



**ABINGDON NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
GARDEN SURVEY
REPORT for the PERIOD
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2011**

Introduction The Abingdon Naturalists' Society (ANS) aims to foster the study and appreciation of natural history among people living in Abingdon and district.

With changes in climate and land development it is important that we understand the how these changes may influence our local flora and fauna. To this end ANS started a survey of the birds and other animals found in Abingdon and adjacent areas.

Those interested in contributing to this important study were asked to complete a survey form to let us know. details of birds and other vertebrates plus some insects, seen in or near to their garden or place of residence .

The BIRD survey aims to be more comprehensive than the RSPB survey and should give us details of the range of birds found in the area, as well as, an indication of their frequency of sighting. In keeping with BTO policy we did not ask for information on birds flying over head such as gulls or rooks.

We did, however, ask for sightings of include Red kites, that circle and forage in gardens, as we are interested in the number n our area follow the reintroduction of this species.

Information on Swift, Swallow and Martins foraging for insects over gardens is included .

We asked participants who hear owls during the survey period to include this information in their returns.

The ANIMAL survey is designed to give an idea of the main Vertebrate species in and around Abingdon including mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

We are also interested to find out the occurrence of bats in the area so participants were asked about bats in their garden.

For Invertebrates species we asked for details of two INSECT groups – Stag beetles and Butterflies.

There is national interest in Stag beetles. It is a protected species in the UK and confined largely to southern England- Abingdon is very close to its northern range.

We invited all members of ANS to contribute to this survey whether they have a garden or not.

Those with NO GARDEN, were asked to note any birds and animals in their area for a distance of approximately 50metres around their property.*

GARDEN owners were asked to record the birds, animals and insects seen in their garden plus those seen within 50metre radius from their house. We did not ask participants to visit neighbouring gardens but to note fauna seen on roads, verges, hedgerows etc within the 50m radius of their property.

*By using this 50m radius from any property we overcome, to some extent the bias towards people with large gardens and it also means that roughly a 100 X 100 metre (i.e 1 hectare) area is surveyed - a useful area used in scientific surveys. It also means that feral foxes or hedgehogs or birds such as jays seen in the street would be included.

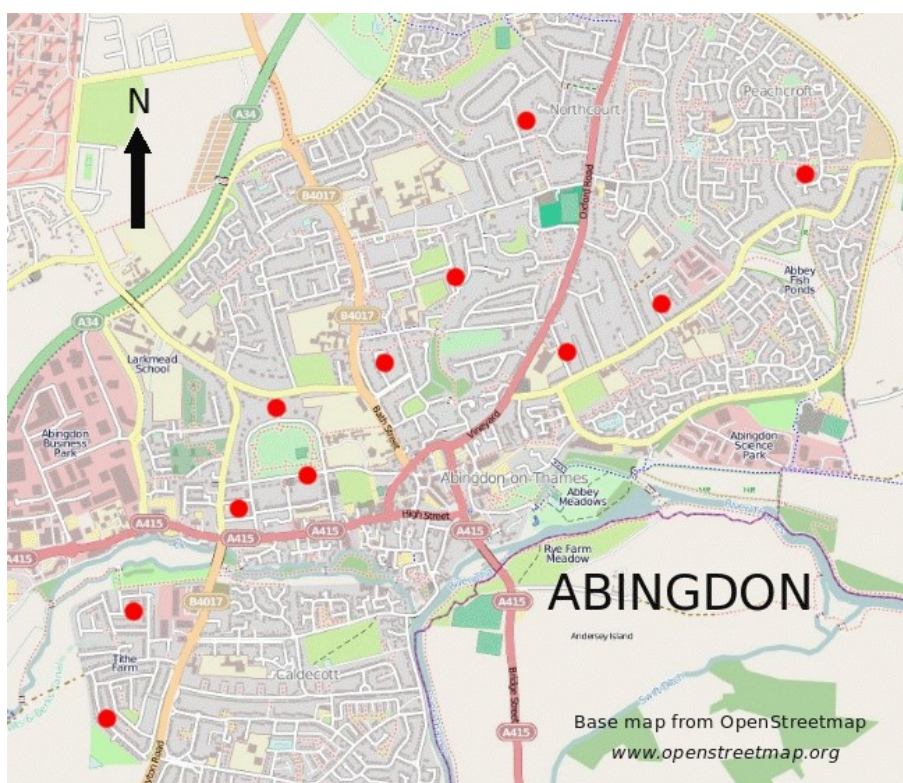
Location of Gardens

Eighteen registration forms were completed. For the Sept/Oct/Nov period 15 survey forms were submitted. As each form was received it was given a registration number. The gardens involved fall into two groups as follows :-

