

## **GH CANS PM6 Spring update.**

Well, I thought it seemed to be a quiet end to the Winter and start of Spring re garden birds. The Lesser Redpolls stayed a while, and some days outnumbered the Goldfinches! Slowly as Spring got underway, the Blackbirds, Bluetits, Wrens and Robins seemed to be pairing up and getting broody. The Goldfinches all but disappeared for a while. They are normally here in such great numbers. Where did they go?

Now we are in Summer – yes despite the wind and rain in April and early May warmer weather has arrived for a spell. My Garden is now visited by fluffy, fat fledgelings ranging from Bluetits, Blackbirds, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Chaffinch and lovely House Sparrows. Talking of Sparrows, this is the first year that I have seen them on my bird feeders. I first noticed a couple of pairs in my neighbour's hedge whilst I was completing my House Sparrow count survey for Essex Wildlife Trust (Results to be announced in June's report.) I can tell you that House Sparrows are present in many areas of the village, and I would say we have a very numerous, healthy growing population of these little characters.

One of my summer favourites is the Male Greenfinch. In its summer breeding colours it gleams yellows, limes and greens on its vibrant plumage. That little streak of yellow in its wings finishes off its stunning plumage.

I have included a few photos of various birds that I have taken during early spring, and some are still in winter plumage. If you think that your toenails need doing, take a look at the claws on the Goldfinch. Let's hope that the young birds thrive to give us more and more to look at and take pleasure in seeing them.

### **Goldfinch**



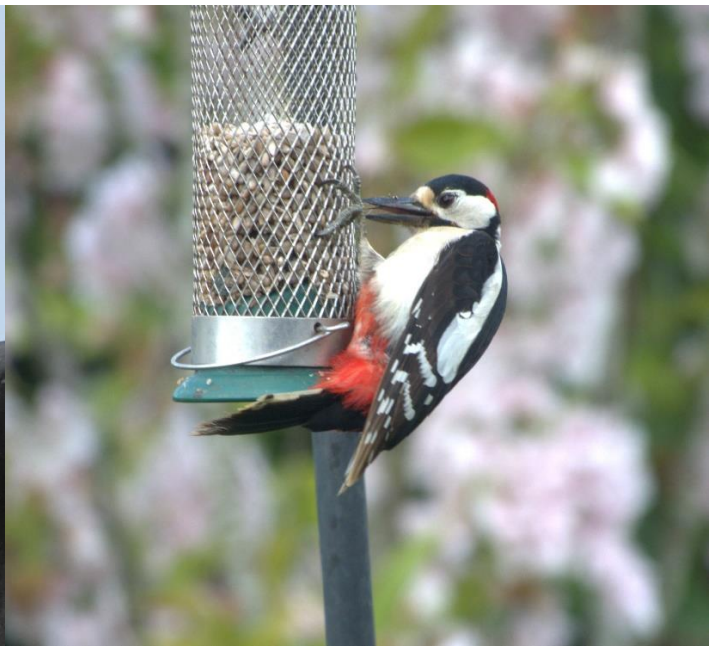
### **Greenfinch Fledgeling**



Male Sparrow



Greater Spotted Woodpecker



Please keep on feeding the birds and enjoy seeing them. Different birds are visiting each winter with the likes of Redpolls and Siskins. Please let us know (via the CANS Facebook page) if you should see any rarer birds around this Summer. Things change! We have had Bullfinch's in some summers. I have noticed that the Red Kites are less frequent visitors this year. Maybe they are breeding further away?

Thanks as always for reading my article this month.

Graham Holloway CANS Wildlife Rep.