

# Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 7 January 2014

(The records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date)



'Taiga' Bean Geese by Garth Peacock

## JANUARY HEADLINES

**BEAN GOOSE (subspecies 'Taiga' *Anser fabalis fabalis*)\*** Cambridge Research Park (2 on 11<sup>th</sup> and for the remainder of the month). If accepted this will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> county record of this subspecies; the first was in 2010.

**LONG TAILED DUCK\*** Grafham Water (long stay bird all month).

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER\*** Grafham Water (long stay bird all month) Paxton Pits (long stay bird all month), Maxey Pits (4<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>).

**GREAT WHITE EGRET\*** Paxton Pits (1<sup>st</sup>).

**GLOSSY IBIS\*** Earith (12<sup>th</sup>), Nene Washes Eldernell (19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>).

**ICELAND GULL** Tanholt GP (1<sup>st</sup> winter on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> and the same or another on 25<sup>th</sup>), Cambridge Research Park/Milton tip (1<sup>st</sup> winter from 5<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month), Fen Drayton Lakes (1<sup>st</sup> winter on 5<sup>th</sup>).

**GLAUCOUS GULL** Cambridge Research Park/Milton tip/Impington (2<sup>nd</sup> c.y. 6<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (an adult into roost on 7<sup>th</sup> and recorded for the rest of the month), Fen Drayton Lakes (2 c.y. on 19<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (a 1<sup>st</sup> winter on 25<sup>th</sup>).

## Other records

*All records below refer to the month at the head of the E-bulletin and where no numbers are given the record relates to single birds. Where the maximum is given it indicates presence of the species for at least part of the month but often throughout.*

*NOTE Where there is an asterisk after the name of the species this indicates that it is necessary to send a description to the County Recorder before the record will be accepted.*

### *Wildfowl*

**Bewick's Swan** Ouse Washes RSPB (on 25<sup>th</sup>), Maxey GP (11<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Whooper Swan** Ouse Washes RSPB (310 on 25<sup>th</sup>), Brampton (4 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen/Burwell fen/Adventurer's Fen (9 flyovers on 11<sup>th</sup> and on 10 flyovers on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Pink-footed Goose** Cambridge Research Park (11<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>), Over (6 flyovers on 15<sup>th</sup>), Witcham GP (21<sup>st</sup>), Ouse Washes (25<sup>th</sup>).

**White-fronted Goose** Wicken Fen/Adventurers' Fen (2 on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Greylag Goose** *counts over 100* Stapleford/Dernford Quarry (219 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 220+ on 29<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen/Adventurers' Fen (maximum 550 on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Barnacle Goose** Cambridge (11 near the Coton footpath on 24<sup>th</sup>).

**Red-breasted Goose** Fen Drayton Lakes-Fenstanton (in a field on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Egyptian Goose** Paxton Pits (2 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes/Earith (6 on 25<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Shelduck** Grafham Water (14<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen/Baker's Fen (a pair on 29<sup>th</sup>).

**Wigeon** *counts over 1000* Wicken Fen (maximum 2400 on 10<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 1500 on 19<sup>th</sup>), Needingworth Pits (1300 on 21<sup>st</sup>).

**Gadwall** *counts over 100* Wicken Fen (maximum 310 on 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Teal** *counts over 100* Wicken Fen/Baker's Fen (maximum 761 on 29<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (900 on 19<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (350 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Mallard** *counts over 100* Wicken Fen (maximum 246 on 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Pintail** Wicken Fen (maximum 5 on 10<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 10 on 30<sup>th</sup>).

**Shoveler** *counts over 50* Wicken Fen/Baker's Fen (maximum 219 on 29<sup>th</sup>).

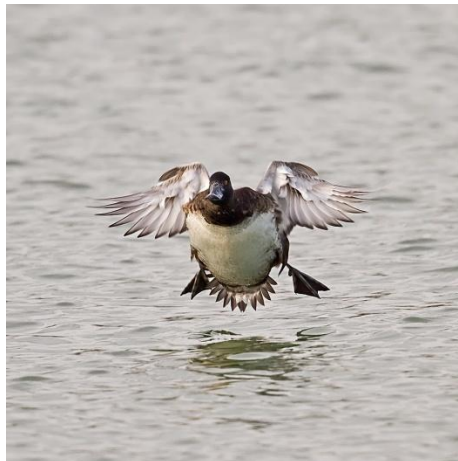
**Red-crested Pochard** Paxton Pits (maximum 5 on 1<sup>st</sup>).

