

# Drum Development Association, County Monaghan



## BIO DIVERSITY TRAIL

Come on a journey  
with us and  
discover the rich  
diversity of nature  
in and around our  
beautiful village of  
Drum



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## Take a Dander in Drum

### Walk 1 ~ Begin your walk:

Park your car in the village and follow the signpost for Drum Lough by taking a left turn down the Pump Brae. On the left going down the brae you will find nesting boxes for sparrows and tits set among the trees. At the bottom of the brae on your left hand side you will find our wildlife garden nestled close to Drum Lough.

**Wildlife Garden:** The garden was planted using a variety of native plants and shrubs to attract birds and insects and to provide berries and seeds for them in season. The children from our local school, Drumcorrin N.S. helped with the initial planting of the garden. Look out for the three nesting boxes in this area, one being used annually by a great tit family and one to be found in the willow tree. Check carefully and you will find an insect hotel made out of bamboo at the end of the trellis near the lough. Spend a few minutes in the shade of the living willow tunnel.



While in the wildlife garden check out the stately teasel plants much loved by the bumble bees. In late spring foxgloves and cowslips bring a burst of colour to the planting. In the late summer and autumn months sedum shows its stately colour and the butterflies are drawn to it in great numbers. Have a look at the *Virburnum Caprifoliaceas Opulus Compactum*. In the centre of the garden is a special area for native wildflowers, this is mown once a year using conservation methods.

As you leave the wildlife garden walk along the footpath toward Drum Lough, you will be able to glimpse the shimmer of the lough through the blackthorn trees. If you look carefully you may be able to spot the nesting box for robins at the end of the footpath. Look over to the tall pine tree on your right and you will find an owl nesting box perched 30 feet + in the branches of the pine tree.

## Walk 1 Continued.....

## DANDERING IN DRUM VILLAGE ~ WALK 2



**Drum Lough:** You have arrived at a place of tranquility and great natural beauty. Have a rest in the gazebo and observe the honeysuckle and climbing roses. On a summer's day damson flies and dragon flies may be seen flitting around the edges of the lough. Here you may find a diverse range of wild things including a family of resident mute swans, mallard ducks, frogs, newts and the occasional otter. Grebe and moorhens nest in the reeds just above the water level. The lough contains coarse water fish such as bream, roach, perch and pike and it also provides a home to fresh-water crayfish and eels.



Floating platforms have been provided for the mallards to both nest and roost in. At the far end of the lough a heronry can be found in the mature elder bog, one of the few elder bogs in County Monaghan.

**DRUM:** In the village of Drum almost every resident feed wild birds the year round and feeders can be seen in a number of gardens. As you walk through the village going towards Cootehill bat boxes are located at the site of the old dispensary (plaque). Look over the stone wall to your right and if you peer carefully you will see the boxes camouflaged among the ivy leaves. The bats have a summer roost in the roof space of the Protestant Hall on your left.

Sparrow and tit nesting boxes can also be found among the ash and sycamore trees in the village, there's even one in the laburnum tree! Rest a while and listen to the birdsong.



### **Biodiversity ~ What is it?**

According to Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, "*Biodiversity is the functioning of the ecosystems on which we depend for food and fresh water, health and recreation, and protection from natural disasters. Its loss also affects us culturally and spiritually. This may be more difficult to quantify, but is none the less integral to our wellbeing.*"

### **Biodiversity in Ireland**

Ireland is home to approximately 815 flowering plants, 80 native ferns, more than 700 mosses and liverworts, 3,500 fungi, over 1,000 lichens and 1,400 algae. There are 32 terrestrial mammals, 10 bat species, two species of seal and about 24 species of whales and dolphin. 425 species of birds have recently been recorded in our country with about half of these birds actually breeding here.

**Photos by Barbara Stewart**

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