

Over the holiday, I had an opportunity to go out and go birdwatching. Never had I ever thought that birdwatching was a lot more than just looking at birds. For it is so much more complicated than that, you have to always remember that the safety and interests of the birds come first, and there are so many laws and regulations for visiting the countryside.

I researched The Dawn Chorus, which is the collective chirping of birds. It always starts with a small group of songs- blackbirds and thrushes- just before dawn. They are then joined gradually by other voices, until all the birds in the area are singing together. The chorus is one of the best known ways to recognise the beginning of Spring. Thrushes also sing at night along with robins and nightingales.

My favourite bird song is the song of a blackbird, it is short, but has a rich, fluffy tone, ending each verse with a squeaky ornamented twiddle. The blackbird, has been given the nickname of the 'Beethoven' amongst the birds. English poet Joseph Addison said, 'I value my garden being more full of blackbirds, than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs.'

Bird song can also be very cleverly imitated on the recorder, some of my favourite examples that i have played are,

- The English Nightingale- Jacob van Eyk, it uses musical ornaments to imitate twiddles, and chirps
- Birds at the Brook- Bach-Vogel, uses trills to imitate a gurgling from water and the birds
- A Queer Bird- Ein Seltsamer Vogel

These are just a few examples for there are many more.



Over the holidays i saw some birds, such as:

The white bird, is a roller pigeon,  
And the other is an english carrier, these  
I spotted with Farrah in Golders Hill Park.  
In this park we also saw a blackbird and lots of different types of ducks.

These are close-ups of robins I saw while walking through  
Hampstead Heath.

