

## **Birds and other wildlife recorded in February 2019**

Two Red Kites were seen on the 25th, and a single Buzzard were recorded – no Sparrowhawk this month. There were also Black-headed Gulls flying over. This month we had not only Woodpigeon and their modest cousin the Stock Dove, but also Collared Doves. Green Woodpeckers were around, and there is quite a lot of activity from the Great-spotted Woodpeckers, sometimes drumming against a rival, to try to establish a territory. All the common corvids were recorded: Magpie, Jackdaw, Crow and Jay and there were 12 Rooks on the 11th, but alas only 2 nests so far. A Goldcrest was heard and eventually seen, and there were of course plenty of Blue and Great Tits, and some Long-tailed Tits in low numbers. Skylarks sang – not in the wood but in the nearby farmland, and their song can be heard from a great distance. Nuthatch calls were also recorded, as were the calls and song of the diminutive Wren – a lot of volume from a small bird! It is always a pleasure to hear Song Thrushes and two were giving forth on the 21st. Song is a sure sign that birds are getting ready for breeding – safeguarding a territory and attracting a mate. Dunnocks, whose breeding habits are far too irregular to describe on our website, and Robins, made themselves heard; and finally, three of the finch species were reported: Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Bullfinch. No Greenfinches this month?

In the unexpected warm – hot – weather butterflies were recorded certainly a Brimstone in the woods and probably many more unreported. Please record all your sightings!

The Snowdrops in the old wood seem to have diminished this year – only a couple of flowering spikes. But as I write (early March) there are plenty of Primroses showing, and Ground Ivy flowering, and the Bluebell shoots are doing very well, spreading themselves slowly but surely into the more recently wooded areas.

## **Birds and other wildlife Recorded in January 2019**

This month a Red Kite was the only reported raptor. Wood pigeon of course but no Stock Dove (though we're sure they are there). A Tawny Owl was heard – hopefully a pair will breed again this year. Green Woodpeckers were around as were Great-spotted Woodpeckers; in fact, three were heard drumming on the 26th – and caused each other some consternation. Drumming is the woodpecker's equivalent of song and there was no doubt a territorial dispute going on. The usual corvids were around: Magpie, Jay, Jackdaw (15 on the 20th), Rook and Carrion Crow. Rooks are early nesters so keep an eye out! A Goldcrest was observed, and so were Blue Tit, Great Tit and Long-tailed Tits. Several Nuthatches have been heard and seen, and a Treecreeper (always there but hard to see). Blackbird and Song Thrush, and one winter thrush, a Redwing. And of course, Robin and Dunnock were also found. Finally, to the finch family – Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Bullfinch. No mammals or insects were recorded this month – please keep looking and listening; there's a lot about if you look hard enough!