**Scaup** Paxton Pits (1-2 on 1<sup>st</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (11<sup>th</sup>).

**Goldeneye** Needingworth Pits (3 on 21<sup>st</sup>).

**Smew** Paxton Pits (maximum 5 redheads 1<sup>st</sup> although 2 males were present on 30<sup>th</sup>), Needingworth GP (maximum 14 on 11<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (redhead on 19<sup>th</sup>), Bainton Pits (2 on 19<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Fen (3 redheads on 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Goosander** Paxton Pits (maximum 8 on 30<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 9 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Maxey Pits (12 on 18<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (male on 19<sup>th</sup>).



Tufted Duck at Grafham Water photo by Garth Peacock

### ***Divers, shearwaters, gannet and cormorants***

**[Black-throated Diver\*** Hinchingsbrooke CP ( a probable on 22<sup>nd</sup>)].

**Cormorant** Wicken Fen (maximum 19).

**Shag** Paxton Pits (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (flyover 2<sup>nd</sup>, present on 3<sup>rd</sup>).

### ***Egrets and herons***

**Bittern** *reported from* Fowlmere NR, Wicken Fen.

**Little Egret** Paxton Pits (maximum 4 on 26<sup>th</sup>), Great/Little Shelford (maximum 18 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Brampton (2 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (2 on 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>), Great Fen/Home Fen (maximum 4 on 29<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Grebes***

**Black-necked Grebe** Waterbeach River Cam (5<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Raptors***

**Red Kite** Grafham Water (14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>), Aldreth (27<sup>th</sup>).

**Marsh Harrier** Wicken Fen (maximum 9 on 29<sup>th</sup>), Little Wilbraham Fen (12<sup>th</sup>), Woodwalton Fen (4 on 20<sup>th</sup>).

**Hen Harrier** Great Fen (male on several dates), Waterbeach Fen (5<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (maximum 5 - 3 females/ringtails and 2 males out of roost at dawn on 30<sup>th</sup>), Little Wilbraham Fen (a ringtail on 12<sup>th</sup>), Witcham GP (male on 15<sup>th</sup>), Swaffham Bulbeck (a ringtail on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Paxton Pits (ringtail on 25<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (a ringtail on 27<sup>th</sup> – likely a Wicken bird).

**Buzzard** *reported from* Brampton (4 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (6 on 17<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits, Swaffham Bulbeck, Sawston by pass, Wicken Fen (maximum 4 on 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Merlin** Great Fen (2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> a female on 22<sup>nd</sup>), Wicken Fen (11<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere (2 on 21<sup>st</sup>), St Ives (27<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (29<sup>th</sup>).

**Peregrine** Cambridge (1-2 in the now customary places), Great Fen/Trundle Mere. (12<sup>th</sup>), Witcham GP (2 juveniles on 15<sup>th</sup> and a single on 19<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and singles on 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (25<sup>th</sup>).

## **Rails and crane**

**Water Rail** reported from Cambridge Research Park, Teversham Fen, Woodwalton Fen (4 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen.



Water Rail – preliminary sketches by John Gould for his *Birds of Great Britain*

**Coot** counts over 500 Paxton Pits (600 on 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Crane** Nene Washes Eldernell (8 on 19<sup>th</sup>), Ely (2 flyovers on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (2 flyovers on 25<sup>th</sup> presumably the same as the previous record).

## **Waders**

**Oystercatcher** Paxton Pits (26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>).

**Golden Plover** counts over 300 Trumpington (500+ on 9<sup>th</sup>), Little Wilbraham Fen (350 on 12<sup>th</sup>).

**Grey Plover** Paxton Pits (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Lapwing** *counts over 1000* Paxton Pits (maximum c2000 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Godmanchester-Huntingdon (c2800 on 13<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (3000 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Ouse Fen (1200 on 28<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen/Swaffham Pior Fen (maximum 4000 on 29<sup>th</sup>).

**Curlew** Witcham (3 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Black tailed Godwit** Fen Drayton Lakes (c250 flyovers on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 700 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 350+ on 25<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (10<sup>th</sup>), Godmanchester-Huntingdon (c450 on 13<sup>th</sup>).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** Paxton Pits (a flyover on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Ruff** Needingworth Pits (46 on 21<sup>st</sup>), Ouse Fen (103 on 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Dunlin** Paxton Pits (maximum 4 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Godmanchester-Huntingdon (c80 on 13<sup>th</sup>).

**Green Sandpiper** *reported from* Needingworth Pits, Paxton Pits (maximum 2) and Waterbeach Fen.

**Redshank** Grafham Water (maximum 10 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (8 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Jack Snipe** Paxton Pits (5<sup>th</sup>).

**Woodcock** *reported from* Castor Hanglands, Eaton Ford, Farcet Fen (3 on 28<sup>th</sup>), Fordham Wood (2), Fowlmere NR (2), Milton CP (2), Paxton Pits (maximum 3 on 18<sup>th</sup>) and Wicken Fen.

**Snipe** Wicken Fen/Burwell Fen (14 on 26<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Skuas, auks, terns and gulls***

**Mediterranean Gull** St Ives (an adult on 7<sup>th</sup>), Milton area (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Yellow-legged Gull** Fen Drayton Lakes (7+ on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Milton tip (maximum 7 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (on several dates), Grafham Water (2 on 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Caspian Gull** Wicken Fen (12<sup>th</sup>), Milton tip (maximum 8 on 13<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 4 on 19<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Doves, cuckoo, owls kingfisher and woodpeckers***

**Barn Owl** *reported from* Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen (maximum 2).

**Little Owl** *reported from* Needingworth Pits (2 on 21<sup>st</sup>).

**Tawny Owl** Woodwalton Fen (3 on 20<sup>th</sup>).

**Short-eared Owl** Great Fen (maximum 7 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Witcham (15<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (29<sup>th</sup>).



Short-eared Owls by Leslie Prosser

**Kingfisher** *reported from* Cambridge Research Park, Grafham Water (2 on 17<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen.

### ***Shrikes and corvids***

**Great Grey Shrike\*** Great Fen Trundle Mere/Holme Fen (the overwintering bird still present throughout the month).

**Jackdaw/Rook** The Wicken Fen roost continued throughout the month c2000-3000 birds.

**Hooded Crow\*** Great Fen/Holme Fen (all month).

**Raven** Castor Hanglands (2 flyovers on 1<sup>st</sup>), Paxton Pits (flyover on 11<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (17<sup>th</sup>), Dry Drayton (29<sup>th</sup>), Milton Estate (29<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Crests, tits and larks***

**Marsh Tit** *reported from* Paxton Pits.

**Bearded Tit** *reported from* Needingworth Pits.

### ***Hirundines, long-tailed tit and warblers***

**Cetti's Warbler** *reported from* Wicken Fen (maximum 4 on 17<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water and Brampton.

**Chiffchaff** Grafham Water (17<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (18<sup>th</sup>).

**Whitethroat** Needingworth - Ouse Fen (presumably the same on 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>) – an extraordinary record for January.

### ***Waxwing, nuthatch, treecreeper, wren, starling and thrushes***

**Waxwing** Cambridge (10 near the Science Park on 3<sup>rd</sup>).

**Starling** Godmanchester GP (roost of 5000 on 13<sup>th</sup>).

**Fieldfare** *counts over 50* Burwell Fen (60 on 26<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (c150 on 27<sup>th</sup>), Whittlesford GP 50+ on 28<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Starts and chats***

**Stonechat** Burwell Fen/ Wicken Fen (1-3 throughout the month), Ouse Washes (pair on 25<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Fen (29<sup>th</sup>), Chrishall Grange (29<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Sparrows, wagtails and pipits***

**Tree Sparrow** Needingworth GP (3 on 11<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (11<sup>th</sup>).

**Grey Wagtail** *reported from* Paxton Pits.

**Water Pipit** Ouse Washes/Earith (2 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>), Mare Fen (5 on 26<sup>th</sup>).





