## **Bealeswood Common Wildlife**

March 2023 Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG) Copies of this and previous notices can be found at: www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife

## Fungi (Amanda Adolph)

The following perennial fungi have been visible through the winter in the Lower Common (around Bealeswood Lane): Blushing Bracket (*Daedaleopsis confragosa*), Hoof Fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*), Rusty or Cinnamon Porecrust (*Phellinus ferruginosus*), Bleeding Broadleaf Crust (*Stereum rugosum*). In addition, two new perennial bracket species were recorded for the Common: the blue and cream Turkeytail (*Trametes versicolor*) and the brown-zoned Ochre Bracket (*Trametes ochracea*):



Turkeytail bracket fungus (Photo Amanda Adolph)



Brown Ochre bracket fungus (Photo Amanda Adolph)

# Flowers (Dan Bosence)

As we write there are some 13 flowers out on the Common. Many of these can be seen along the footpaths and lane verges: Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Common Dog Violet (*Viola canina*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Celandine, Lesser (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Daffodil, various cultivars\* (*Narcissus sp*), Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), Hellebore, purple cultivar\* (*Helleborus sp*.), Lungwort (*Pulmonaria officianalis*), Periwinkle\* (*Vinca mino*r), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Primrose, pink cultivar\* (*Primula vulgaris*), Snowdrop various cultivars\*, (*Galanthus sp*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*).

The four marked with an\* are considered to have escaped from neighbouring gardens, either naturally or with some human assistance. Please refrain from disposing of garden waste as it alters and competes with the natural flora of the Common.

> Wood Anemone an indicator of ancient woodland (Photo by Alex Potts



### **Birds (Steve Luckett)**

March is the time when we first hear and then see our summer warblers having travelled from southern regions. This year the first Chiffchaff was heard on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March and the Blackcap on the 27<sup>th</sup> March. This is consistent with records over the past 5 years when the Chiffchaff has been first heard between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> March and the Blackcap a few days to a week later, between the 24<sup>th</sup> March and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

### **Bealeswood Birds and Beyond**

5 years living and working near Bealeswood Common by Steve Luckett

I was lucky enough to find a job working at Bealeswood House with Linda in 2018 almost by accident – another story but you could say Bealeswood Common chose me rather than the other way round.

Just about the first major event was "The Beast From The East" (remember that?) and being snowed off work meant an opportunity to explore, and it was exciting to find so many bird species within short walking distance of home. I wrote a letter to DNL about it and a few weeks later bumped into Dan on his flower count who introduced himself and asked me to write a few lines on birds for this noticeboard each month. Now we are quite a team of observers and recorders and adding to the butterfly folk we have fungus and tree experts and some very talented photographers. I have been amazed at the amount of rare wildlife on our doorstep – sand lizards, nightjars, natterjack toad, purple emperors, plus an abundance of not so rare but sadly declining species in our wider countryside – and have enjoyed sharing these on organised walks in the area.

In early 2019 I attended a talk at Marindin Hall *The Birds of Frensham Common.* The speaker was Alan Cox who I met outside our cottage that summer, not realising we had been Common neighbours for over a year. I have learnt a lot about birds in the area from Alan and was pleased to be able to direct him and his grandson to a wasp spider web outside our place for them to enjoy taking photographs of.

We all know what happened in 2020 and I felt very fortunate to be living and working somewhere where life could continue almost as normal whilst we saw desperate situations develop all over the world. One special memory was a pair of spotted flycatchers who I could watch through my lounge window, a real lockdown treat. Like many I built a small pond in my garden which is now home to newts, dragonflies and a favourite bathing spot for many birds.

As life returned to normal for most, working in Bealeswood House garden continued to turn up the odd surprise, a firecrest in the laurel and two yellowhammers clearing up spilt feeder seed. One day I found a tired and bedraggled butterfly, my first purple hairstreak. Feeling pleased with myself I shared a dodgy phone photo with the group , only to be outdone totally by Alex Potts who not only had found a little colony by this bench but taken some stunning photographs of actual egg laying.





Wasp Spider (phot0 Steve Luckett)

Yellowhammers in Bealeswood (photo Christina Rasmussen)

Last year as a group we took a walk to the new village field pond to check for amphibian action – no joy but we were rewarded by a beautiful barn owl hunting over the rough grassland. Magical

For me it's always been about the birds, and this year I'm a little sad to miss the return of the swallows to the stables (20+ fledged from 6 nests in 2019) and won't be adding to the DNL cuckoo clock count (earliest on April 12<sup>th</sup>- 2020, latest 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018). But it's been a wonderful 5 years watching and listening to them from "our" robin to the mighty kites and all in between. My list of birds seen or heard on the Common, Bealeswood House and Gardener's Cottage stands at 63 and are listed below.

Not a bad accidental list!

