

# Bird Notes...

**Has it warmed up yet? Hope so! I'm sat writing this in the second week of Feb and there's still the threat of snow in the air. Can't wait for spring to er spring.**

The birds on the back garden are still absolutely gorging themselves on the food that I'm supplying and as I've slowly moved my feeders progressively closer to the house since I put them up, I am now being rewarded with really close views as robins, blackbirds, house sparrows, dunnocks, wood pigeons and collared doves, the odd chaffinch and greenfinch, wrens, blue tits and starlings tuck in near my window.

You will all recognise these species as some of those that you've been seeing on your own gardens and I'm sure there will be some of you who will be seeing other species as well. You may have noticed that I didn't include great tit in my list, I do occasionally get them in the garden but only one or two at a time but they don't seem to hang around for long and I've not seen them visit any of my feeders, the lack of their presence is more than made up for by a small flock of long tailed tits that visit the garden everyday and when the weather was particularly foul they even ate from my peanut feeders. Maybe you're regularly visited by these beautiful little birds. Depending on where exactly you live in Warsop will affect the mix of species that you will see in your garden and on your feeders. Those of you whose property backs onto open fields may find that reed buntings visit the bird table, others among you may have mature woodland close by and as a consequence have regular visits from great spotted woodpeckers or perhaps even a jay. I know that a lot of people are charmed by the presence of goldfinches and feed niger seed specifically to encourage them into their gardens. (The term for a flock of goldfinch is a charm.) (I was trying to work in "an exultation of skylarks" as well, but unless you have a really open garden that backs onto really open fields and you feed grain or something similar the chances of seeing them on your garden are very small, but still a chance. Yellowhammer is also another possible species that you may see in your garden, especially if you live adjacent to a railway embankment.

The only real limit on the different species that you could attract to your garden, besides whereabouts you live is the range of



foodstuffs you offer; put simply, the more types of food=the more types of bird.

Often though the best sightings of birds in your garden are often the ones of birds who are only occasionally glimpsed close up, like a sparrowhawk or maybe a wary carrion crow, but if you are lucky enough to see any bird really close up, even with a species as familiar as the house sparrow one cannot fail to be moved by it's simple beauty of form and it's subtle colouration. Try taking a closer look at those birds that maybe you've been taking for granted; a good one for a second look is the dunnocks, check out their eye colour, if you can.

*Here's to warmer weather, soon hopefully! - B.A.*



## THREE PARISHES WALKS

Whatever your ability we have a walk for you - walk for your chosen charity or community group, raise funds to help them provide services in our community.

**Sunday 16th May 2010**

To reserve your information pack call Tania on:

**01623 846011**

Email: [tbarlow@warsop.gov.uk](mailto:tbarlow@warsop.gov.uk)

Registration at the Parish Centre from around 9.30am, set off at 10am, refreshments on return

# WARSOP

## Footpath & Countryside Group

**Spring must be arriving soon! The cold winter may have delayed some events but nature always seems to catch up. Things to look forward to in March include blackthorn hedges coming into flower, hawthorn leaves appearing, blackbirds and blue tits building their nests and ladybirds reappearing.**

According to the Woodland Trust's phenology website we could be cutting our lawns in the second week of March although in 2001 and 2006 the average date for the first cut was not until early April!

Grass cutting activities that were running late were this group's attempts to manage the grassland on the Rhein o' Thorns. Our scheduled work sessions for this annual winter job seemed to coincide with fresh snowfall but hopefully we will have completed the task by now.

As I write these notes the new bridge on the Carrs across the River Meden is under construction. The increased width should reduce the bottleneck at busy times and the foundations should look more secure than the repairs to the old bridge that followed the flood damage. Hopefully something will now be done to make the wooden bridge near the BMX track at Carr Lane more robust as it does not inspire confidence and can be very slippery. However, the other eight river crossings in the parish appear to be in good order now that repairs have been carried out to the footbridge near Assarts Farm at Meden Vale.

