meadow pipit	--	--	--	--	--	01	--	--	--	--
=46 Lesser "pecker	--	--	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--
=46 Herring gull	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=46 Pheasant	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=46 Grey wagtail	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
=46 Marsh/willow tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	01	--

"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 1986/87

Reg. No.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total
Max. Weeks	26	26	26	26	21	26	26	26	25	482
=1 Blue tit	26	26	26	26	21	26	26	17	25	462
=1 Blackbird	26	26	26	26	21	26	24	20	25	462
3 Starling	26	26	26	26	21	24	20	15	25	457
4 House sparrow	24	26	26	26	--	26	23	24	25	440
5 Robin	26	26	23	26	20	26	24	07	25	425
6 Great tit	26	26	16	26	21	26	26	06	25	402
7 Chaffinch	26	24	18	22	20	26	23	03	23	374
8 Magpie	26	26	15	13	21	26	18	06	14	359
9 Dunnock	26	23	14	17	13	22	15	05	25	325
10 Greenfinch	11	26	06	11	06	22	24	10	14	293
11 Collared dove	24	26	21	21	11	13	21	01	03	280
12 Song thrush	03	26	08	10	08	23	12	--	11	189
13 Crow	26	22	09	02	12	10	--	01	07	169
14 Wren	22	17	09	08	03	21	01	02	02	154
15 Pied wagtail	17	11	08	--	--	06	07	02	03	109
16 Coal tit	02	14	02	08	05	19	15	--	16	99
17 Mistle thrush	02	09	01	--	05	25	02	--	09	92
18 Blackheaded gull	--	02	01	--	04	04	--	07	19	61
19 Jay	01	--	--	--	19	19	19	--	08	77
20 Nuthatch	--	--	--	--	19	21	01	--	--	66
21 Woodpigeon	--	--	02	03	--	09	--	--	08	37
22 Reed bunting	--	06	--	02	--	--	--	--	--	35
23 Grt spottd woodie	--	--	--	--	17	03	01	--	--	34
24 Brambling	--	01	--	02	02	--	02	--	02	32
25 Rook	--	--	--	--	--	08	--	--	03	30
26 Jackdaw	--	--	01	--	--	05	--	--	--	29
27 Bullfinch	--	--	--	08	--	07	02	--	--	26
28 Sparrowhawk	07	05	01	--	--	01	04	--	--	25
29 Siskin	--	01	--	05	03	--	02	--	--	23
=30 Goldfinch	10	02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
=30 Tree sparrow	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
32 Yellowhammer	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
33 Fieldfare	--	--	01	02	--	03	01	--	01	10
=34 Redwing	--	--	--	01	--	04	--	--	01	8
=34 Marsh tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	08	8
36 Treecreeper	--	01	--	--	--	05	01	--	--	7
37 Linnet	05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
=38 Moorhen	04	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
=38 Tawny owl	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
=38 Lapwing	--	--	+	--	--	04	--	--	--	4
=41 Longtailed tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	02	--	--	2
=41 Redpoll	--	02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
=41 Kestrel	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
=41 Common gull	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
=41 Feral pigeon	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
=46 Meadow pipit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=46 Lesser 'pecker	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=46 Herring gull	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=46 Pheasant	--	--	--	--	--	--	01	--	--	1
=46 Grey wagtail	--	01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
=46 Marsh/willow tit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1

'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.



SECOS Garden Bird Survey

List of Participants

8501	Hilary Clowes	Crewe
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
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
8620	Mary Robinson	Holmes Chapel