



‘What’s About’

No 54
Spring and Summer 2020

Lockdown gave people the chance to take a longer look at the wildlife in our area and the number of sightings that I received reflected the interest that people have taken in their surroundings. Those members of the WWG who opted to receive the frequent email updates of ‘What’s Up Now’, will have seen much of what appears in the compilation of sightings below.

During the last few weeks, with the freshness and urgency of spring merging into the heat of summer, wildlife has become more secretive and the number of daily sightings has reduced. No doubt as migrant birds start to return to the river - they are beginning to now - reports will start to increase again. If anyone on the ‘What’s About’ list who does not receive ‘What Up Now’ but would like to in future, let me know.

MARCH

31/3 Common Crane seen in the Mill River valley towards Kirton Creek JO

APRIL

1/4 Much quieter on the river, there’s been a considerable departure of waterbirds in the last week or so. PM

5/4 Hedgehog in Gareth Thomas’ garden discovered by his miniature Schnautzer, Doris.

6/4 Swallow over Fishpond Rd early morning (PM) and on both 11/4 and 12/4

7/4 House Martin seen by the school (TL) and the corner of Fishpond Rd/ Sandy Lane. SC

8/4 4 Buzzards and 1 Red Kite circling on a thermal over the village. PM

9/4 House Martin at Hemley. JO

One of the pair of House Martins arrived back at Killick. BK

Yellow hammers singing in the pine trees at Hemley. RBu

Brimstone and Peacock butterflies by the Sailing Club. AS

10/4 Yellowhammer at the northern end of Sandy Lane. JM

Oystercatcher pair checking out the usual unsuitable nest site near the quay. JM
1st Nightingale heard in woodland to north of reserve. NC, JM
House Martin Sandy Lane / Fishpond Rd corner. SC
Swallow Sandy Lane / Fishpond Rd corner. PM

11/4 A pair of crows has re-established its occupancy of last year's nest in the top of an oak tree in the valley and they continue to harass any buzzards that venture within their territory. BK

12/4 Nightingale on woodland edge to north of reserve, and another in the reserve hedge near where the fence posts have been stacked. In the quiet of the morning both heard from Sandy Lane. PM

Cuckoo calling from towards Newbourne Springs, and the river side of Rudd's Barn and the golf course. Probably 2 birds. AM

Male Brimstone, Red Admiral, Peacock, Small White in garden. 1st Shieldbug of the year, CB

13/4 Photos from a trail camera of Badger and Muntjac hoovering peanuts from under a bird feeder AS



14/4 Cuckoo calling briefly from towards the river. RBa

Nightingale heard just outside Newbourne reserve. AS

Barn Owl and Kestrel seen over the reserve. RE

15/4 2 Little Grebes, several Linnets, 2 Barn Owls, Nightingale, Reed Warblers and a Fox on the reserve. CB

16/4 House Martin Fishpond Rd. River very quiet: pair of Oystercatchers, a few Shelduck, Redshank and Black-headed Gulls. CB

18/4 Pair of Stoats stalking Rabbits in the paddock at Red House, Newbourne. AS

20/4 9 Fallow deer in the field to the north of the Old Rectory. JE
Common Whitethroat seen and heard on hedge on Mill Rd near White Hall corner.

1 Whimbrel calling on the saltmarsh by the reserve. PM

St Mark's Flies have appeared in sheltered parts. PM

21/4 Whimbrel calling on the river. PM

2 large deer, probably Red Deer, seen from the Hemley path to Kirton Creek. ASu

22/4 1 Swift over Church field and on towards the river 07.15hrs. AM

Nightingale at Moon and Sixpence on the Brett's Pit boundary. CFM

A welcome visitor to Jan Kelly's garden.



23/4 Possible Spoonbill flying over the reserve and on towards Sutton Hoo. CB

Numerous Orange-tips everywhere – a butterfly day. JW

House Martin Sullivan Place. AM

24/4 Osprey over Stonner Point. Suffolk Birding with BINS website

3 Grey Wagtails on track from cross-rds to school. CFM

Cuckoo calling Golf Course. AS/JS

26/4 Numerous bats at dusk flying around the beech hedge in garden. SR

3 Great Crested Grebes on the river out from the reserve. CB

Queen Hornet in the garden. PM

27/4 Bluebells flowering well on Mill Rd verge above Plum Tree Cottage. AS
Greenshank and Whimbrel calling from the river. PM
Many Reed Warblers calling along the length of the reserve reedbed. Male reed
buntings on the gorse tops along the river wall. Whitethroat calling from the reserve
/ Swans Nest boundary. CB
Barn Owl hunting on the reserve. LW

28/4 Swallows and Linnets along the river wall. Whitethroat calling at the north
end of reserve. CB

