

24 Birds of Fishermans Path recalls a series of walks I did with my family in the early 1960's from Freshfield Station along Fisherman's Path on the Sefton Coast, north of Liverpool. As a young boy living in suburban Litherland, this walk through the pine woods, slacks, saltmarsh and sand dunes fired my interest in walking, natural history and the environment. The work is based on memory and many of the names of the birds which were seen by my two brothers (who are both now keen ornithologists) and myself are historically local to Lancashire – for instance, I can remember calling a hedge sparrow a spadger!

Craw (Rook), Woofell (Blackbird), Doney (Dunnock), Mawp (Bullfinch), Fell Peggy (Willow Warbler), Bodkin (Reed Bunting), Stanechaker (Wheatear), Chitty (Meadow Pipit), Swat (Redshank), Learock (Skylark), Doup (Carrion Crow), Throstle (Song Thrush), Ullet, (Tawny Owl), Spadger (House Sparrow), Deviling (Swift), Purres (Dunlin), Haggister (Magpie), Snent (Sanderling), Cruchet (Woodpigeon), Whaup (Curlew), Youlring (Yellow Hammer), Crakle (Mistle Thrush), Tewit (Lapwing), Gowk (Cuckoo).