

Wyre Forest Local Group

Summer/Autumn 2021



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Wildlife of the Severn Valley

Some years ago I was inspired by the late Brian Draper, whose specialism was working on the rivers passing through our area, to visit places along the River Severn where there is a large diversity of wildlife. To help inspire you, here are some of the places that we have visited and some of the wildlife that may be seen there...

Dudmaston Hall Estate (National Trust) – Quatt, near Bridgenorth, WV15 6QN

Check NT website for opening times

A large area of mixed woodland with open fields and pools, and a lake near the hall with great crested and little grebe. Mandarin duck are frequently seen and goosander has been spotted on the river. On surrounding fields pheasant and red legged and grey partridge may be seen. Snowdrops are good in early spring. If closed there is walk along the river from the NT car park at Hampton Loade.



Severn Valley Country Park.. Access signposted off A422 at Alveley

Four different colour marked trails, some of which lead down to the riverbank. Many of the pools are a haven for dragonflies, with at least 13 breeding species recorded, including the common clubtail. Grass snakes are common as are frog and newt. The wildflower meadows have a fine mixture of flora, including bee orchid, ox-eye daisy, yellow wort, common centaury, twayblade and broad-leaved helleborine.



Wyre Forest Hawkbatch Valley - Off the B4194 from Bewdley DY12 3AF (Nearest)

An excellent area of deciduous woodland with many trails and paths. Fallow deer, polecat and otter may be spotted. Common crayfish and dipper may be seen along the Dowles Brook. Butterflies include brimstone, dark green and pearl bordered fritillary and dingy skipper. Many birds to be seen and heard including nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker, pied flycatcher and wood warbler.

Upton Ham - south of Upton upon Severn

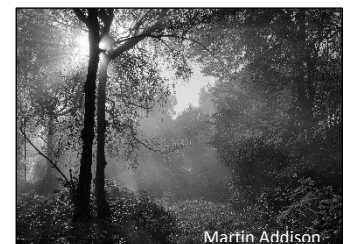
A large hay meadow with access along the riverbank from the town centre below the bridge. Yellow wagtail and lapwing may be seen. The Ham is noted for autumn crocus (meadow saffron).

Larford - access is along a lane off the B4196 at Astley, car park along verge near pool

An area of open countryside with many footpaths and a large body of water. Surrounding farmland has grey partridge, occasionally an over-wintering short-eared owl with a barn owl regularly seen nearby.

Shrawley Wood - access off B4916, Shrawley village

Large deciduous woodland of lime coppice with several footpaths crossing or going round the wood. Good for woodland birds. Unusual plants to be found are giant bellflower, lily of the valley, herb paris and broad-leaved helleborine



If you are able to visit any of these places I hope that you will find the experience rewarding.

David Howell

Our Walks Programme 2021



Yippee! With the easing of some Government restrictions, we are restarting our walks. Please check the website or phone Glyn or David for further details and to confirm details.

All walks start at 10a.m. Donations please.

September 13th Harvington Hall and Historical Circuit

Led by Glyn Walters. Meet: Near rear of car park at the Dog Inn, Harvington DY10 4ZN
(This may be subject to change)

October 10th Hawkbatch Valley, Wyre Forest

Led by David Howell. Meet: Hawkbatch car park, off the B4194 DY12 3AF (nearest)

November 21st Exploring Kingsford Country Park, near Kinver

Led by Roy Hall. Meet: Kingsford Country Park, junction of Gypsy & Sandy lanes DY115XT (nearest)

December 12th A walk in the delightful countryside around Chaddesley Corbett

Led by Mervyn Needham. Meet: At end of lane alongside Chaddesley Corbett village hall off A448, Bromsgrove Road DY10 4QA



Some
previous
walks



Our Talks Programme

At the time of writing, restrictions on indoor meetings prevent us returning to Holy Innocents Community Hall.

Owing to social distancing rules, the hall can only accommodate a maximum of 20 people with sanitising cleaning before and after the meeting. This does not allow for sufficient attendance to provide an admission income to cover the cost of the speaker.

We are hoping that the situation will improve but in the meantime please check the website or give us a ring to check the situation.

Help Needed Please

We need some help please with running our group and would love to hear from you if you feel that you can assist in any way – just a couple of hours a month might be all it takes. We are a very friendly group and would very much welcome your support. Thank you.

For further information about this group
please contact David Howell 01562 741891

For details of walks please
contact Glyn Walters 01562 637556

Editors
David and Ruth Howell