

Warbler Walk 5th June

The great thing about our fickle climate is that when the good days do finally arrive, you really appreciate them. After a long week of chilling easterly winds, the small group of us who met at the country park for an early walk were greeted by what felt like the first day of real summer.

The fragrant scent of may blossom and the wonderfully varied semi-wild habitat evoked distant memories of what much of England's green and pleasant landscape must have looked like a hundred and more years ago.

It seemed as if many of the birds were feeling just as glad to be alive as we were. The most notable species was the common whitethroat. Warblers are generally very secretive, but the whitethroat is the exception that proves the rule. Unlike its close cousin the lesser whitethroat (which was also heard, though not seen), the common whitethroat is a real extravert – a natural performer, only too happy to leap out from the undergrowth in a burst of uninhibited song.

Many other voices joined the joyful morning chorus including willow warbler, reed warbler, song thrush and wren. At times the place was so alive with birds that it was difficult to know which way to look.

Our thoroughly refreshing amble was brought to a close with a cluster of orchids (early purple?), a flock of mud-gathering house martins and a newly-fledged family of wrens. How lucky we are to have so much to celebrate right on our doorstep!

Ray Hume
6th June 2016

