

Flora & Fauna recorded in February 2026

Birds: A Pheasant was heard occasionally – a species originally introduced in the Middle Ages or possible in Roman times! Red Kites were regular passers-by, and an occasional Buzzard was noted. Stock Doves and Woodpigeons were regularly heard and seen – but nobody spotted a Collared Dove. Both Green and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were about, the latter now often heard drumming, a territorial indication. Skylarks were heard, usually from the fields to the west and north. Dunnocks do not make themselves obvious but there are plenty about, and also plenty of often-singing Robins. Song Thrushes were heard with their repeated but variable songs, and Blackbirds were commonly reported. Redwings were also seen – (but no Fieldfares?)

The small attractive Goldcrests were fairly frequent – 4 were recorded on one birdwatcher's walk. Wrens were common. Of the tit family there were regular records of Great Tit, Blue Tit and the conifer-loving Coal Tit; the unrelated Long-tailed Tit was also quite regularly seen and heard, often still in small flocks at this time of year. Nuthatches and the hard-to-spot Treecreeper were about.

In the corvid group there were frequent records of Carrion Crow, Magpie, Jay and Jackdaw, but this month nobody spotted or heard a Rook – a bird which was once a common and regular breeder in the wood. Starlings were fairly common, and in the finch family there were sightings of Goldfinches, Siskin, Chaffinch and the increasingly rare Bullfinch.

Mammals: Grey Squirrel of course! Rabbit and some deer marks – maybe Roe, maybe Muntjac, both of which are seen fairly regularly.

Butterflies: The only butterfly recorded this month was Brimstone but keep looking as the spring begins to approach.

Amphibians: Common Frogs and spawn were seen towards the end of the month.

Please keep looking and send in all your sightings. It may not be a rarity but we do need to know what is living in the wood

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Quite a brief list to herald the beginning of the new year. Probably the birds as well as the recorders were not out in force! Woodpigeon and Collared Dove were both observed, but no Stock Dove noted. Great-spotted Woodpeckers were about. Robins were also fairly frequent. Three members of the thrush family were recorded: Song Thrush, Blackbird and Redwing. There was a Chiffchaff, a bird we used to think of very much as a summer visitor, but now some are found still in the UK in the winter months. Wrens were heard fairly frequently. The three common members of the tit family were also recorded: Great Tit, Coal Tit and Blue Tit, as well as their very distant relative Long-tailed Tit (actually in the Babbler family, not a "real" tit at all)

The occasional Nuthatch was spotted, and the common corvids were also fairly frequent: Jackdaw, Magpie, Jay and Carrion Crow. No Rook this month? And no passing Raven? Finally finches: Chaffinch and Goldfinch and some Siskins.

Grey Squirrels were the only mammals recorded, except for a couple of casualties: a dead mouse and a deceased vole, both found on a very cold day.

Please help to build up our sightings for the coming year by sending in a note of what you've seen or heard. Birds, mammals, amphibians, plants – all welcome!

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