

# Worcester Group News

April to July 2022



**Worcestershire  
Wildlife Trust**

## Grey Seals

With limited travel opportunities these last couple of years, I wonder if you have frequented the shorelines around the UK and spotted any grey seals?

We've been delighted to have spotted many along our shores including some sightings in Norfolk, Pembrokeshire, Anglesey and Scotland. They're more easily spotted on the pebble beaches during the breeding season where the white fur pups can be observed whilst the adults moult.

If you have binoculars, you can see the seal's nostril open and close, which close automatically and become even tighter with pressure underwater.

Seals are well adapted for their sea environment with powerful sleek bodies to make them agile hunters and lots of blubber and thick fur to keep them warm. Their hearing is similar to ours in range but the lack of ear flaps makes them more streamline for swimming. They're equipped with big eyes and long whiskers that are more sensitive than our fingertips, hosting 1500 nerve endings. Oxygen is stored in their blood and air is expelled before they dive with the ability to slow their heart rate from 120 to just four beats a minute underwater. Their long toes and webbed rear flippers fan from side to side alternately, giving them lots of swimming power.

Seals spend 80% of their time at sea and only come onto land to rest, digest, moult, breed, restore their oxygen supplies and develop their social skills.



Grey seal by Tom Marshall

*Caryl Bracewell*

## Join us online

Online meetings are taking place monthly until April so do check the What's on section of the Trust's website for the most up to date event information and to book onto any talks (or other events) that you're interested in [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk)

Online talks are conducted via Zoom. Join us on 17<sup>th</sup> March to discover more about the Lives of Dormice with expert Andy Bucklitch. On 21<sup>st</sup> April Trust staff Andy Harris and Beccy Somers will talk about the Trust's newest nature reserve, Dropping Well Farm (Sandy Badlands: wasteground, highwaymen and wildlife). Your Worcester group is currently not arranging in person meetings.

## Fun Quiz

1. What's the smallest UK bird species?
2. Which is the largest bat species found in the UK?
3. What's the name of the stalk that supports a leaf?
4. Name a deciduous conifer tree?
5. Which species of owl typically has a heart-shaped face?
6. What is the normal clutch size for a mallard duck?
7. A skulk is a group of which animals?
8. What is the typical leg colour of a UK Kingfisher?
9. What's the process called when baby hedgehogs shed the baby spines?

## Get involved for a Wilder Worcester

The Trust's Wilder Worcestershire project – Nature's Recovery For All has started. The project enables the Trust to work across the county to inspire communities to get better connected to and take action for nature.

Much of the focus will be in six areas of Worcester to engage and inspire residents to help nature to recover. The Trust are looking to build a team of volunteers to help with this exciting project. If you're interested in knowing more about this opportunity, have a look [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteering-opportunities/wilder-worcester-volunteer](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteering-opportunities/wilder-worcester-volunteer)

For more information about the project and how you, your community or group can get involved visit [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/team-wilder](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/team-wilder)

### Green Recovery Challenge Fund



The project is funded by The Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, which was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

## Gardening Tips

Spring is firmly on its way.

Bees, butterflies and other pollinators may be tucked away in plants stems, in the undergrowth, old twigs and branches. Please try to avoid clearing up too early; if you can, wait until frosts have passed and days are warmer.

1. Goldcrest
2. Noctule
3. Petiole
4. Ginkgo
5. Barn Owl
6. 12 eggs
7. Foxes
8. Orange
9. Quilling