

Wishing you a *WILD* Christmas!

Winter is a wonderful time for wildlife-lovers. While some species, such as the adorable dormouse, are in hibernation, it's a great time to spot many others. Woodland birds such as siskin are easier to see among bare branches, starling murmurations draw oohs and aahs from spectators and the Christmas palette of green, red and white decorates the countryside through holly, ivy and mistletoe. Winter visitors such as redwings and fieldfares have already joined us and garden feeders get busier as the first frosts arrive.

A wintery walk is a must on a bright, frosty day and Herefordshire has a wealth of landscapes to explore. The Woolhope Dome is crisscrossed by footpaths leading you through woodlands and orchards, villages and meadows; the Lugg Valley offers brilliant bird watching; or blast off the cobwebs climbing the Black Mountains or Malvern Hills.

At Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, winter is a busy time as woodland work such as coppicing happens now, while the sap is low, along with laying hedges. It's also a good time to get on with tasks such as fixing fences and gates and improving paths which cannot be done in spring and summer when we risk disturbing breeding wildlife.

To help wildlife in your garden through the winter, clean and refill bird feeders regularly and provide food for ground-feeding birds too if possible. Leave areas of the garden a little wild by leaving seed heads until early spring, making a log pile and leaving areas of long grass. Supporting your local Wildlife Trust through shopping, donating or joining will also make a real difference to your local wildlife, this winter and beyond!



Herefordshire
Wildlife Trust



WILD Christmas Gifts



Gift Membership Boxes

The perfect gift for nature lovers! Includes Welcome Pack, Nature Reserves Guide; three issue of *Wildside* magazine over the year; garden wildlife identification book; Seedballs tin.

Adult Membership Gift Box: £45



Garden Wildlife Calendar 2021

All images captured in Herefordshire gardens by Wildlife Trust members and supporters! £7



Wildlife Christmas Cards

A lovely selection of british wildlife scenes from £4 for a pack of 10 cards.

PLUS

A fantastic selection of gifts in our online shop including:
the best in new nature writing; wildlife identification guides, locally produced food and drink; binoculars and sustainable home and beauty gifts.

All available from:
www.herefordshirewt.org/shop



Richard Bavin Limited Edition Prints

Beautiful prints from a selection of paintings by our artist-in-residence featuring Queenswood Country Park, Lea & Pagets Wood, Birches Farm and Bodenham Lake.

WILD Families

Activity Sheets

For loads of great activity sheets check out our Wildlife Watch website www.wildlifewatch.org.uk.

There's spotter sheets to take on winter walks, craft projects to do at home and lots more!



Christmas Elf Trail

Running at Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum from 19th December.

Follow our trail of elves through the woods - each elf holds a letter. Find them all to complete the word!

www.queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org

Gruffalo's Child Trail

The Gruffalo's Child will rejoin the other Gruffalo characters over the winter at Queenswood

www.queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org



Winter Wildlife

Woodlands in Winter

Head to a woodland to spot birds such as siskin, goldcrest, long-tailed tits, brambling and - if you're lucky, hawfinch. This is also a good time of year to see herds of deer with less camouflaging undergrowth.

Wyevale Wood



HWT

Siskin



Luke Massey/2020 Vision

Three to visit:

Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum, Dinmore Hill, HR6 0PY

Wyevale Wood, Church Walk, Breinton, HR4 7PN

Lea & Paget's Wood, Common Hill Lane, Fownhope, HR1 4PH

Full details at: www.herefordshirewt.org/nature-reserves

Bodenham Lake



Chris Davidson

Winter Wetlands

Winter is a fantastic time for seeing wetland birds as many species migrate from (even) colder climes to spend the winter here.

Species to spot include: wigeon, goldeneye, teal, shoveler, pintail, pochard, gadwall, goosander and greylag goose.

Greylag goose



Peter Cairns/2020 Vision

Three to visit:

Bodenham Lake Bodenham, HR1 3HY

Titely Pool Eywood Lane, Titley, HR5 3RL

Lugg Meadow Ledbury Road, Tupsley, HR1 1UT

Full details at: www.herefordshirewt.org/nature-reserves

Wildlife spectacle: Starling Murmurations

Last year, starlings roosted at Wellington Gravel Pits just north of Hereford and performed their mesmerising murmuration at dusk each evening. In previous years they have been seen over Hereford city itself. Keep an eye on our social media to hear where they are seen this winter. Its a wildlife spectacle not to be missed!



Steve Adams



Orchard Wildlife

Traditional orchards are iconic features within Herefordshire's landscapes - and they can be fantastic for wildlife through the winter too with fallen fruits, thick hedgerows and tussocky grass.



Zsuzsanna Bird

Herefordshire's old orchards are often laden with mistletoe. Look out for mistle thrushes which are attracted by the berries.

Redwing and fieldfare return to the UK for winter and can be seen in flocks in fields and, often, in orchards, feasting on abandoned windfalls.



Chris Gomersall/2020Vision

Three to visit:

Common Hill Nature Reserve, Common Hill Lane,
Fownhope, HR1 4PH

Davies Meadow, Mansell Lacy, HR4 7BH

Pool Ellocks, Goodrich, HR9 6JE

www.herefordshirewt.org/nature-reserves