



Cannock Chase, 27 April 2014

Nine members made the trip to Cannock Chase. We visited three different areas of the Chase and saw just under 40 species during the day. The weather stayed kind to us all day and the rain forecast for the afternoon did not materialise.

Meeting at the Cadet Huts carpark we took a walk on the heathland there and highlights included numerous Tree Pipits with their song display, at least 3 Cuckoos, a party of 6 Woodlark giving excellent telescope views, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Redstart, Green Woodpecker, Raven and Crossbill.

Moving to Seven Springs for lunch, we had good views of Siskin and Blackcap near the carpark and excellent views again of a singing Wood Warbler in the woodland nearby together with Nuthatch and Jay.

Our final destination was Freda's Grave where the highlights were Stonechat and 3 hunting Hobby.

Ray Evans

Cannock Chase, 23 April 2017

Ten members made the trip to Cannock Chase. We visited various sites on the Chase and saw 40 species during the day. The weather stayed kind to us all day and it was quite warm when there was no cloud cover.

Meeting at the Penkridge Bank car park we took a walk on the heathland there and highlights included numerous Tree Pipits with their song display, loads of Willow Warbler, a pair of Redstart, Yellowhammer, Jay, Goldcrest and Kestrel.

Moving to Seven Springs for lunch, we had good views of Chiffchaff and Blackcap near the car park together with Raven and Nuthatch.

We had a comfort stop at the Wolseley Centre, a Staffordshire Wildlife Trust reserve on the River Trent and a short walk gave us a very inland pair of Oystercatcher and a Grey Wagtail.

We then moved to White House car park where we had Green Woodpecker calling and saw Common Buzzard and Green Hairstreak butterflies. We were unable to find any Woodlark at any of the sites.

Our final destination was Freda's Grave where the highlights were Stonechat, Linnet, a Green Woodpecker who made three flypasts, Cuckoo and Stock Dove.

The migrants were very few and far between, with the cold weather in April obviously putting a brake on many travelling north up the country.

Ray Evans

Cannock Chase, 14 April 2019

Six members made the trip to Cannock Chase. We visited various sites on the Chase and saw 48 species during the day. The weather stayed kind to us all day even though it was a little breezy.

Meeting at the Penkridge Bank car park we took a walk on the heathland there and highlights included Tree Pipit with their song display, Willow Warbler, Redstart, Yellowhammer, Brambling, Redpoll, Sparrowhawk, Common Buzzard, Kestrel, Jay and Nuthatch.

Moving to Seven Springs for lunch, we had good views of Chiffchaff and Blackcap near the car park together with further Tree Pipit, Siskin and Common Crossbill.

Our final stop was at the Wolseley Centre, a Staffordshire Wildlife Trust reserve on the River Trent and even though the Visitor Centre was shut for refurbishment a walk round the reserve and down to the river gave us views of a few water birds including Reed Bunting and culminating in Kingfisher and a drake Goosander.

The migrants were very few and far between but we visited a little earlier in the month than previous trips.

Ray Evans

Cannock Chase. 12 April 2022



Black Cap - Seven Springs



Willow Warbler - Wolsley Centre

Fourteen members met up at the new Headquarters of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust at the Wolseley Centre in rather wet conditions. We all had cups of tea and cake in their nice cafe hoping the rain would ease! We walked to the bird hide, got a Reed Bunting and decided that their "Swan Lake" would be better titled "Canada Goose Lake"! We hoped for a Kingfisher on the River Trent which didn't materialise due to a woodchipper being used by SWT staff but saw and heard many Chiffchaff and our first Willow Warblers of the year. A solitary Swallow flew over us.

We went on to Seven Springs car park to have our lunch and an obliging Blackcap sang for us in a nearby bush (see photo). The rain stopped and we walked along the beautiful Abrahams Valley deeper into the forest and got a Tree Pippit showing nicely. Total group species seen were 35.

Stephen Williams