

Birds and other Wildlife recorded in July **(JK 05/08/26)**

Birds: Birds of prey this month were Red Kite, Common Buzzard and Sparrowhawk. Stock Dove and Woodpigeon were very commonly reported but no Collared Dove this month. Two Swifts were reported flying over the Wood; this species, a visitor from Africa, will be leaving our shores in the next few weeks. Both Green and Great-spotted Woodpecker were seen/heard, the former often on the ground where it hunts its main prey – ants. Dunnock and Robin were regulars as was Blackbird. Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs are still singing; they are no longer just summer visitors – some of each species can now be found in the UK in winter months. Goldcrests are still calling from the larches and conifers and there have been many records of Great Tit, Blue Tit and the less frequently encountered Coal Tit. Long-tailed Tits are now often seen in small flocks, frequently still juveniles. Nuthatch and the more obscurely camouflaged Treecreeper were recorded. Of the corvids we had Jackdaw, Magpie, Jay and Carrion Crow. Finally, to the finches and sparrows – just a Goldfinch! July is often a very quiet month with post-breeding moult making demands on the adults, and youngsters not making themselves too loud or visible.

Mammals: Grey squirrels and Rabbits were the most common, and there were also sightings of Roe Deer and Fox

Invertebrates: The following butterflies were noted on people's walks through the Woods: Brimstone. Large White, Small White, Green-veined White. Common Blue. Brown Argus. Holly Blue. Red Admiral. Painted Lady. Peacock. Silver-washed Fritillary. Comma. Speckled Wood. Marbled White. Gatekeeper. Meadow Brown. Ringlet. Purple Hairstreak. Nobody sent in a casual record of a Small Tortoiseshell – they have not been doing well. Those who do the regular butterfly transects will be able to add far more to the above list. Among the moths recorded were jersey Tiger and Yellow Shell Moth.

Plants: This is not a list of all plants observed this month – just a few that stood out! Fleabane (yes, it was once used as a kind of insecticide to deter fleas and lice); Common Spotted-Orchids (now over), Tall Melilot, and Red Bartsia, a root hemiparasite that theoretically weakens other plants.

As always, please send in notes of what you see on your walks – common or rare – it's all important!