Flora & Fauna recorded in October

(JK 09/11/26)

Birds: A very mixed month in weather and possibly fewer observers out there to record their sightings. Now is the time to start looking out for winter bird visitors, such as Redwings and Fieldfares; there have been recent influxes of these species. A Pheasant has been seen, and there were several sightings (and hearings!) of Red Kites. More unexpectedly a Kestrel was observed. Woodpigeons a-plenty but nobody recorded a Stock Dove this month. Both Green and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were noted.

Dunnocks were fairly frequent, and again, unexpectedly - a Stonechat was encountered. They are generally found in more open area, often heathland.

There were numerous reports of Robin, and some of Song Thrush and Blackbirds. As mentioned in the opening sentences, Redwings have arrived and have been seen in the woodland; normally a breeding bird of northern Europe's forests, they migrate south for the winter months and may be heard uttering a high call on migration.

Chiffchaffs are still around – sometimes remaining here over winter. Goldcrest has been recorded; also Wren, and the common tits: Great Tit, Blue Tit and slightly less common Coal Tit. Long-tailed Tits are around, often now in small flocks, sometimes with small flocks of birds of other species. Nuthatches were recorded occasionally.

The usual corvids were noisily around: Jackdaw, Magpie, Jay and Carrion Crow, but nobody noted a Rook within the vicinity of the woods this month. Starlings were recorded, often like House Sparrows, nearer to human habitation. Finally the finches: Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Greenfinch, and – the winter visitor – the Siskin, a delicate small finch which may well visit your garden!

Mammals: The only mammal recorded this month was – of course – Grey Squirrel

Insects: Finally, to the butterflies; Brimstone, Large White, Peacock, Comma and Speckled Wood. The regular butterfly recorders may have a few extra.

As always, many thanks to those who have sent in their sightings. Please keep sending in your records!