

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. ( Breezy SE.)  
Brendon Bridge to Dunsdon.**



**Wren**



**Orange Tip (male)**



**St Mark's Fly**

### **Birds**

We heard a **Willow Warbler** singing at Brendon Bridge from the small copse, also **Chiffchaff** singing there. Near the gate into Dunsdon Nature Reserve another Chiffchaff sang with a distinctive call in which a third note was added to create chiff-chiff-chaff !

Two **song Thrushes** sang; one from an oak tree in the reserve, his song very strident and declamatory. **Buzzards** called and a **Raven** flew overhead,

Two **Coal Tits**, possibly paired, were in a willow close to the outflow of the canal. **Robins** and **Wrens** sang from various points all along the canal.

### **Flowers**

A few **Stitchwort** and **Lesser Celandine** at the towpath edges with plenty of sun bright **Dandelions** along the path. One lone clump of **Milk Maids (Cuckoo flower)** in the canal bed near Beckley's copse. Blue **Violets** in flower amongst **Bluebell** leaves near Gainsmoor Bridge. Brilliant blue flowers of **Ground Ivy** shower against winter-brown vegetation by the gate at Lana bridge. In the ditch that runs parallel to the towpath, on its north west side at Dunsdon Nature Reserve section, there was a large clump of **King Cups (Marsh Marigold)** wonderful golden flowers. At several spots in the south side hedge of the canal, **Sallow** catkins produced a soft yellow haze. Later flowering than the usual **Grey Sallow**, so probably **Eared Sallow**. These have "ears" to the lobes of their flowers, not yet visible.

### **Insects**

Two **Peacock** butterflies twirled round and round sky-wards, near Brendon Bridge. We saw a third nearer Beckley's copse. A male **Orange tip** flew along and over the canal bed, in search of a female. **Hover Flies** of several types, were using the wide open dandelions. **St. Mark's Flies**, with their dangly legs, flew at our head height as we walked along. Plenty of **Bumble Bees**, seen and heard but not identified.