

Hi Folks, Yes indeed I have joined the Climate and Nature for Stisted group of volunteers known as CANS. My interest in particular is the current and future status of Wildlife in and around the village and hopefully myself and my fellow volunteers can come up with ideas / solutions and with the help of the Parish Council, we can have a positive influence on the health and welfare of our local environment, wildlife, flora and fauna.

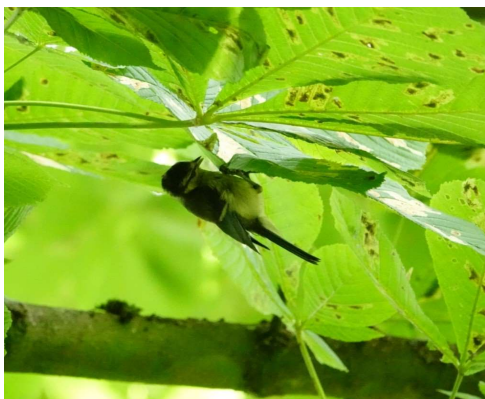
Due to my inability to walk very far I tend to stick to my usual well trodden paths. By walking my dogs and taking photos of the wildlife for my use as inspiration for my art, I get a feel for the amount of birds and animals in certain locations as well as my own gardens. I regularly photograph new arrivals and mentally note absentees. I often share my experiences on Facebook via the Village group page, or on the Stisted Wildlife group page and will now utilise the CANS fb posts too.

One of my goals is to target specific local areas and record the species that I see. I may set up wild cams, sit in a hide for an hour, put up a feeder or two to tempt some more secretive birds down from the trees like Jays for example. Thru regular monitoring I hope to estimate if we have healthy numbers of birds, hedgehogs, deer etc and note increasing or declining numbers.

Of course any interaction with the lovely folk of Stisted is always welcome and some of you may wish to be my eyes and ears and let me know of your sightings or concerns so I can share them with the team.

I intend to offer / share tips and advice on attracting wildlife to your gardens. I know many of you regularly feed birds, hedgehogs etc and leave water out for whoever else needs a drink in these drier times. I would also appreciate learning of your experiences and tips that you may want to share yourselves.

Food for thought – Have you ever wondered where all the blue tits have gone from your gardens. After seeing many fledgelings this year, there seemed to be a sudden lull in the



number of blue tits in particular in my garden. Then while strolling thru the forest I saw about 30 young birds feasting on insects in the Lime and Horse Chestnut trees above me. In the photo attached you can see a young blue tit collecting insects, posing in its drab attire whilst its feathers fully mature into their brighter mature colours.

I would also like to share with you, lovely visitors I had to my Sunflower heart and Niger seed feeders this late winter / spring. A pair of Lesser Redpolls and Siskins. Lisa Nixon first brought my attention to these birds being seen in the area and before long I had a pair breeding in my front garden hedge and eating my bird seed every day for six weeks before they moved on.



Thank you for reading my contribution to the Parish magazine this month and I hope that you are able to enjoy the abundance of nature that Stisted has to offer and help us keep it.

Kind regards

Graham Holloway. CANS Wildlife Rep.