Group A Those out of Abingdon town, these include Post codes OX 10 (Cholsey), OX12 (E.Hanney) and OX 13 (Dry Sandford, Gozzards Ford and Steventon). These five **rural gardens** provide a very useful comparison with gardens in Abingdon.

Group B Gardens are in Abingdon i.e. OX14. The distribution of these eleven gardens is shown in **Map 1** below.

Map 1 Distribution of OX14 postcode gardens



Garden details

Rural Gardens (Group A gardens) This group consists of five gardens varying in size from 4 acres (16,188 m²) to the smallest about 500m²

The Cholsey (OX10) garden of 4 acres surrounds the property, so face all direction, and is near of arable land, horse paddock and other large gardens on the edge of the village.

The garden at East Hanney (OX12) is near open fields and within 200m of Letcombe brook with a small lake and drainage ditches near by. The garden has mature Scots Pine, Willow, Ash & Beech as well as fruit trees. There are Beech and other hedges, extensive lawns with flowerbeds and also wild areas.

The Dry Sandford Garden (OX13) of 600m² is opposite Lashford Lane fen with a small copse at the rear leading onto a recreation ground

Another garden in OX13 has an area of 1000m² and is adjacent to the Gozzards Ford Fen.

The garden in the middle of Steventon (OX13) has area of 500m² and is near to a copse, meadows, railway plus wasteland and allotments.

The Abingdon gardens (Group B) from post code area OX14, varied from 900m² to 80m² in area. Two of these gardens are near Albert Park with its many and varied sizeable trees. One of these two gardens is amongst terraces and near the river Ock, the other is near large properties with many shrubs. A further two gardens are described as being on housing estates, one near the river Ock and another at Peachcroft adjacent to farmland. One garden of 450m² is surrounded on three sides by garden with a quiet industrial estate on the fourth side. A bungalow garden was described as being surrounded by three other gardens and with large road verges on a quiet road. No description was given for three gardens in OX14.

Only one participant owned a **cat** but most had neighbours cats visiting. Again only one garden owner kept a dog but a further 6 had neighbours with a dog.

It seems all in the survey are keen bird lovers as all put out **food for birds** and all but 3 had erected **nest boxes**. In 7 gardens the nest boxes were unused. In all nine gardens, where the boxes were occupied, Blue tits were recorded. Other boxes housed Great tits, Robin, Blackbirds, Dunnock, Wren or Woodpigeon.

Birds nesting in gardens, in addition to those recorded in boxes, include Blackbirds, Robins, Dunnocks, Wrens and Woodpigeons. Details of the gardens, taken from registration form questionnaire, are given in **Table 1**. Half of all the gardens in the survey featured a pond. The largest garden had a pond with an area of 10m². The smallest pond was 0.9m² in area.

Table 1: Garden Data

REG Nos	POST CODE	AREA	Aspect	Garden Area m ²	Pond/area	Cat owner	Cats visiting	Dog owner	Neighbours with dog	Food for birds	Nesting boxes	Nest Boxes used	Birds in nest boxes	Other nesting birds
15	OX10	Cholsey	**	**	10m	N	Y	Y	Y	Y^	Y	Y	Bt Gt	11 – 13 Spp\$
7	OX12	E. Hanney	E		3.75	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Bt Gt BB	8 spp \$\$
4	OX13	Dry Sandford	S	600	2	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Bt	BB, Dun
2	OX13	Gozzards Ford	W	1000	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N		
3	OX13	Steventon	S	500	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Bt	BB
11	OX14	Abingdon	W	600	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N		Bt BB
12	OX14	Abingdon	S	80	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N		
10	OX14	Abingdon	S	900	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Bt	BB, Rb
9	OX14	Abingdon	E	120	small	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N		6 Spp \$\$\$
14	OX14	Abingdon	W	420	1.5	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N		BB,HS
13	OX14	Abingdon	E	300	2	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Bt	
1	OX14	Abingdon	E	200	2.5	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Bt	BB, Dun, WP
16	OX14	Abingdon	S	120	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N		
8	OX14	Abingdon	S	450	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N		BB, Dun,Rb,Wr
6	OX14	Abingdon	E	162	0.9	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Bt	BB,Gf*
18	OX14	Abingdon	S	140	3	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Bt, Rb	BB, Dun

