

Birds and other wildlife recorded in September

(JK 05/10/26)

Birds: Quite a quiet month. For many species the breeding period is over, and the moult is occurring so the feathers are new and fresh and healthy ready for next year.

Some of the birds recorded are simply flying over, rather than actually “using” the woodland for roosting or nesting or even feeding. For example, a Little Egret was spotted - and although they are getting more common, we have not had one (or Grey Heron) settling here. Red Kites were frequent flyovers and it may well be that we shall see them breeding here. Common Gulls also flew over.

Stock Doves and Woodpigeons were regulars, and it was good to have a Great-spotted Woodpecker drumming (probably food-seeking rather than a territorial display) in the middle of the month. Skylarks are regularly seen and heard in the adjoining fields – four on the 23rd of the month, for example.

Dunnocks and Robins were noted on most recorder visits, with the occasional Song Thrush and more frequent Blackbird. Chiffchaffs are certainly still calling, and Goldcrests were found in the Larch area particularly. Wrens – though very common – are not always easy to spot and most often they were recorded making short alarm calls from the hedgerows.

Great Tits, Blue Tits and the less frequent Coal Tit were all noted, as were occasional Long-tailed Tits, now beginning to flock together again. Nuthatches made themselves heard frequently and a few people were lucky enough to either hear or see Treecreepers, well camouflaged little birds with a call increasingly hard to distinguish as the listener gets older!

There were plenty of Jackdaws about and other corvids were also fairly frequently recorded: Magpie, Jay, Carrion Crow and the occasional flyover Rook.

House Sparrows were recorded nearer to human dwellings. Finally, Chaffinch and Goldfinch completed this month's bird list.

Insects: There are plenty of Ivy bees around, taking advantage of the autumn flowering Ivy. Common Darters were noted, and among the butterflies recorded were Brimstone, Small White, Green-veined White, Common Blue, Brown Argus (not very common so a good record), Comma and Speckled Wood. The regular butterfly survey group will have more to add!

Mammals: The only mammal recorded was – no great surprise! – Grey Squirrel

Thanks to everyone who compiles and/or sends in records of wildlife sightings. They are a valuable source of information.