

Bealeswood Common, Wildlife Records

March 2021

Flowers

The spring flowers have become more prominent in the last two weeks in March. Many can be seen on the sides of the path and in ditches down the hill below this noticeboard. Keep your eyes open for the first Wood Anemone. Last year these were flowering in the second week of March. This year they still have to flower on the Common.

Ground Ivy	Periwinkle*
Daffodil*	Snowdrop (now finished)
Lungwort	Barren Strawberry
Dog's Mercury	Hellebore*
Dandelion	Hairy Bittercress
Primrose	Red Deadnettle
Dog Violet	(* = garden escape)

Birds

As we write our characteristic spring bird, the Chiffchaff, just been heard on the Common. This is a week later than last year. All six of our corvids (crow family) were sighted on a mid-March walk from the Common to nearby Frensham including, unusually for us, 12 Rooks in a field adjacent to the Lower Common. Ravens are becoming more frequently seen flying over the Common calling with their distinctive "korrp korrp korrp". The remaining corvids are commonly seen; Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Magpie and Jay. Redwings have been conspicuous throughout the month fattening up on Ivy berries before their imminent departure to Scandinavia and Russia. Our resident choristers, the Blackbirds, Mistle and Song Thrushes, should be joined in the coming week by the Blackcap. Siskins are now present in small numbers and some may stay for the summer.

Butterflies

The butterfly survey transects have not yet started for 2021 but the following have been seen in warm days in mid-late March: Peacocks, Brimstones and Commas.

Our White Butterflies

During April we could see up to five white (ish) butterfly species on the Common. Here's how to distinguish them (Photos by Alex Potts):



Orange-tip

Both sexes have mossy green mottling on the underside of the hind-wing but only the male has orange tips to the wings. Here on garlic mustard



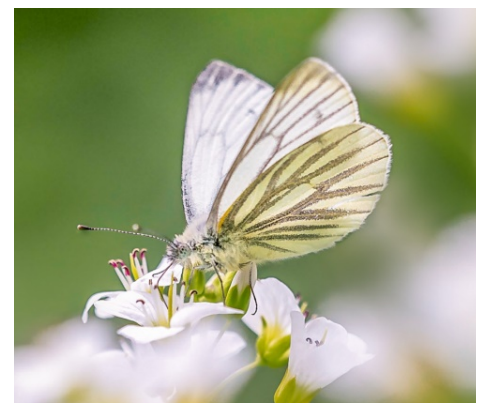
Small white

Black markings are less pronounced than on the large white. Both have pale yellow undersides of the hind-wing



Large white

Black markings are bolder than on other whites and the female has 2 black spots on the wings. Undersides of the hind-wing are pale yellow



Green-veined white

The underside of the hind wing is streaked with green along the veins and black triangles occur on the fore-wing tips



Female Brimstone

Although the male is yellow, the female is pale greenish-white, distinguishable from other white butterflies by the leaf shape of the wings and absence of black markings