

Willoughby Society Nature Notes

2025

January 2025

Aconites by the brook

Daffodils in flower at Jays (14th)

Hedgehog returned to shelter

Red kite over Willoughby House (29th)

Kingfisher by the brook in Main Street

Fox(es) seen in Willoughby during daylight. It attacked and killed chickens locally



has

February

Thrush in Sycamore at Jays

Wagtail a regular visitor

Ducks exploring

Roe deer near Pye Court

March

Brimstone butterfly on the 6th March (date noted so we can compare with coming years)

More Brimstones seen 8th March and later.

10th March a Hedgehog at Hazeldene and a few days later two were seen. Regular visits by both since

A toad was rescued near the pond and frogs have been seen there

Birds in March.

2 Greater Spotted woodpeckers

Starling murmuration

Pheasant at Brookside

Skylarks in fields by Woolscott Lane

Greenfinch and goldfinch

Pied Wagtails

Barn owl by College Farm

2 x Pee-Wits (Lapwing) seen on Woolscott Lane on the 29th

6 long tailed tits at a feeder

I am sure we have all seen Blackthorn and noticed the blossom on the trees around the village.

April

3 swallows

Chiffchaff possibly nesting

2 Red Admiral butterflies

Hedgehogs at Hazeldene and Stonewell

An otter? not seen but damage in pond and pond at Stonewell.

Ducklings in gardens in Lower Street and Brooks Close - appear to have made it to the village pond.

Tawny owl heard and possibly a cuckoo

2 pheasants

Fox cub

Baby rabbit

Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Robins nesting

Pearl bordered Fritillary butterfly - these are not common

(There was film of a blackbird singing in Malcolm's garden and Sue Waddington's ducklings on The Willoughby Monthly face book.)

May

2 Roe deer -field back of Greenacres

Hare-same field

Swallows

Swifts

Hornet

Chaffer beetle

Otter -on camera

Green and gold finches on sunflower seeds in feeder

Broad bodied chaser -pond at Jays

3 hedgehogs plus 2 seen together at Hazeldene (one regular in Hedgehog house).

Young Fox seen around Main Street.

July

Hummingbird Hawk Moth (3/07/2025 Brooks Close Garden)



June

Fox seen in daylight Lower Street

Lots of ducklings this year

Lesser spotted woodpecker showing a young one how to peck a hole

Red kite filmed over Woolscott Lane

Scarlet Tiger moth

July

Marbled White butterfly

Hummingbird Hawk moth

Meadow brown butterfly

Lots of wasps nests reported 5? 6?

A toad came into Betty Oates house

Large Dragonfly

Swifts nests

2 rabbits near back of house

August and September

Murmuration of starlings at dusk

Hummingbird Hawk mot

2 Red kites and Buzzard

Pigeon and Sparrow hawk fighting each other

Crow attacking a Sparrow hawk

Young Grass Snake

More butterflies this summer

Hare

Young Moorhen

Many Ladybirds with different markings

Two Hedgehogs visiting most nights at Hazeldene, also 25th Sept young fox and a frog.



Captured this one today (27th September) on a frame in my allotment. I (LT) thought it may be injured but then it took its head out from under its wing and flew off. 😊😊
Juvenile Sparrowhawk.

October and November

Otter footprints in brook by bridge

Speckled wood butterfly

2 hedgehogs, 1 dead

Meadow pipits

Barn owls and tawny owls heard frequently by a number of people

Kingfisher by brook in Main Street

Wagtail at pond

Heron on pond almost daily

Sparrow Hawks (they have attacked pigeons)

Geese overhead dawn and dusk

6 ducklings on pond, now 3 at beginning of November

Great spotted woodpecker on apple tree and elsewhere

Extra notes at end of November

Hedgehog out in the frost of the night 25th November. We hope it survives.

The ducklings have not survived.

A cock pheasant visited a garden in Pye Court

Pipistrelle bat near door at same house.

The pond is filling up again and the heron still visits.