

Friends of Dawley Hamlets Local Nature Reserve

Spring is here, bringing longer days and warmer weather that trigger a burst of life across the reserve. Birds are the most visible sign of the season—buzzards and tawny owls, at the top of the food chain, indicate a healthy ecosystem beneath them.

To help identify what you see, apps like Merlin are excellent for recognising bird song, while iRecord allows you to contribute sightings to a national database.

This landscape was once degraded by mining and industrial pollution. Our goal is to boost biodiversity, which requires sensitive management—not just leaving nature to recover on its own. Telford and Wrekin Council maintain paths well, and volunteers also give their time. We are grateful to those who pick up litter and to responsible dog owners who clean up after their pets.

Recently, a volunteer group led by Ric Shaw and supported by Parish funding cleared some poor-quality shading trees in the Top Yard Pit area to create a sunlit glade, boosting biodiversity just before nesting season. We hope to keep the group active—follow our Facebook page for updates.

The reserve is for everyone, and we are privileged to have it on our doorstep.

By Dave Jackson