

## Flora & Fauna recorded in April 2026

**Birds:** A Pheasant was heard. Red Kites were about – 2 were seen interacting on 14th. A Buzzard was the only other raptor reported this month. A Lesser Black-backed Gull flew over.

Stock Doves and Woodpigeons were plentiful, but no Collared Doves. Both Green and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were about. Skylarks hovered and sang in adjoining fields.

Other “regulars” included Dunnock, Robin Song Thrush and Blackbird. Blackcaps were very noticeable, often singing loudly; high numbers of 12 and 14 individuals were recorded in the mid-month. A Common Whitethroat was seen on the field due to be built on by the Peabody company.

There were many singing/calling Chiffchaffs this month. Other species included Goldcrest, Wren, Great Tit, Coal Tit (often harder to find), and Blue Tit and Long-tailed Tits. Nuthatches and Treecreepers are always part of our woodland avifauna – though the latter can be difficult to see – and to hear!

The usual corvids were about: Jackdaw, Magpie, Jay and Carrion Crow and a single Rook were heard. Starlings and House Sparrows were met with nearer to human habitation. Finally, Chaffinch and Goldfinch completed the month’s bird notes.

**Mammals:** Grey squirrel, Rabbit and Roe Deer

**Butterflies:** Those noted were Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, and Speckled Wood.

There will no doubt be much more information from the regular butterfly recorders.

## 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!*

## 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

## Flora & Fauna recorded in January 2026

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!