

Surrey Bird Atlas

2007 - 2012

**INTRODUCTORY
OFFER
£20**



The Atlas describes in 400 A4 pages the distribution and population density of 250 species found in Surrey during surveys carried out by volunteers between 2007 and 2012.

It shows how these species have fared in the county since the last surveys were carried out between 1988 and 1997. The species accounts are supported by maps and tables where relevant, and accounts include photographs taken within the county.

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Redstart



The Redstart is traditionally regarded as a woodland species, typical of the upland oak woods of Wales, the Pennines and northern Britain. However in Surrey it is almost exclusively found in heathland habitats.

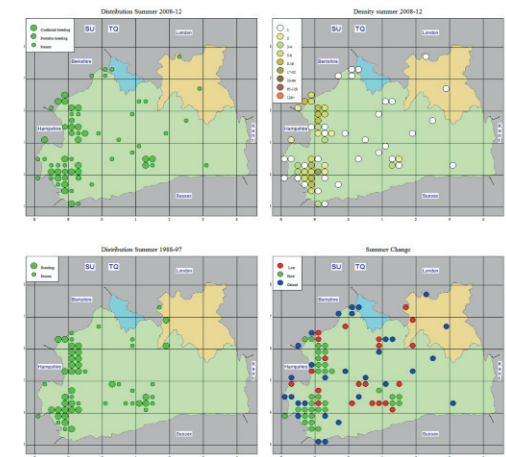
Nationally, Redstarts suffered a large decline in numbers in the 1970s, associated with drought in their wintering areas in the Sahel zone of Africa. Overall numbers have recovered to some extent since then, but the recovery has been characterised by increased populations in the core areas with a continued contraction of range, and the species has been lost from many lowland areas. The reason why the Redstart is faring so poorly is not fully understood, although loss of mature hedges and changes in woodland management may explain why some lowland populations have never fully recovered. Many other West African migrants are also declining and work is underway to understand if factors en route or on the wintering grounds are having a significant impact. (*Bird Atlas 2007-11*).

The Redstart's Surrey distribution is largely correlated with the presence of heathland, and the maps show concentrations in the west of the county, with clusters in the Thames Basin and Wealden heaths. Another small cluster of breeding records is found in the Surrey hills, in the vicinity of Leith Hill.

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Martin Kettell

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Number of Tetrads (Maximum 575)	Winter 2007-12	Summer 1988-97	Summer 2008-12	Difference between % of tetrads occupied / 10 km square in Summer Atlases	Tetrad changes (number of tetrads lost, held or gained in Surrey Summer Atlas 2008-12)
Present	0	22	16		Lost 21
Possible breeding	-	18	18		Heid 33
Probable breeding	-	6	6	1.6% -5%	Gained 30
Confirmed breeding	-	32	23		
Tetrads occupied	0	54	63		

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

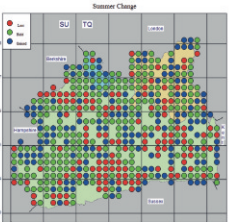
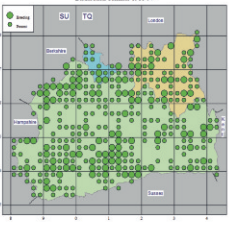
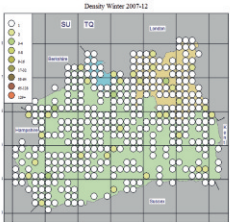
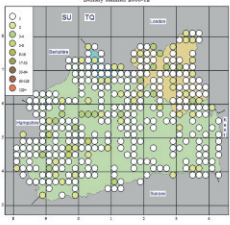
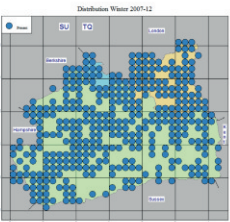
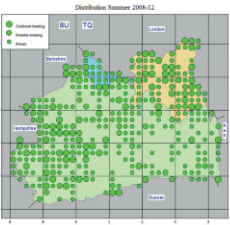


The Sparrowhawk has a wide European range which extends far into Asia and as far north as the Arctic tree-line. Whilst most birds are resident, the northern populations migrate south in the autumn and ringing returns show that some of these birds spend the winter in the UK.

In Britain the Sparrowhawk has always been a widespread species, but the population, along with those of other species of raptor, was severely hit by organochlorine pesticide poisoning in the middle of the 20th century with the breeding population hitting a low point in the mid-1960s. After this there was a strong recovery throughout the 1970s and 1980s, with a 29% increase noted since 1968-72. Breeding Atlas but it is thought that there has been a slight decline since about 2005. The 3rd Atlas 2007-12 breeding distribution map shows how widespread the Sparrowhawk is now with birds recorded in 82% of all 10km squares.

The same pattern of decline and then increase has been noted in Surrey, with only one or two pairs proved breeding in the mid-1960s but this had risen to 11 by 1970 (Birds of Surrey). Surrey Atlas 1988-97 found Sparrowhawk in 343 tetrads, which is very similar to the total of 352 tetrads found during 2007-2012. Breeding was only proven in 77 of these, 26 of which were in the London and Spelthorne areas. This illustrates how this species has moved into urban areas and has adapted well to using parkland and large gardens for breeding. It has also taken to exploiting the large increase in garden feeding stations as a source of prey. The distribution maps show that the increase in the urban areas is mirrored by a similar level of decline in the east and south of the county where perhaps the habitat is less suitable, being of more open farmland.

Jeremy Gates



Number of Tetrads (Maximum 575)	Winter 2007-12	Summer 1988-97	Summer 2008-12	Difference between % of tetrads occupied / 10 km square in Summer Atlases		Tetrad changes (number of tetrads lost, held or gained in Surrey Summer Atlas 2008-12)	
Present	379	234	103	1.6%	5%	Lost	127
Possible breeding	-	53	119			Held	216
Probable breeding	-	109	77			Gained	136
Confirmed breeding	-	-	-				
Tetrads occupied	379	343	352				

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