

Flora & Fauna recorded in March 2026

Birds: A Pheasant is a fairly unusual sighting – at least it should be safe from hunters in the wood! Red Kites and Buzzards were observed – usually picked up by ear in the first instance. No Sparrowhawks were noted this month, but they are certainly around; they are known to be quite secretive near their nest.

Stock doves and Woodpigeons were frequently reported but no Collared Doves this time. Green woodpeckers were heard but no Great-spotted Woodpeckers this month, whereas in previous months we have heard much drumming. Perhaps the cool weather kept the observers away! Skylarks were flying and calling over the adjoining fields. One somewhat curious - and possibly mistaken - report was of a Grey Wagtail – normally found near fast-flowing water!

As normal there were several notes of Dunnock, Robin, melodious Song Thrush and Blackbird, and a Redwing still about. Some species that used to be heralds of spring – Blackcap and Chiffchaff – are now regularly heard in the winter months. Other regularly observed species were Wren, Great Tit, Blue Tit and the harder-to-find Coal Tit. Long-tailed Tits will now be leaving their little flocks and pairing up.

Nuthatch and Treecreeper, both essentially birds of trees and woodland, were fairly regularly encountered. Their calls could not be more different! Most of the corvids were recorded by sight and sound: Jackdaw (many), Magpie, jay, Carrion Crow but nobody reported a Rook this month. Their breeding in the wood seems to be over for now but they are still likely to be flying over and calling with harsh noisy croaks.

Finally, the finches: Goldfinch, Greenfinch and the petite but colourful Siskin.

Mammals: Grey Squirrel, Fox and Rabbit.

Plants: There is a lot of Wild Arum growing. The Primroses and Cowslips are doing well along the ride near Rita's bench, and plenty of Garlic Mustard growing – one of the favourite plants for Orange-tip Butterflies to lay their eggs. And those Bluebells are beginning to look very encouraging!

Butterflies: Brimstone, Peacock, Comma – and Gill will be able to fill in more details as spring and warm weather arrive.

Please send in your wildlife sightings!