

Review of Ella Young's presentation 'The Dawn Chorus' Thurs 6th May 2021

Ella is one of our newer members who has become a frequent attender at our 'Connect on Thursday' sessions. She has given us a number of presentations and has promised us a session on 28th October 2021 on the Galapagos Islands.



Ella is an active environmental campaigner and this showed through in her presentation in her care for birds and their environment, thinking about the importance of green corridors and the best conditions for birds especially when they are nesting. Ella knows her birds well and in particular their songs. The following website is well worth a look at and to hear the sound of birds found in the UK. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-songs/what-bird-is-that/>

Some birds as we discovered are relatively easy to identify such as the Chiffchaff with its 'chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff, chiff-chiff-chaff'. The classic Great tit song is a crisp "tea-cher, tea-cher" but whilst this song is easy to recognise, Ella explained that the Great tit has an amazing repertoire, of many different calls and songs. Throughout Ella mentioned research and various studies about bird song so we know that the Wren makes an astonishing number of notes in a matter of seconds. Also that the Song Thrush sings for 60% of the time during daylight hours.

It was evident that Ella is passionate about bird song and was happy to share her knowledge and answer questions. By the end we were certainly better informed with thanks to Ella for a most interesting talk. Next spring she is hoping to organise a dawn chorus walk for our members. So something to look forward to.

Review and photo by Christine Chittock, Chair and Speakers' Coordinator