

## **Bushy Park – June 2018 Diary**

### **Baby Deer**

It is usual for the Park's deer to give birth in May, June and July. The young are not ready to follow their mothers for one or two weeks and hide in dense bracken, with their mothers grazing in the vicinity.

Bracken is therefore important to deer to hide their young. However, if you find a young deer on its own outside of bracken, please leave it as its mother will know where it is and return to feed it later.

It is not advisable to walk your dog in the Park during this time. If you choose to, at your own risk, please keep your dog on a lead and consider an alternative route close to exit gates.

If pursued by a deer, let go of the lead. The deer are less likely to charge if the dog runs away from them. If a Red or Fallow Deer approaches you it is probably because she has a calf somewhere nearby. Walking away from her may inadvertently mean that you are walking towards the calf causing her to be more defensive. The preferred course of action would be to retrace your footsteps, back the way you came and take a wide berth on a different track.

### **Ticks and Lyme disease**

Ticks are small creatures related to spiders and mites and feed on the blood of humans, dogs and other animals. They cannot jump or fly, so they cling onto vegetation and wait until host brushes past to attach to their skin. Whilst the risk is very low, they may transmit Lyme's disease.

During spring, summer and autumn, ticks are more numerous and more active. Park visitors are advised to guard against tick bites by avoiding tall vegetation (especially if you are wearing shorts) and by staying on well worn paths. Insect repellent can also be used. Check yourself after walking in the Park and remove ticks immediately. If concerned, you feel unwell or a rash appears; consult your GP immediately. For more information, please see The Royal Parks website, notice boards within the park, or visit the Bushy Park Office for a leaflet.

### **Bird News – Important information**

The cold conditions the south east of England endured earlier this year affected a number of species causing populations to drop, this included the Skylark. Bushy Park has 2 small colonies of, the colony in the south-east corner of the park have been gradually squeezed into a smaller and smaller area by the spread of the Bracken. In the last couple of years we have taken measures to control it, this has worked well and now the birds had began reclaiming old nesting sites. We are doing this because this species is in decline nationally and within the park, so needs your help. These measures were working, with numbers increasing by 3 or 4 pairs. If you are in control of a dog, please follow the instruction on the signs and put your dog on a lead. The other Skylark area is to the south of Upper Lodge Road, here the grassland is much healthier and is what the birds require. This spring's count of the species at present indicates that the parks birds suffered at their wintering grounds and numbers are down.

Please adhere to our signs in the park.

Keep dogs on a short lead

Stay on the path

Skylarks have declined by 61% in the UK

Further information can be found on The Royal Parks web site or via email [bushy@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bushy@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk)