

Brent Birders Garden Bird Survey (BBGBS)

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019 REPORT

Brent Birders

The BBGBS was launched in October 2018 as a supplement to the on-going Brent Bird Survey (BBS), which now covers the whole parish in January and May each year. The Garden Bird Survey has two additional aims:

1. To encourage more people to get involved in recording birds, and then perhaps other wildlife groups.
2. To find out more about the birds using houses and gardens in the parish.

A disappointing 25 people participated in Oct–Dec 2018, and an even more disappointing 15 a year later. We have failed in our first aim, and the number of gardens is too small for a detailed analysis of the results. What follows is a report on what was found during the period, and how it compares with the same period in 2018. The occurrence of each species recorded in each garden is given in the Appendix.

Number of species

The total number of species recorded during the three-month period was 60, but some of these were not regular garden species, including Canada Goose and Great Black-backed Gull. The average (mean) number of species per garden, as in 2018, was 23.

The species recorded

The results are summarised in Table 1, expressed as % occurrence. Of the 54 species listed, six occurred in all 15 gardens, and 12 in only one. In contrast to the same period in 2018, four species were missing (Hobby, Little Owl, Pheasant and Reed Bunting), but Barn Owl, Black Redstart and Firecrest were new.

Table 1. The % of gardens in which each species was recorded in 2018 and 2019 during October to December, ranked in order of occurrence in 2018. Species in red are additions to the original list of species.

	2018	2019		2018	2019
Blackbird	100	100	Mistle Thrush	28	14
Blue Tit	100	100	Redwing	28	21
Great Tit	100	100	Blackcap	24	7
Coal Tit	96	100	Herring Gull	24	21
Jackdaw	96	93	Siskin	24	7
Magpie	96	93	Tawny Owl	24	21
Robin	96	100	Buzzard	20	7
Chaffinch	92	100	Goldcrest	20	21
Wren	92	93	Green Woodpecker	20	14
Dunnock	88	79	Marsh Tit	20	21
Woodpigeon	88	93	Treecreeper	20	14
Collared Dove	84	93	Brambling	16	7
Goldfinch	84	93	Chiffchaff	12	7
House Sparrow	80	79	Grey Heron	12	7
G S Woodpecker	72	71	Grey Wagtail	12	29
Nuthatch	72	79	Fieldfare	8	14
Pied Wagtail	64	64	Little Owl	8	0
Song Thrush	64	21	Pheasant	8	0
Starling	64	64	Yellowhammer	8	7
Long-tailed Tit	52	86	Raven	8	14
Bullfinch	48	63	Reed Bunting	4	0
Jay	48	64	Hobby	4	0
Greenfinch	44	64	Stock Dove	4	7
Rook	44	43	Peregrine	4	7
Sparrowhawk	44	21	Meadow Pipit	4	7
Carrion Crow	32	36	Black Redstart	0	7
			Firecrest	0	14
			Barn Owl	0	7

Other comparisons are thwarted by the different number of gardens in the two years. For example, an increase in Grey Wagtail occurrence from 12 to 29%, is just an increase from three gardens to four, and an increase in Long-tailed Tits from 52 to 86% reflects occurrence in 12 gardens compared to 13 in 2018. Although it is the number of gardens *not* recording these species that is more significant (from 22 to 10 in the case of Grey Wagtail, and from 12 to 2 in the case of Long-tailed Tit) it would still be unwise to deduce that these species have increased between the two years. If only those gardens surveyed in both years were compared, the data would be more robust, but the sample size even smaller.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following for participating, and submitting their results: Jo Brooks, Julia & Michael Cady, Phil Dean, Felicity & Tim Ferry, Hayden Gabriel, Mike Goss, Paul Heatley, Mo Holder, Steve Hopper, Dave MacDiarmid, Adrian & Gaynor Platt, Peter Reay, Graham & Chris Royle, Duncan Stewart and John Wilson.

Appendix. The occurrence of species in each garden during Oct-Dec 2019. Numbers given are the maximum number of birds recorded during the period. P = present.

OBSERVER	PD	JB	JC	DS	JW	MG	HG	PR	AP	GR	MH	DM	SH	TF	PH
PARISH SQUARE	18	20	21	24	24	24	25	25	31	31	31	32	32	32	36
Blackbird	P	P	2	P	P	9	2	2	2	5	4	2	11	2	1
Blackcap	1														
Blue Tit	P	P	6	P	P	4	3	6	2	4	4	2	7	2	2
Brambling							2								
Bullfinch	2				P	2	4			2	2	1	2	1	
Buzzard													4		
Carrion Crow	3	P			P				1		2		1		
Chaffinch	10	P	13	P	20	2	14	5	1	8	1	16	30	2	1
Chiffchaff													1		
Coal Tit	5	P	4	P	P	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	1
Collared Dove			2	P	P	2	2	1	4	2	5	2	3	4	2
Dunnock	2	P	2			2	2	3	2	1	1	2	2		1
Fieldfare								3					25		
Goldcrest	1					1		1							
Goldfinch	2		6		24	2	10	2	1	14	1	6	16	15	1
Great Tit	P	P	4	P	P	2	2	2	4	4	1	1	2	2	1
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	2	P	3	P	P		1	1		1	1	1	1		
Greenfinch				P	12	2	2	2		3		6	6		P
Green Woodpecker	1												1		
Grey Heron													1		
Grey Wagtail	1							1				1	1		
Herring Gull								1	4				1		
House Martin															
House Sparrow			7	P		P	7	2	7	30	P	7	6	6	P
Jackdaw	10	P	3	P	P	7	2	8	6	2	2	30	100		4
Jay	2	P	1	P	P		1	1		1		3	3		
Little Owl															
Long-tailed Tit	8	P	9	P	P	6	5	11		3	6	7	11	6	
Magpie	2	P	2	P	P		2	2	3	1	2	2	4	1	1
Marsh/Willow Tit	2	P	2					2							
Mistle Thrush		P	1										2		
Moorhen															
Nuthatch	2	P	1	P	P		2	2		2		1	2	2	1
Pheasant															
Pied Wagtail	1		2			1		1	1		1	3	15	1	
Redwing	8	P						1					100		
Reed Bunting															
Robin	2	P	2	P	P	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	2	2
Rook		P	2		P			1	1			1	12		
Siskin													10		

Appendix (continued).

OBSERVER	PD	JB	JC	DS	JW	MG	HG	PR	AP	GR	MH	DM	SH	TF	PH
PARISH SQUARE	18	21	21	24	24	24	25	25	31	31	31	32	32	32	36
Song Thrush		P	1					1						2	
Sparrowhawk	1		2											2	
Starling				P		9			20	6	13	20	25	2	10
Swallow															
Tawny Owl	P	P							P					3	
Treecreeper	1	P	1												
Woodpigeon	3	P	2	P	P	1	1	2	1	2	3	3	20	1	
Wren	1	P	1	P		1	1	1	1		1	1	2		1
Yellowhammer		P													
Firecrest						1		1							
Raven	4													2	
Mallard														2	
Stock Dove														8	
Canada Goose														1	
Meadow Pipit														5	
Peregrine														1	
Great Black-backed Gull														2	
Lesser Black-backed Gull														1	
Barn Owl														1	
Black Redstart											1				
NUMBER OF SPECIES	29	25	25	18	19	20	21	29	20	20	21	24	46	16	16