



Jono Lethbridge

Let's Keep Our Skylarks!

Wanstead Flats has the only breeding Skylarks in inner London.

Skylarks nest on the ground in the areas of long grass. They (and the less conspicuous Meadow Pipits) are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by people and dogs in the nesting season.

For this reason, between the start of March and the end of August, we request that you keep your dog on the leash and stick to the main paths when you are walking through the area of longer grass west of the football pitches and east of Centre Road.

Thank you!

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Skylarks are famous for their song flights, which are delivered by the males from very early in the spring and all through the nesting season. They can hover for 10 minutes or more, all the time delivering a beautiful song, a song that has inspired poets and composers for centuries. It's sometimes hard to work out where the song is coming from because the singer is so high – often 300 feet or more.

The population of Skylarks in their traditional habitats – on downland and around farmland – has fallen dramatically in recent decades as a result of changed farming practices.

That makes it even more important that we keep ours here on Wanstead Flats. We have about 10 pairs of Skylarks, and about the same number of Meadow Pipits, which also nest on the ground – and which are also becoming scarcer every year.

Thanks for taking the time to read this leaflet.

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www.wrengroup.org.uk