

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025

- **Barn Owl.** Recorded from Whinfield (10 Feb), Brent Hill (15 Feb) and Brent Mill (19 Feb).
- **Blackcap.** First song on 25 March near Lydia Bridge.
- **Buzzard.** Five up together on 10 March near Brent Hill.
- **Canada Geese.** First records of the year of two flying over village on 1 Feb. Subsequent reports from several sites including Avon Dam (one on 24 March)
- **Chiffchaff.** First song on 9 March.
- **Cormorant.** One at Avon Dam on 18 Feb.
- **Dipper.** Several records from above Shipley Bridge and Avonwick, and from the Glaze Brook.
- **Egret species.** One in a field at Harbournford on 29 March was possibly a Great White.
- **Fieldfare.** One on farmland near Bloody Pool on 22 March.
- **Firecrest.** Up to two in a village garden, often on a small conifer in a pot, first seen on 8 Feb, and a male in a Pennaton garden, on camellia, around 17 Feb. Singing and displaying above Lydia Bridge on 5 March, and several dates subsequently.
- **Golden Plover.** Up to 400 in the Three Barrows/Wacka Tor area on 12 Feb.
- **Goosander.** Max count of 21 roosting at Avon Dam on 1 Feb, but only 15 on the synchronized Devon roost count on 16th (out of 49 on Dartmoor, and a Devon total of 120). Max count of 10 in March. Pair on river Brent Moor House on 6 March.
- **Greenfinch.** Considered to be more than usual. Conspicuous on Brent Hill gorse
- **Hen Harrier.** Male at dawn on 6 March above dam on W side of Gripper's but just outside 17.
- **House Martin.** First was in the village on 31 March.
- **Kingfisher.** Several sightings from Horsebrook at Stidston.
- **Linnet.** Two among Chaffinches feeding around ring-feeders in Highland cattle field at Beara Common on 25 February, the first for February since at least 2014. First on Brent Hill gorse (where they breed) on 22 March.
- **Mallard.** None seen at Avon Dam or Somerswood in Feb, but a few occurred in March.
- **Meadow Pipit.** Small flock on Brent Hill throughout. First singing on moor on 28 Feb.
- **Raven.** Confirmed breeding Inglenook (Adult entering nest). Confiding pair on Brent Hill.
- **Redshank.** One on Avon Dam spillway on 24 March was only the second record for site and parish.
- **Rook.** A count of nests on 30 March found 36 at Brent Mill, including four at Corn Park.
- **Siskin.** Up to four on Moorland Park feeder throughout.
- **Snipe.** One flushed at Dockwell on 28 Feb, and another near Gisperdown on 8 March. 'Chipping' song at Small Brook Mire on 6 & 24 March
- **Stonechat.** Regular on Brent Hill from 22 Feb and, after an absence since October, on field hedges below the hill from 25 Feb. Also a male on hedges at Hope Wood on 11 March, and another at Furze Penn on 9 March.
- **Swallow.** First was near Owley Gate on 23 March, then at Little Bullhornstone on 28 March.
- **Teal.** Max count of only eight at Avon Dam on 18 Feb.
- **Wheatear.** The first was on Huntingdon Warren on 24 March.
- **Willow Warbler.** First song on 30 March near Lydia Bridge.
- **Woodpigeon.** About 30 heading NE past Brent Hill on 2 March were perhaps returning migrants.
- **NON-BIRDS.** First **Hares** seen since last year, one near Bloody Pool and one on Brent Hill, both on 25 Feb. **Brimstone, peacock, red admiral** and **small tortoiseshell** butterflies seen in flight before the end of March.

