

## Garden Bird Survey – Bulletin 4

First of all, a reminder that our next survey weekend is coming up – it runs from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April. Once again, we are asking as many people as possible, members and non-members to count the birds that they see in their garden and enter the results in an on-line form.

This time we'll also be asking about signs of breeding birds. But no looking for nests please! We'll be asking about bird behaviour, sightings of fledglings, use of nest boxes that sort of thing. We had blackbird fledglings feeding in the garden on 31<sup>st</sup> March this year. Are there any other early broods about?

We'll also be asking about signs of returning birds, so please start making a note of the first swallow you see in the village or the first cuckoo that you hear.

The form will be available on the website from 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

We continue to review the January data. We need a lot more to be able to draw any sound conclusions, so we are going to keep these 4 times a year surveys going into the future. We'll include the results in our annual Bird Survey books as well as feeding it back to you through these bulletins.

For the moment, we have mapped the January data in Google Maps. It's free, but it does have some significant limitations. As we are recording data by postcode, not individual property, it gets stacked on top of each other and it's hard to see different entries. And we've had to split it across a number of different maps as there's a limit to each one. We'll use better tools in due course, but this is a start!

The maps are available through the following links:

- [Blackbird to Goldfinch](#)
- [Great Spotted Woodpecker to Nuthatch](#)
- [Pied Wagtail to Treecreeper](#)
- [Wood Pigeon to Yellowhammer](#)

You can tick which birds you want to see on the map. Do be aware that where you select two birds that were reported in the same post code they will be stacked on top of each other. It's easiest to turn them on and off individually. The small numbers that appear next to the icons show how many of the species were reported in that garden. The icons are not a true depiction of the bird!!

We'd still love to see pictures of birds in your garden, good ones and bad ones to go in our 'What's that?' quiz later in the year. Send them to [contactus@henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk](mailto:contactus@henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk). In the meantime, here's the first Chiffchaff that I spotted in my garden this year.

That's it for now, we look forward to hearing about your garden in April.

*All previous bulletins are now available on the Garden Bird Survey page on our website.*

