

Whitmoor Common Bird Watching Walk

Tuesday September 2024

We were pleased to welcome new member - Linda Priest - on this lovely sunny morning. A very quiet morning for birds however.

Throughout our walk we heard the contact call of a Chiff Chaff. Gaynor was able to identify one bird, seen high in a tree, from its yellowish breast plumage. Several jackdaws flew overhead. Apparently, the collective noun is a "clattering".

We stood for several minutes looking up into the branches of some silver birch trees where there were several Long-tailed Tits and Blue Tits. Gaynor must have had her bird watching eye in this morning, as she spotted a Tree Creeper climbing up the trunk of one of the trees.

A Magpie flew across the path ahead of us followed by a Jay flying backwards and forwards.

Further along in the heather we saw a young Stonechat. While we were waiting quietly for a few moments, it turned out to be a young family flitting in and out of the foliage. Geoff may have seen a Wheatear as one of these birds seemed larger, but sadly it did not appear again to be confirmed! The contact call of a Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard in the distance.

The trail we were walking was called the Dragonfly Trail but there were no dragonflies to be seen. Even on the boardwalks there were no lizards either. However Geoff did pick up a dead rose chafer!

Once out of the wooded , three Buzzards were seen soaring above the trees. Ron's telescope was useful to see a Kestrel eating its prey on top of a telegraph pole.

I am pleased we did our walk on Tuesday as we would have been paddling if it had been yesterday 20/9/2024!