



Migrant birds

Winter sightings were later than in 2007. Redwings arrived five days and fieldfares two days later. Both of these were earlier than 2013 when they were 13 and 10 days later respectively.

Summer departures were on average two days earlier than in 2007. Since the arrival of migrating birds is dependent on conditions in their summer bases, these later arrivals may be a reflection of conditions there. The Nature's Calendar data also perhaps reflects the slow movement inland of both of these arrivals.

Other events

- Ivy first flowering date was nine days later than in 2007.
- The last lawn cut was on average six days later than in 2007, and the latest on record, averaging 5 November.

Your records

The number of records received in autumn 2015 was 30,204. These records came from 1,555 recorders, 471 of which started their recording in 2015. It is heartening to see so many new recorders, and we hope you will continue to help us by adding to this invaluable database in years to come!

Table 1: Average fruiting scores per species (2001-2015) for the UK as a whole. Highlighted squares show the highest fruiting score recorded since 2001.

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ash	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.1	3.3	4.0	3.0	3.7	3.2	4.1	3.4	2.9	4.3	3.1	3.9
Beech	2.3	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	2.2	3.6	3.4	4.1	2.2	4.0	4.3	2.8
Blackthorn	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.1	3.6	3.6	2.1	3.5	3.6	3.8	2.3	3.0	3.3	3.3
Bramble	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.1	4.1	4.2	3.8
Dog rose	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.8	3.7
Elder	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.1	3.9	3.8	3.6
Field maple	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.8	2.9	3.7	4.1	3.4
Hawthorn	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.5	3.9	4.2	3.7
Hazel	2.2	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.4	2.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	2.4	3.1	3.6	3.1
Holly	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.8	4.0	2.8	3.7	3.7	3.7
Horse chestnut	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.3	2.3	3.4	3.6	3.1
Ivy	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.2
Oak (pedunculate)	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.3	4.0	1.9	4.1	2.4	3.3
Oak (sessile)	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.8	2.0	4.0	2.5	3.0
Rowan	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.4	4.3	3.9	4.0
Sycamore	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.1	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.1	4.0	4.2	3.7

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Autumn analysis 2015



Autumn 2015 was memorable for stormy, wet weather and remarkable early 'spring' sightings seen in December.

Autumn analysis 2015 by Sian Atkinson, Senior Advisor, Conservation and External Affairs

Summary

As we head into summer, it is interesting to reflect on the results of your 2015 autumn recordings. During this time we saw some exceptional weather, with flooding prominent in the news.

Most 2015 fruiting scores were lower than in 2014 and, compared to the 2007 autumn benchmark year, fruit ripening was later for all species. On average, leaf tinting was also later, but bare tree was not, possibly because of defoliation by the regular autumn storms.

A record-breaking mild December resulted in some exceptionally early 'spring' sightings.

Weather review

The July to December Met Office weather reports for 2015 showed that the summer was cool and wet compared with the two previous years. Early autumn saw settled



WTML/MARGARET BARTON

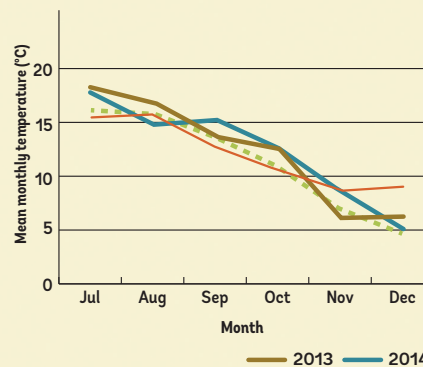
weather, then cool, wet and windy weather in northern areas later in the season.

A particularly warm December resulted in some early 'spring' sightings including flowering snowdrops, blackthorn, and lesser celandine, and budburst and first leaf in elder and hawthorn.

Temperature

- Mean temperature was similar to the Met Office 30-year average (1981-2010) in July, August and October, but was below the average in September.
- Mean temperature was above the average in November and December.
- A tropical air mass made December the warmest since UK-wide records began in 1910.

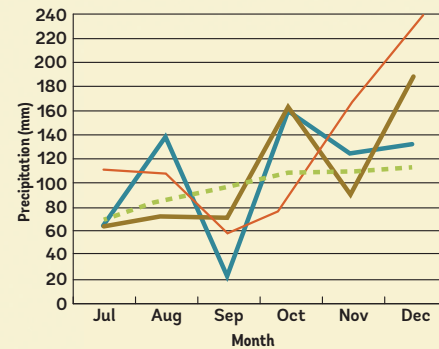
Mean Central England Temperature¹ (2013-15) compared with 30-year (1961-90) average



Precipitation

- The monthly rainfall total was above the Met Office 30-year average in July and August, but was below the average in September and October.
- December was the wettest in the UK for 100 years, experiencing over twice as much rainfall as the 30-year average.

UK monthly precipitation (Jul-Dec) 2013-15 compared with 30-year average for 1961-90



FINGLE WOODS, DEVON, WITH MURIEL LEE

Autumn events

Leaf tinting, leaf fall and bare tree

- First tint was on average 3 days later than the 2007 benchmark (this year was selected as the benchmark because the average monthly Central England Temperatures in this year were closest to the 30 year average).
- Full tint was on average only one day later than 2007.
- There was no subsequent effect on the average date of bare tree compared to 2007; autumn storms were probably significant in hastening leaf fall.
- Sessile oak had the latest average first tint and leaf fall dates.
- Ash, elder and hawthorn were the only three species with a first tint earlier than 2007.
- Ash was also the earliest average bare tree date of the species recorded.
- Rowan was the latest first and full tinting date compared to the 2007 benchmark.

Fruit ripening

- Ripening of tree fruit was on average nine days later than 2007 for all species. This later ripening could have been due to cooler summer temperatures (see table 1).

Amount of fruit

- The only species with a higher fruiting score than in 2014 were ash, oak and rowan.
- However, fruiting scores were higher for all species than in 2012, which till holds the record for the lowest fruiting scores.
- Regional differences are apparent with the lowest average fruiting scores in 2015 generally found in Northern Ireland, Scotland and the north east of England.



WITMIL/PHIL LOCKWOOD

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¹Central England Temperature are records from a roughly triangular area of the UK, enclosed by Bristol, Lancashire and London.