BB = blackbird Bt = Blue tit Dun = Dunnock Gf = Green finch HS = House Sparrow Wp = Wood Pigeon Wr =Wren
 ** Garden of 4 acres (16,188sq metres) surrounding property so faces all aspects.
 Gf* Goldfinch nest later abandoned \$, \$\$, and \$\$\$ see text

Notes re Table 1

- \$ In this large 4 acre garden in Cholsey Blackbirds, Robins., Dunnocks, Wrens. Woodpigeons. Linnets, Goldfinch. Chaffinch, Greenfinch. Carrion Crows, Song Thrush and possibly Chiffchaff and Blackcap nest.
- \$\$ Nests of Robin. Wren Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Woodpigeon, Song Thrush & Greenfinch are to be found in the garden at East Hanney.
- \$\$\$ In this garden in Abingdon OX14, Blackbird, Goldfinch. Blue tit, Robin, Great Tit and Wrens nest.

Survey Methods

The number of Birds, Vertebrates and Invertebrates seen were listed under three **FREQUENCY OF SIGHTINGS headings i.e**

- 1 = Frequent** i.e. seen almost daily
- 2 = Occasional** i.e. seen once or twice a week
- 3 = Infrequent** i.e. seen once a month or less

The frequency data was further enhanced with quantitative information using three code letters **A, B or C**

- Code A** for an average 1 – 2 birds or animals seen per sighting.
- Code B** for an average of 3 – 6 birds or animals seen per sighting.
- Code C** for more than 6 birds or animals seen per sighting.

FOR EXAMPLE – If 1 or 2 Robins (**Code A**) were seen daily (**Frequency 1**) the 'score' for Robin would read **1A** If 4 or 5 House sparrows (**Code B**) were observed once a week (**Occasionally = 2**) then House sparrow scores **2B** Rare sightings (**Infrequent = 3**) of flocks of several (**Code C**) Starlings produces a score of **3C**. This scoring system was used for

most sighting of birds , vertebrates and insects. Red Kites Swifts, Swallow and Martins and Gulls were simple recorded as being observed over or near the garden. Similarly only aural records of Owls were asked for.

Results

Bird Records A total of **47 species of bird** were recorded in the survey tables, although some species such as Linnet, and Chiffchaff were mentioned from the larger properties. For convenience of presenting the data two table have been produced , one for **Passerines** and the other for **Non & Near Passerines.** (See Appendix 1)

Passerine Birds

Table 2 shows that in the 16 gardens surveyed **27 species of passerine birds** , including Swallows and Martins, were recorded with 18 species appearing in Abingdon (OX14). The average number was 14 species in rural gardens where numbers varied from 18 to 8.

The most common birds are **Robin, & Black bird** - seen in all gardens. **Dunnock** ,and **Blue tits**, occur in 15 gardens and **Great tit** and **Magpie** in 13 gardens. **Chaffinch, Long tailed tits and Starling** are frequent birds in the survey area.

Table 2: Passerine Birds

(for convenience Swallows and Martins are included with Swifts in the Near- and non-Passerine table)

