

**Warwick Natural History Society**

[www.wnhs.info](http://www.wnhs.info)

President: David Beal  
Honorary Secretary: Barbara Cuttell  
Email: [barbaracuttell@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracuttell@gmail.com)  
01926 843122 or 07910 726716

To: Roland Hopkins, Warwick District Council  
[Roland.Hopkins@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:Roland.Hopkins@warwickdc.gov.uk)

Dear Roland,


We understand there is still some doubt about whether or not to protect the ground-nesting birds on the racecourse/St. Mary's Lands during the coming breeding season. We very much hope that the relatively small area of rough ground that was fenced off last year can be protected again.

After several years of decline, last year there was an increase in nesting skylarks as a direct result of the initiative. Also meadow pipits benefitted from the protection. It was a delight last year to hear skylarks so close to the centre of Warwick. Their song is one of the most uplifting in nature. And it is a pleasure to see the meadow-pipits displaying by climbing into the sky and parachuting down. Contact with nature has clearly been particularly important for people's wellbeing during the pandemic.

If dogs are allowed to run through the nesting area, the birds will abandon their nests. So if the council is committed to increasing biodiversity, we hope there will be no delay in erecting the protective fences. By the beginning of February the birds will be pairing up and preparing to nest.

Please pass on our views to the appropriate people at WDC. I am quite certain that all the members of our society (139 members at present) will share the concerns of the Warwick Natural History Society officers.

Best regards,



Barbara Cuttell  
Hon. Secretary