29/4 Cuckoo calling the length of the reserve and on towards Cross Farm. PM
Green Hairstreak butterfly on the river wall. Goldfinch and Linnet flock on Church
field. CB

MAY

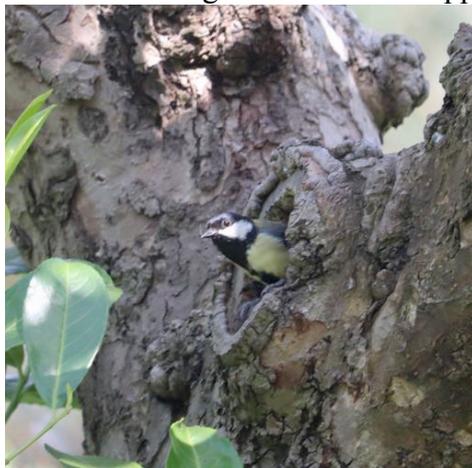
1/5 Red Deer hind and calf on set-aside field above Newbourne Springs, early
morning. AM

4/5 4 singing Nightingales from Manor thicket through to woodpile on reserve. PM

5/5 5+ Swifts screaming around Greenways. JO

7/5 Common Lizard on path by the boatyard. GO
Cuckoo calling Waldringfield Heath. AS/JS
Male and female Brimstone in Linda's garden. LW
3 Swifts over Fishpond Rd. SC
Tadpoles, which are still in the pond, are getting bigger. CFK

8/5 Great Tits are nesting in a hole in our apple tree AS



9/5 Red Kite circling over Fishpond Rd - Rooks annoyed! RBa

10/5 About 8 Swifts circling around the houses at the lower end of Cliff Rd. LW
Large Fox in Sally's garden, the second time in the last few days. SR
Several Whitethroats singing from the hedgerows along Mill Rd. CB
Sparrowhawk making passes right outside our conservatory, near where the bird
feeders are. BR
4 House Martins around Hemley church. RBu

- 10/5 Weasel on lawn of Debenair. TM
- 13/5 Fox caught on night vision camera in Deben Lane JW
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oMGYHCgcoE>
- 15/5 Little Owl sitting in old oak tree White Hall area. CB
- 22/5 Bumblebee nest dug out on Mill Rd at base of oak, some bees still flying. AM
- 23/5 Red Kite over Martlesham Creek. TB
- 8-12 Swifts around the quay. More birds have arrived on recent southerly winds
 LW
 English Bluebells on green lane and Mill Rd have flowered very well this year. AM
- 25/5 Great Spotted Woodpecker nest in hole on underside of dead bough on oak in
 Fishpond Rd. Parents feeding noisy young. AM
 Male Bullfinch on path from Manor to the river. PM
- 26/5 2 Swifts over golf course. AM
- 30/5 Tawny Owl seen in Sally's garden in late evening. SR

JUNE

- 1/6 Report from 2 locations in Waldringfield and Newbourne that House Martins
 had returned over the weekend and had started to build nests. Many sites where
 House Martins had nested in previous years remain unoccupied. PM
- 2/6 9 Shelduck duckling, together with 3 adult females on the mud near
 Metersgate. PM
- 3/6 24 Mute Swans at the top of Martlesham Creek. RS
 Cinnabar Moth whose orange and black caterpillars feed on Ragwort. RBa



- 4/6 Red Kite over Cliff Rd then on towards Newbourne. BK
- 6/6 Large number of House Martins and Swallows feeding over the reserve, the
 nearby saltmarsh and over rooftops around The Quay. CB, LW, RE, JO
 Little Grebe and chick on the scrape. CB

6/6 Marsh Harrier being harassed by Oystercatchers below Manor Cottage. JO

7/6 2 Little Owls on Woodbridge Rd near Walk Wood T-junc. PM

11/6 Cuckoo still calling in Newbourne Springs. BR
Female Stag Beetle in Max and Margaret Pemberton's garden.

14/6 Little Owl perched on electricity wires on Mill Rd. JE
Barn Owl hunting during the evening in the field next to Janet's house. JE

14/6 Several Small Tortoiseshells in the garden today AS



16/6 Cuckoo calling from west of village and by the river. SG
Two Cuckoos calling from towards Manor Cottage. KC

17/6 Female stag beetle Sandy Lane. JW

18/6 Hare on Stan Baston's lawn.



