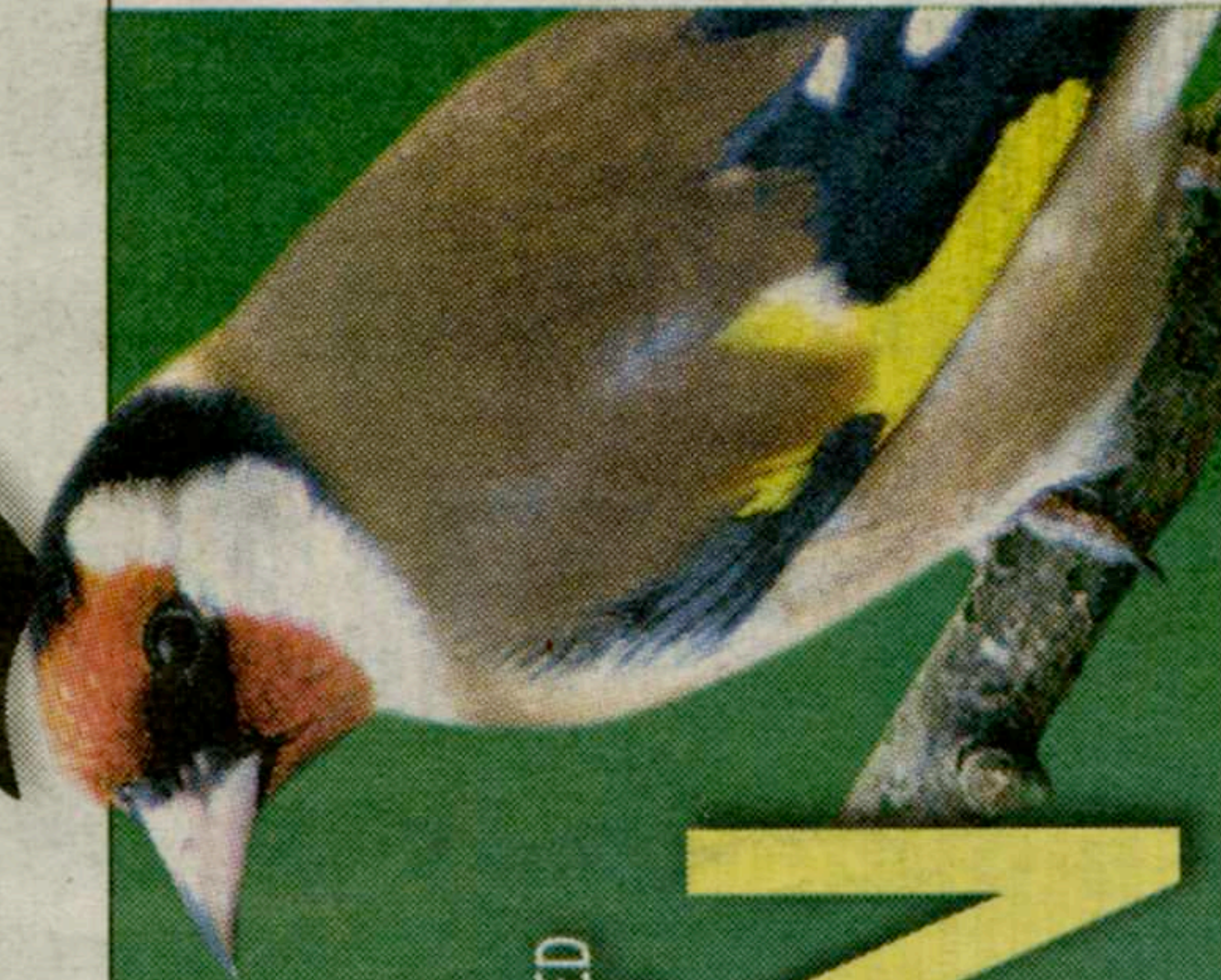


BORIS, JOHNSON WHY CAN'T LABOUR MAKE THE TRAINS RUN ON TIME? PAGE 22

The Daily Telegraph

FREE DVD BIRDS OF BRITAIN

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by one, and then there's the consideration of the weather. The process is certainly a lengthy one."

