

## Report 2002-2020

### H Glyn Young and Andrew Koester

2020 was the 19<sup>th</sup> year of Jersey's annual Great Garden Bird Watch managed by Action for Wildlife Jersey and Birds On The Edge and supported each year by the Jersey Evening Post. The event has been held each year over one weekend in February – it was on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2020.

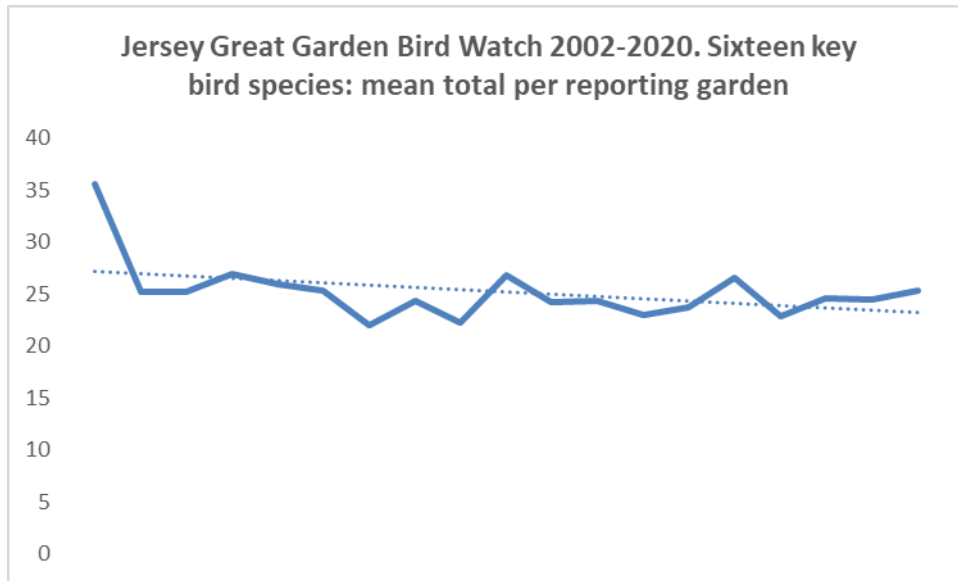
### The Big 16 in 2020

The Big 16 represents the group of most recorded, and straight forward to identify, bird species in the annual Garden Bird Watch since the project began in 2002. Herring gull is omitted from the list as, despite being very common, it is often actively dissuaded from some gardens and figures are hard to assess. In 2020, we received counts from 208 households/gardens and 40 bird species and red squirrel were reported. This year, numbers for the Big 16 were:

#### *Numbers of birds per reporting garden*

1. House sparrow 6.6
  2. Goldfinch 3.3
  3. Chaffinch 2.2
  4. Starling 2.0
  5. Great tit 1.8
  6. Blue tit 1.6
  7. Wood pigeon 1.4
  8. Magpie 1.4
  9. Blackbird 1.3
  10. Robin 1.2
  11. Collared dove 1.0
  12. Greenfinch 0.5
  13. Pheasant 0.36
  14. Blackcap 0.23
  15. Song thrush 0.2
  16. Great spotted woodpecker 0.14
- Red squirrel 0.5 (equivalent of 12<sup>th</sup>).

There were some notable changes in numbers from 2019 with fewer wood pigeons, collared doves, blackcaps and song thrushes reported. In contrast, goldfinch continues to do well and greenfinch numbers showed a slight improvement on the previous year, but sadly, as many as 2.5 greenfinches were reported per garden in 2002. However, analysis of the counts and the fortunes of the Big 16 are best seen through trends over the 19 years of the survey.



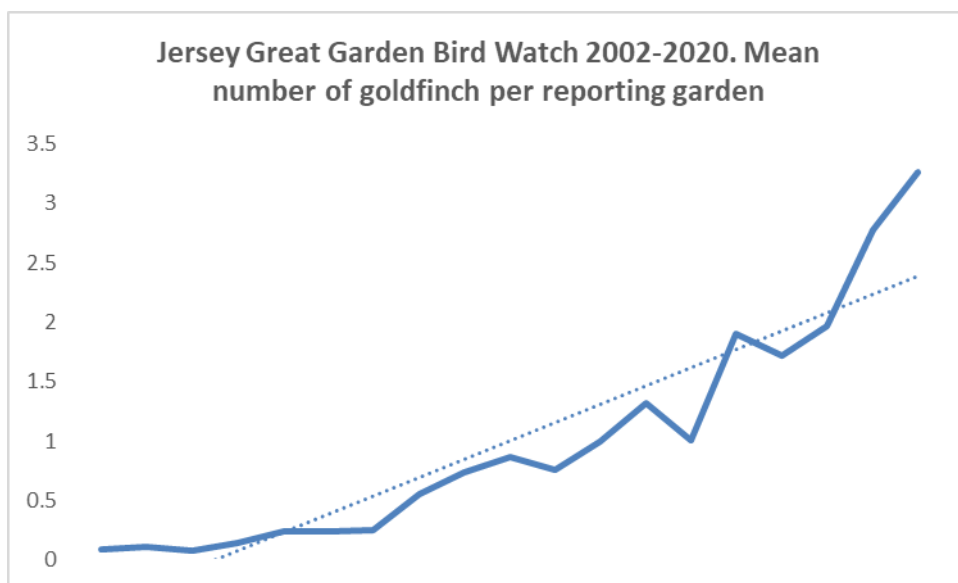
The Big 16 mean total number per reporting garden 2002-20

