

# Nature Notes 2017

## January 2017

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

Heron .....several 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.