#### **Best Natural Wishes**

#### Steve L

| BindballMaindail BuckGarden Birds seen in Gardeners Cottage GardenYellowhammerBlackbirdLittle EgretBlackbirdGrey HeronBlue TitGreen WoodpeckerGreat TitTawny OwlCoal TitSwallowLong Tailed TitPheasantMarsh TitHouse SparrowBirds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreater Spotted WoodpeckerSong ThrushMagpieSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldrrestSwiftGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelJayJayRookBullfinchBiackbaeded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared DoveMalardCuckoo | BIRDS OF BEALESWOOD COMMON                    | Mandarin Duck                     |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| BlackbirdLittle EgretBlackcapGrey HeronBlue TitGreen WoodpeckerGreat TitTawny OwlCoal TitSwallowLong Tailed TitHouse SparrowMarsh TitHouse SparrowBirds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfrinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseSwiftGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookBullfinchBlackheaded GullBullfinchBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove            |   |                                   |
| BlackcapGrey HeronBlue TitGreen WoodpeckerGreat TitTawny OwlCoal TitSwallowLong Tailed TitPheasantMarsh TitHouse SparrowBirds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHouse MartinKestrelRavenJackdawRavenJackdawRavenJackdawRiokBullfinchSkylarkKestrelSkylarkBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | -   |                                   |
| Blue TitGreen WoodpeckerGreat TitTawny OwlCoal TitSwallowLong Tailed TitPheasantMarsh TitHouse SparrowBirds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelAnayJaxyRookBullfinchSkolkBullfinchRookBullfinchKookBullfinchSkylarkKettelCollared GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  |   | -                                 |
| Great TitTawny OwlCoal TitSwallowLong Tailed TitPheasantMarsh TitHouse SparrowBirds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenFirecrestRead from the Common but not seenJayRookBirds Seen GullinchRookBullfinchSookAddawRing necket parakeetJayKookKestrelSkylarkBirds Keen GullSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   |   | •                                 |
| Coal TitSwallowLong Tailed TitPheasantMarsh TitHouse SparrowBirds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinFirecrestRavenKestrelAavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookBirds Cen Whilst workingBirds GooseKestrelSookJakdawBirds GooseJackdawRookBirds Cen WhilsterdKitle Collared GullBulfinchSkylarkKestrelCollared Dove   |   | -                                 |
| Long Tailed TitPheasantMarsh TitHouse SparrowBirds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWoodpigeonBirds Seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelAavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookBirds Keed GullBilds Keed GullBulfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  |   | -                                 |
| Marsh TitHouse SparrowBirds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MarttinGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookBirds Seen GullBilackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   |   |                                   |
| Birds Seen on the CommonRed Legged PartridgeRobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseSwiftGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBulfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  | -   |                                   |
| RobinBuzzardStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBuilfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  |   |                                   |
| StarlingSuzzaruStarlingTreecreeperGreater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   |   | Red Legged Partridge              |
| Greater Spotted WoodpeckerFieldfareNuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   |   | Buzzard                           |
| NuthatchRedwingGreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  | -   | Treecreeper                       |
| GreenfinchChiffchaffChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinFirecrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   |   | Fieldfare                         |
| ChaffinchGrey WagtailWrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   |   | Redwing                           |
| WrenPied WagtailWoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinSingtGoldcrestFirecrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  |   | Chiffchaff                        |
| WoodpigeonBirds seen flying over the CommonStock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinSwiftCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayBirds MarkinCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  | Chaffinch                                     | Grey Wagtail                      |
| Stock DoveSong ThrushMagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinSwiftCormorantGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  | Wren  | Pied Wagtail                      |
| MagpieMistle ThrushSparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinSwiftCormorantGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  | Woodpigeon                                    | Birds seen flying over the Common |
| SparrowhawkCanada GooseDunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestKestrelJackdawRavenJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | Stock Dove                                    | Song Thrush                       |
| DunnockGreylag GooseSpotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestCormorantKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | Magpie  | Mistle Thrush                     |
| Spotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestCormorantKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | Sparrowhawk                                   | Canada Goose                      |
| Spotted FlycatcherEgyptian GooseGoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinGoldcrestSwiftGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  | Dunnock                                       | Grevlag Goose                     |
| GoldfinchWoodcockBirds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseWoodcockGoldcrestHouse MartinGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | Spotted Flycatcher                            |                                   |
| Birds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood HouseHouse MartinSwiftSwiftGoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | Goldfinch                                     |                                   |
| GoldcrestSwiftFirecrestCormorantKestrelHeard from the Common but not seenJackdawRavenJayRing necket parakeetCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | Birds Seen Whilst working in Bealeswood House |                                   |
| GoldcrestCormorantFirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  |   |                                   |
| FirecrestHeard from the Common but not seenKestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove  | Goldcrest                                     |                                   |
| KestrelRavenJackdawRing necket parakeetJayRookCarrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | Firecrest                                     |                                   |
| Jackdaw Ring necket parakeet<br>Jay Rook<br>Carrion Crow Blackheaded Gull<br>Bullfinch Skylark<br>Red Kite Collared Dove  | Kestrel                                       |                                   |
| Jay Rook<br>Carrion Crow Blackheaded Gull<br>Bullfinch Skylark<br>Red Kite Collared Dove  | Jackdaw                                       |                                   |
| Carrion CrowBlackheaded GullBullfinchSkylarkRed KiteCollared Dove   | Jay   |                                   |
| Bullfinch Skylark   Red Kite Collared Dove  | Carrion Crow                                  |                                   |
| Red Kite Collared Dove  | Bullfinch                                     |                                   |
| Mallard   | Red Kite                                      | -                                 |
| CUCKOO  |   |                                   |
|   |   | CUCKOO                            |