

# How to identify a **skylark**

Walborough is home to an endangered, red-listed bird, the skylark. Here is how to identify these birds by sight and by sound!

A skylark is slightly larger than a sparrow, with a streaky brown breast and a crest on its head which it can raise when excited or alarmed. When they take off, you might also be able to spot their white-edged tail.

However what makes the Skylark stand out from other brown birds is its song. A song that has inspired countless poems, songs and works of literature. Just as described in Shelley's poem, the skylark springs from the ground and erupts into song, flying almost vertically upwards into the clouds.

They will pour out a continuous melodic song without pausing, as if the bird isn't stopping for breath and will continue to do so for minutes of end!

*To a Sky lark by Percy Byssge Shelley*

Higher still and higher  
From the earth thou springest  
Like a cloud of fire;  
The blue deep thou wingest,  
And singing still dost soar, and soaring ever signest.

....

Teacher me half the gladness  
That thy brain must know,  
Such harmonious madness  
From my lips would flow  
The world should listen as I am listening now.

**Skylark**



If you hear a continuous song from a bird high up in the sky, its likely you are listening to the skylark.