



In this issue:

- **Nothing to say this month!**
I was hoping to receive a few pictures and notes on April's activities but sadly nothing was forthcoming and so page 1 is a little bare.
- **Out and About.**
A focus on the Avian summer visitors to our shores arriving in May.
- **Notice Board.**
April attendance figures.

Saturday 2nd July 7.30pm

Rhythmicity Drumming Event



Roll up for evening of fun and laughter.
Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Wribbenhall Parish Room Tickets £4
Kidderminster Rd, Bewdley DY12 1DQ

Nothing to say?

The month of April is the beginning of spring and with longer daylight hours there should be much more going on in our great outdoors.

Having just gone through the Bluebell season and with Rock Pound the Bounds having taken place on 2nd May we expected pictures and reports for page 1.

Unfortunately nothing was received and so we can only show pictures from Shrawley Woods (last year) and one picture from Ribbesford this year; thanks to Alan Moore for that one.





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Out and About

WHERE TO GO WILD IN MAY



LOCATION

Early morning, in a deciduous woodland in May and you are likely to hear the 'Dawn Chorus'. These woodlands come alive, with the songs of our resident birds, which now share the woodland with summer migrants. The Nightingale, Pied Flycatcher, Common Redstart, Wood Warbler and Chiff-Chaff, are summer migrants, which nest in deciduous woodlands.

As a summer migrant, the majority will winter outside the UK, although with warming temperatures, some of these birds are deciding to spend the winter, in the southern part of the UK.

DECIDUOUS WOODLAND—WYRE FOREST NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE.

Callow Hill Visitor Centre---3 miles west of Bewdley on the A456.

Grid Ref: SO750740

Nearest Postcode: DY14 9XQ

Wyre Forest Hawkbatch Valley Car Park off the B4194, Bewdley to Kinlet Road.

Grid Ref: SO764774

Nearest Postcode: DY12 3AF

WHY VISIT?

To hear and see the Chiff-Chaff and Wood Warbler.

Both the Chiff-Chaff and Wood Warbler are leaf warblers. Active birds, with much wing flicking, as they search for insects and spiders amongst the leaves, of deciduous trees/bushes.

FOCUS ON THE CHIFF-CHAFF

A summer visitor to the UK, having spent the winter in southern Europe and North Africa.

Males arrive 2-3 weeks before the females, from mid-April into May.

Males sing from a prominent perch, a repetitive *chiff-chaff*, from which they get their name.

Males are very territorial and sing to attract a female and to defend their territory.



FOCUS ON THE WOOD WARBLER.

A summer visitor to the UK, having spent the winter in central Africa.

Larger than the Chiff-Chaff and brighter in colour, with yellow-green upperparts and a yellow eyestripe.

The song is a 'whit', 'whit', followed by a shivering trill, usually delivered with wings and tail vibrating.

The deciduous woodland along the Dowles Brook, is a likely place to observe the Wood Warbler.



Dry Mill Lane Car Park, next to the dismantled railway line.

Dry Mill Lane, Bewdley.

Grid Ref: SO763765

Nearest Postcode: DY12 2LX

WHY VISIT?

To see and hear the Common Redstart and Pied Flycatcher.

Walk to Knowles Coppice/Knowles Mill [NT] to Lodgehill Farm and along the Dowles Brook in this area of the Wyre Forest.

Both the Common Redstart and Pied Flycatcher are hole nesters; nestboxes have been put up in this area and you may see these birds.

FOCUS ON THE COMMON REDSTART.

A summer visitor to the UK, having spent the winter in Central Africa and the Arabian peninsula.

A member of the Old World Flycatcher family of birds.

Both sexes have a distinctive orange tail; 'start' is an old word for tail.

Males arrive slightly before the females and sing to attract a female and declare ownership of territory.

Robin like in behaviour and song, taking insects and spiders from trees or catching insects from the air.

Upland deciduous woodland in Wales is the best place to see the Common Redstart.





Out and About (continued)



FOCUS ON THE PIED FLYCATCHER.

A summer visitor to the UK, having spent the winter in West Africa.
 A member of the Old World Flycatcher family of birds.
 The male is a bold black and white bird, the female is browner.
 Bigamy is common amongst the males, with a male having two or more partners, in separate territories.
 Take insects and spiders from the trees and from a perch, insects are caught in the air.
 Upland deciduous woodland in Wales is the best place to see the Pied Flycatcher.



FOCUS ON THE NIGHTINGALE.

A summer visitor to the UK, having spent the winter in sub-Saharan Africa.
 A member of the Old World Flycatcher family of birds.
 Known for its song, Nightingales sing both day and night.
 The UK represents the northern limit of its range and numbers have declined, mainly due to loss of suitable breeding habitat.
 The nest is built, near the ground in dense thickets of vegetation.



Familiarize yourself with the song of the Nightingale and take an evening walk in May, through the Wyre Forest, you may be fortunate to hear a Nightingale.

Other sites:

Severn Trent Water's Water Treatment Works at Strensham---here the surrounding area, has been managed to encourage the nesting of Nightingales. Dense thickets of scrub, provide an ideal nesting habitat; Nightingales have been recorded on this site.

RSPB Nature Reserve Highnam Woods, Highnam, Gloucester.

Grid Ref: SO778190 Nearest Postcode: GL2 8AA

Check their website for Guided walks in the morning[Dawn Chorus] and evening walks, to listen for the song of the Nightingale. Around Croome Court[NT].

Although the songs of our summer migrants, are a welcome addition to the days in April, May and June. Rejoice in the songs of our resident birds, in particular: Blackbird, Robin, Song Thrush, Dunnock, Wren and Chaffinch, as without these songbirds, walking out and about, would be an unfulfilled experience.





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Notice Board

APRIL REVIEW

Saturday walk date	Thursday numbers		April 2016					Saturday Totals	Weekly Totals
			A	AB	B	C	D		
02/04/16	0	Saturday	9	12	14	13	15	63	63
09/04/16	40	Saturday	17	22	21	27	23	110	150
16/04/16	45	Saturday	13	10	16	13	19	71	116
23/04/16	22	Saturday	14	8	9	17	21	69	91
30/04/16	49	Saturday	13	17	17	17	22	86	135
Totals	156		66	69	77	87	100	399	555
Average miles per person	0.5		7.6	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.0	Saturday Mileage	1841.1
Mileage per Group	78.0		501.6	345.0	346.5	348.0	300.0	Month's total Mileage	1919.1