

HRA Wildlife Survey Update

We have had a fantastic response so far to our call to Highfield Residents for wildlife sightings in the area. People have reported fascinating sightings from the humblest bumble bee up to mammals such as muntjac deer and badgers. I am grateful for all the reports and ask you to keep them coming in!

Special mention goes to Gail Block in Lime Walk for her very comprehensive survey conducted on sunny afternoons in the summer of 2020. She counted no less than 6 species of butterfly, 11 different species of bird, 5 or more types of flying insect and bats appearing as evening descended.

However, the prize for the most impressive list of butterflies goes to James Larminie who spotted 15 different species in his garden last year.

Other reports include newts, foxes, squirrels, the list goes on. There was even a rare sighting of a hedgehog on the far side of Old Road, surprisingly not daring enough to venture into Bickerton Road's badger territory.

In Latimer Road before Christmas we heard a tawny owl coming from the direction of Brookside. A sparrow hawk visited our gardens and left with several pigeons. Last weekend we spotted a charm of goldfinches eating the dead seed heads in our flower bed and we often enjoy watching a greater spotted woodpecker looking for insects on the lichen covered bark of our apple tree. Swans and herons pass overhead as well as the now commonly-sighted red kites. In the past we have been visited by a pheasant and only yesterday, by a parakeet.

Please continue to write in with your sightings, small or large. They are always recorded and help us to build a rich and varied picture of the wildlife sharing our neighbourhood with us.

Olivia Goodrich

20th February, 2021