



Skylark

All year round

Description: best known for its upward flight and 'hovering' while singing. The male has a blunt crest.

Habitat: Grassland, fields and heath.

Where to start?

St. Cuthbert's Church, East Rainton, Hetton-le-Hole, grid reference NZ335477. For information on local bus services please phone Traveline North East on 0870 608 2608.

Paths, gates and seats

The route involves compacted and loose stone tracks, long grass and rough, cultivated fields, which are steep/very steep in places and can be muddy (D5 on the Break Free scale). There are several step stiles, A-frame squeeze stiles and gates of varying width, and only a few seats (Low Moorsley). Take care at road crossings!

Would you like to know more?

For more information or to report sightings of wildlife please see our website or contact:

Countryside Team
Development and Regeneration
Services
Civic Centre
Sunderland
SR2 7DN
Tel: 0191 553 8773
Email: countryside@sunderland.gov.uk

www.sunderland.gov.uk/countryside

Photographs by www.northeastwildlife.co.uk and Laurie Campbell.

Go wild...

Moorsley and East Rainton

Go wild and explore Sunderland's green spaces and easy-to-visit countryside places. Sunderland City Council helps you enjoy the breath of fresh air on your doorstep with this useful guide.

The Moorsley Meander is a 5 mile circular walk through a rolling Magnesian Limestone landscape. Enjoy fine views, colourful wildflower

meadows and a few reminders of our industrial past.

The route follows field side footpaths and disused mineral railway lines. Amongst the hedgerows, ditches, woods and farmland you can come upon a great mix of bird life including yellowhammer, reed bunting and grey partridge. Rare, calcareous grasslands at High Moorsley and Pittington Hill

have plants such as blue moor grass, quaking grass, common rock-rose, cowslip and glaucous sedge. They support many species of insect

including butterflies such as common blue and meadow brown, and until recently the rare northern brown argus.



Brown Hare

All year round

Description: Larger than rabbits, with long ears and mottled chestnut brown fur.

Habitat: Fields, open grassland and scrub.



Meadow Pipit

All year round

Description: Jerky flight, climbing with rapid wing beats then dropping with stiff wings.

Habitat: Heath, moorland and grassland.



Meadow Brown

May - October

Description: A dark brown butterfly. The female has a more prominent patch around the eye-spot on each wing.

Habitat: All grassy places.



Corn Bunting

All year round

Description: Stout sparrow sized bird, plumage similar to a skylark. Song sounds like a jangling bunch of keys.

Habitat: Grassland, farmland and heath.



Greater Knapweed

June - September

Description: Red-purple flowers have longer florets around the edge unlike black knapweed/hardheads.

Habitat: Grasslands.