

Blackbird
Robin
Bluetit
Chaffinch
Wren

Great-tit
Long-tailed Tit
Greenfinch

whitethroat.

plus Magpie, Rook, Jackdaw, Crow, Woodpigeon and Collared Dove

Goldfinches have again been present throughout the year, and often in flocks of 20 or more.

Bullfinches were seen regularly during February and April, and their calls were heard occasionally throughout the summer.

Also heard more than seen are goldcrests, and if their song is anything to go by, then there must be a reasonable population around the Green.

A thrush was heard fairly frequently, and a Mistle Thrush was calling noisily from very early in the year, and bred in Gore's copse.

Of the warblers, the chiff chaff is still by far the most common, and usually heard fairly constantly from early spring through the summer. They raised at least one brood this year, as did whitethroat. Blackcap were singing regularly. Willow warblers were scarce as usual, and the ones that were heard occasionally were only passing through and didn't stay.

The green woodpecker was frequently heard, but even more common last year was the great spotted woodpecker. A pair were heard calling throughout the year. A stock dove was calling on a number of occasions throughout the summer..

Again last year, I didn't hear the cuckoo in the immediate locality. I know it was heard in other areas, but it does seem to be becoming increasingly scarce in this county.

Wendy, Gareth and Gill have helped add to these records, and have noted grey wagtail on a few occasions, and a yellow wagtail on one occasion in field 1 in late April. Buzzards were seen on a number of occasions, both flying overhead and roosting in the trees near the seat. On May 21st a hobby was seen overhead, and in October a raven flew over.

It is difficult to keep track of the mallard and moorhen population, but we think that there were at least two broods of each of these species.. At one time 13 ducklings were counted, possibly from two families, but the usual fatalities occurred, and it is uncertain how many were eventually reared. One of the moorhens was found dead by the moat in the spring, with no obvious cause of death, but at least one moorhen chick grew up. Indeed Gill saw a juvenile moorhen helping to feed the parent birds' next brood.

Gareth reported that kingfishers had been seen on two or three occasions along the brook, and using the handrail around the moat as a perch.

In the nestboxes, Gareth recorded 2 out of the 3 new tit boxes on the island were used successfully by blue tits. Around the rest of the site, 6 other boxes were occupied by bluetits and 1 great tit.

Winter visitors, fieldfare and redwing, have been present in much greater numbers this year. Gareth described a spectacular roost of over 600 noisy fieldfares early in the year, covering the trees on the northern boundary to the west of the millennium seat. There were large numbers also present during this winter. In October I saw a flock of around 100 redwing in the trees at the top left of the second field.

Judith Chamberlayne