

NOVEMBER 2018

PREAMBLE



TREE OF THE MONTH UP TO THE 23rd IS THE REED

Welcome to the November 2018 website entry.

Contrary to many 'expert' predictions on the autumn weather, so far, all goes exactly as predicted months ago, dry, warmer than average, some cold nights with very foggy mornings, but beautiful dry sunny mid-afternoons. I therefore once again trust the methodology, and keep, once again out on a limb, to the prediction of very dry, none too cold winter.

I re-iterate here, for I have many mails and comments on this subject: there is a massive crop of berries, hips, haws, fruits, seeds etc this year, which under normal circumstances would indicate a long hard winter. However 2018 has not been a normal year by any stretch of the imagination, and, as such, nature compensates, part of this compensation process is to lay in a massive store of food for birds and animals, but a good look at this massive crop will show that all the elder berries have now been devoured and most of the ripe blackberry and sloe crop too. In their place the ivy now begins to sprout berries and increasing numbers of snowberries and bay this year too.

I recently read comments that said that the robin population would be 27% lower this year due to the loss of so many birds during the winter due mainly to suffocation. I go out each and every day regardless of weather, I do not miss too much, I look and I see; concerning the robins, we had a massive influx from the near continent again this year to enjoy the food here (the same applied to jays and waxwings too) despite the bitterly cold weather; robins and many of the smaller birds are quite capable of surviving the harsh winter, and did so in great numbers too; the immigrants returned home and all was well – until the hot June arrived.

With the arrival of this exceptionally hot June, and really no real spring as such, firstly the spring flowers arrived late and then were scorched and burnt in very quick order, therefore no insect food precious little nectar; this in turn decimated the insects and along the food chain, no insects means no bird food either. For the smaller birds, wren, dunnock, tit family, goldcrests, sparrows plus the incoming fly catchers and song birds, all of whom have to eat their body weight in insects a day, disaster.

Many readers wrote to tell me of fledgling dying in boxes and nests, first through the heat, secondly because of no food and lastly the lack of water. I saw this first hand in the countryside; the countryside was quiet and bereft of smaller birds.

The larger birds too suffered and the raptor family, buzzards, sparrow hawks, kestrel, kites, but also the magpies, resorted to hunting and eating anything that moved, small mammals and small rabbits included, plus wood pigeons in droves; it is only by walking and looking can such things be seen.

Therefore I have some grave reservations concerning the cause of shortage of robins (and many other birds too) due to the cold winter, true some succumbed, but, for the greater part it was the intense heat that caused the damage.

Having said that, there is massive concern, especially across the channel in France, that the use of pesticides, herbicides and shooting is having a devastating effect on the indigenous and migrant bird population there; the first two causes are the result of unforeseen consequences, whilst trying to maximum crop volumes, the insect population is reduced, and thus the food change for birds and some animals is reduced; shooting is part of the French culture (as it is across Europe), c'est la vie, malheurment. Why does French life affect us here? Because immigrant birds have to cross France to get here – if they are reduced then less arrives here.

The first winter geese are now in this region, I have yet to see the first redwing, fieldfare, arctic starling and brambling, but BTO reports say they are now arriving. All the UK ringed cuckoos are now back in West Africa and the DR Congo too.

Nature has attempted to compensate this autumn with many spring flowers, all of which attract insects and thereby food for the remaining birds to build them up for the winter. Nature does not normally give two harsh long winters consecutively; it will not do this year either. Nature will succour and consolidate the survivors – for there is another problem ahead for birds in the spring.

Normally many insects in summer will lay and distribute larvae into the soil for the following year – food for the following year. This year the ground was too hard and as a result (not only a shortage of worms and invertebrates and insects too) and no such larvae were laid. There would be, in the event of a long hard winter no insect food again for the winter survivors....think about it....does that make sense?? Yes of course it does.

So, back to the vast supplies of fruits, berries, seeds hips, haws etc, these are there to feed the resident birds, plus the seasonal immigrant birds – they too having had a dramatic summer in the north (Scandinavia) – they all need food and recuperation; nature has provided the food and the less harsh winter to come (see the winter prediction on the website). There is (and will continue to be so) an acute water shortage in many places, some seeds give more liquid than others, the snowberry, elder, are two easy ones;. But this year masses of quince, medlar, juniper, bullace and other such fruits too are in place to feed the birds – all these contain liquid – to compensate for the lack of natural water, many too contain very high sugar content.

Those that have been on walks with me will have seen the dryness of the soil and the absence of running water anywhere – it is now even worse than when such persons last saw it; plus too the boreholes here in the SE are to all intents and purposes dry. I have warned of this now for many months, no-one listens, plus la change!

The world is heating up, the recently issued World Climate report tells us so, tells us we will destroy ourselves. It is our fault we have global warming. I say no more for my comments on global warming are well published and known.

However, it is not what was published in the above report, it what was omitted. I give a couple of personal views on this – but backed up in other places for all to research if needed. Firstly, one mature tree will devour enough CO₂ in a year to provide enough O₂ for one person for that year.

'We humans' have hacked down for deforestation, palm oil plantations, grazing land, lumber and timber industries 85% of the world's trees. In short, by chopping down the trees we increase the CO₂ content in the air.

I saw nothing in the report either about the pollution caused by the 30000 jet aircraft that are in the sky at any one time – your car is the main culprit – switch to electric is the advice.

Being a cynic (yes sorry to say), lumber, deforestation etc brings in a lot of money for big business and many governments; therefore it is a cash-cow – inviolate to change.

The world's airlines also are massive businesses, another cash-cow, again inviolate. But of course there are too many vested interests to curb such activities that sum it all up in a nutshell. It is all about profits.

Besides doing weather using my own methodology, I also do 'proper' recording on a daily basis and send this to various interested parties as part of a weather reporting protocol. I do also have some personal figures/data charts to see just how warm or cold each year is.

Among such records I keep is for each month of the year (starting in 1999) I record the total days that the maximum recorded temperature here exceeds 21C and also the number of days it exceeds 27C. Looking back over the years I can then readily see the comparison. The table below is quite interesting.

Prior to this current year the highest totals were for 2003; this is therefore the comparison.

Month	2018	2003	2018	2003
	21C	21C	27C	27C
April	5	7	3	1
May	22	7	6	3
June	25	27	7	6
July	30	25	16	7
August	21	28	7	17
Septbr	14	21	0	4
Octbr	6	0	0	0
TOTALS	123	115	39	38

YEAR 2018 = 123 + 39 = 162

YEAR 2003 = 115 + 38 = 153

Useless trivia for November. A study led by the University of Huddersfield has been completed endeavouring to establish the better places in the UK for the use of solar panels.

The leading location in the UK is Plymouth with the highest value of Kwh per Square metre (the established formula) at 103. The next 5 being followed by London (97); Liverpool (96) Exeter (95) and Whitehaven (94).

Bottom of the list was Aberdeen at 77 – this low figure is attributed to fogs and mists that envelop that location from the sea.

Finally, recent newspaper reports stated that this October was going to be one of the wettest ever – with bookmakers shortening odds to 3-1!!! Really??

I sit here on the 18th, St Luke's day, with the weather, as predicted, for St Luke's Little summer, looking fine, dry and warm during the daytime, cooler at night and possibly some early morning fogs in places. Storms will arrive, as ever, on St Jude's Day, 28th, I very much doubt therefore that this will be the wettest ever October, currently here less than 30% of the average October rainfall too; therefore yet another dry month – as predicted. Of course such weather headlines sell newspapers, 'fake news' springs to mind.

Which now brings me to winter 2018 – again continuous reports in some newspapers, of, starting later this month, 4 months cold winter with snow and bitter cold. Some based on Piers Corbin and his sun observations, some on Jamie Madden and others unattributed. It is of interest that the Met Office did not support such reports and were quite quick to rebut them too.

What the methodology here is shown on the winter prediction – which is why it was published earlier than I hoped for – but also to give what the tried and tested methodology here showed. All I will say about such (and no newspaper has approached me yet for any comment, not any TV station either, but BBC local radio in many places has, is that there is no evidence to support such a claim for a bitterly cold winter from nature. Look yourself in your garden, how many birds are looking fat and full? What birds have taken up residence in your garden preparatory to a bitterly cold winter? What signs are there in the country side of deep snow and bitterly cold? How high are the hogweed, teasel, burdock, thistle seeds off the ground? If the soil, as last winter, was to be flooded, snow-covered and/or frozen, then these seeds plants would be high off the ground – they are not this year. Look under the hedgerows and see how many seeds and other such food bearing plants abound – lords and ladies, plus low layered rosehips being the foremost – would nature provide such a plethora of food if the ground was to covered in snow and/or frozen?

It is, as I repeat, often, getting out there and just looking and seeing what nature is doing and providing, nature is not stupid, nature is never wrong.

As you can see from the autumn prediction, it has been for the greater part, dry, warmer than average and quite benign (the recent storms on the west side of the UK, were both predicted and predictable, a very normal event, true, exacerbated by the US Hurricane after effects, but nothing out of the ordinary); therefore using the same methodology the winter prediction stays exactly as I have written.

Enjoy your autumn, some beautiful dry weather to come to ramble through the multicoloured dry crispy leaves and harvest the excellent sweet chestnut harvest.

Watch too, the wind direction on the 11th November – St Martin – for this will give the predominant wind direction for the next 4 months at least – where-ever you are; the data notes will tell you why.

NOVEMBER 2018

NEW MOON = 7th @ 1602hrs = Fair
1st QUARTER MOON =15th @ 1454hrs = Fair & mild
FULL MOON 23rd @ 0541hrs = Rain
LAST QUARTER MOON 30th @ 0021hrs = Frost

DoP = 11th St Martin

Highest spring tides 8th to the 10th AND 22nd to 27th

APOGEE 14th @ 1548hrs: PERIGEE 26th @ 1211hrs.

MET OFFICE NOTES: 24th October to 13th November stormy.
15th to the 21st Quiet.
24th to the 14th December stormy again.

BUCHAN NOTES: 6th to the 13th cold period

**DANGER WARNING: FULL MOON + PERIGEE + HIGHEST SPRING TIDES
23rd to the 27th. EXPECT SEVERE WEATHER PROBLEMS FOR THOSE ON COASTAL
OR TIDAL WATERS AND PLACES LIABLE TO FLOODING**

- 1st All Saints On November 1st if weather be clear, 'tis the end of sowing you'll do this year, weather will deteriorate thereafter with rain or frost.
- 2nd All Souls Day If wind SE it will stay until Candlemass (2/2) and winter will be mild with little snow.
- 10th Martinmass Eve Where the wind blows on Martinmass Eve, there 'twill be for the rest of winter.
- 11th St Martin DoP. The weather is said (reliably) to foretell the weather for three months (2/2) and so for the rest of winter. The onset of winter. Martlemass day.
- 14th Apogee @ 1211hrs
- 21st As this day so the winter.
- 23rd St Clement St Clement gives the winter - a fairly accurate quote.
- 25th St Catherine As St Catherine, foul or fair, so 'twill be next Februair. Laurel tree flowers about this time.
- 30th St Andrew

Name of full moon for month is Fog moon.

Tree of the month up to 23th is Rush, thereafter the Elder.

General Notes and Comments.

The Black month. Drab foggy depressing weather.
The month when the sun loses its power. The first month of the winter quarter.

The weather St Martins Day (11th) will fortell the weather for 3 months AND where the wind blows on the 10th it will remain for the winter. REINFORCED by wind at NW on Martinmass and severe winter to come.

The above sayings and observations need heeding for they often add up to a very accurate picture.

Any time of St Martins Day expect a short spell of fine weather 'St Martins Summer', lasting three days and a bit.

11th - Leaves on trees and grape vines this day indicate a hard winter (proven).
WNW wind this day indicates a severe winter (proven). If a SW wind this day it will remain until old Candlemass (2/2) with a mild winter up to then and no snow to speak of.

If dry fair and cold on Martinmass, the cold in winter will not last long.

If All Saints Day (1st) brings out winter then St Martins will bring Indian summer. If a beech nut be found dry, a hard winter - If wet and not light, expect a wet winter.

Flowers in bloom indicate a hard winter.
As November, so the following March. [No real proof of this]

St Clements (23rd) is the first day of winter, and is said to give the weather for February.

If new moon on 13th and full moon on the 28th - look for a change in the weather.
Expect both rain and frost after the 1st.

If ice in November will bear a duck, then the rest of winter is slush and muck.
If late October and early November be warm and rainy, then January and February shall be frosty and cold.

If leaves not fall by Martinmass then a cruel winter's on its way.

Sybil of months and worshipper of winds I love thee, rude and boisterous as thou art.

November cold, Christmas warm. - wistful

Ice in November brings slush in December.

If the water freezes in November, January will be all the wetter.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease, no comfortable feeling in any member,
no shade, no sun, no butterflies, no bees, no fruit, no flowers, no leaves, November.

When in November the water (table) rises, it will show itself the whole winter.

A miserable month.

Thunder in November, a fertile year to come.

THE NAME OF THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS FOG MOON.

The tree of the month up-to 24th is the Rush. Thereafter the Elder.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max:	11.1C	Mean Min:	3.4C	Mean Avg:	7.25C
	Rainfall:	85.1mm	Sunshine:	87.8hrs	(day = 2.93hrs)
	1 st	11.4C		10.8C	
	30th	8C		7.4C	

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
November 01		24th - 13th Nov stormy	1st - 2nd cold northerly		stormy period	10/9 - 19/11 autumn
November 02						
November 03			24th - 13th Nov. Late Autumn rains & frequent storms			
November 04						
November 05						
November 06				6th - 13th cold period		
November 07						
November 08						
November 09		peak day	9th - 12th peak period			
November 10			9th - 12th peak period			
November 11			9th - 12th peak period			
November 12		peak day	9th - 12th peak period			
November 13						
November 14						
November 15		15th - 21st anti-cyclonic	15th - 24th quiet with anti-cyclonic and fog.		15th - 21st quiet period	
November 16						
November 17	17th - 20th dry. Fog central and southern England		peak days 17th - 19th			
November 18		peak day	peak days 17th - 19th			10/9 - 19/11 autumn
November 19		peak day	peak days 17th - 19th			20/11 - 19/1 early winter
November 20						
November 21						
November 22						
November 23						
November 24		24th - 14th Dec stormy			24th - 14th stormy period	
November 25		peak day	- 10th Dec early winter storms & rains			
November 26			25th - 29th peak days			
November 27			25th - 29th peak days			
November 28			25th - 29th peak days			
November 29			25th - 29th peak days			20/11 - 19/1 early winter
November 30						