Small brown birds of open country - Meadow Pipit (left) and Skylark (right) at Wicken Fen  
photos by Roger Cresswell

### ***Finches and buntings***

**Chaffinch** Wicken Fen/Priory Farm (flock of 50-60 mixed with Goldfinches).

**Brambling** *reported from* Paxton Pits and Ferry Meadows CP.



Brambling by Roland Green

**Goldfinch** Burwell Fen (50+ on 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Linnet** Burwell Fen (27 on 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Twite\*** Ouse Fen (with a flock of Linnets on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Lesser Redpoll** *reported from* Great Fen, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

**Mealy Redpoll** Ferry Meadows (maximum 7+ on 6<sup>th</sup>), Great Fen/Holme Fen (maximum 4 on 13<sup>th</sup>).

**Bullfinch** Castor Hanglands (22 on 1<sup>st</sup>).

**Corn Bunting** Waterbeach Fen (10 on 5<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Exotica***

**Ross's Goose** Cam Washes Upware and Wicken Fen (the long stay bird was seen throughout the month at one or other of these sites).

### ***WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP Brief news for January 2014***

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 17 different days in January. The month's ringing total was 145; a further 230 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 375. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 2	Long-tailed Tit	7, 29
Pied Wagtail	6, 0	Blue Tit	28, 70
Wren	6, 3	Great Tit	13, 39
Dunnock	3, 9	Tree Creeper	0, 3
Robin	1, 28	House Sparrow	0, 1
Blackbird	18, 6	Chaffinch	5, 1
Fieldfare	1, 0	Greenfinch	23, 1
Song Thrush	2, 0	Goldfinch	9, 2
Redwing	1, 0	Lesser Redpoll	1, 3
Cetti's Warbler	0, 4	Bullfinch	2, 11
Goldcrest	2, 2	Reed Bunting	17, 15

Old birds retrapped during the month were:

Chaffinch 6 years 8 months  
Long-tailed Tit 6 years 7 months  
Blackbird 6 years 2 months  
Cetti's Warbler 4 years 6 months  
Robin 4 years 5 months  
Great Tit 3 years 8 months  
Dunnock 3 years 7 months.

**Contributors:** Richard Allison, Richard Astle, Richard Bashford, Mac Bell, Peter Bircham, Steve Blain, Helen Booker, Simon Booth, Chris Bowden, Chris Brown, Nigel Butcher, Howard Butler, Dave Chambers, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Vic and Pauline Couzens, Martin Davis, Ian Dawson, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, Judith Dunkling, Mark Eaton, Mike Everett, Ian Gordon, James Hanlon, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jonathan Heath, Graham Hirons, Michael Holdsworth, David Hollin, David Hopkins, John Hoppett, Carl Howard, James Hutchinson, Richard Johnson, Colin Kirtland, Mike and Anne Knowles, Rob Law, Hugh Lewis-Wright, Jon Lindsell, Andre Maddocks, Bruce Martin, Duncan McNiven, Matt Mellor, Dick Newell, Daniel Osborne, Richard Palmer, Gavin Paterson, Jeff Stenning, Simon Stirrup, Brian Stone, Andy Symes, Paul Taylor, Jonathan Taylor, Iain Thomas, Richard Thomas, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Andrew Tongue, Russell Watkins, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, Jamie Wells, Jeff Wesson, Mat Wilson, Julian Young, Christophe Zockler.

### ***Location location location***

Two sites were mentioned in the December bulletin the locations of which perhaps eluded most readers. Little Wood is a part of the Grafham complex and Pocket Park is the St Neot's Pocket Park. As mentioned before the Great Fen and Wicken Vision projects both incorporate sites with historical names and this has been recognised in part in this bulletin by adding a forward slash as in Great Fen/Holme Fen. Burwell Fen remains a separate entity here (so far). Sites that change names are always confusing and Waterbeach GP now being a science park has led to many observers reporting their sightings from Cambridge Research Park. The Club's gazetteer will shortly be revised and for future consistency the bulletins will use the names as they appear there.

