

SGEG Bird Group - Aerial Acrobatics (not the members!)

The SGEG bird group had a very successful birdwatching evening on 6th July on Blackheath at 8.30 p.m. Amongst other birds we heard blackbirds, pigeons, linnets, chiffchaffs and the dartford warbler, which was tantalisingly close but staying put, in impenetrable cover. As darkness fell on a beautiful evening, eight of us were treated to the unmistakable sound of nightjars. This is what we had come to witness. There were at least 5 birds churring from various locations as we slowly moved about. The calls were really quite loud and sounded, we sort of agreed, a bit like a cicada. We even heard the clapping of the wings and then some of us were treated to a display of aerial acrobatics. This was caught on video so you can find it on our website.

We came across two Waverley rangers who said that they were aware of 7 areas inhabited by nightjars on the common and asked us to report our observations to them if we saw them - so we did! We said we could not be sure how many territories there might have been.

This successful evening came hot on the heels of a visit to Longacre bird club. In only one term Longacre have identified 42 species and have made wonderful clay models of many of them which is a really excellent way of emphasizing their differing characteristics.

Anyone is always very welcome to come and join us on our bird walks, just let us know if you are interested in doing so. Also please let us know about your unusual sightings at info@shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk. I have several swallows nesting my barn again, (after an absence of a few years) so that is definitely worth a mention.



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