

Birds and other Wildlife recorded in August

(JK 08/09/26)

A fairly quiet month. Most adult birds have now passed their breeding period and are dealing with their feather moult and regrowth. The weather (which has been a topic of conversation and anxiety for many humans) was not kind to the grass, and some of the shrubs were beginning to look weary, while a small number, including sloes, seemed to produce an extra-large berry crop.

Birds. Occasional sightings of fly-over Black-headed Gulls. Stock Doves and Woodpigeons were regularly recorded. Both Green and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were about. A very unexpected bird was a Grey Wagtail – but one was also seen in a neighbouring garden. More common were Dunnock, Robin and Blackbird – though there were not as many as might have been expected. The warblers Blackcap and Chiffchaff were noted. Also, Goldcrest, Wren and Great Tit and Blue Tit and their not closely related Long-tailed Tit which are now beginning to form into autumnal flocks. Nuthatches are usually picked up first by their vocalisation and were fairly regularly recorded, with the occasional Treecreeper, which is more difficult to hear and to see! Finally, to the corvids: Jackdaw, Magpie and Carrion Crow but no Jay, and to the finches – just a Goldfinch recorded this month.

Mammals: Grey Squirrel and Fox and a deceased Common Shrew.

Insects: Among the butterflies were Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and unexpectedly a Small Heath. The regular butterfly recorders will probably be able to add to this list.

Moths included Jersey Tiger and Yellow Shell Moth

Interesting plants: included Red Bartsia, Sweet Briar with plenty of rosehips, and Fleabane. The brambles are flourishing and a work party or two will be gathering to ensure that they do not completely take over!

Please keep sending in your records!