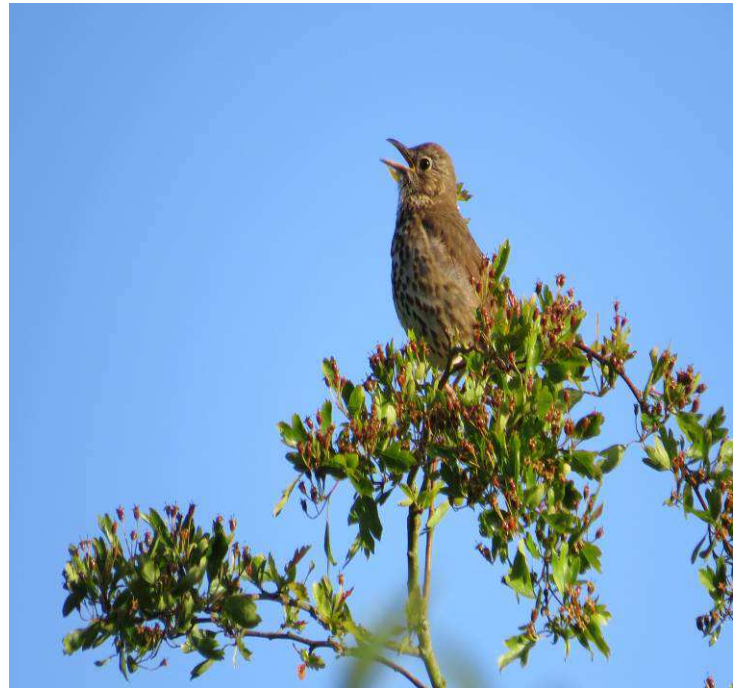
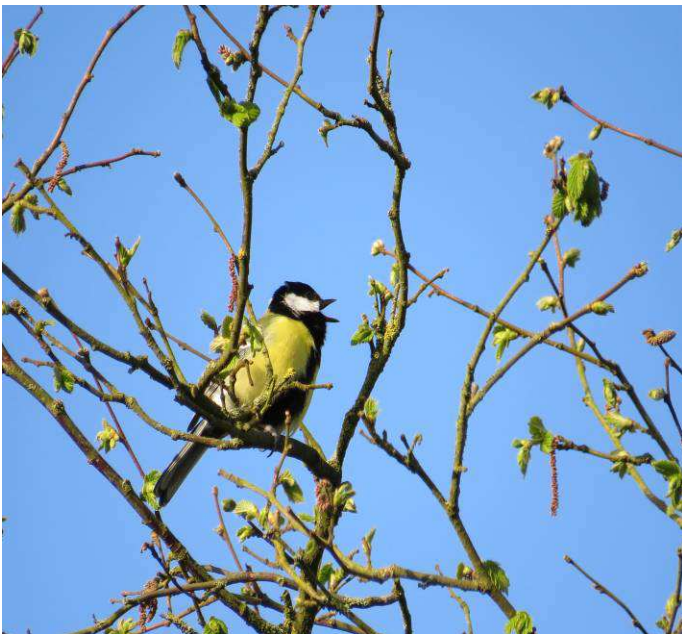




## Dawn Chorus

Encouraged by the increasing day light hours that mark the start of the breeding season, our resident song birds are the earliest to begin the annual dawn chorus. Among the first to burst into song often about an hour before sunrise are Song Thrush, Blackbird, Robin and Wren, these will be joined later in the month by the summer migrants like Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Willow Warbler. These summer visitors having flown a very long way will need to establish a territory and find a mate as soon as possible if they are to be successful in breeding this year.

The dawn chorus is all about the male defending a breeding territory or trying to attract a female, generally only the male will sing. The quality of his song demonstrates his superiority over his rivals, indicating that he is a good forager and lives in a territory with plenty of available food. Also that he is strong and healthy enough to survive a night of low temperature and active predators. A weaker bird would not have the stamina to sing for very long



The subdued light of dawn is not the best time for foraging, seeds are more difficult to find and insects tend to be inactive in the relative cold. The air which is often still and with less background noise (i.e people and cars) at this time of day enables the bird song to carry up to twenty times as far.

The chorus lasts about 45-60 minutes after daybreak, once there is enough light to see properly the birds begin to feed. There is also a dusk chorus but this is not as vigorous as the dawn version.

Invertebrates (land habitat excluding butterflies and moths -  
talk and field identification training course  
An i.d workshop

Tutors Alan Wilkinson and Steve Goodwin

To be held during July 2015 date to be confirmed 9:30am -1:00pm.

Course will consist of an indoor initial overview followed by an outdoor practical hands on session probably at Black Dam/Crabtree Plantation. This training course is free to conservation group members interested in discovering more about invertebrates from beginner level upwards.

Once a place on the course is confirmed you will not be able to change your mind at a later date. For more details e-mail [kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk)

Work Parties for April 2015

Date	Meeting Point
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Down Grange Meadow Homestead Road interpretation board
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Old Orchard. Kendal Gardens

Times: - Sunday's 10:00 - 13:00. Thursday's 14:00 – 16:00.

If you would like to join us for the first time please ring Marion on 470171.

Please bring work gloves, tools are provided.

Contact us:- By e-mail on [kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk) or via the website [www.kempshotconservationgroup.org.uk](http://www.kempshotconservationgroup.org.uk). For anything that requires urgent action, such as fallen trees on any of our sites please contact Marion Wolstencroft on 470171