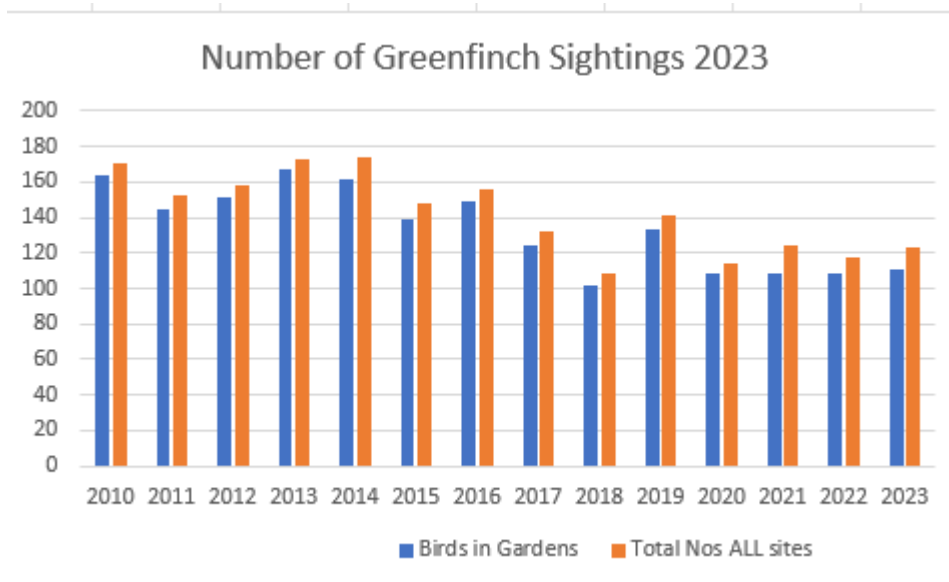


The State of Greenfinches in Rochdale and the Surrounding Area

2010- 2023

I last compiled a chart of Greenfinch numbers from our RFNS Observer records in 2019 as we thought that the crisis caused by the **Trichomonosis** disease was being overcome. However as you see in the chart our numbers are still smaller than they were 10 years ago. We still need to follow the advice of the BTO which I have copied below for you.



Trichomonosis, caused by the protozoan parasite **Trichomonas gallinae**, has significantly impacted the **British Greenfinch population**. [This disease was first noted in late summer 2006 and is widely recognized as the primary factor behind the rapid decline in Greenfinch numbers](#)¹. Let's delve into the details:

- **What is Trichomonosis?**
 - Trichomonosis is a disease caused by the **Trichomonas gallinae** parasite.
 - It affects the **throat and gullet** of birds, leading to general illness symptoms such as lethargy, fluffed-up plumage, difficulty swallowing, and laboured breathing.
 - Some birds may exhibit wet plumage around the bill, drool saliva, or regurgitate food they cannot swallow.
 - Swelling of the neck may also be evident.
 - The disease can progress over several days or weeks.
 - [Fortunately, Trichomonas gallinae does not pose a health risk to humans or their pets](#)¹.
- **Impact on Greenfinches:**
 - Greenfinches and Chaffinches have been most frequently affected by trichomonosis.
 - Epidemics occurred in **2006** and **2007**, with smaller-scale mortality events in subsequent years.
 - [The sudden loss of Greenfinches from British and Irish gardens during 2006 was particularly noticeable](#)¹².
- **Transmission and Prevention:**
 - The parasite is vulnerable to desiccation and cannot survive outside the host for long periods.

- Transmission likely occurs through **contaminated food or water**, where an affected bird regurgitates food that another individual consumes.
- To minimize the spread of trichomonosis:
 - Practice sensible hygiene when feeding garden birds and handling bird feeders.
 - Regularly clean and disinfect feeders, feeding sites, and bird baths.
 - Use suitable disinfectants, such as a weak solution of domestic bleach or commercial products.
 - [Rinse surfaces thoroughly with clean water before reuse ¹.](#)