

## Country Notes for November 2021

In my November Country Notes two years ago I wrote about a carrion crow which I frequently saw on the Hollingbourne Meadows, which had whitish grey wing markings. I explored the idea that it might be a different species or even a cross with a hooded crow. My conclusion however was that it was simply a carrion crow with white wing markings!

It is certainly the case that some species of animals do display regional differences or even genetic differences from the rest of their species. In some parts of Speyside in Northern Scotland there are red squirrels which have a cream coloured tail. Some people suggest that these red squirrels are very original and that their markings go back a very long way indeed.

This year I have noticed that there are several carrion crows with whitish wing markings flying in and around the Meadows. The probability is that these are all related to each other and maybe this genetic trait has been in some carrion crows in this area for a very long time.

Whatever the reason for these strangely marked carrion crows, I still get delight from seeing them fly off, as I recently did with three individuals, all of which displayed the same markings! I have yet to see more than three individuals together, but it is quite possible that there are more. Carrion crows are distinguished from rooks in that they do not gather together in large groups.

I shall keep looking!

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