REG Nos	POST CODE	AREA	Grey Wagtail	Pied Wagtail	Wren	Dunnock	Blackcap	Chiffchaff	Robin	Fieldfare	Blackbird	Song Thrush	Mistle Thrush	Longtailed Tit	Coal Tit	Blue Tit	Great Tit	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Goldfinch	Bullfinch	House Sparrow	Starling	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Carrion Crow	Total per Post Code		
15	OX10	Cholsey	0	0	0	1B	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	2C	3A	1B	1A	3A	2C	1C	1A	3A	3C	1A	0	0	0	0	14	
7	OX12	E. Hanney	0	0	2A	1A	0	3a	1A	0	1B	0	0	3C	3A	1C	1C	2B	3A	1B	0	0	3A	2A	0	0	0	0	14	
4	OX13	Dry Sandford	3A	0	3A	1B	0	0	2A	3A	2A	0	0	1C	3A	1B	1A	1B	3A	2A	0	2A	2A	1A	1A	1C	0	0	18	
2	OX13	Gozzards Ford	0	0	0	2A?	0	0	2A	0	1A	3A	0	0	0	0	2A	0	0	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	1C	0	0	8	
3	OX13	Steventon	0	3A	3A	1A	0	0	1A	0	1B	0	1A	2C	0	1B	1A	1C	3A	2C	0	1B	2B	3A	1C	0	0	0	16	
11	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	1A	0	0	1A	0	2A	0	0	0	0	1A	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
12	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	3A	0	0	3A	0	2A	0	0	3C	3A	1B	1A	1A	2A	0	0	0	3C	2A	0	0	3A	0	12	
10	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	2A	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	3A	3A	1B	2A	3A	3A	0	0	3A	3A	1A	0	0	0	0	12	
9	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	2A	1A	3A	0	1A	0	1A	0	3B	1C	1A	1B	1B	1B	1A	1B	0	0	3C	1B	0	0	1B	0	16	
14	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	1A	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	2B	0	1A	1A	2A	0	2B	0	1A	2C	1A	0	0	0	0	11	
13	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	3A	1A	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	0	3A	1A	2A	2A	0	0	0	1B	1A	0	0	0	0	0	10	
1	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	2A	0	0	2A	0	2A	0	0	3A	0	2A	0	1A	2C	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	
16	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	2A	0	1A	0	0	0	0	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	4	
8	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	2B	2B	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	0	0	3C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2B	0	0	1A	0	7	
6	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	2A	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	3B	0	1A	2A	3A	0	0	0	1C	1C	2A	0	0	0	0	10	
18	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	1A	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	3B	0	1A	1A	2A	2A	1B	0	3A	2A	2A	0	0	0	0	12	
Total nos gardens showing spp																														
In all PC areas			1	1	6	15	1	1	16	1	16	1	2	11	7	15	13	12	9	8	1	9	11	13	2	2	3			
In PC OX14			0	0	3	10	1	0	11	0	11	0	1	7	4	11	8	8	5	4	0	5	7	8	0	0	3			

Figures 1, 2 & 3 show the frequency of observation of birds species reported from 100 – 50% of gardens in the survey.

Figure 1 shows that **Robins** and **Blackbirds** were found in all gardens and **Dunnocks** and **Blue tits** in 94% of gardens. Most of these birds were seen frequently with only four gardens recording infrequent sightings. All the records for Blackbirds showed frequent or occasional sightings.

