



SEPTEMBER BEACH CLEAN RESULTS

The results from the September 2016 Beach Clean have been published on Marine Conservation Society's website and also reported on in the media. Litter found on Arbroath's beach is included in this report which can be found here: http://www.mcsuk.org/downloads/gbbc/2016/GBBC_2016_Report.pdf An extract of the report is as follows:

The September 2016 Great British Beach Clean saw just short of 6,000 volunteers clean 364 beaches around the UK, recording the litter they found. The results have revealed a mixed picture. We picked up a huge amount of rubbish - 268,384 individual pieces, although this is a little lower than last year.

The number of plastic bags found have almost halved in a year. MCS think that's down to the charge at the checkout, which is now in place across the whole UK.

But there was an astonishing rise in the amount of balloon related litter, up over 50% on 2015. There were more drinks containers, bottle caps and lids, too – up more than 4% on the previous year.

While it is great news about the plastic bags, we have a long way to go to reduce the amount and variety of litter in our oceans and on our beaches.

What did we find?

Here's the top 10 items that were found during the Great British Beach Clean 2016.



BOOK REVIEW

Published in June 2016, "[What's really happening to our planet?](#)" by Tony Juniper reviews the current state of the planet and the way in which our unchecked human activity could change the world forever, with a perspective on what we can do to reverse the damage. It charts the dramatic explosion of human population and consumption and its impact on climate change and our planet. Covering a wealth of subjects including solar power, food waste, and mass extinction, it includes positive ideas and a fresh perspective on how we can begin to reverse the damage we have caused.

WE USE 10 TIMES MORE RESOURCES THAN WE DID IN 1900

800 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE ARE MALNOURISHED

MORE THAN 50% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION NOW LIVE IN TOWNS AND CITIES

OUR planet is under immense stress. Population growth and the destruction of ecosystems are creating problems never seen before in Earth's history. Our climate is changing, sea levels are rising, and our world is becoming increasingly polluted.

Using the latest scientific evidence and simple graphics, leading environmentalist Tony Juniper reveals both the challenges we face and the solutions that can help reverse the trends and create a better world for our children.

NOW IS THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND THIS HEART-STOPPING SUBJECT — AND THIS IS THE BOOK TO EXPLAIN IT.

WORLD POPULATION HAS TRIPLED SINCE 1950

ONE-THIRD OF ALL LAND IS AT RISK OF TURNING TO DESERT

CARBON DIOXIDE LEVELS ARE THE HIGHEST THEY HAVE BEEN FOR MORE THAN 800,000 YEARS

ENERGY USE

POPULATION RISE

FRESHWATER USE

URBANIZATION INCREASE

GREENHOUSE GAS IN ATMOSPHERE

MASS EXTINCTION OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS

mariner conservation society

HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

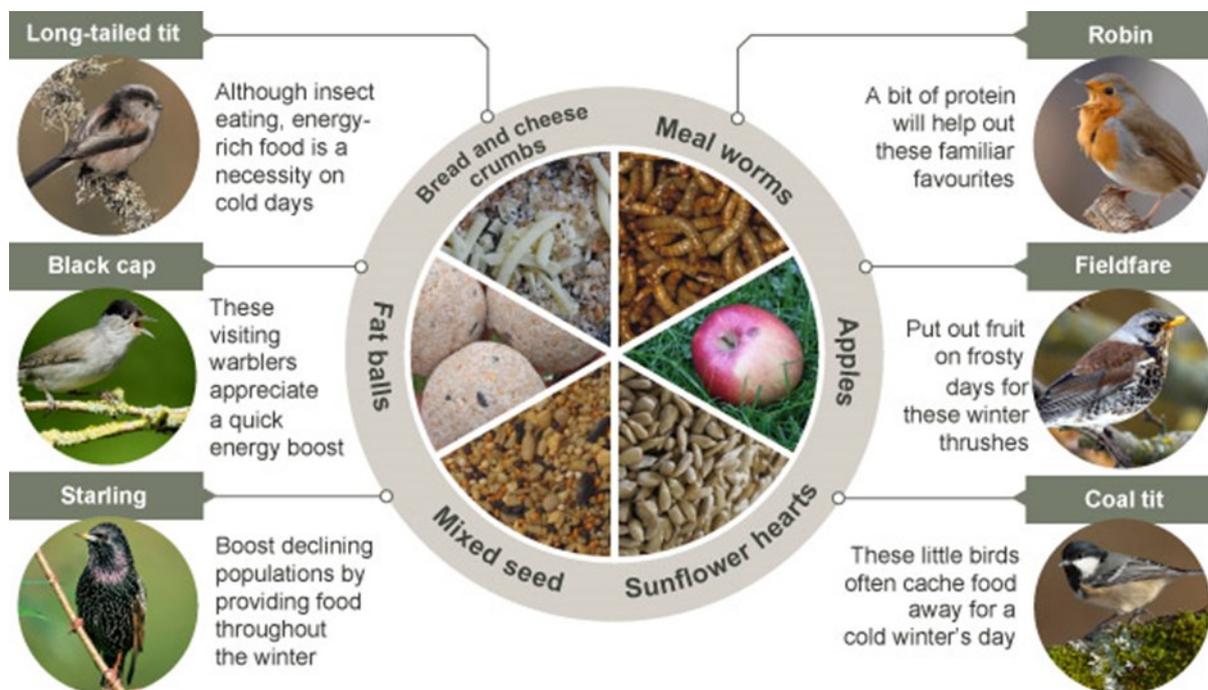
The following is taken from a recent report written by Dan Puplett with the full article available here: <http://treesforlife.org.uk/forest/human-impacts/habitat-fragmentation/>

Britain once had a diverse matrix of habitats, which consisted predominantly of forests, interspersed with wetlands, grasslands and heath. It has been said that a squirrel could once have travelled across the island without ever touching the ground! A decrease in the overall area of habitat is serious enough, but when combined with fragmentation, it can undermine the integrity of whole ecosystems. Roads, urbanisation and agriculture are among the main human activities which break up natural areas, often with disastrous implications for wildlife.

A range of techniques to help increase connectivity in fragmented landscapes include creating corridors, buffers and stepping stones to aid the movement of different organisms. Reconnecting habitats isn't always straightforward, and care needs to be taken not to create further problems. For example, by linking up two woodlands with the intention of spreading red squirrel populations, one might actually allow the introduced grey squirrel into an area it did not formerly inhabit.

What can you do to help reverse fragmentation? As well as supporting the work of organisations such as Trees for Life, there are ways in which you can increase connectivity in your local area. Even gardens can be a vital refuge for displaced wildlife, and, while it's not a substitute for the 'real thing', getting a book on wildlife gardening (and using it!) can really help to aid the movement of wildlife in areas dominated by human activity.

FEED THE BIRDS JUST NOT WITH BREAD



Millions of bird lovers put food out for wild birds and feed ducks and geese at ponds and rivers, thinking that it will aid their survival but according to the latest advice from the RSPB, feeding birds bread may not be helping them at all. Bread holds little nutritional value and the RSPB suggests that better foods for birds include cake crumbs, crushed biscuits, grated cheese, leftover jacket potatoes, breakfast cereals, overripe strawberries or apples and uncooked porridge oats. For more information visit the [RSPB](http://www.rspb.org.uk) website. Take care when feeding birds, ducks and geese in the winter particularly near icy ponds and on icy paths.