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### ***Next CBC indoor meetings:***



Friday 14th February, St Johns Hall, Cambridge

Swans and Swan-apping by Chris Perrins

Chris Perrins was Director of the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology in Oxford until his retirement. His main areas of interest have been the long-term study of tit populations in Wytham Woods, seabirds and Mute Swans. His studies of the latter have centred on the Thames and the birds in the breeding colony at Abbotsbury, Dorset. He co-authored a book on the Mute Swan and is The Queen's Swan Warden. His talk will range from the history of swan-apping to more recent studies of the Thames population.

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Friday 14th March, St Johns Hall, Cambridge

**Annual General Meeting** followed by  
The Most Perfect Thing in the Universe by Dougal Russell

**The 2014 Annual General Meeting will be held at St. John's Church Hall, Hills Road, Cambridge at 8.00 pm on Friday 14 March 2014**

#### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Annual Report
5. Financial Statements
6. Election of President and Vice-Presidents  
Council's nominations are:  
President: Robin Cox.  
Vice-Presidents: James Cadbury, John Clark, Graham Easy,  
Colin Kirtland, Rita Lingard, Bruce Martin
7. Election of Council  
Council's nominations are:  
Chairman: Vince Lea; Secretary: Michael Holdsworth; Treasurer: Vacant; County Recorder: Louise Bacon; Annual Report Editor: Vacant; Bulletin Editors: Peter Bircham and Chris Brown; Meetings Secretary: Vicki Harley; Website Officer: Chris Quay; Membership Secretary: Bruce Martin; Research Officer: Andrew Tongue; other Council members: Ali Cooper, Mike Foley.
8. Election of Auditor  
Council proposes the re-election of Stuart Lingard as Auditor.
9. Bob Scott Prize
10. Photograph of the Year award

11. Any other business

Members wishing to raise matters under AOB should notify Michael Holdsworth at least two days before the meeting

Michael Holdsworth

Secretary

secretary@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

01223 476643

**Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting held at 8.00 pm on Friday 8 March 2013  
at St. John's Church Hall, Hills Road, Cambridge**

The President, Robin Cox, was in the Chair. 32 members attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Chris and Mel Quy, Grace Everson, Vince Lea, Louise Bacon, Rita and Stuart Lingard, Dick Newell, Matthew Mellor, Garth Peacock, Doug Radford, Mike Foley, Bryan Davies, Ann Scott and Margaret Risbeth
2. **The Minutes of the 2012 AGM** were approved and signed.
3. There were no **Matters Arising**.
4. The Chairman, Peter Herkenrath, presented the **Annual Report of Council** in which he reviewed the past year's activities and thanked the Officers and Council of the Club; together with the large number of committee members; bulletin, Atlas and Annual Report contributors and writers; and other volunteers and helpers; for their commitment of time, energy and skills to the Club during the last year. The full text of Peter's report will be made available on the Club's website. Peter announced with considerable regret that he would be standing down as Chairman in order to take up a senior position in bird conservation in his home state of North-Rhine–Westphalia in Germany. The President would step in as Acting Chairman until such time as a successor could be found.
5. The Treasurer, Kevin Harris, presented the **Financial Statements**. Approval of these, and of the Council's proposal to increase standard subscriptions from 2014 from £14 to £17; for senior/concessionary from £10 to £12; and for students from £6 to £8 was proposed by Vicki Harley, seconded by Rowena Baxter and carried *nem.con*.
6. **Amendment to the Constitution**  
Council proposed an additional paragraph to the Constitution as follows: 'C.3.4. The Club may elect to Honorary Membership a non-member who has rendered exceptional service to the Club, either directly or by furthering its aims and objectives' and in consequence to amend paragraph D.2.2.4 as follows: 'The election of a President, Vice-Presidents and any Honorary Members and'. Proposed by Vicki Harley, seconded by Rowena Baxter and carried *nem.con*.
7. **President and Vice-Presidents**. Council's nominations below were proposed by Ken Hook, seconded by Michael Holdsworth and elected *nem.con*.

*President:* Robin Cox.

