

February 2010

SINGLE BIRDS OF A FEATHER VALENTINE'S DATE TOGETHER IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Tradition has it that the first bird seen by an unmarried woman on Valentine's Day provides an insight into the type of man she might marry – a robin, for example, suggests her future husband will have something to do with the sea.

Destination Worcestershire is removing the chance element for singletons – men as well as women - this year by organising Valentine's bird watching sessions on February 14th. The county is renowned for its variety of bird life and habitats, so expert birder, Steve Whitehouse, will offer suggestions to people as to where to glimpse the bird of their choice on that day.

Ornithamancy, using birds to make predictions, dates back to the Ancient Egyptians and the Greeks. So, when it comes to matters of the heart, here's what the birds say:

- Blackbird – someone involved in charitable/ spiritual work such as an aid worker or a vicar
- Robin – someone who earns their living through the sea or water. Someone in the Navy or a fisherman, for example
- Goldfinch (any yellow bird) - a person of means, the yellower the bird, the more money likely to be involved

- Sparrow – someone who works with the land – a farmer, landscape gardener or tree surgeon, for example
- Blue bird – either someone completely at one with themselves or who is involved in bringing a smile to others – a comedian?
- Dove – whoever you marry, the marriage will be happy and loving
- Woodpecker – an omen than no marriage will take place
- Crow – some say not a good omen unless it cries three times. A crow can also suggest you walk away from a current relationship, become more assertive and learn not to feel less guilty
- Duck – you'll find a stable and homely relationship without many highs but without the lows that often go hand-in-hand with emotion
- Goose – someone in communications such as a journalism, marketing or teaching. You canwith fierce loyalty
- Birds of prey – a businessman, politician or leader
- Gull – someone who travels a great deal for their work
- Magpie – no need to count magpies, on Valentine's day,a sighting suggests meeting someone who is entrepreneurial and quick to spot a great opportunity
- Wren – someone whose home is where the heart is, who counts their blessings and is not driven by material possessions
- Canary – someone who is involved in healing – a doctor or a therapist, for example
- Finch – someone who is very sociable through their work such as a sales person or hair dresser
- Kingfisher – someone who has already done well or inherited money – life is for living and enjoying the good times
- Nuthatch – someone who likes logic such as a scientist or mathematician
- Owl – recognized as wise, this person is likely to be involved in research or an academia

- Peacock – someone who takes a pride in their appearance or who needs to look good for the job they do!
- Pigeon – someone who will eventually return to the place they grew up no matter how far they travel throughout their life
- Starling – someone who works within a big organization or with a large group of people but who makes themselves heard
- Swan – someone involved in the arts such as a writer, an artist or dance who will be at your side for the long-term
- Swift – someone who relies on pace for a living – a sportsman for example
- Turkey – someone who loves nature and is passionate to protect the world we live in
- Pheasant – hard-working and tenacious, this person can turn their hand to anything they want to

Commenting on Worcestershire’s Valentine’s activities, Simon Tipple of Destination Worcestershire, said:

“Bird-watching is one of many unusual activities on offer. You can take a Chakra Walk on the Malvern Hills, learn to paint your loved one’s portrait, go speed dating in a nature reserve or simply enjoy a romantic candle-lit dinner. There are ideas-a-plenty to be found for anyone in – or out – of love this Valentine’s at www.visitworcestershire.org”.

ENDS

For further information, please call Sara Stewart on 07833 467774

EDITOR'S NOTES

Anyone interested in taking part in birdwatching on Valentine's Day should meet Steve Whitehouse on Worcester Bridge at 11am on Sunday February 14th.

Steve Whitehouse has been actively birdwatching in Worcestershire since 1969. He was county bird recorder/annual report editor for ten years, founded Birdline Midlands and now works as a Birdguides operative and lepidoptera consultant specialising in larger moths.

Destination Worcestershire is the official public/private partnership promoting the county of Worcestershire as a tourist destination. For more information including What's On, Where to Stay and places to visit see: www.visitworcestershire.org