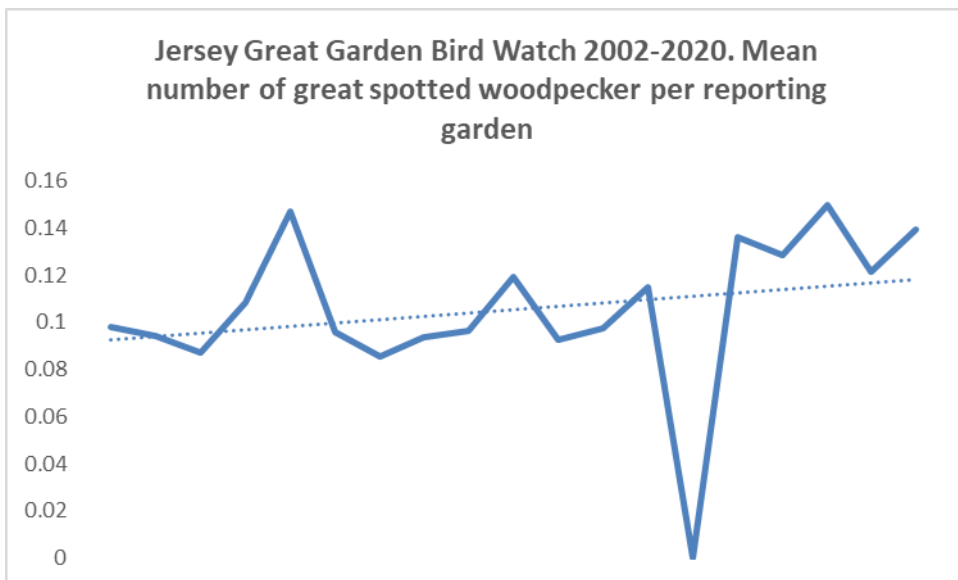
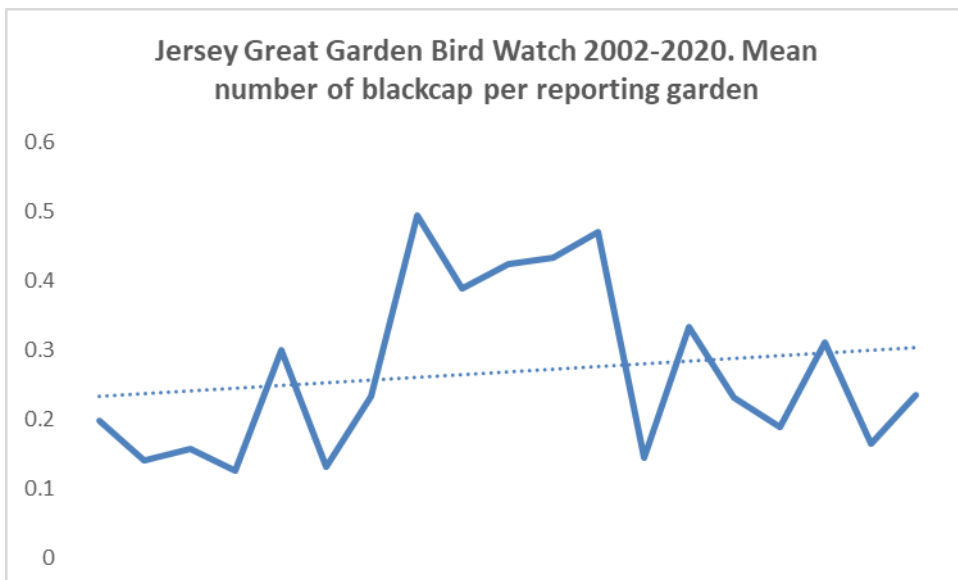
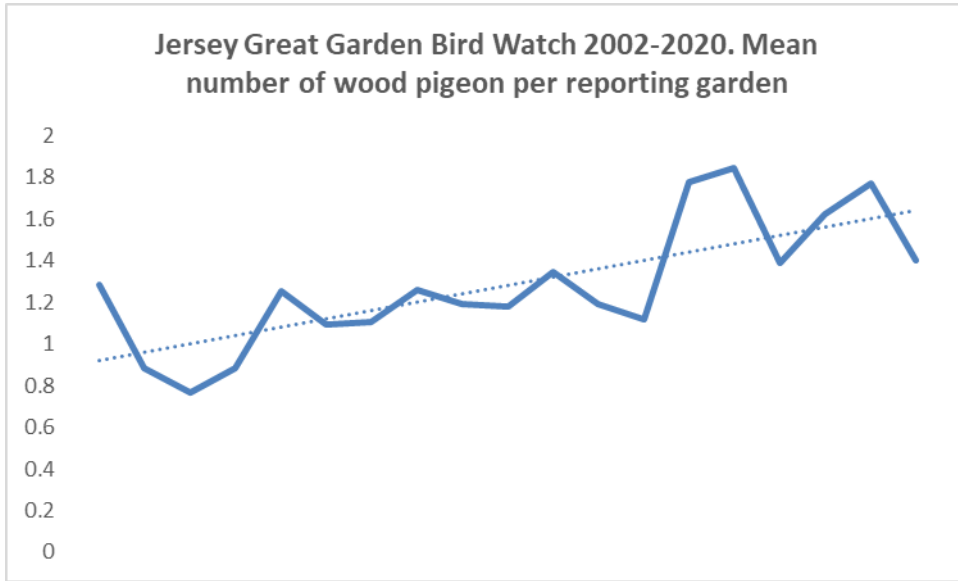
Interestingly, over most of the 19 years of the survey the mean number of birds reported per garden has stayed pretty well the same. However, this has been made up from some species (the 'winners') increasing and some (the 'losers') going the other way.

