



Skylarks

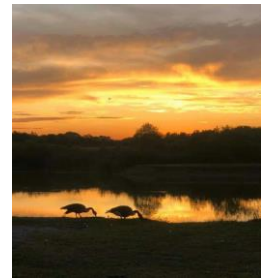


A Message from the Committee

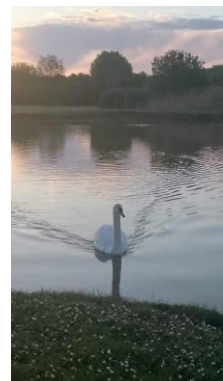
Since the last issue of the Skylarks newsletter in March our world sadly has changed dramatically and we have been living in strange times. We sincerely hope you are keeping well and very best wishes to you all.

Unfortunately the planned events of the Birdsong Walk, both of the Skylarks 3K Races, Moth Night & Stargazing, Nature Event and also Kites & Cars have had to be cancelled due to the current situation. If at all possible we will organize a themed walk round the park sometime in the autumn and will let you all know by email near the date planned.

The positive aspect is the wildlife in the park that is constantly flourishing as you will see by the Wildlife Report included in this issue. Life on the lake has been increasing with the families of Canada Geese, Mallards and Terns providing entertainment for the visitors. It has been wonderful to watch the chicks grow to nearly adulthood now. There has also been a lone swan, ever hopeful of a partner arriving!



Come along to the park and enjoy the summer, normality is slowly returning and a walking event can hopefully still be achieved. Until then take care and stay safe.



'Wick Country Park – Wildlife Sightings – Jan to June 2020'

It has been very encouraging to have seen so much wildlife in the Wick Country Park, especially when we have had the Covid-19 restrictions to deal with and a huge increase in people visiting the park. It seems the wildlife has ignored all of our troubles and increased disturbance and simply carried on as normal. Martin Singleton has kindly put together an extensive wildlife sightings report using his expertise in identification and recording.

Summary of Birds recorded in WCP - 2020				
Number of Species	47	Visits	5	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Day Count	No of Sightings	% of Visits
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	3	2	40%
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	50	5	100%
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	15	5	100%
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	8	5	100%
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	1	1	20%
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	9	5	100%
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	1	1	20%
Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	2	2	40%
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	5	4	80%
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	4	1	20%
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	2	4	80%
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	22	4	80%
Common Swift	Apus apus	4	2	40%
Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	5	2	40%
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	40	5	100%
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	5	4	80%
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	7	3	60%
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	16	5	100%
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	8	1	20%
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	3	4	80%
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	1	1	20%
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	12	5	100%
Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	6	2	40%
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis	1	1	20%
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	1	1	20%
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	10	5	100%
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	10	5	100%
European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	3	2	40%
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	7	4	80%
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	2	1	20%
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	19	5	100%
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	1	1	20%
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	1	1	20%
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	1	1	20%
Great Tit	Parus major	7	4	80%
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	3	1	20%

Greylag Goose	Anser anser	2	2	40%
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	3	3	60%
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	2	2	40%
Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	2	2	40%
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	4	3	60%
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	3	5	100%
Mew (Common) Gull	Larus canus	1	1	20%
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	1	1	20%
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	1	1	20%
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	2	3	60%
Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula	3	1	20%

Summary of Butterflies recorded in WCP - 2020				
Number of Species	14	Visits	5	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Day Count	No of Sightings	% Sightings
Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni	1	1	20%
Comma Butterfly	Polygonia c-album	1	1	20%
Essex Skipper	Thymelicus lineola	1	1	20%
Green-veined White	Artogeia napi	3	2	40%
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus	2	1	20%
Large Skipper	Ochlodes venatus	1	1	20%
Marbled White	Melanargia galathea	1	1	20%
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	26	1	20%
Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines	2	1	20%
Peacock Butterfly	Inachis io	2	1	20%
Small Skipper	Thymelicus sylvestris	1	1	20%
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	1	1	20%
Small White	Artogeia rapae	2	1	20%
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	6	2	40%

Summary of Dragonflies/Damselflies recorded in WCP – 2020				
Number of Species	1	Visits	5	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Day Count	No of Sightings	% Sightings
Black-tailed Skimmer	Orthetrum cancellatum	4	1	20%

Summary of Mammals recorded in WCP - 2020				
Number of Species	1	Visits	5	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Day Count	No of Sightings	% Sightings
Eastern Grey Squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis	2	1	20%

For some wildlife, particularly mammals, we have very little chance of recording many species on day-time monthly walks. We know that there are several bat species and probably Hedgehogs, Badgers, and Foxes in the park but will hardly ever see these during the day.

As you will all realise, it is impossible to count 100% of any of the wildlife in the park but over time, by carrying out a regular count, we will establish what wildlife exists and get a rough estimate of their numbers. However, for some species, a more targeted approach may be needed i.e. specific walks to try and record specific species. See later for more on this on the Friends of the Wick Country Park website and Facebook page.



On the recent wildlife reporting walk an amazing display of butterflies were seen, also the wild flowers are in abundance and to be enjoyed on a nice summer's day.



Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:

Christine Lee - Acting Chairperson, Hazel Broomfield - Treasurer, Marie Singleton - Secretary, Hannah Cooper - Membership Secretary, Alaric Cundy - Webmaster
Peter Bates – Skylarks 3K Race Events

Basildon Borough Council Countryside Services:

Mark Williams - Countryside Ranger. To resolve an issue go to www.basildon.gov.uk/street or customer service on 01268 533333 (option 5). Any site enquiries to 01268 206665

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Telephone 0300 333 4444 or 07875 003503

