

Sunday 5 May Early Bird Walk

Local ornithologist, Graham Armstrong led a group of us all round St Catherine's Hill on a lovely clear, still and sunny morning to see or hear a total of 31 different species of birds (listed at bottom).



The highlight of the morning was seeing the tree pipit and the display he put on for us, His song flight is unmistakable. The bird rises a short distance up from a tree, and then parachutes down on stiff wings, the song becoming more drawn out towards the end.



We were also fortunate to see the Dartford Warbler. It will perch on top of a gorse stem to sing, but is often seen as a small flying shape bobbing between bushes.

Round Dudmoor pond we saw 5 grey heron, a greylag goose, a little egret and a little grebe.

Graham highlighted the characteristics of the different birdsong for us and was ably assisted by Robin Harley with his iphone, playing the birdsong downloaded from the RSPB website.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/a/>

At the end of a two hour walk we had seen a third of the 91 birds that are recorded on St Catherine's hill over the year. When we got back to the community centre, we found that Sue Spittle and Janet Robson had made us some hot bacon rolls for a very welcome breakfast.