

Garden Bird Survey – Bulletin 5

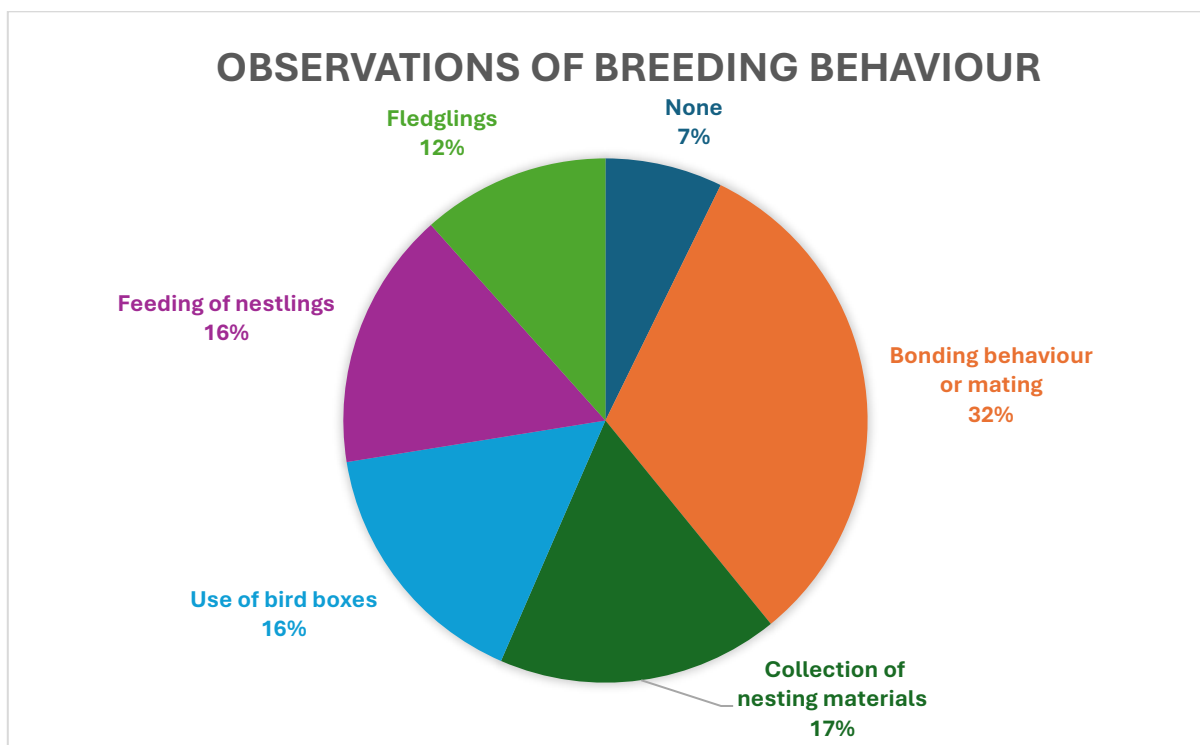
Hello again everyone! Welcome to the summary of our April 26 survey. Thank you to everyone that participated. Even if you were unable to join in this time, please do so next time, over 5th – 7th June. All your records are important. And don't forget you can always let us know about your birds via the IO group or just sending an e-mail to contactus@henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk.



We're still processing the bird count information; the next bulletin will cover that. It's clear that numbers are well down on the January survey, which of course, isn't unexpected at this time of year.

Breeding Birds

Only 7% of respondents didn't report any signs of breeding behaviour. 28% witnessed either feeding of nestlings or the emerged fledglings – a very positive sign.



Unsurprisingly, Wood Pigeons top the bonding/mating behaviour, which they seem to do all year round! Robins, Dunnocks, Blackbirds and Starlings are also all reported as feeding, preening each other and displaying.

Nest boxes have attracted a variety of occupants including Blue Tits, Starlings, Robins and Great Tits. Sparrows and Starlings are also nesting under roof tiles, in soffits and eaves as well as swift boxes. Larger birds like Crows, Wood Pigeons and Magpies are nesting in trees.

So far, we have reports of successful breeding with Blackbirds, Starlings, Blue Tits, House Sparrows, Wood Pigeons, and Goldfinches all seen feeding young. This is very encouraging considering the horrible weather we had at the beginning of the year.

(These little beauties arrived in my garden this week, too late for the survey but I can't resist sharing them!)



Migratory Arrivals

A number of people have posted the arrival of birds on the IO group, so before the next bulletin we'll merge those with the records provided in the survey. In the meantime, these are the earliest recorded arrival dates submitted in the survey:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Barn Swallow | 5 th April |
| Blackcap | 16 th April |
| Chiffchaff | 20 th March |
| Common Swift | 25 th April |
| Common Whitethroat | 11 th April |
| Cuckoo | 17 th April |
| House Martin | 8 th April |
| Little Ringed Plover | 7 th April |
| Nightingale | 11 th April |
| Northern Wheatear | 7 th April |
| Reed Warbler | 22 nd April |

That's the initial summary for now, more soon!