

## **LAMBS Birdwatch**

### **Look and Listen!**

The most important species to look and listen for are:

**Nightingale** – loud, sustained and very varied song, usually from the depths of a hedgerow ..... but they **DO** sing during daylight hours, so don't think that a daytime walk to track them down is a waste of time! Birds should start to be heard by mid April.

**Yellowhammer** – that “littlebitofbreadandnocheeeese” song, and they often sit nicely on the top of a hedge, and of course, they are yellow!

**Skylark** – these will be found in fields, or singing their glorious sustained melodies high above

**Lapwing** – a “wader”, about jackdaw-sized, but black and white with a “crest” at the back of the head. If you see these, they will be in the fields, may be giving an aerial display with accompanying “peewit” calls

**Barn Owl** – this species had a disastrous breeding year in 2013 due to appalling weather in the late spring and early summer which, coupled with a prolonged cold winter in 2012/3 and the floods of 2013/14, means numbers are very low at present. But they are in the area, and chance sightings if you're driving home at night are always possible.

**Cuckoo** – can look surprisingly hawk-like, but when they fly their wings don't rise above the horizontal - no tips required re their call!

If you're really lucky you may hear the gentle purring sound of a **Turtle Dove** (some of you may remember what a “trimfone” sounded like!) – please let us know about these too, though they're not normally here until May.

If you are able to spend more time in the area, then please try to record as many species as possible, with numbers seen and location/s. It will all help to build up a picture of what is there, and what we stand to lose.

You are probably familiar with most of our resident birds, Blackbird, Robin, Wren, etc. but it is the summer visitors that are more difficult, particularly as not all make themselves visible! Try to pick out the songs of the common birds first, then gradually add those of the less obvious ones: Dunnock, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, and summer visitors such as Chiffchaff (which sounds like its name!), Blackcap and Whitethroat.

Good luck!