

Chobham Common Tuesday 18th March 2025

As we were waiting for people to all arrive Geoff spotted two Song Thrushes in the field across the road. We then made our way along the footpath and saw our first male Stonechat, the first of many along our walk. A Kestrel was then “well-placed” hovering above the trees on our left. A Mallard flew across the path in front of us. Throughout our walk there were several noisy Carrion Crows calling all the time.

We were then very lucky to catch a glimpse of a Dartford Warbler in the clumps of heather. A Buzzard appeared soaring above us followed by two Red Kites above the trees in the distance. A Carrion Crow perched on the top of a fir tree for several minutes, so we were able clearly see its shiny plumage. Goldfinches were twittering around.

The next patch of shrubbery proved a good spot for several interesting birds including Linnets, Stonechats and more Dartford Warblers. The yaffle call of a Green Woodpecker was heard in the distance.

We were then fortunate to have a clear view of the behaviour of a male Stonechat. He was perching very obligingly for us on the top of a post, flew off to catch some insects, then flew back to the post to eat them. He did this several times before flying off to another spot. While watching another Kite appeared above us. Then, while we were scanning the skyline we noticed a Sparrowhawk which was being hassled by a Crow.

We carried along the path towards the hill where the model aeroplanes are frequently flown. This too was a good spot for Stonechats and Dartford Warblers. We were able to see the beautiful plumage of the male Stonechat clearly visible in the bright sunshine.

We took a brief stop at the top of the hill for a group photo, making the most of the pleasant view, fresh air and companionship in the countryside.

A Robin was singing along also enjoying the spring weather.

There did not seem so many birds on the return stretch of our walk but we then spent several minutes trying to identify a small bird in the top of a fir tree. At first we thought it was a Goldcrest, but as it kept flitting through the branches making it difficult to make out its colour and its call, we regretfully decided that it must have been a Great Tit.