

SECOS GARDEN BIRDWATCH Winter 1995-6

16 members took part for some or all of the weeks, and for their dedication the Society is very grateful. We have attempted to analyse the results in two ways, firstly to try to get a measure of the abundance of the various species (Table 1) and secondly to attempt a measure of the presence or absence of the birds during the six month period. (Table 2).

Table 1 shows the highest count found in each garden over the winter period for each of the 47 species seen. Taking an average of all the gardens gives a very rough measure of the abundance of birds seen in a variety of gardens. Starlings and House Sparrows are by far the most abundant with a group of birds including Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Black Headed Gull and Greenfinch not far behind. Scrutiny of, for example, the results for the Black Headed Gull will show how this is greatly influenced by one or two high counts whereas many gardens never see them.

Table 2 shows as a percentage the presence of birds during the weeks on which a count was made. No single species was present for every counted week in every garden although one or two came very close. Also shown are the results found by BTO in more than 2000 gardens during the winter of 1995. The similarity of the results is quite striking. We have also compared the results with those produced by members in 1985 and the same 9 out of ten birds were again at the top of the list.

The evidence of a hard winter can easily be seen in the presence of many birds in gardens who would normally stay out in the fields, Fieldfares, Redwings and Reed Buntings being prime examples.

This work could not have been produced without the enthusiasm and time of our members and we would like to thank the following for their contributions:

Hilary Clowes, Brian Perkins, David and Elaine Meakin, Joan and Alan Soper, Vera Riggall, Ann Pym, Bob Smith, Arthur Fisher, D J Hambleton, John Barker, Helen Innes, Margaret and Brian Nightingale, Doreen Jones, Geoff Yarwood and Richard Hughes.

Forms for next winter will be issued during the September meeting. New watchers would be especially welcome. Please contact me at the meeting or on 01447-532485

Maureen Broad

Table 1

SECOS GARDEN BIRDWATCH 1995-96

All gardens - Max Count

Species	1	2	5	11	16	18	20	22	28	29	31	33	34	35	36	37	Mean	No garden
Starling	53	61	60	60	1	7	50	50	99	50	40	20	4	35	80	12	42.6	16
House Sparrow	14	28	40	36	4	15	15	12	18	32	25		16	12	27	12	19.1	15
Blue Tit	6	7	12	6	4	31	6	6	12	9	3	8	8	8	7	6	8.7	16
Black Headed Gu	12	1		1	28		8	30	5	8	20				7	6	7.9	11
Chaffinch	15	4	5	6	14	22	2	3	6	10	2	7	5	4	9	4	7.4	16
Greenfinch	15	10	6	2	2	25	2	4	4	3	1	7	3	4	4	6	6.1	16
Blackbird	4	6	12	8	3	2	5	10	3	3	2	4	6	5	4	6	5.2	16
Redwing	4	1	9		1		30	6	3			6		1	9		4.4	10
Goldfinch		14	11	22			3	3	6					1	3	3	4.2	10
Wood Pigeon	4	2	3		3	2	4	3	1	2	2	26	2	2	3	5	4.0	15
Collared Dove	7	3	2	2	4	2	5	3	5	6	3	4	3	4	4	2	3.7	16
Great Tit	3	3	2	2	6	8	4	2	4	3	2	6	2	5	2	5	3.7	16
Magpie	4	1	2	3	4	2	2	5	2	2		2	5	4	2	3	2.7	15
Fieldfare	1			2				15	3			16		2	1		2.5	7
Long Tailed Tit	2			2	2	1	5	6		2		7	6	6	1		2.5	11
Robin	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	3	2	2.4	16
Dunnock	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	2	2.3	16
Crow	4		2	2	4		2	8	2	2			5	1	2	2	2.3	12
Pied Wagtail	2	2	1	1		1	2	3	1	1	1	2		1	5	2	1.6	14
Siskin	1			1			2	4	11		1				3		1.4	7
Jackdaw									4			7	2	2	7		1.4	5
Song Thrush	1	2	2	4	2		1	1	1	1		1	2	2	1	1	1.4	14
Wren	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1.3	16
Rook									1			19					1.3	2
Coal Tit	1			2	2	1	1	1	3	2		1	3	1	1	1	1.3	13
Mistle Thrush	1			2	2		1	1		1				2	1	1	0.8	9
Nuthatch				2	1				2			2	2	1			0.6	6
Tree Sparrow				1		3						4		2			0.6	4
Bullfinch				3	2				1					1	2		0.6	5
Blackcap	1		1					3	1	1						1	0.5	6
Sparrowhawk			1	1		1	1	1		1		1			1		0.5	8
Gt Spotted Wood						1			1			2	1	2			0.4	5
Redpoll															6		0.4	1
Reed Bunting		2	1						1					2			0.4	4
Jay					2							1	1	2			0.4	4
Pheasant						5											0.3	1
Goldcrest			1	1											1		0.2	3
Grey Wagtail	1				1			1									0.2	3
Treecreeper	1															1	0.1	2
Willow Tit														1	1		0.1	2
Mute Swan													1				0.1	1
Grey Heron									1								0.1	1
Buzzard												1					0.1	1
Tawny Owl													1				0.1	1
Common Gull							1										0.1	1
Brambling					1												0.1	1
Yellowhammer															1		0.1	1

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All gardens - Max Count

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All gardens - % No of weeks present

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