

# Willoughby Society – Nature Notes 2023

## February 2023

Fox seen crossing A45 at dusk

Fox seen in garden in Main Street

Goldfinches, tits and other small birds at Greenacres including Long tailed tits also seen in Lower St

There was a Red kite near Pye Court

Flocks of Redstarts in the fields

Murmurations of starlings not seen from Main Street in recent years but plenty of activity seen from nearby main roads

Green and greater spotted woodpeckers at feeder at Greenacres.

Squirrels in most gardens

Snowdrops and aconites abundant and bulbs coming up in the Amenity garden.

Dead badger on the verge east side of A45 just before the old railway bridge on the 21<sup>st</sup>

## March 2023

Green woodpecker back of Santon

3+ hedgehogs visiting Hazledene, also green woodpecker and a large fox.

Many small birds at Greenacres and a moorhen

Ducks searching gardens for nesting sites

Yellow brimstone butterfly on 19th March

Long-tailed tits at feeders

Skylarks near Carter's fields

Bank voles near the canal, Longdown Lane

Evidence of foxes

Rabbit on verge Moor Lane

Red Kite

Sparrow hawk eating a pigeon (Wow!)

## June 2023

Nest with tiny chicks in elder tree...wrens?

Cuckoo heard from Greenacres

Briar roses in full flower

Toad in Church garden

Badger briefly wandered into Hazeldene paddock one night, saw a light and retreated quickly.

## July 2023

One informal meeting to take notes and the rest from being told and my observation

Shrew or maybe a mouse by hedgehog house (Di MacKnight), also a baby hedgehog

Regular hedgehog visits at Hazeldene occasionally two together

Green woodpecker (at Jays & Hazeldene)

Moorhen frequent visitor to Greenacres

Rabbit frequent visitor to Jays

Honeysuckle flowering in Shrubbery

Lots of meadow brown butterflies near playing fields

Many goldfish in Village Pond

Hare

Red kites

Comma butterflies and Cinnabar Moth caterpillars

Heron

Grass snakes eating small fish (The Willows)

Occasional Fox visits mostly adult but sometimes clearly juvenile.

Lots of insects disturbed by fall of a plum tree in recent winds (and too much fruit!!) including many orange ladybirds and two adult and one baby grasshoppers.

## August 2023

Dead hedgehog in Main Street

Fox and possibly cubs in garden beyond College Road.

Brimstone and sipper butterflies

## September 2023

Sparrow hawk perched on back of patio chair six feet from window in Main Street

Malcolm took a photo of a heron

## October 2023

Pat has had regular fox visits to her garden.

The grey Heron took off from the pond on Tuesday.

Leonie saw a Brown Hare and a Barn Owl up Woolscott Lane.

Elizabeth has swans on the canal at the bottom of her garden.

Hedgehogs stopped coming early in the month and

noticeable reduction in small birds around the garden and hedges at Hazeldene ( weather or avian flu?).

## November 2023

Several hedgehogs seen around the New Rectory, Lower Street. Also in Main Street near the Amenity Garden, in the Village Hall garden during the Christmas Fayre, and on the pavement by 'High Winds'. This was before the cold snap at end of the month.

Small murmuration of starlings in fields and gardens near Greenacres during the day. Also gathering near Manor Farm.

Tawny Owls both male and female heard from Hazeldene.

Several noted that there were fewer small birds this year and wondered if it was due to the increase in buzzards or maybe avian 'flu.