

# House martins and nightingales



Hopefully this month will see the return of house martins to the village. Last year, in a pilot survey, we tried to see how many of these birds were nesting in the parish so we could monitor the population of this declining species over the coming years.

About 20 nests were counted but, as this was late in the season, we couldn't be sure if they had all been used or how successful they had been. We will, therefore, be going around the parish again this year to see exactly how many occupied nests we can find. Apart from the village itself, other buildings in the parish have nests and Plumpton College has a large colony (78 nests in 2006), which we shall also be counting.

So we are asking you to contact us if you are lucky enough to have these birds nesting under your eaves so we can build up a proper picture of their status here in the parish.

The Wildlife Group is also offering the chance to hear nightingales. Although these wonderful songsters can occasionally be heard singing during the day, it is during the quiet of the night when they really start singing in earnest and can be heard clearly, without much background noise.

We will be meeting at 10 o'clock in the evening of the 30th April, outside the village shop. A – hopefully – short walk across the fields should ensure we hear them well. All are welcome.

Tim Parmenter  
April 2010