

Flora & Fauna recorded in May 2026

Quite a reduced list this month, maybe due to the vagaries of the weather, or maybe to fewer records from our regulars!

Birds: Stock Dove and Woodpigeon were regulars. A pair of Great-spotted Woodpeckers was seen. All fairly frequent: Dunnock, Robin, Song Thrush, Blackbird. Garden Warbler heard more often than were actually seen. Blackcap. Common Whitethroat. Great Tit, Blue Tit and Long-tailed Tit. Nuthatch frequently heard, and occasional records of the well-camouflaged Treecreeper. The corvids were noisily regular: Magpie, Jay, Carrion Crow, though no records of our former resident the Rook. House Sparrows often near to the edge of the wood and human habitation. Goldfinch. Greenfinch – much rarer nowadays, and even more unusual – a Bullfinch, a real rarity these days.

Mammals: Grey Squirrel, Rabbit, Roe Deer (though the list was increased by the appearance of a domestic cat!)

Butterflies: (Although the regular surveyors will no doubt be able to add to these): Brimstone. Green-veined White. Orange-tip. Common Blue. Holly Blue. Painted Lady. Peacock. Comma. Speckled Wood. Meadow Brown. You probably saw that Peacock was voted the nation's favourite butterfly, according to Butterfly Conservation's recent questionnaire. It's certainly very recognisable! Look out for Small Tortoiseshell – they haven't been doing very well.

One very colourful moth to look out for is the Cinnabar; it was recorded in the woods in May and is quite common. Its larval foodplant is Common Ragwort, and the caterpillars are easy to spot in their black and yellow stripes.