

## Bugbrooke Birdwatch 2023.

- This was the 14<sup>th</sup> Bugbrooke Birdwatch and 40 people took part, all from the village. Last year there were 42 people who participated.
- 39 different species were seen (34 last year).
- The range of birds species seen in each garden was 3-20 (last year 3-20) and the average was 10.6 (last year 9.21).
- As can be seen in the graph of bird numbers since 2009, most species have slightly increased their numbers, albeit from a small sample as represented by the Birdwatch. House Sparrows did less well and are showing a small decline.
- This year is the first one in a very long time when Starlings have been flocking together in murmurations. They are highly gregarious birds and fly together in enormous numbers just before sunset. There can be as many as 150,000 birds in a flock. It's always difficult to estimate large numbers of birds, but the one we see is about 500 and is centred on Pilgrims Lane. Other flocks have been seen in other parts of the village. Not record breaking but something is happening which perhaps indicates that Starlings are on the way to recovery after many years of decline.
- The top tens changed a little. It has been remarked upon that the Goldfinch is less common in gardens. It does seem that it isn't as common as it was, as it has dropped out of the top ten for the number of gardens where it appears, but its overall numbers have not decreased. If you see them at all, you probably see a few! Wrens have taken their place in the number of gardens where it is seen. Chaffinches have been seen in greater numbers this year, taking the 9<sup>th</sup> slot from Great Tits.
- Results graphs are given below,