Figure 1

Frequency of observation of bird species reported from 100 - 50% of gardens

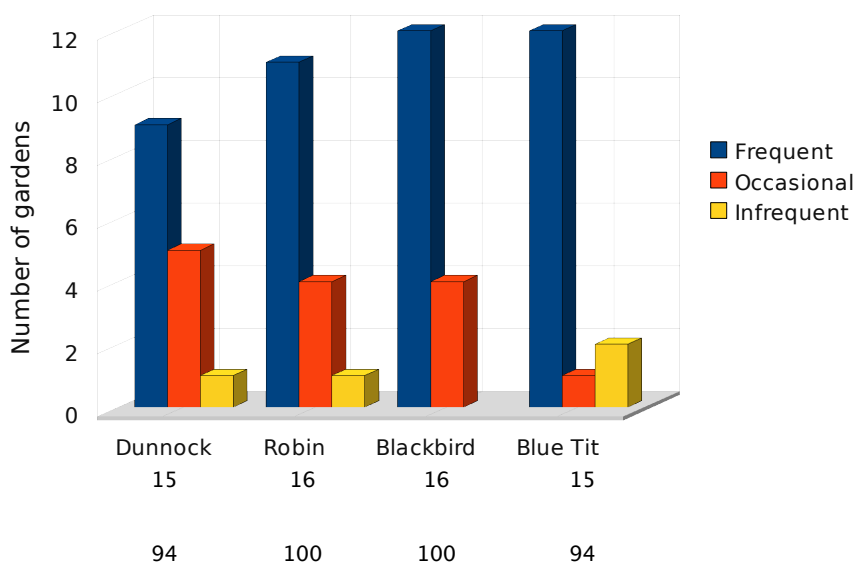
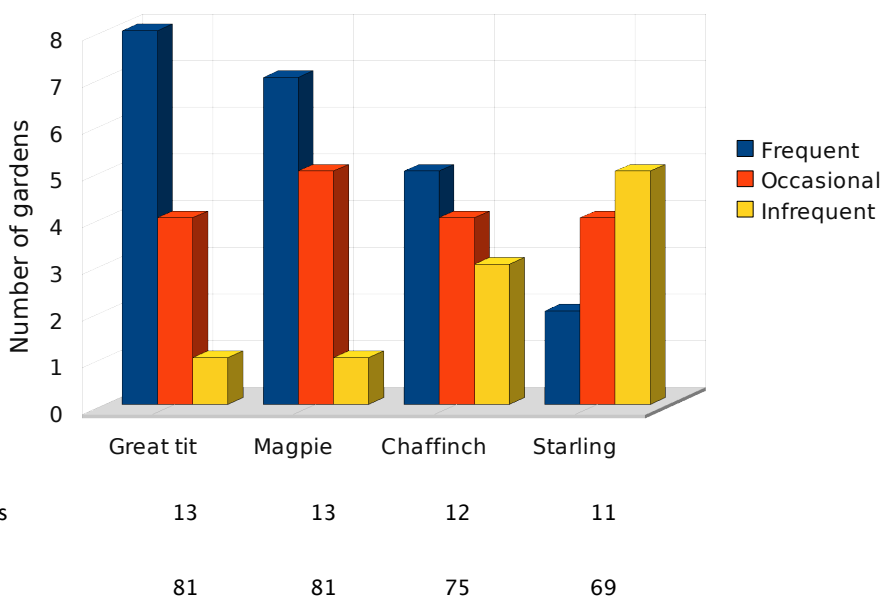


Figure 2

Frequency of observation of bird species reported from 81 - 69% of gardens

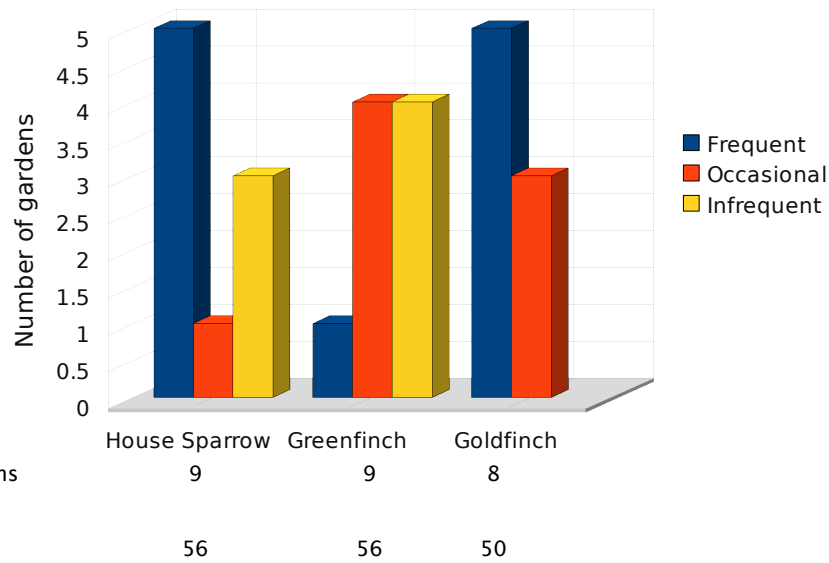


Great tits were frequently recorded in 8 gardens and in another 4 gardens they occurred occasionally, with only one report of infrequent sightings. **Magpies** were recorded in 13 gardens and in seven these were the birds appeared frequently. In high proportion of gardens, 6 from 13, recorded only occasional or infrequent observation of these birds. Only 12 of the 16 gardens recorded **Chaffinches** and these were fairly evenly spread between frequent, occasional and infrequent observation.

