

Visit Report Chobham Common

Tuesday 16th April 2024

This very enjoyable walk this morning was led by Diane whose comprehensive notes I have incorporated in my report. It was a chilly, blustery morning but luckily, we did not get wet. (photos by Ellis)



Looking for something tiny in a silver birch

While we were gathering in the car park a Mistle Thrush was seen on the grass nearby. It is larger than the Song Thrush and apparently it may have got its name from its liking for mistletoe berries. A Robin was flitting around the field too.

Gorse was flowering beautifully all over the common. Whilst stopping to look at some pretty small white flowers – greater stitchwort – we heard but could not see a Goldcrest, and also in the distance we heard the song of a Chiffchaff. We also saw some mining bees flying around the holes they had made in the ground. They are solitary bees and it seems there are 67 species so it was difficult to identify this particular one! (Obsidentify says Clarke's Mining Bee 100% from Ellis's photos.)



A Robin and then possibly a Dartford Warbler were seen flying into the gorse bushes. While we were standing, hoping for the warbler to emerge,

Ron spotted a distant Red Kite and then a Kestrel flew around giving us all good views of it hovering and then swooping around.
We heard and then saw a Willow Warbler.

Over the stream we heard and (most of us at that time!) saw a Dartford Warbler which perched briefly so it could be seen in the scopes.



Three small birds who flew into the top of a nearby tree turned out to be Linnets (photo by Ellis of male in breeding plumage).

Some of us stopped to look at some tiny pretty pink flowers which we discovered were Lousewort, a horrible name for some lovely flowers. (photo by Lorna)



A pair of Coal Tits were singing loudly at the top of some pine trees, displaying the variations in their song. Although we stood a while, we could not spot them in the dense foliage of the tree.

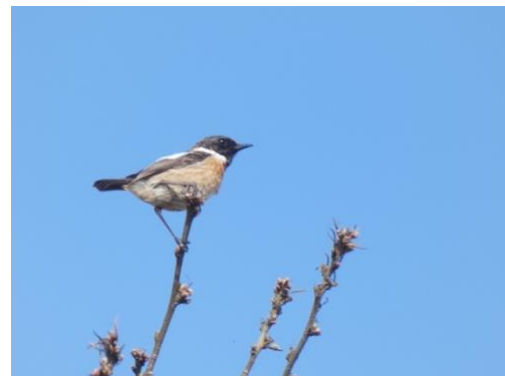


The Kestrel once again gave us a good flyby. (photo by Ellis)

We then heard and this time most of us were able to see the Dartford Warbler which perched for us in a silver birch. One of the highlights of the day and our “target bird”! (photo by Ellis)



As we were moving along a male Stonechat appeared and perched on top of a post and then a pair were seen along the main path. (photo by Lorna but not on the day)



In the final copse of trees near the car park we once again heard a Chiffchaff and also saw it this time at the top of the trees.

Almost back at the car park a Jay, a Long-Tailed Tit and a Bluetit were seen.

Photos courtesy of Lorna Walding and Ellis Griffin
Diane Vowles and Barbara Howse