19/6 Barn Owl hunting over the reserve at 06.30 and watched for 30 mins. RE

Oystercatchers once again making the mistake of nesting on roof of Debenair. TM



Cormorant taking a break below Debenair. TM



20/6 2 families of Shelduck, each with 5 ducklings. RE
And 3 more families with 8,8 and 10 ducklings around Kirton Creek. BK

23/6 Flight of 4 Magpies in Alexis' garden. AS



23/6 4 Glow worms found at Newbourne Springs 10.00pm. JW/DW
Lots of Badger poo on verges, easily identified by cherry stones. AM

25/6 Sparrowhawk bathing in pond SJ



Tawny Owl calling at 1.00pm and again at 2.30pm Waldringfield Heath. AS
Cuckoo calling early morning Newbourne Springs and probably another at
Novocastria later in the morning. AM

Male Stag Beetle on Woodbridge Road and a female on Fishpond Rd, both road
casualties. AM

26/6 3 Buzzards circling over BT test range. LH

Green Woodpecker hoovering up ants on lawn on several recent evenings. SR
Cuckoo calling in the cricket field valley. This is the last report of a cuckoo calling
this year. After a slow start Cuckoos have been heard regularly around the village.
Along the river, the reserve reed bed, the golf course and Newbourne Springs were
favoured haunts. Judging by the amount of calling this ought to have been a good
year for the species. PM

28/6 Juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding on peanuts. Video GR
[VID-20200628-WA0001.mp4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VID-20200628-WA0001)

29/6 Male Stag Beetle dead on road by Church Field, and a dead female on School
Rd by playing field. AM

30/6 Fledgling Swallows have started to appear on electricity cables on Mill Rd. JE
Hind and fawn in field beside Janet's house. JE
The river has become very quiet - 1 or 2 Redshank, Curlew, Oystercatchers and
several Shelduck.
There have been a number of sightings of Barn Owls flying in the daytime on the
reserve, the golf course, the fields adjacent to Mill Rd and over towards the set aside
at Newbourne.

JULY

1/7 A hare loped through Sally's garden 6.00 am. SR

1/7 Little Owl on the track to the Manor, alighting briefly in the large oak near the road. PM

2/7 Male Stag Beetle in Jane's garden JS



6/7 Spotted Flycatcher adult and 2 juveniles at the wood at the Newbourne end of Mill Rd AM

8/7 2 swifts hunting over Sunnyhill, 'they're such a rare sight up here this year'. SR

13/7 60 Godwits just below Ramsholt. RE
At Ramsholt Lodge Marsh a number of people have seen Spoonbills, where up to 16 have been present.

14/7 Weasel running in and out of the flowerbeds and across lawn. BK
My first pair of Spotted flycatchers flicking in and out of the climbing hydrangea on the north wall overlooking the road. AS
Mixed flock of 50 Starlings and Goldfinches feeding on grasses of the as-yet-uncut grass (lawn?) at the back of Betsy's house. BR

15/7 Swifts still circling above Driftwood and lower end of the village, morning and evening. LW

4 Red Deer near Hemley Hall - 1 young stag, 2 hinds and a young deer. AM

15/7 Great green bush-cricket on Alexis' beans. At up to 7cms long it is the UK's largest bush-cricket, AS



17/7 20 screaming Swifts in vicinity of Greenways. Probably attracted by Swift call being played but taking great interest in Swift boxes and eaves of house. JO

18/8 Large number of gulls circling over the river, probably feeding on flying ants. JO
Dead Grass Snake on Newbourne Rd near Moon and Sixpence. AM

19/7 2 Garden Warblers feeding around Mahonia in our garden. CB/TB
6 bats flying in Waldringfield Heath near to Gorselands. CFK

20/7 3 large Red Stags crossing the old Felixstowe road south of Bucklesham School from west to east. JO
Grayling butterfly, a heathland species, in garden. CFM

22/7 Female Stag Beetle in Sally's garden. SR

24/7 Hummingbird Hawk-moth on buddleia in Christine's garden. CFK

25/7 2 Stoats seen on Cliff Rd. JW/DW

29/7 Dead young Stoat found in Alexis' garden. AS

31/7 Muntjac calling in Waldringfield Heath at 11.00pm. 2 seen earlier in the day whilst walking in direction of Tesco's. LH

1/8 Shoal of small fish making the water boil on the river this afternoon. AS



Many thanks to the following for their reports.

CB	Chris Baldry	TB	Teresa Baldry	RBa	Rolls Barclay
RBu	Ros Burfield	NC	Neil Cawthorn	KC	Kit Clark
SC	Stephen Clover	JE	Janet Elliot	RE	Rosalind Erskine
CFK	Christine Fisher Kay	SG	Serena Gold	LH	Les Humphrey
SJ	Saskia Johnson	BK	Bunny King	TL	Tony Lyon
JM	Janette Mace	TM	Toby Mace	AM	Anne Maddison
PM	Peter Maddison	JO	John Ogden	SR	Sally Redfern
BR	Betsy Reid	GO	Geoff Robinson	AS	Alexis Smith
JS	Jane Spall	ASu	Anthea Sullivan	LW	Linda Wilkins
JW	Jill Winter		Stan Baston, Jan Kelly, Max and Margaret Pemberton		

Please send future sightings to Peter Maddison prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk