

Weelsby Woods Walkabout

June 3rd 2017

It was a rainy start for the half dozen of us who arrived at 7am for a ramble through this wonderfully diverse nature reserve. Not that it dampened our spirits – or those of the birds.

In fact there was so much going on, that an hour must have passed before we'd gone more than a couple of hundred yards! The joyful twitterings of goldfinches and longtailed tits were just the first of many delights. Shortly afterwards we heard goldcrest, coal tit, woodpecker and nuthatch; and then we were treated to a marvellous song thrush recital, as he sat atop a tall tree. In terms of volume, inventiveness and sheer passion, surely the thrush is second only to the nightingale (now, alas, a very rare bird in our county).

Another fine songster, with a rich fluty voice, is the much more elusive blackcap. Like most members of the warbler family, this species is oft-heard and seldom-seen. So imagine our surprise when, just as the sun broke through, we came across two newly-fledged youngsters. They were pressed together close, on a low branch, whilst daddy blackcap came back and forth to feed them.

Following the overnight heavy rain, the trees around the Park were looking particularly resplendent in their many shades of green. Aren't we lucky to have such precious habitat on our doorstep? And wherever there's varied habitat, you can be sure you'll find varied birdlife. Everyday birds such as blackbird, robin and wren are common here of course; but those with eyes and ears to see and hear can catch a fleeting glimpse of more striking species such as tree creeper, bullfinch, woodpecker and jay. A pair of binoculars and a little perseverance can prove very rewarding.

Ray Hume
4th June 2017

