

# Brent Bird

## Survey

January 2018 summary



Fewer observers and records than in January 2017, but the number of square visits and species recorded were similar:

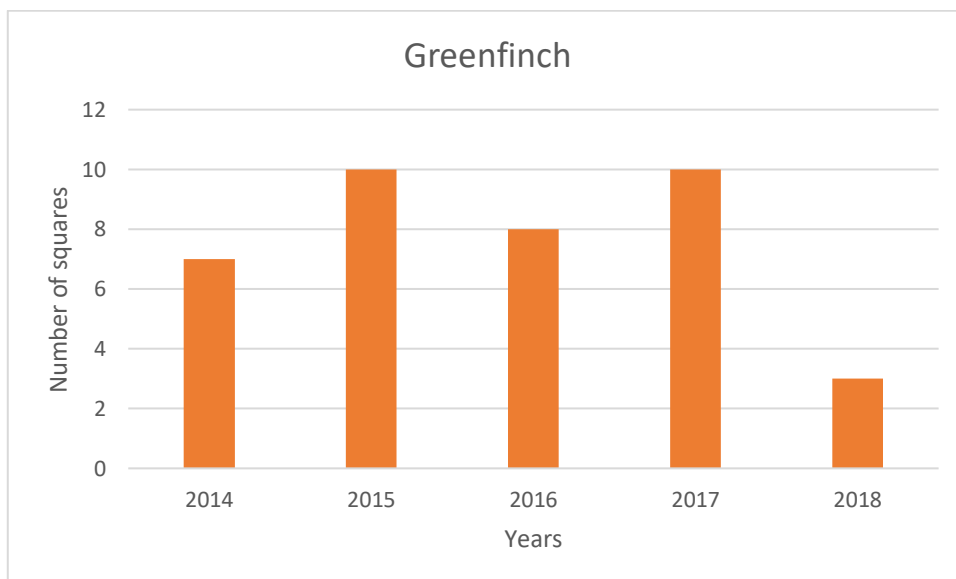
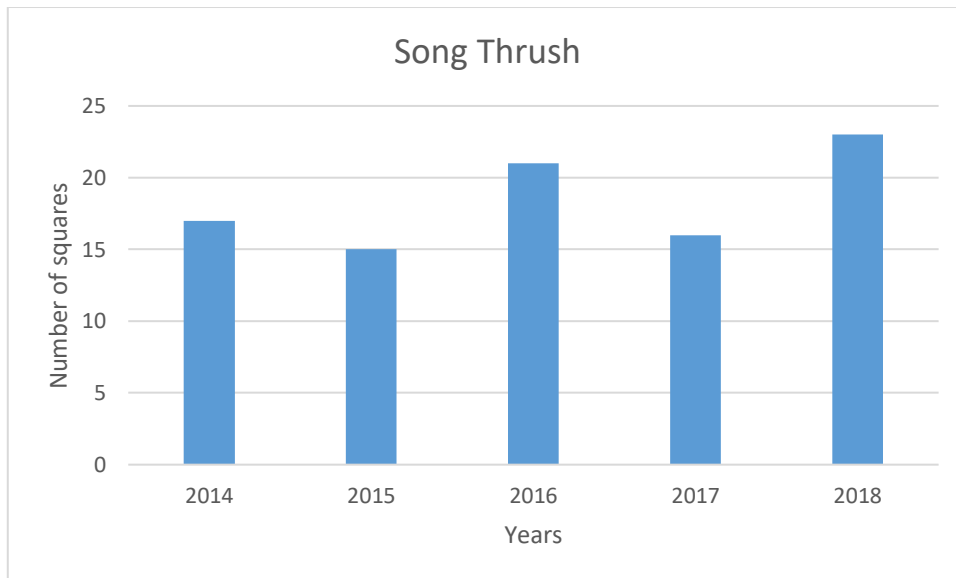
	Observers	Records	Square visits	Species
2017	29	1,931	159	72
<b>2018</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,507</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>71</b>

Weather was variable, and certainly there was enough rain on some days to hamper fieldwork, but no really cold weather that might have affected the birds.

The total number of species, as in January 2017, was higher than the 2014-16 average of 67. Notable departures from previous years included:

- *New species.* One **Hawfinch** seen briefly, and appropriately, feeding in hawthorns on Aish Ridge on 14 January was new for the parish. (Subsequently two more have been recorded in Brent)
- *Other good birds.* A **Brambling** in a Hillside garden, and a **Firecrest** in an Aish garden were the first recorded in the parish in January since 2013 and 2003 respectively. **Barn Owl** and **Short-eared Owl** were both recorded in January 2017, but not in January during 2014–16, so it was good to have them again in 2018.
- *Up.* **Canada Goose**, **Great Black-backed Gull**, **Song Thrush** (see chart), **Sparrowhawk** and **Redwing** all occurred in more squares than in January in any of the previous four years.
- *Absentees.* The most obvious omission was **Kingfisher**, recorded in each January 2014–17, but it was also disappointing not to record the **Pintail** present in the last two winters.
- *Down.* **Coal Tit**, **Chaffinch**, **Greenfinch** (see chart), **Grey Wagtail**, **Jay**, **Kestrel**, **Marsh Tit**, **Nuthatch**, and **Pheasant** were recorded in fewer squares than in January in any of the survey years, and **Goldfinch**, **Pied Wagtail** and **Stock Dove** in noticeably fewer than in January 2017.

