

# **Willoughby Society – Nature Notes 2019**

## **January 2019**

The Ogles ducks are back with a third. They are the same pair, the duck having pale colours and distinct markings.

Both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been seen near Pye Croft. and also a Bullfinch.

The wood peckers were seen in other gardens too.

Goldfinches.

We were warned about rats feeding at bird feeders and health risks. It is advisable to disinfect feeders regularly.

## **February 2019**

Before 21st 2 people had seen yellow brimstone butterflies.  
A barn owl was seen near Hazeldene, also a pheasant.  
Interesting bracket fungi on a tree stump at Brook Cottage.

At the February meeting we heard that more people had seen Brimstone and also Red Admiral butterflies.  
Honey bees and Bumble bees have been seen, and a queen wasp was removed from the village hall.  
A black ladybird with red spots, thought to be a harlequin ladybird was seen.

As well as the usual starlings, spotted woodpecker and small birds, several mallards have been searching for nesting places in gardens, and pheasants have been about.  
Skylarks are singing over fields in Woollcott Lane and a Grey wagtail was seen by the pond.

Early one morning 2 deer were seen near Woollcott lane, possibly Fallow deer.  
Rabbits are about in the fields and some gardens.  
A Weasel was spotted by the hedgerow alongside the A45.

It has been exceptionally mild with sunny days and a light frost at night.  
Daffodils are flowering and the grass has needed cutting.

## **March 2019**

Some sightings noted apart from the meeting:

Hedgehog at Hazeldene, Great spotted woodpecker A45 end of Main Street Hare, off Woolscott Lane.

Small number of people at Willoughby Society meeting so few sightings to note.

Lots of bees about in recent warm weather.  
Two small brown butterflies -unidentified.

Great spotted woodpecker  
Tree Creeper and Goldfinches at Pye Court.  
Lots of Mallards, especially drakes.  
Moorhens.  
Pheasant.

## **April 2019**

Some sightings were told me prior to the meeting.

Richard had seen a female and male hedgehog, a pheasant and a fox in his garden.  
Linda had a photograph of a dark edged bee fly she had seen in her garden.  
Christine had been watching a male robin feeding another male robin.

Leonie had seen a weasel by the village pond. One had been seen in February this year.  
There are lots of fish in the pond.  
Bob has masonry bees in his wall.  
A red kite has been seen.

May, June, July, August, September 2019

There were no meetings during these months when it would have been possible to make notes but some people in Willoughby told me of animals and birds they had seen.

Mallards but not many ducklings  
Lots of dunnocks  
House martins but fewer nests  
Dragonflies  
Possibly the call of a cuckoo  
Small copper  
Dawn chorus enjoyed  
Lots of rabbits

Grey wagtails  
Heron  
Fox  
Stoat  
Painted lady butterfly  
An owl in a tree at Ashmore  
Weasel

October 2019

One of a pair of sparrow hawks flew into a window and died and was later eaten by a fox.

Green woodpecker throughout the summer

Hedgehogs

A snake (probably a grass snake) was seen with a frog in its mouth. The frog was not eaten.

A deer had been seen but it is not known if it was a roe deer or a fallow deer but it was quite large. Roe deer are about 0.75m at the shoulder and Fallow deer nearly a metre.