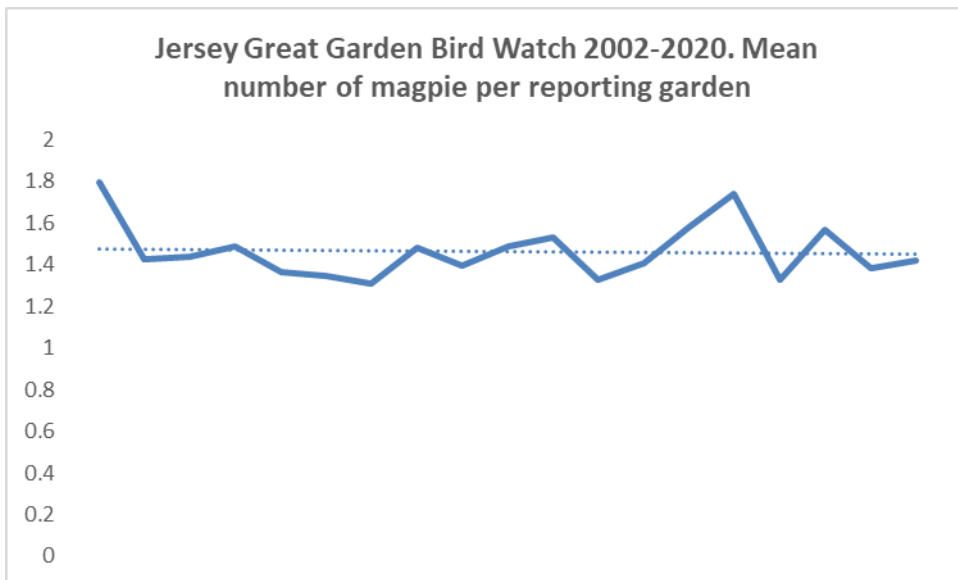
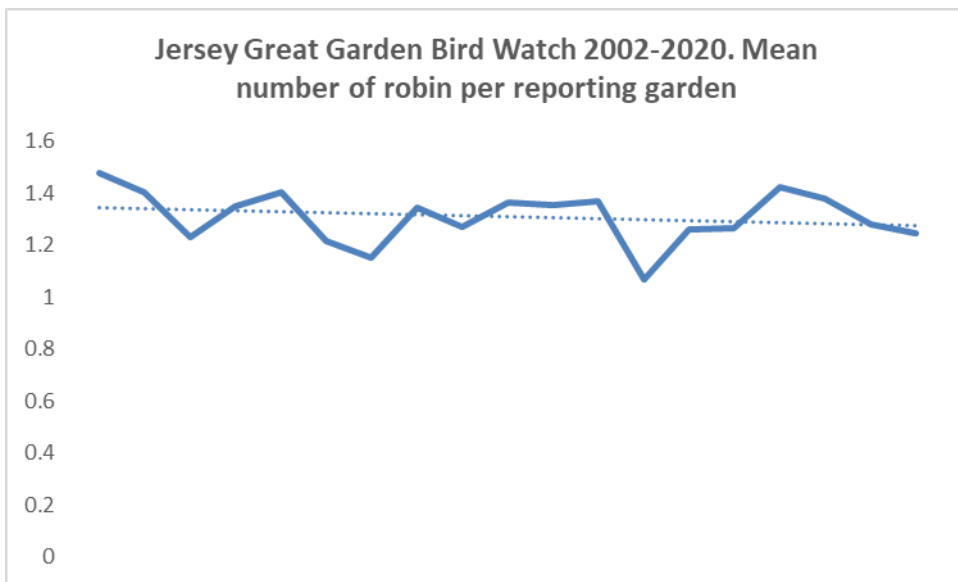
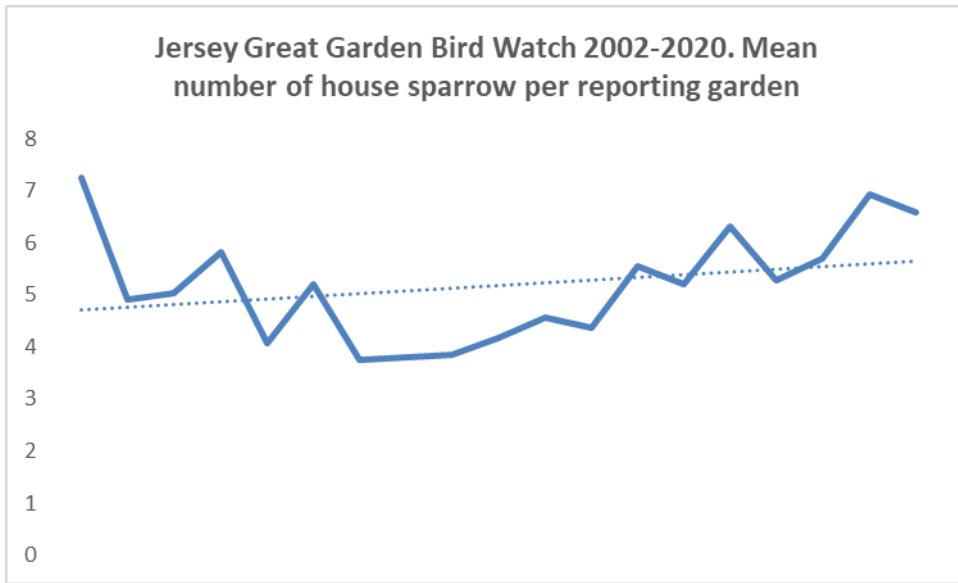
**The Big 16: Winners and losers**