Most species showed no obvious change, and most of the changes listed above probably reflect the annual fluctuations that occur in all species, or slight differences in observer coverage between years. However, the lack of recovery in **Marsh Tit** (since 2015) and **Nuthatch** (since 2016), and the sharp drop in **Greenfinch** from 2017 may be reflecting real declines in these species. However, even with five years of data, such conclusions remain speculative.



Contributors to the January 2018 survey were: *Margaret & Philip Andrade, Mark Bancroft, Eileen Blockly, Mick Bramich, John & Sylvia Caddick, Julia & Michael Cady, Phil & Sue Dean, Tim Ferry, Hayden Gabriel, Mike & Jan Goss, Peter & Sylvia Hamilton, Nick Hawkins, Helen Harvey, Paul & Barbara Heatley, Steve Hopper, John Luscombe, Dave MacDiarmid, Keith Male, Chris & Andy Morgan, Jonathan Nicholson, Dave & Kate Pakes, Adrian & Gaynor Platt, Sarah Rawlins, Peter Reay & Lesley Austin.*

Brent Bird Survey. The number of squares per species in January of each year, including the 2014-16 mean (average). Those mentioned in the text above are highlighted in YELLOW

Year	2014	2015	2016	Mean	2017	2018
<b>Canada Goose</b>	-	2	-	<b>1</b>	1	4
Mallard	9	5	7	<b>7</b>	9	7
Goosander	5	2	3	<b>3</b>	3	1
<b>Pheasant</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>
Grey Heron	6	8	8	<b>7</b>	9	6
Little Grebe	-	-	1	<b>1</b>	-	-
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	5	<b>10</b>
Buzzard	23	31	26	<b>27</b>	35	<b>30</b>
<b>Kestrel</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>
Peregrine	2	2	5	<b>3</b>	1	1
Moorhen	3	6	7	<b>5</b>	6	5
Golden Plover	1	1	5	<b>2</b>	1	4
Snipe	3	8	10	<b>7</b>	8	6
Woodcock	1	1	3	<b>2</b>	3	3
Black-headed Gull	2	2	-	<b>2</b>	1	-
Herring Gull	25	29	25	<b>26</b>	26	<b>22</b>
<b>Stock Dove</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>
Woodpigeon	23	33	33	<b>30</b>	30	<b>32</b>
Collared Dove	11	13	12	<b>12</b>	18	<b>15</b>
Tawny Owl	5	6	6	<b>6</b>	6	5
Green Woodpecker	5	7	10	<b>7</b>	7	5
G S Woodpecker	14	17	13	<b>15</b>	16	14
Magpie	27	36	36	<b>33</b>	38	<b>30</b>
<b>Jay</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>
Jackdaw	19	28	32	<b>26</b>	31	<b>28</b>
Rook	12	13	16	<b>14</b>	15	15
Carrion Crow	35	46	50	<b>44</b>	47	<b>47</b>
Raven	13	25	22	<b>20</b>	19	<b>24</b>
Goldcrest	12	12	18	<b>14</b>	19	<b>18</b>
Blue Tit	26	35	30	<b>30</b>	36	<b>32</b>
Great Tit	24	35	27	<b>29</b>	34	<b>33</b>
Coal Tit	15	23	16	<b>18</b>	17	14
<b>Marsh Tit</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Skylark	1	7	5	<b>4</b>	6	2
Long-tailed Tit	13	17	16	<b>15</b>	14	14
Chiffchaff	1	1	1	<b>1</b>	3	1
Blackcap	5	2	3	<b>3</b>	4	2
<b>Nuthatch</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Treecreeper	6	8	8	<b>7</b>	6	6
Wren	19	34	36	<b>30</b>	35	<b>24</b>
Starling	18	26	12	<b>19</b>	25	<b>26</b>
Dipper	4	5	4	<b>4</b>	6	6
Ring Ouzel	-	3	-	<b>1</b>	-	-
Blackbird	30	37	40	<b>36</b>	39	<b>40</b>
Fieldfare	6	13	15	<b>11</b>	17	<b>11</b>
<b>Song Thrush</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Redwing</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>
Mistle Thrush	13	19	20	<b>17</b>	19	19
Robin	29	38	37	<b>35</b>	40	<b>38</b>
Stonechat	-	7	4	<b>6</b>	4	5
Dunnock	15	27	27	<b>23</b>	33	<b>23</b>

House Sparrow	14	21	24	20	25	23
Grey Wagtail	5	9	6	7	12	4
Pied/White Wagtail	9	20	14	14	19	12
Meadow Pipit	4	19	16	13	13	9
Chaffinch	28	30	29	29	34	26
Brambling	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greenfinch	7	10	8	8	10	3
Goldfinch	8	13	14	12	17	12
Siskin	4	3	6	4	3	3
Linnet	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bullfinch	9	11	8	9	19	12
Yellowhammer	-	2	4	3	3	3
Reed Bunting	-	1	2	2	4	2
Mute Swan	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wigeon	1	1	2	1	1	1
Kingfisher	1	1	1	1	2	-
Lesser B-b Gull	2	-	2	2	-	2
Great B-b Gull	1	3	1	2	1	5
Cormorant	1	1	3	2	-	2
Little owl	1	-	-	1	-	-
Firecrest	-	-	-	-	1	1
Teal	-	2	2	1	1	2
Merlin	-	-	1	1	2	1
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	2	1
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pintail	-	-	1	1	1	-
Coot	-	-	1	1	-	-
Lapwing	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hawfinch	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>71</b>