There are still 2,291 containers on the ship after 103 were lost. At least 50 were found on the beach, 20 were in shallow water and 33 have not been found.

Branscombe beach has now been cleared of people and is fenced off.

BRITAIN'S official Receiver of Wreck yesterday began the mammoth task of tracking down the thousands of scavengers who took motorbikes, car parts and family heirlooms from the stricken MSC Napoli.

Four days after the 62,000-tonne cargo ship shed its valuables on to Branscombe beach, Sophia Exelby received the first salvage

Thousands of the "Report of Wreck" sheets were handed out at the beach and downloaded from the internet. But after confusion over the legality of scavenging and police anger at organised "looting gangs", only 78 items were reported by yesterday afternoon.

Miss Exelby, 34, said: "It will take months, possibly far longer, to talk to the

with a stake in the process. The goods will either be returned to the owners or given in lieu of salvage to the finder."

Ordinarily, nine out of 10 wrecked items in Britain are left with the beachcomber because they are not valuable or of little use but the MSC Napoli cargo was very valuable. It is a criminal offence not to report wreck.

the loss of 89 lives. ■ A pocket watch and brass razor case discovered in the hull of the Moidart, a 1,878-tonne armed merchant steamship torpedoed by UB77 in 1918. ■ Sources: Maritime and Coastguard Agency & UK Hydrographic Office



Britain's mild winter could mean that blackcap, left, and chiffchaff feel no need to migrate



Fieldfare, left, and redwing might not visit gardens because of abundant berries in hedges

in a flap by changing climate

looking carefully at the survey to see if the numbers of blackcap and chiffchaff overwintering in Britain's gardens instead of migrating to southern Europe or North Africa has increased.

More berries in hedgerows and woodlands could also mean fewer birds seeking food in gardens.

Richard Bashford, a co-ordinator of Big Garden Birdwatch, said: "Last year's summer was the hottest since Big Garden Birdwatch began in 1979. This was followed by an incredibly warm autumn with lots of natural foods in our woodlands and

hedgerows. We're really interested to see the impact of this unusual combination of weather and abundant wild food on wintering garden bird numbers.

"Without colder weather to trigger their migration, and with so much natural food available where they are, many of these birds may not feel the need to make the journey to Britain. This could have a real impact on what we see during the birdwatch.

"Further changes to our climate will inevitably mean more unusual species in our gardens but it could also see the disappearance of many

familiar faces." The RSPB says there is already evidence of the changing climate making life in Britain more difficult for the ring ouzel, the upland blackbird.

This has been shown to have difficulty finding worms and insects because the soil is drier. There is some concern that this could also affect the humble lowland blackbird if climate changes accelerate.

The 25 years of Garden Birdwatch surveys up to 2006 revealed some striking trends: the decline of the house sparrow (down 56 per cent since 1979); the disappearance of the song thrush from the top ten; the decline of the starling (down 76 per cent since 1979) and the four- and six-fold increase in the collared dove and woodpigeon, respectively.

