

## Summary Report of Woking Garden Wildlife Watch 2012

Woking Local Action 21 have analysed the sixth Gardening For Life (GFL) annual Woking Garden Wildlife Watch in a full Assessment Report of which this provides a brief summary. This year was a shortened version published in the centre of the spring copy of Woking Borough Council's *Woking Magazine*. There were 130 who returned their forms for which many thanks. In spite of the lower numbers we were still able to demonstrate statistically significant changes consistent with previous year's trends.

Table 1 shows the findings for those selected 12 species of birds seen since May 2011. The national trends, of long-tailed tits and goldfinch increasing over time,

**Table 1 – Common bird species seen in May to April 2007-12**

|                       | 2006/07            | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12            |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Blackbird             | 95%                | 98%     | 94%     | 98%     | 96%     | 98%                |
| Chaffinch             | 75%                | 74%     | 72%     | 70%     | 68%     | 71%                |
| Duncock               | 54%                | 55%     | 60%     | 58%     | 65%     | 61%                |
| Goldfinch             | 45% <sup>AA</sup>  | 48%     | 51%     | 46%     | 56%     | 61% <sup>AA</sup>  |
| Gt spotted woodpecker | 59% <sup>AA</sup>  | 59%     | 60%     | 55%     | 63%     | 72% <sup>AA</sup>  |
| House Sparrow         | 71%                | 66%     | 57%     | 60%     | 65%     | 72%                |
| Jay                   | 78% <sup>AA</sup>  | 79%     | 78%     | 76%     | 78%     | 88% <sup>AA</sup>  |
| Long-tailed Tit       | 51% <sup>AAA</sup> | 51%     | 59%     | 61%     | 62%     | 77% <sup>AAA</sup> |
| Ring-necked Parakeet  | 20% <sup>AAA</sup> | 30%     | 29%     | 29%     | 35%     | 41% <sup>AAA</sup> |
| Song Thrush           | 63% <sup>AAA</sup> | 67%     | 61%     | 68%     | 66%     | 79% <sup>AAA</sup> |
| Starling              | 74%                | 76%     | 68%     | 64%     | 71%     | 70%                |
| Wood Pigeon           | 85% <sup>AAA</sup> | 88%     | 89%     | 86%     | 86%     | 99% <sup>AAA</sup> |

Significant differences: \*5%, \*\*1%, \*\*\*0.1%

were confirmed with significance being shown compared to 2007. Again the ring-necked parakeet increased further to 41%. Also it was good to find that song thrush numbers were reported by 79% of participants which was a very significant increase from the 63% of 2007 and the 42% in the 1999 survey. There was a highly significant increase in wood pigeons being reported in 99% compared to only 85% of gardens in 2007. This year there were significant increases in reports of great spotted woodpeckers and jays compared to 2007.

For the selected animal and insects seen over the last year bats, frog, toad, and dragonflies were all reported at higher rates than in 2011. Hedgehogs which had demonstrated a significant drop in 2011 from the 27% in 2007 still showed a just significant drop (at 5% level) with 23% reported in 2012 from the 33% reported in 1999 survey. One of our volunteers has been working with the nationwide Hedgehog project has been promoting awareness of being friendly to hedgehogs and been collaborating with WBC contractors for creating woodpiles so it is to be hoped that numbers of reports will increase over time. A student has also used the data to map the location of gardens seeing hedgehogs for her dissertation and so in the future we can see how the population distribution changes.

For further information about the GFL project and previous reports see the GFL pages of <http://wokingla21.wordpress.com>.

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