

Nature Notes 2017

January 2017

Ducks have returned to the Ogle's garden probably to nest.

Heronseveral recent sightings.

Roe Deer during the daytime.

“Very large” buzzard.

Hedgehogs at Hazeldene.

A cock Pheasant and two female Pheasants.

About 200 Fieldfares have been seen for nearly 2 weeks feeding in a field near Nethercote.

February 2017

Fewer people than usual at the meeting but reports of:

Skylarks over fields in Woolscott direction,

Pheasants again -8 hens and 2 cocks seen together,

There seem to be more Starlings this year. Many have been seen on the wires along Woolscott Lane.

March 2017

Not many people at the meeting but reports of:

A Canada goose on the village pond,

Frogspawn in the village pond.

A Bumble bee was seen in mid-February.

Several Brimstone butterflies were spotted in early March.

Two Brown hares were seen at the beginning of March.

Richard Jackson saw a Water-vole in his garden. There is a pond and stream nearby.

Clover was seen flowering by the roadside near fields.

A Red kite was seen near Longdown Lane.

The Pheasants are still around in several places.

As it is sometimes difficult to know whether what has been seen is unusual or not it was agreed that at the next meeting Janet Rowley would give everyone a list of birds which members can tick off if they have seen them before the following meeting. This unscientific survey should show which birds are commonly seen and which less often and therefore be worth a mention at future meetings.

If it is helpful the same could be done for other wildlife.

April 2017

About Easter time swallows were seen and some swifts on Good Friday.

Pair of squirrels in the O'Donnell's garden have had 3 young.

Hedgehogs

A large and smaller hedgehog were seen (probably intent on mating).

Richard Jackson's hedgehogs come regularly to feed and some are likely to mate – 5 seen together on one night, 2 pairs circling.

Ducks

The Ogles first pair of ducks have had their brood and left.

There is another pair still nesting.

Two people have had ducks nesting but something has taken the eggs before hatching. It could be a fox or badger, both known to be about.

Heron spotted at the Alpaca pond.

Moorhen chicks on the village pond.

A cuckoo was heard a few days ago.

A simple bird survey sheet, as mentioned last month, was given out at the Society's last meeting to make it easier to remember sightings. A copy may be downloaded from the web site.

May 2017

Heron seen at the Village Pond

Lone Badger seen again several nights

Multiple Hedgehogs around

Blue Tits seen fledging at Marlin Pye Court

The Blue Tits in the cigarette end bin by the Village Hall door have flown

Ducklings at the Old School House

3 families of ducklings have hatched at the Willows and there is another duck sitting.

Brown Hare seen on one of Carter's fields.

Grass

September 2017

Five foxes, one badger and 4 hedgehogs seen on the same night in one garden.

A Heron has been spotted by several people at the pond.

A Green spotted woodpecker, and a juvenile Green spotted woodpecker have been seen.

Female, Male, & Juvenile Greater Spotted woodpeckers seen at same feeder

Unidentified bats have been seen.

The cigarette end box by the front door of the hall once again had a family of Blue Tits.

Damselle flies and dragonflies have been seen at ponds.

These butterflies were seen this summer:

Peacock

Red Admiral

Tortoiseshell

Comma

Painted Lady

Little Blue butterfly

Large and Small Cabbage White

Fritillary

Brimstone

There were Cinnabar Moth caterpillars on Cineraria plants and a moth was seen with its bright red wings.

Elephant hawk moths were seen by 2 people. snake glimpsed at 16 Main st.

In May a survey was undertaken by a few villagers to see what birds were resident around the village. The results are on the next page:

May 2017

BIRDS	Tick if seen	BIRDS	Tick if seen	BIRDS	Tick if Seen
Blackbird	8	Greenfinch	3	Pied wagtail	5
Blue tit	8	Grey heron	4	Red kite	3
Bramling		Herring gull	4	Robin	8
Bullfinch	1	House martin	7	Rook	7
Buzzard	7	House sparrow	7	Skylark	
Canada goose	3	Jackdaw	8	Sparrow hawk	3
Carrion Crow	5	Jay	1	Starling	7
Chaffinch	7	Kestrel	7	Swallow	5
Chiffchaff		Kingfisher		Swift	2
Coal tit	6	Lapwing		Wood pigeon	7
Collared. Dove	7	Long tailed. tit	4	Wren	6
Coot	2	Magpie	7		
Dunnock	7	Mallard	7		
Goldfinch	6	Mistle thrush	3		
Greater spotted woodpecker	4	Moorhen	6		
Great tit	7	Pheasant	4		

Other birds seen:

Goldcrest, Green Woodpecker (2), Barn Owl, Little Owl.

October 2017

Leone saw a skylark today (25th). She also has a squirrel that comes to their garden, with a very white front.

Betty Oates saw a red kite in Dunchurch Road, and a hare crossing Back Lane.

Dorothy has seen a duck for the last three weeks, with dark green colouring and a white bib. It doesn't match any usual breeds, and may be a hybrid.

Joyce has seen jackdaws with a white splash, which has been getting more marked over the last three years. Also foxes and badgers.

Richard thinks hedgehog numbers are declining.

Bert has seen a barn owl.