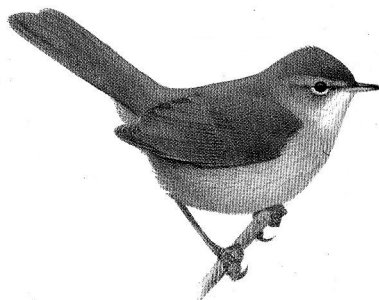


## Cetti's Warbler

We keep a bird list for our garden here at Orlandon Kilns. This has two main categories - birds seen in the garden (or flying over) and birds seen from the garden. At present the totals are 58 in the garden and 31 from the garden. Having lived here for nearly 10 years now we do not often get an addition to the list – the last was a Woodchat Shrike which spent several days perched on the gorse bushes in Winterton Marsh. This was quite exciting as it is probably the rarest bird on our list, being only seen a couple of times each year in Pembrokeshire.



However, a few days ago we had another new bird – a Cetti's Warbler. This is a large plain brown warbler which likes wet places with bushes, and is incidentally pronounced "Chetti's Warbler". They are very skulking and you would never know they were there if it weren't for their very distinctive song. The most characteristic thing about it is that its very loud! If you are standing next to a bush containing a concealed Cetti's Warbler and it breaks into song it can give you a real fright. Not that it is unpleasant – far from it, and it is very distinctive – I can do no better than quote the Collins Bird Guide: "a sudden and loud outburst of musical but metallic, clanging notes, the rhythm characteristic: the first 1-4 notes slightly tentative, usually with the final one stressed, then a half-stop followed by a rapid series of groups of similar notes, at times dying at end" Have you got that??? Or perhaps more usefully rendered as "Listen?... What's my name?.... Cetti ... Cettiii ... Cetti... That's it!"

And it is this very distinctive song which tells me that there has been a Cetti's Warbler singing in the marsh behind the house (incidentally from the same area as the Woodchat Shrike favoured) for the last few days. Which means I need to add a new category to the garden list – "heard from the garden"!

Cetti's Warblers have spread from the continent over the last 50 years and breed in Pembrokeshire in the Teifi marshes and at Goodwick Moor. So a male bird singing here is interesting – will it breed?