

Brent Bird Survey JUNE 2016 SUMMARY

Twenty-one observers, 212 square visits, 76 bird species (*cf.* 24, 200, 76 in May). Although there were as many additions as absences, and about as many ups as downs in terms of numbers of squares, the *numbers of birds* in several moorland species were noticeably down, presumably linked to the poor weather. Apart from a fine spell at the beginning of the month, June was again cold and windy for the time of year. Some species, such as **Stonechat** seemed to be unaffected, but **Reed Bunting** occurred in less than a third of squares occupied in 2015, and there was an obvious scarcity of **Skylark** and **Meadow Pipit** compared to previous years. Butterflies also were mostly hard to find. Some notable occurrences and absences are as follows:

1. **GAINS.** **Redstart** and **Spotted Flycatcher** (each in 4 squares) arrived at last, and so were new for the year. Absent in May, **Cormorant** (1), **Lesser Redpoll** (2), **Red-legged Partridge** (1) and **Teal** (1) re-appeared, the latter also providing the first June record for the survey.
2. [**LOSSES.** **Goosander**, **Lammergeier**, **Marsh Harrier**, **Peregrine**, **Red Kite** and **Tufted Duck** were all recorded in May but not in June. **Black-headed Gull** and **Little Egret** remain unrecorded this year.]
3. **UPS.** **Collared Dove** (24 squares), **Goldfinch** (33), **Great Black-backed Gull** (5), **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (21), **Kingfisher** (4), **Mistle Thrush** (29), **Pied Wagtail** (28) and **Song Thrush** (32) all occurred in more squares than in both May and previous Junes. **Garden Warbler** (6), **Goldcrest** (12) and **Willow Warbler** (19) occurred in fewer squares than in May, but in more than in previous Junes.
4. **DOWNS.** **Blue Tit** (29 squares), **Cuckoo** (5), **House Martin** (15), **Jay** (13), **Long-tailed Tit** (4), **Nuthatch** (12), **Reed Bunting** (5), **Snipe** (1), **Sparrowhawk** (8) and **Wheatear** (7) all occurred in fewer squares than in May or in previous Junes.
5. **STEADY.** Most other species showed only slight changes but **Blackbird** (43 squares) and **Whitethroat** (13) occurred in exactly the same number of squares as in May 2016, June 2014 and June 2015!
6. **NON-BIRDS.** Apart from **Holly Blue** and **Peacock**, all butterflies recorded in May were still present in June, and were joined by **Large Skipper** (5 squares), **Marsh Fritillary** (3), **Meadow Brown** (12), **Ringlet** (3), **Small Copper** (1), **Small Heath** (8) and **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (7). Although the total of 19 species was an increase on the 14 in May, only **Painted Lady** (1 to 9) and **Speckled Wood** (10 to 23) showed big increases in number of squares, and several showed decreases. Compared to June 2015, when 21 species were recorded, most were found in fewer squares this year, e.g. **Meadow Brown** (31 to 12) and **Small Heath** (19 to 8), but **Ringlet** and **Small Copper** were new, and **Large White** (1 to 6), **Orange-tip** (3 to 7) occurred in more squares than last June. The main surprise among mammals, reptiles and amphibians were records of **Grass Snake** in three squares. **Brown Hares** have now been recorded in three consecutive months.

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