

## ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST HOUSE SPARROW SURVEY

As you may have seen on the Stisted Village Facebook page I have been chosen to carry out surveys on our villages House Sparrow population. I am aware of several colonies and some of you have contacted me to tell me of your local knowledge, all of which is very helpful. I do suspect that certain flocks move around from hedge to hedge etc. However I will have to search known roosts to carry out my task, once I find the wandering flocks.

As you will see within the EWT doc below there will be on line training to tell me what they want and I will post on Facebook the times I aim to be out with my camera and clipboard just in case you see me out surveying your area. Your privacy will of course be my main consideration.

Unfortunately our lovely little Sparrows have suffered severely in the past and hopefully they are making a recovery. I guess the survey results will soon tell. The Sparrows habitat has been disappearing as hedges are removed for driveways, roof fascia boards and soffits are being replaced with P.V.C. Also pesticides from farmland and the ever increasing population of predators like Sparrowhawks are taking their share of the bird population in general. I mentioned these in my previous article PM5. They are fine looking birds and one of my favourites but they are brutal hunters nevertheless.

Thank you for reading my article and advising me of House Sparrow locations. Feel free to chat to me if you see me surveying and you have any questions

Graham Holloway CANS Wildlife rep.

## **Welcome to The House Sparrow Project**

Thank you for signing up to the first year of our brand new citizen science project.

Everyone who is signed up to take part in The House Sparrow Project will need to complete our online training. This will take place at **6pm on 7 March** however the recording will be available to catch-up on if you are not available at that time.

Over the spring, we will be asking you to complete three surveys on the weeks commencing **18 March, 8 April** and **29 April**. In these weeks, volunteers are asked to do one survey for 30 minutes within three hours of dawn. If you cannot do the surveys within these date periods, that is okay, just survey as close to them as possible.

