



Squirrel drey Photo by Erini Rodis



## East Finchley's Wild Life

As the article on parakeets and these pictures show, we have a rich array of wild life on our doorstep. The squirrel drey (top left) was taken in Coldfall Wood. The perceived Kestrel (above) was captured on camera by Tony Roberts on the Heath Extension and the fox was even closer to home in his East Finchley back garden.



## Parakeets have Landed in N2

By Daphne Chamberlain

We've told you about Kenwood parakeets. Now we have sightings in East Finchley and a baby came too!

In fact they have been among us for a couple of years. Linda Mitchell of Fordington Road is our star witness. Linda keeps a diary, and on 22 November 2000 she saw three of them dropping in for lunch at her bird feeder. She says, "My husband, Pete, had spotted them about a month before, but I asked him if he'd been at the wine!"

After that they became frequent visitors. Then, on 5 June 2002, Linda found herself hosting a birds' Parent and Toddler group. Having already seen baby robins and a young woodpecker, she was delighted when the parakeets brought along a small one. "It was about half their size, and obviously a baby, because it had to practise landing on the mesh feeder."

The Mitchells saw their first flock in October last year. "We counted up to about 30. They settled in our apple tree, which was a sight to behold."

Linda is interested in two she

spotted last month which look slightly different. Although of the same family, their beaks are not quite the same shape, and there are no pink markings around their necks.

Like the others, they are bright green - very exotic against winter snow. More so than birds visiting Linda's sister in Spain, who interestingly sees mainly sparrows.

The parakeets have never caused any damage, but Linda has stopped feeding in summer, as smaller birds had to wait in line. She supplies food through the winter, and reports that parakeets are especially partial to peanuts in their shells, which they transfer whole from claw to beak.

Being so close to woods, the Mitchells see a lot of birds. A heron has also landed in their apple tree, and they once found two visiting ducks. Linda has seen a pheasant walking along Fordington Road. She says, "I sometimes feel like the bird lady of East Finchley".

## RSPCA News

### Clean Sweep

Our clinic in Park Road, East Finchley, is looking for an animal lover to volunteer to clean the premises. The work can be done at any time to suit your convenience and will only take under an hour each week. All equipment is provided; if desired, a small honorarium would be paid. Please help us to keep up our work for animal welfare. For details, ring 020 8444 6096 mornings only before 11.30am.

### Neutering

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