We are approaching the time of year when members of this group will be surveying all 52 of Warsop's public footpaths, bridleways and byways on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council. This will involve walking along over 25 miles of path, checking approximately 17 gates, 2 stiles, 9 bridges,

**Our Secretary can be contacted on 01623 846281.**

WF&CG is a community group whose members share an interest in the countryside. We maintain the public footpath network in Warsop, we undertake conservation projects and we provide information about the local environment [www.wfcg.org.uk](http://www.wfcg.org.uk)

4 sets of steps, 72 signposts and 20 waymark posts! These figures illustrate what a wonderful network of routes we have in our parish. The results of the survey will help determine the programme of work that we will carry out during the coming year. If you would like to raise any issues about our footpaths get in touch with us so that we can check out the problem and pass details on to the council.

During April the council will be carrying out checks on paths that cross arable fields to ensure that paths have been reinstated after ploughing and are clear of crops. Hopefully our farmers will have everything in order, we seldom have any serious issues apart from in the north-western part of the parish where there have been long-term problems between Lord Stubbins Wood and Langwith.

Warsop featured in BBC's Country Tracks programme on the last Sunday in January. In a report originally broadcast in 2006 John Craven described the neglected state of our Parliament Oak. However this was balanced by a new interview with Karyn Stander of the Sherwood Forest Trust who described the recent improvements to the area and also mentioned the techniques used to manage heathland areas of Sherwood Forest.

The next Footpaths Group walk on Saturday 20th March should be around Eakring. We plan to leave Warsop library 9:15am. Get in touch if you would like to come along or would like more details.

# Warsop Walks Update...

## FREE In Step Walks

Short walks around the Mansfield area and surrounding district all year round, led by trained volunteers, a fun way to improve your health and make new friends.

**March 2010 - all walks start at 10am**

Date	Venue	Grade
Mon 1st	Thieves' Wood	easy
Wed 3rd	Quarry Lane	easy
Thu 4th	Shirebrook Woods	moderate
Sun 7th	Rowthorne Walk	moderate
Mon 8th	Spa Ponds	easy
Wed 10th	King's Mill Reservoir	easy
Thu 11th	Hardwick Hall	strenuous
Sun 14th	Thoresby Park	easy
Mon 15th	Woodhouse Trail	easy/moderate
Wed 17th	Titchfield Park	easy
Thu 18th	Felley	moderate
Sun 21st	Sherwood Forest	easy
Mon 22nd	Birklands Park	moderate/long
Wed 24th	Sutton Lawn	easy
Thu 25th	Burnt Stump Park	moderate
Sun 28th	Warsop Vale	easy/moderate
Mon 29th	Scarcliffe	moderate
Wed 31st	Oak Tree Heath	easy

For more information telephone:

**07951 968366** for the Sunday walks

**07951 945407** for the Monday walks

**07951 968437** for the Thursday walks



## FREE Weekly Health Walks

**Rufford Country Park conducts a weekly health walk every Monday afternoon (Except Bank Holidays) starting at 2pm.**

We meet in the Craft Centre Courtyard at the Abbey end of the park. The walks are FREE, open to all, last about an hour at a fairly gentle pace in the varied scenery of Rufford. The walk is followed by tea/coffee and biscuits (small donation appreciated).

**For further information please contact Steve at Rufford rangers on 01623 821335 or email [steve.koefoed@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:steve.koefoed@nottscc.gov.uk)**

## Sherwood Foragers Walks Healthy Walking

**Every Wednesday Morning starting at 10.00am.**

We are a friendly group aimed at encouraging people to get walking. All walks are lead by Trained Volunteer leaders, on a variety of routes from each of our two meeting points.

### ● Vicar Water Country Park

Meeting at the car park at Vicar Water Country Park, Mansfield Road, Clipstone at 10.00am

• March 2010 3rd 17th and 31st

### ● The Sherwood Forest Farm Park

Meeting at Sherwood Forest Farm Park Off the B6035 at Kings Clipstone and the Warsop Windmill

• March 2010 10th and 24th

**More details telephone 01623 824754**

On every First Wednesday of the month we hold a luncheon club at Rumbles Restaurant, Vicar Water, Clipstone.

**Christine Johnson - walk Leader**

**Telephone Mansfield 01623 428578**