

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

This sighting constitutes the first record for this species in the metropolitan county West Midlands and third ever West Midland Bird Club regional record. The bird was initially found by Alan Dean on June 11th 2015 at a location approximately midway between Hampton in Arden and Berkswell, near to Marsh Lane NR. Alan was soon supported by Nick Barlow and their joint efforts, along with others, established the true identity of the bird. An excellent and full account of the find is available on Alan Dean's website, visit - <http://deanar.org.uk/general/articles/melodious.htm> to access the link to *Melodious Warbler in the West Midlands, June 2015*

The purpose of this page is in celebrating the find of this bird through the camera lens. The following stunning photographs by David Hutton and Richard Stonier are simply so good that they need to be displayed in this size and format. Apart from the quality of these photographs that provide us the opportunity to enjoy the bird, they also offer an ideal platform from which to study the bird and absorb its identity.

In studying these photographs, all key identification marks for Melodious Warbler are visible for scrutiny. There is, however, one point that I feel stands out and is worthy of mention and this is the colour tone of the bird as it is portrayed in differing available light and from different angles of view. In some shots there is a complete lack of yellow in the birds plumage and a distinctly brown/grey bird is displayed. This is not confined to the view from a camera lens, the same applies to the view through the human eye. All of these points need to be given great consideration when establishing a true identity and, when including this feature along with the physical features and characteristics of the bird, not always are the simplest of tasks placed before us – then nobody said that bird identification was supposed to be easy! - *Jim Winsper*

Enjoy the photographs. First six by David Hutton followed by two from Richard Stonier, many thanks to both.



Melodious Warbler – West Midlands – June 2015 – David Hutton



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Melodious Warbler – West Midlands – June 2015 – David Hutton



Melodious Warbler – West Midlands – July 2015 – David Hutton – July 2nd 2015

The photograph (above) by Dave Hutton taken on July 2nd 2015 represents his twentieth plus visit to the site in order to capture yet another stunning shot of this bird. This also represents the 22nd day that the bird has been in residence at this exact location and, we are still counting. The occurrence of rare birds does not always produce an extended opportunity to photograph them, a record shot as proof of their occurrence and true identity is all that we can hope for; the chance to compose such photographs as these that are displayed here, together with many more that have been taken by a huge selection of photographers that are posted elsewhere, is not just a bonus but a credit to all of those who have taken the opportunity and time to produce such top-class work that benefits all.

The following two photographs are by Richard Stonier

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