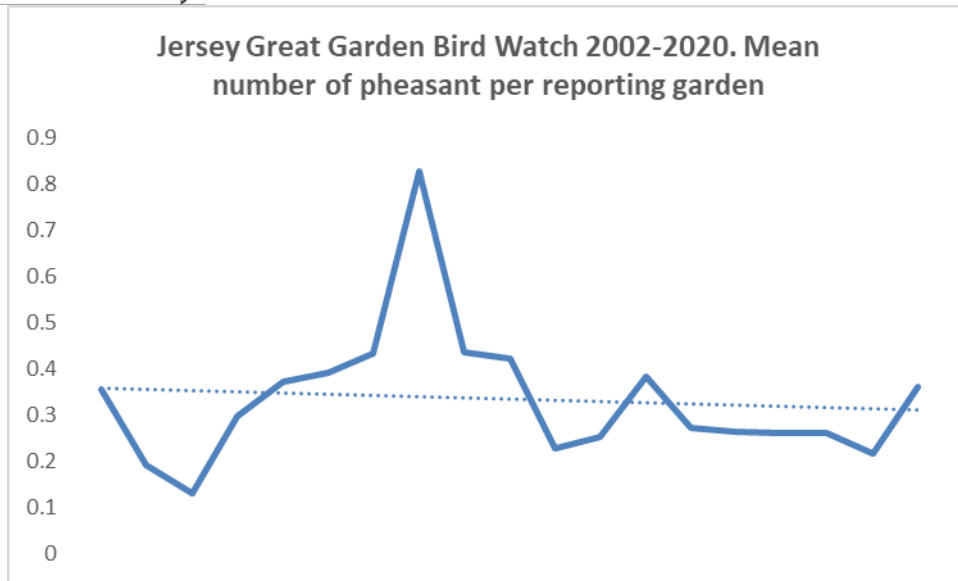
The following tables show those of the Big 16 bird species that are 'winning' in today's Jersey gardens and those that are sadly in decline. Note that red squirrel was not included in the analysis until 2008 and shows no obvious trend.

**The 'winners'**









**The 'losers'**

