

New Zealand Garden Bird Survey



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

Eric B. Spurr Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln 7640, New Zealand
spurre@landcareresearch.co.nz

What is it?

A count of the largest number of each bird species seen (and/or heard) at one time in 1 hour of observation in domestic gardens, in late June-early July each year, as an index of abundance.

Who does it?

Volunteer members of the public. Anybody who can identify birds in their garden can take part. The survey would not be possible without this support.

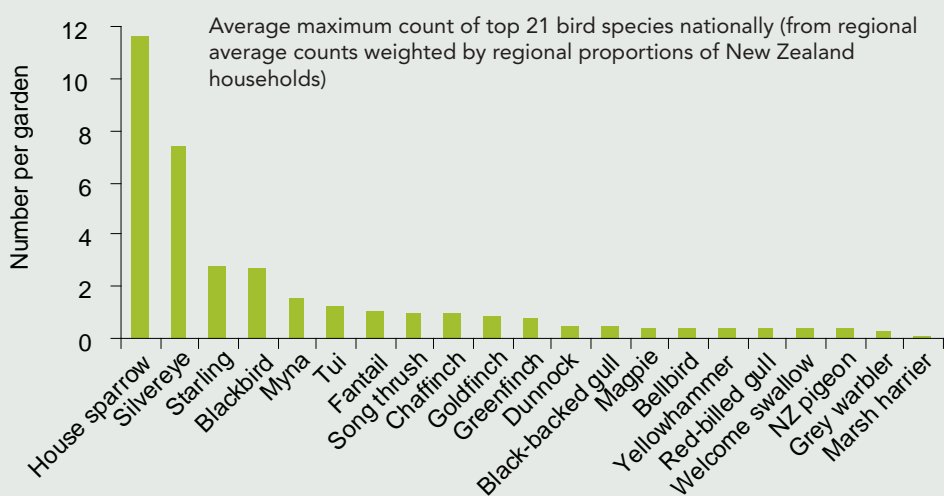
Why do it?

To determine population trends of birds, especially native species such as tui, bellbird, and kereru (NZ pigeon), in domestic gardens.

We need your help

Instructions and survey forms can be downloaded from www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/gardenbird

Average number counted nationally



Top 12 species

(Photos not same scale)



The dunnock or hedgesparrow is sometimes confused with the female house sparrow. The dunnock is solitary, usually keeping close to cover, and has a sharp pointed bill for catching insects. The house sparrow occurs in flocks, often out in the open, and has a thick stout bill for eating seeds.

Photos: A. Howe, T. Marshall, A. Walmersley

Proudly supported by:
Forest & Bird
Ornithological Society
Topflite bird foods.



Ornithological Society
of New Zealand

Regional differences

Average maximum count per garden at one time



Urban compared with rural gardens

Urban gardens had higher counts of house sparrows, silvereyes, and greenfinches. Rural gardens had higher counts of most other species.

Effects of supplementary feeding

At least twice as many house sparrows, silvereyes, and greenfinches were counted in gardens where supplementary food (bread, fat, fruit, seeds, or sugar-water) was provided.

Changes over the years

