

Woodpigeon Visible Migration Event

Saturday 7th November 2020

Early November sees the peak passage of woodpigeons passing through Britain. These flocks probably include birds from northern Britain and Scandinavia, they are likely en route to west Wales, Ireland or continental Europe. Herefordshire lies on the path of many of these and over the past couple of years I have noted movements involving several thousand birds in the first two hours or so after sunrise.

They seem most likely to move in the first 2/3 hours after sunrise. You can tell migrants as they fly in large, tightknit flocks very purposefully and often at height. These flocks can number anything from a handful of birds to several thousand, two hundred plus flocks are quite regular in Herefordshire. They will almost all be moving on a north east to south west heading. Bright, relatively calm mornings seem to suit them best.

On Saturday 7th November it would be fantastic if we could organise a coordinated count throughout Herefordshire. If you could spare a couple of hours at a local vantage point early on this morning and email me your results it would be greatly appreciated. I will need your name, site name and 6-figure grid reference, time of count and the numbers recorded, ideally a breakdown of flock sizes would be interesting. Other species including starlings, fieldfares, redwings and chaffinches are likely to be encountered and a count of all species believed to be migrating would be excellent although not mandatory.

Please give me a call on 07984 175935 or email daniel.webb444@gmail.com to discuss further. For more information on Visible Migration please visit www.trektellen.nl, Herefordshire sites already listed include Sellack Ridge, Glewstone Boat and Much Marcle Ridge to give you a feel of what can be seen. More are always appreciated so we can learn more about diurnal migration over Herefordshire and globally.