Starling were reported from 11 gardens. Only 2 gardens had frequent visits, one of these recorded as 1A i.e. 1 or 2 birds daily, and the other as 1C meaning more than 6 birds almost daily. Four gardens had occasional visits by Starling recorded as 2A(x2), 2B & 2C. In a further 5 gardens Starlings were seen infrequently either as 1 or 2 birds (3A) or as groups (3C).

Figure 3

Bird species reported in about 50% of gardens



House Sparrows were frequent visitors to 5 out of the 9 gardens in which they were recorded. They were seen mostly as 1 or 2 birds

Non & Near Passerines

Table 3 shows data in respect of **Non & Near Passerines** which numbers 20 species, although only 11 species were observed in Abingdon (OX14). For convenience Swifts, Swallows and Martins are included in this table. 16 species were recorded from East Hanney, raising the average number seen in rural gardens to 9 species, whereas the average number in Abingdon was found to be about 4. In rural gardens the number of species varied from 16 to 5 but in Abingdon the variation was from 8 to only 2 species.

Noticeable all participants in the survey recorded **Red Kites**. Similarly, **Woodpeckers** are seen frequently in all the gardens surveyed. Ten gardens recorded **Collared Doves** as frequent visitors.

Sparrow hawks were observed in 5 gardens (3 in Abingdon).

Woodpeckers were reported from 6 gardens. Green woodpeckers were observed in 4 gardens including one in Abingdon and Greater Spotted Woodpecker in 5 gardens with 2 of these in Abingdon. Gardens at Cholsey and East Hanney reported both species, similarly one garden in OX14 reported both. The latter garden is situated near to Albert Park.

Owls were heard in Cholsey, E.Hanney, Dry Sandford, Gozzards Ford but not in Steventon. Interestingly in Abingdon owls were heard in 3 of the 11 gardens surveyed. These gardens are to the west of the town, two of them near to Albert Park.

Table 3: Non- and Near-passerine birds

REG Nos	POST CODE	AREA	Heron	Mallard	Red Kite *	Sparrow Hawk	Buzzard*	Kestrel	Pheasant	Moorhen	Black-headed Gull	Herring Gull	Common Gull	Wood Pigeon	Stock Dove	Collared Dove	Swift *	Swallow*	Martin *	Green Woodpecker	Gt Spotted Woodpecker	Owls **	Total per post code
15	OX10	Cholsey	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1C	0	0	Y	0	0	1A	1A	Y	6
7	OX12	E. Hanney	0	1B	Y	3A	Y	3A	2A	3A	0	0	0	1C	2A	1B	Y	Y	Y	3A	2A	Y	16
4	OX13	Dry Sandford	3A	0	Y	3A	0	0	3A	0	0	3C?	0	1A	0	1B	0	0	0	1A	0	Y	9
2	OX13	Gozzards Ford	0	0	Y	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	3A	0	0	0	0	0	Y	5
3	OX13	Steventon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1B	0	1B	Y	Y	Y	0	3A	N	8
11	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	2
12	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	1B	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	3
10	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	3
9	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	2A	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	1B	0	1A	0	0	0	3A	1A	Y	8
14	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	N	3
13	OX14	Abingdon	2A	0	Y	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	Y	0	0	3A	N	7
1	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	2
16	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	2
8	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	3C	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	N	5
6	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	N	3
18	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	Y	4
Total nos gardens			2	1	16	5	3	1	2	1	2	1		16	1	10	3	3	2	4	5	7	

Vertebrate Records

Vertebrates other than Birds.

A total of 16 vertebrate species were recorded from the gardens survey, see **Table 4**
 In the Abingdon OX14 area 7 species were found. **Frogs** were seen in all the properties both rural and in OX14 postal code area. All gardens with a pond had frogs except for one garden. In two properties without a pond frogs were also recorded.
Toads were found in 3 rural gardens but in only two Abingdon gardens. All these gardens had ponds.
Field mice were the only rodents, other than the **Grey squirrel**, found in OX14 gardens. Squirrels were seen fairly frequently. Other rodents were seen in rural gardens. Interestingly there were no reports of Rats!
Hedgehogs were recorded infrequently in 2 rural gardens and in 3 Abingdon gardens.
Fox and **Rabbit** were recorded in only one garden for each in rural sites.
Bats were reported frequently from Cholsey and infrequently from E.Hanney. There was only one further report of bat sightings (infrequent) and that was from Abingdon.