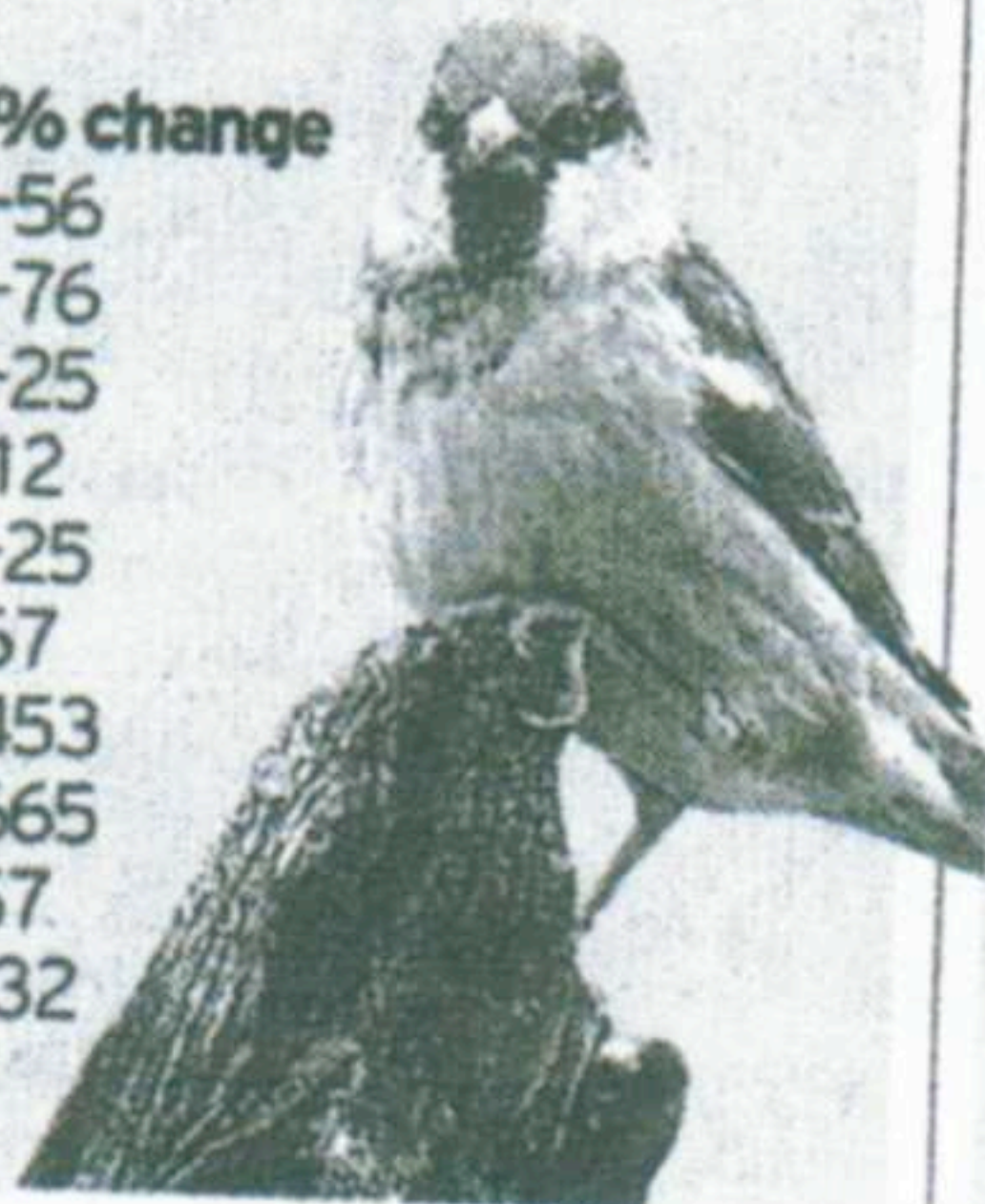
For more information and to take part:

www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

FREE DVD

A fascinating guide to the birds of Britain

See Page 18 for details



The changing picture

Species	2006	1979	% change
House sparrow	4.41	10.00	-56
Starling	3.64	15.00	-76
Blackbird	3.01	4.00	-25
Blue tit	2.74	2.44	12
Chaffinch	2.24	3.00	-25
Greenfinch	1.67	1.00	67
Collared dove	1.55	0.28	453
Woodpigeon	1.53	0.20	665
Great tit	1.41	0.90	57
Robin	1.36	2.00	-32

Figures represent average per garden

Michelin's stars are down to earth

By Richard Alleyne

THE Michelin Red Guides, which are recognised as the gold standard of cuisine, are dropping their stuffy, elitist image.

With the launch of a Britain and Ireland guide, and a brand new separate one for London, the publishers are returning to the populist road they travelled when the guide was first published and given away free in 1900.

The new editions are more user-friendly and include write-ups for the first time along with the ratings. They even include the odd joke.

Far from being obsessed with French cooking they have embraced the cuisines of

the world. The new London guide includes 43 different kinds of food. Restaurants range from £15-a-head to more than £100.

Derek Bulmer, the British editor of the guide, added: "Read the guide and see if you think it is stuffy. It was always populist."

The new guides continue to show the improving state of British and Irish cuisine with more restaurants - 122 - claiming Michelin-star status than ever before.

The Waterside Inn and the Fat Duck, both in Bray, Berks, and Gordon Ramsay in London's Chelsea held on to their positions as the UK's only holders of three Michelin stars.

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