

Birds and other wildlife recorded in February 2025

Red Kites were fairly regular, and Common Buzzard was recorded on one occasion. Three gull species were recorded passing over: Black-headed, Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed. Stock Doves were seen, including a displaying male on the 2nd and Woodpigeons were fairly frequent. Both Green and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were recorded, with the latter species drumming early in the month. Skylarks were singing in the adjoining field – signs of spring are around!

Many of the regular species were recorded this month: Dunnock, Robin, Song Thrush, Blackbird – and a Mistle Thrush, an early breeder. Redwings were seen on a couple of occasions – including a flock of 29 on the 2nd. No Fieldfares were recorded, however.

Chiffchaff was recorded - once only a summer visitor but now recorded more often in our colder seasons.

More usual were sightings (or hearings) of Goldfinch, Wren and the usual tits: Great Tit, Blue Tit (already showing signs of pairing up very early in the month), and Long-tailed Tits. Nuthatch and Treecreeper - a difficult species to see and hear (especially as one gets older!) The usual corvids were about: Jackdaw (at least 8 on the 2nd of the month, Jay, Magpie, Rook and Carrion Crow – and a Raven flew over on the 29th. Starlings and House Sparrows were recorded, the latter usually near to human habitation around the edges of the wood. Finches: Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch (maybe making something of a comeback nationally after a lot of disease problems), Siskin was heard on the 28th and Bullfinches were also seen.

Other taxa: Of course, Grey Squirrel was about, as were occasional Rabbits. Both Roe Deer and Chinese Water Deer were spotted. Frogspawn was detected in Rory's Pond, by the latter part of the month!

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We don't often record geese in or over the Woods, but a flock of Greylags, and a lone Mallard were noted early in the month. Other flyover birds more associated with wetlands were Black-headed and Herring Gull. The usual Stock Dove, Woodpigeon and Collared Doves were all recorded; it may be chilly early February as I write but the doves and pigeons can now be seen displaying and 'singing'. Birds of prey seen were Red Kites and Common Buzzard. No Sparrowhawks.

Both common woodpeckers were about – Great-spotted and Green – both often encountered by ear rather than by eye. The usual corvids were about: up to 15 Magpies on one visit, plenty of Jackdaws, which are often seen in the adjoining field, Carrion Crow and Rooks. 2 Ravens were also seen passing over; this is a species we would once have had to travel quite a way to see – now it breeds quite locally – maybe in our woods one day?

Coal Tit, Blue Tit and Great Tit were all recorded – now (early February) some may be beginning to get into breeding mode, so look out for pairs. Long-tailed Tits are also abandoning flocks and may be in pairs or smaller numbers. The common but small and often elusive Goldcrest was recorded, as were the often vocal, Wrens and Nuthatches. Blackbirds were common and there were plenty of Redwings in the adjoining fields, possibly joined one day by some Fieldfares. Robins were commonly seen, and the occasional House Sparrow nearer to human habitations. Also recorded were Dunnock, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Goldfinch.

As for mammals – it was a case of the "usual suspects" this month – Grey squirrel and Rabbit.

Please keep sending in your records – birds and other wildlife all welcome!