

Worcester Group News

August to November 2020



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Every cloud has a silver-lining?

I'm writing this whilst still in lockdown with no dates for relaxing our current restrictions. I hope you have kept safe and well during these very unprecedented times and have managed to enjoy many of the positive things that have come amidst our isolation.

Nature has been a solace. I spotted a blue tit nesting in a neighbour's disused extraction fan, a song thrush and robin nesting in the conifer and a wren in the ivy. We have an ever increasing number of hedgehogs, at least five who regularly enjoy feeding on "Spike's Dinner". Other brands are available but this is now a favourite!

Last night, much to my excitement, I heard our first ever neighbourhood tawny owl.

Whilst walking down our local lanes and fields, we spotted our first swallow at the beginning of April and a flock of lapwings showing off their aerodynamics. It looks like a great start for the butterflies as I've seen more fluttering around.

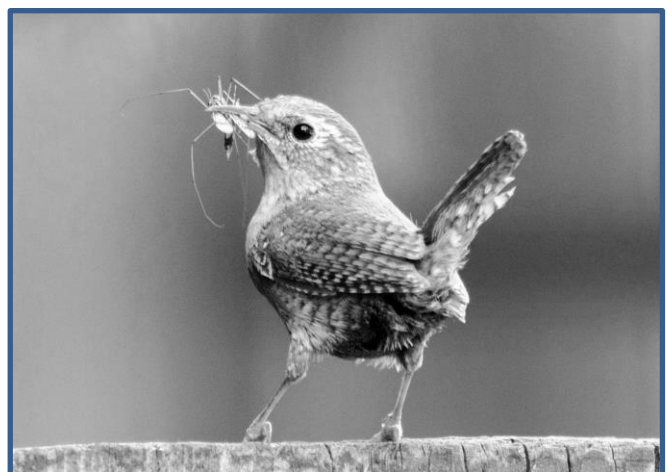
The joy of quiet roads, clean air and the intoxicating rich smell of the bluebells have been delightful. There has been much to be thankful for. I wonder what you spotted over the last few months?

It will be interesting to see the data from the scientific monitoring during the pandemic to see the impact on the climate. Let's hope Governments worldwide don't hide from these findings and maybe we can continue to make those necessary changes to our lifestyle that reduces our impact on the environment.

caryl



© Graham Chetwynd



© Roger King

Forthcoming Local Group Events

Please check Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's website for the most up to date event information. www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/events as we were preparing this newsletter during lockdown when we were planning potential, temporary, alternatives to our physical meetings.

Lockdown in New Zealand

I spent 2 weeks of lockdown in New Zealand where we were lucky enough to have a daily walk on a beach. At low tide we were guaranteed to see numerous oyster catchers, white faced heron and kingfishers with the occasional gannet and colourful rosella parrots. Our walk home through the bush showed us lovely fantails and noisy tui's. We felt very lucky to see these birds every day. Our wildlife experience changed coming back to the UK where we had the challenge of encouraging our hedgehogs back to the feeding station. They no longer made the journey to the bottom of the garden and weren't interested in the cat food they enjoyed last year. It was almost as though they knew we had some tasty hedgehog food in the cupboard !! The food was changed , the feeding station moved and they are now visiting every night !! With squirrels, garden birds, a fox, hedgehogs and bats we feel lucky during lockdown in our urban garden.

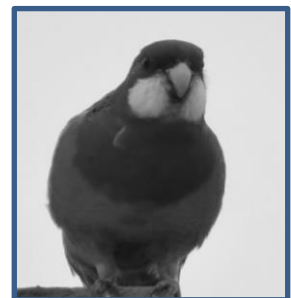
Cheryl Mabey



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Spotting nature during lockdown

In our garden butterfly watch this year we spotted good numbers of peacock, brimstone, holly blue and orange tip along with a some speckled wood and white butterflies. Our highlight was spotting a brimstone moth on the jasmine. Our tit bird box has new residents - a colony of white-tailed bumblebees that I believe are tree bumblebees.

We've not seen as many birds this springtime beside our regular one-legged pigeon named "Hoppy" and plenty of robins.

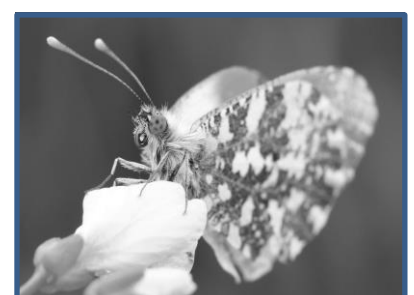
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