Table 4: Vertebrates

REG Nos	POST CODE (PC)	AREA	Frog	Toad	Newt	Common Lizard	Slowworm	Grass Snake	Squirrel	Hedgehog	Bank Vole	Field Vole	Field Mouse	Common Shrew	Fox	Rabbit	Muntjac	Bats	nos spp per garden
15	OX10	Cholsey	3A	3A	3B	1C	1C	1C	1A	0	1B	3B	0	0	3A	0	3A	1A	12
7	OX12	E. Hanney	2A	3A	0	0	0	0	1A	3A	0	0	3A*	3A	0	0	3A	3A	8
4	OX13	Dry Sandford	3A	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2	OX13	Gozzards Ford	3A	3A	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	4
3	OX13	Steventon	3A	0	0	0	0	0	3A	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	OX14	Abingdon	3A	0	3A	0	0	0	1B	0	0	0	3A	0	0	0	0	0	4
12	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
9	OX14	Abingdon	1A	0	0	0	0	0	1B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
14	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	OX14	Abingdon	2A	0	3A	0	0	0	1A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1	OX14	Abingdon	2A	0	0	0	0	0	0	2A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
16	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
8	OX14	Abingdon	3B	0	0	0	0	0	2B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
6	OX14	Abingdon	2A	3A	0	0	0	0	0	3A	0	0	3A	0	0	0	0	0	4
18	OX14	Abingdon	3A	3A	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3A	4
Total nos gardens showing spp			12	5	4	1	1	1	11	5	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	3	
In all pc areas			12	5	4	1	1	1	11	5	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	3	
In PC OX14			7	2	3	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	

* Recorded as Mouse sp.

Invertebrates Records

Invertebrates i.e. Insects

The survey asked for information on **Stag Beetles** and butterflies only. Stag beetles were record at Cholsey but not in other garden. This is not the best time of year to record these insect so it is interesting that a score of 2B was given i.e occasional sighting of 3 – 6 insects.

There was a total of 15 **butterfly** species seen in the survey. All 15 were seen in Cholsey. In other rural gardens the numbers varied from 2 to 6 whereas, in Abingdon , one garden record no butterflies and the other totalled 2 to 6 species. A total of 10 species were seen in Abingdon.

The most common species was Red Admiral recorded from 10 gardens with Large White a close second being seen in 9 gardens. Peacock, Brimstone and Small Tortoiseshell were recorded from 6 gardens almost equally between rural and OX14 areas.

Five of the named species occurred only in the rural gardens , these were Meadow Brown, Painted lady, Brown Argus, Small Copper and Green -veined White

Some of the butterflies were seen only in rural areas but in the Spring and summer the populations may enlarge and be on the move which may give some more interesting information in future months of the garden survey.

Table 5 Invertebrates

REG Nos	POST CODE (PC)	AREA	Total nos spp per garden																
			STAG BEETLE	PEACOCK	RED ADMIRAL	SMALL TORTOISESHELL	BRIMSTONE	LARGE WHITE	COMMON BLUE	MEADOW BROWN	PAINTED LADY	ORANGE TIP	BROWN ARGUS	COMMA	SMALL COPPER	SPECKLED WOOD	SMALL WHITE	GREEN VEINED WHITE	
15	OX10	Cholsey	2B	1C	1C	1B	1A	1B	1C	1C	1A	1A	1C	1A	1B	1A	1A	1A	15
7	OX12	E. Hanney	0	2B	1A	1A	3A	2B	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
4	OX13	Dry Sandford	0	0	0	3A	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2	OX13	Gozzards Ford	0	0	2A	0	0	1B	0	1A	0	0	0	0	3A	0	0	3A	5
3	OX13	Steventon	0	0	2A	0	3A	2A	0	0	0	0	0	3A	0	0	2B	0	5
11	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3A	0	0	3A	0	2
12	OX14	Abingdon	0	3A	3A	3A	0	3B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
10	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	OX14	Abingdon	0	3A	0	0	0	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
14	OX14	Abingdon	0	3A	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2A	0	0	3
13	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	3A	0	3A	1A	2A	0	0	3A	0	0	0	3A	0	0	6
1	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	0	3A	0	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
8	OX14	Abingdon	0	3B	2B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1A	0	3
6	OX14	Abingdon	0	2A	2A	2A	3A	2A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
18	OX14	Abingdon	0	0	2A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total nos gardens			1	7	10	6	6	9	3	2	1	2	1	3	1	3	5	1	
showing spp In all pc areas			0	5	6	3	2	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	
showing spp In PC OX14			0	5	6	3	2	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	

