



### **Passer Domesticus and Friends!**

Well the local sparrows are continuing to eat us out of house and home from the garden feeders. Whilst watching them, I wondered if my sociable group were simply called a flock or are they known by another name? It turns out that there are several group names including a flutter, a subdivision and a humiliation!

Researching, I discovered that my friends' ancestors have had a difficult past. In Egyptian hieroglyphics, being small and narrow, they were used to represent badness. Chaucer and Shakespeare described them as lecherous.

European history has many food recipes that use them as the main ingredient. These included sparrow pie, dumplings and omelette.



House sparrow by Ben Hall/2020VISION

Sparrow clubs that formed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century competed to see which club could collect the most bodies or eggs. People hung sparrow pots in the eaves of their homes. If a bird flew into the house it was considered a sign of death. If it was killed then all was well.

I was relieved to find that they were also considered as a symbol of good luck, particularly by seafarers for whom a sparrow tattoo represented freedom, perseverance and protection whilst on the water.



House sparrow by Karen Summers

My little flock keep me entertained, with one individual seeming to chirp to the others at dusk, calling them into a bird box to use as a roost. Well, they didn't use it to breed in so we are glad that it has turned out to be of some use!

Their lecherous reputation is due to their promiscuity, which we see in the springtime garden. However, they are monogamous but this is to hold a nest site and they do sneak off for their extra affairs! The more dominant the male's black bib, the more affairs apparently!

They can have one to four broods a year, up to eight eggs each time, and the average life span in the wild is three years although one sparrow in captivity is said to have made 23!

*Jean Maffei*

Thank you Jean.

If anyone else would like to contribute an article please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Ruth Howell, editor  
(contact details overleaf)

Together with Worcestershire Biological Records Centre and Worcestershire Recorders, the Trust is calling for your sightings of house sparrows.

Please take a photo and upload [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wildlife-sightings](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wildlife-sightings)

## Talks

### September to December 2022

All indoor meetings start at 7.30p.m. at Holy Innocents Community Hall Kidderminster DY11 222

There is a charge of 2.50 to include coffee and biscuits

#### **Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup> Borneo - The land below the wind with John Medlock**

An interesting talk about John's visit to this fascinating country.



Photo by John Medlock

#### **Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> Fungi associated with trees Bob Watson**

This will be an intriguing talk as Bob makes a welcome return visit.

#### **Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> Mistletoe: Facts, Myths and Legends Michael Jones**

Come and discover the fascinating world of this seasonal plant.



#### **Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas social**

A Christmas get together.  
To include our famous raffle!

All information about our walks and talks can be found on [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on)

For further information please contact:  
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## Walks

### September to December 2022

All walks start at 10.a.m. and everyone is very welcome  
There is no charge but donations are appreciated

#### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September Meandering around Monkwood Led by Mervyn Needham**

A circular walk of approx. three miles to include the delightful Trust nature reserve of Monkwood as well as paths around adjacent Green Farm, which the Trust hope to buy.

**Meet:** Monkwood car park.  
GR 803606 Nearest postcode WR2 6NX

#### **Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> A Walk in the Woods Led by David Howell**

An autumn walk in this rare, semi-ancient woodland with an opportunity to see fungi and to enjoy the colours of the variety of broadleaf trees. No stiles but some steps, possibly muddy.

**Meet:** Car park Uffmoor Lane  
GR 952811 Postcode B62 0NF

#### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November Tramping round Trimpley Led by Rich Jeynes**

A walk of approx. four miles through the lovely countryside around Trimpley and Arley with the opportunity to enjoy the autumn colours. No stiles but may be muddy.

**Meet:** Trimpley Reservoir car park, at the bottom of the lane that leads to the reservoir (on left) GR 775792 Nearest postcode: DY12 1PH

#### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December A wander around the Witley Court area Led by Glyn Walters**

A circular walk of approx. four and a half miles with lovely views of the Malvern and Abberley Hills. It also passes the historic building of Witley Court. Some stiles and may be muddy.

**Meet:** Car park by the tearoom adjacent to Witley church. GR768750 PC WR6 6JT

For information about the walks please contact:  
Glyn Walters  
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**Thank you all for your valuable, continued support**