

## The Chorus in the Woods

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016

There's nothing quite like getting up before the sun and sauntering through the woods to the sound of birdsong. With this in mind, seventeen hearty souls assembled at 4.30 am on this chilly April morning at Weelsby Woods.

This is a particularly good place to hear bird song because it consists mainly of a number of narrow woodland strips, rather than woodland as such, which is very appealing to many of our favourite and familiar songbirds.

As first light began to show, the faint sound of distant blackbirds could be heard. One by one, other voices were added. By 5 o'clock the whole place was alive to the sound of a veritable symphony.

A good many species of bird have of course declined during recent years, so we're fortunate in that it just happens to be the case that some of our finest songsters are still as common as ever, given suitable habitat. Robin, blackbird, song thrush and wren topped the bill, and there was talented support from chaffinch, chiffchaff and tits. Later we encountered blackcap, goldcrest, stock dove and coal tit as well as getting brief glimpses of woodpecker and nuthatch.

Taking a walk on the wild side before others are out of bed is in itself very invigorating; to do so in spring can be positively inspirational!

Ray Hume  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2016