Summary

The main observation in this survey are summarised as follows:-

- 1) Reports of Bird, other Vertebrates and Invertebrates were received from 5 rural (OX10, OX12 and OX13 postal code areas) and 11 from Abingdon (OX14)
- 2) The total number of birds recorded was 47 species with 27 passerines and 20 non & near passerines . The number in of passerines in Abingdon was 17 with 10 non passerines being observed
- 3) The most common Passerine birds were Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird and Blue tit recorded from 94 –100% of all gardens.
- 4) The most common non - passerines were Wood Pigeon and Collard Dove.
- 5) Red kites were seen by all participants.
- 6) Owls were heard in four of the five rural gardens and in three of the Abingdon gardens.
- 7) The number of vertebrates seen numbered 16 , with 7 being reported from Abingdon.
- 8) The most common vertebrates recorded were Frogs and Squirrels. 12 out of 16 gardens (7 from the 11 Abingdon gardens) reported frogs, including gardens without a pond. 11 gardens harboured squirrels, with 6 of these in Abingdon.
- 9) In only three gardens were bats seen 2 in rural areas and one in Abingdon.
- 10) Occasional sighting of Stag beetles were recorded from Cholsey (OX10) but not elsewhere.
- 11) 15 species of butterfly were recognised ,with 10 species observed in Abingdon.

- 12) The most common species of butterflies were Red admiral ,large white , peacock and brimstone and small tortoiseshell.

Acknowledgements I would to thank all those who registered for the survey and those who submitted returns in the first 3 month study .

Thanks are also due the Society Committee for supporting this project particularly David Guyoncourt for suggestions regarding the survey area and Jackie Hudson for information regarding assessing frequency of observation of the different species.

W.A.STEVENS

Appendix 1

Passerine, Near & Non Passerine Birds

- Just a reminder to some members about this terminology_

Passerines

They belong to the largest order of birds - the Passeriformes.

They are perching birds with feet specialized for holding onto horizontal branches. They have three forward directed toes and one backward directed toe. Most have curved sharp claws. Swallows have small feet and Larks and Pipits long flatter feet. Passerines include 4000 species of songbirds.

Near Passerines

These are arboreal land birds believed by some to be related to the Passeriformes. British species include Pigeons, Cuckoos, Owls, Nightjars, Swifts, Kingfishers and Woodpeckers.

Non Passerines are defined as birds that do not perch, Many are not land birds.

Appendix 2

Weather during survey period

Weather for September/October / November 2011

I have attached details of the weather during the survey period out of interest.

Information kindly supplied by Mike Wilkins a society member and Weather review at weathercast.co.

Month	Temperature °C				Rainfall mm	
	Max	Min	Mean	30 Year Average	Steventon	Oxford Average
September	27.6	6.1	16.4	14.5	32.8	60.3
October	26.9	1.5	14.2	10.8	23.4	65.3
November	16.1	-1.0	7.5	6.9	29.0	61.8

There were 155 hours of sunshine over England and Wales during September which is about 8% more than the average for the standard reference period 1971-2000. In our region there was 17% increase. Rainfall over England and Wales was 57mm only 79% of the 1971 - 2000 average.

October was the warmest in Britain for five years and the seventh warmest in 353 years since records began. Nationally 123 hours of sunshine were recorded, 10% greater than the 1971 -2000 average. In the midlands and S E England a 28% increase was recorded. For our region rainfall was fractionally larger (65.3mm) than the country average of 64mm.

November was the warmest for 17 years and the driest since 1956. Nationally rainfall was 49mm which is 49% of the average for the period 1971 - 2000. Sunshine during November was 66hrs the lowest figure for sevens years. In the last 100years 64 Novembers were sunnier and 36 duller. In our area we had about 59 hours of sunshine.