

SOUTH BRENT PARISH BIRD SURVEY

SUMMARY OF JANUARY and MAY 2020 RESULTS

The South Brent Parish Survey continued in 2020, but as in the previous three years, only during January and May. As usual, all 52 1-km squares were visited by at least one observer in each month.

The number of species recorded was 67 in January and 83 in May. For each species, the number of squares in which it was recorded in 2020 can be compared with the results from the previous years of the survey, which began in 2014. The full results are available by request from peter.p.j.reay@btinternet.com. Here, only those species recorded in 2020 in the lowest or highest number of squares since the survey began, or recorded or not recorded for the first time, are shown using this key:

	Species recorded in the lowest number of squares or not recorded for the first time in that month
	Species recorded in the highest number of squares or recorded for the first time in that month

Two new species for South Brent were added during the 2020 survey. The **'Italian' Sparrow** was recorded in both January and May (and several other months) in a Hillside garden, and a **White-fronted Goose** at the Avon Dam in May (though first seen in April). Although the much-photographed sparrow may have been an aberrant House Sparrow, it looked identical to an Italian Sparrow (itself considered to be a hybrid between House and Spanish Sparrows). The White-fronted Goose may not have been a truly wild bird but was free-flying and accompanied a group of Canada Geese.

Species already recorded in the parish, but not in the survey months comprised **Tufted Duck** in January, and **Merlin**, **Nightjar** and **Sedge Warbler** in May. Of the 67 species recorded in January 2020, 23 were recorded in the lowest number of squares since 2015, and only one, **Stonechat**, in the highest. The latter was also among the 17 in May recorded in the highest number of squares since 2014, and it was particularly gratifying to have **Cuckoo**, **Pied Flycatcher** and **Spotted Flycatcher** in this group. Only five species were recorded in their lowest numbers in May, including **Bullfinch** and **Pheasant**, both also recorded in their lowest number in January. There were no records of **Kestrel** in January for the first time since the survey began, but they were recorded in 10 squares in May, equal highest.

The significance or otherwise of any of these changes will only become apparent as more data are collected in the years to come. 'Number of squares' is a very blunt tool for measuring abundance and is affected by the numbers of observers and square visits, and weather conditions, as well as the actual number of birds. Poor weather and low number of observers almost certainly affected the January results, and fine weather probably contributed to the more positive results in May.

Records were submitted in at least one of the months by: *Margaret & Philip Andrade, Jo Brooks, Julia & Michael Cady, Phil Dean, Mike Goss, Laurette Guest, Pete & Sylvia Hamilton, Helen Harvey, Paul Heatley, Gill Honey, Steve Hopper, Leonard Hurrell, Maggie King, Dave MacDiarmid, Chris & Andy Morgan, Ken Neale, Gaynor & Adrian Platt and Peter Reay.*

JANUARY						MONTH	MAY						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	YEAR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
30	26	29	22	23	11	Number of observers	39	27	25	18	23	10	14
172	165	159	150	176	125	Number of square visits	196	184	206	165	140	130	157
67	69	72	71	67	67	NUMBER OF SPECIES	81	82	78	85	79	77	83
		2	1	1	1	Barn Owl				1		1	2
37	40	39	40	38	34	Blackbird	39	41	42	43	45	40	44
11	8	19	12	10	7	Bullfinch	28	15	16	20	16	11	10
31	26	35	30	32	19	Buzzard	33	36	40	31	32	23	31
46	50	47	47	46	44	Carrion Crow	48	46	52	46	49	51	47
1	1	3	1	1	1	Chiffchaff	33	31	33	34	28	28	36
23	16	17	14	18	9	Coal Tit	15	13	13	9	12	12	13
						Cuckoo	14	17	17	12	18	16	22
13	15	17	11	7	6	Fieldfare							
						Garden Warbler	7	7	9	10	9	9	12
13	14	17	12	16	8	Goldfinch	24	22	29	31	31	34	34
35	27	34	33	30	31	Great Tit	30	30	32	34	31	30	27
7	10	7	5	4	4	Green Woodpecker	13	12	13	13	9	6	16
29	25	26	22	23	24	Herring Gull	28	29	30	28	22	16	32
21	24	25	23	20	19	House Sparrow	26	25	29	24	22	27	24
					1	'Italian' Sparrow							1
7	8	12	4	2	0	Kestrel	4	9	10	9	2	5	10
		1			1	Linnet	13	15	21	21	16	15	11
17	16	14	14	15	13	Long-tailed Tit	10	9	10	10	11	13	11
36	36	38	30	35	27	Magpie	34	34	40	37	31	31	32
	1	2	1			Merlin							1
19	20	19	19	12	9	Mistle Thrush	16	14	29	13	14	10	16
						Nightjar							1
22	20	13	14	19	11	Nuthatch	14	12	14	10	12	9	9
13	14	12	9	12	3	Pheasant	22	27	31	26	33	23	19
						Pied Flycatcher	1				1	1	3
20	14	19	12	13	10	Pied/White Wagtail	14	15	26	23	14	14	17
						Redstart	1	5		5	3	2	6
13	16	15	15	13	15	Rook	22	15	19	15	15	17	12
						Sedge Warbler							1
3	6	3	3	5	1	Siskin	4	7	10	6	6	4	5
8	10	8	6	8	1	Snipe	1	5	5	2	1	2	2
6	7	5	10	7	3	Sparrowhawk	13	8	12	3	10	4	8
						Spotted Flycatcher		1	1	3	1	2	5
26	12	25	26	22	11	Starling	12	8	12	11	12	9	12
7	4	4	5	2	9	Stonechat	9	18	18	15	14	20	23
6	6	6	5	6	3	Tawny Owl	5	4	9	6	9	6	6
8	8	6	6	8	1	Treecreeper	7	5	7	2	6	5	6
					1	Tufted Duck			2				
						White-fronted Goose							1
33	33	30	32	32	30	Woodpigeon	35	38	39	37	39	39	41
34	36	35	24	26	23	Wren	41	44	48	46	45	47	49
2	4	3	3	2	1	Yellowhammer	13	15	16	18	16	13	18

NB. The results for January 2014 are not included because of incomplete coverage during that month.