**devonbirds** Plymouth Branch – Cann Woods Nightjar Walk II

Thursday 7th July

Perfect weather was again the order of the day when seventeen members and friends of Plymouth Branch assembled at Cann Woods, Plympton, for the group’s second Nightjar foray of the season. As is normal so late in the evening bird sightings are few but we enjoyed the serenades of the resident Blackbirds, Song Thrushes and Robins whilst we waited for the Nightjars to perform.

Anticipation in the group grew as the birds remained hidden for longer than usual. To our relief the first bird got up for a short fly-past at 9:45, a full hour after the start of the meeting. This was shortly followed by the sound of churring from at least three different directions and then many prolonged flight views of perhaps four or five individuals. All this to the accompaniment of their various vocalisations, churring, ‘ke‑wicking’, gurgling and wing clapping. The performance continued for a good forty minutes until it was time to return to our cars, our way back partially lit up by the light of five or six Glow-worms, and the sounds of hunting Pipistrelle Bats (on the detector).

As was the case with last month’s visit, we again had four members of the party for whom it was their first ever experience of the strange sights and sounds of the Nightjar. It was one they said they’d never forget.

Chris Marcol.