*Vice-Presidents:* James Cadbury, John Clark, Graham Easy, Colin Kirtland, Rita Lingard, Bruce Martin

8. **Election of Council.** Council's nominations below were proposed by Owen Marks, seconded by Bob Sinclair and elected *nem. con.*

*Officers:* Chairman: vacant; Secretary: Michael Holdsworth:

Treasurer: Matthew Mellor; County Recorder: Louise Bacon

*Councillors:* John Harding (Annual Report Editor);

Vince Lea (Bulletin Editor); Vicki Harley (Meetings Secretary); Chris Quy (Website): Bruce Martin (Membership Secretary ; Records Committee chair); vacant (Research); Ali Cooper, Mike Foley.

9. Stuart Lingard was reappointed as **Auditor**. Proposed by Vicki Harley, seconded by Bruce Martin and carried *nem.con.*
10. The **Bob Scott Prize for Ornithological Research in Cambridgeshire** was awarded to Kate Hepworth of ARU for her dissertation 'The importance of habitat structure: factors affecting the nest-site selection and reproductive performance of the Great Tit (*Parus major*) and the Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) in an urban garden'.
11. The **Bird Photograph of the Year** was awarded to Garth Peacock for his photograph of a November Waxwing at Oakington.
12. **Any other business**

The President, Robin Cox, thanked Peter for the leadership, enthusiasm, commitment, wisdom and diplomacy which he had brought to his three years as Chairman. Peter would be much missed, and Robin wished him, on behalf of the Club, the very best for the future. He presented Peter with a painting of a Woodpigeon, one of Peter's favourite birds, as a memento of his time in Cambridgeshire.

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by:



The Most Perfect Thing in the Universe by Dougal Russell  
Senior Curator, Birds' Eggs and Nests, Bird Group, The Natural History Museum.

"I think that, if required, on pain of death, to name instantly the most perfect thing in the universe, I should risk my fate on a bird's egg" Higginson, T. W.(1862) *The Life of Birds*. *The Atlantic Monthly* 10(59):368-369. Containing over 200,000 sets and representing over 52% of world bird species, the avian egg collection at the Natural History Museum (NHM) is one the most important global research resources of its kind. The collection is regularly used by scientific researchers from across the globe studying a diverse range of topics, including species identification, allometry, phylogenetics, environmental change, crypsis, mimicry & brood parasitism.

Douglas G. D. Russell is the Senior Curator responsible for the NHM egg and nest collections and this is a rare opportunity to learn more about the national collection of birds' eggs, its history and the key research that goes on behind the scenes within the national collections at Tring.



Friday 11th April, Cottenham Village College

Thirty Years of Bird Photography by Tim Loseby

Tim Loseby has been birdwatching for over 50 years. The first 'exotic' place he went to was Minsmere in 1964! He has been a photographer for 30 years, and became a familiar face on the birding scene in the 1980s as a photographer of rarities. He is a founder member of the Oriental Bird Club and has travelled extensively in Indian Subcontinent and Central Asia and Middle East. He is Director of Fair Isle Bird Observatory a place he first visited in 1970. He comes from Yorkshire originally but, following 35 years in Kent, now lives in north Norfolk.



Friday 09th May, Cottenham Village College

The Lodge – Past and Future *by* Peter Bradley

This talk is about The Lodge – its history, how the RSPB became involved in the site, what has been done to re-create the largest area of heathland in Bedfordshire, and plans for the future. Peter Bradley has worked for The RSPB since 1990, at sites including Nagshead, Fore Wood, Rye House Marshes, Mid Yare, Titchwell (warden 1997–2000), Rye Meads (site manager 2000–2004), The Lodge (from 2004). He is now Senior Sites manager for Beds & Herts, managing The Lodge and overseeing Fowlmere and Rye Meads.

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## **BTO EAST OF ENGLAND RINGERS' CONFERENCE**

Hosted by Upper Cam Ringing Group 29 March 2014

Huntsman Advanced Materials (UK) Ltd Ickleton Road, Duxford Cambridge CB22 4XQ

Conference fee: £12.00 includes tea/coffee and buffet lunch

### **PROGRAMME**

Morning topic: Technologies

Chair: Upper Cam RG

0930–0940 Opening by Upper Cam RG

0940–1020 East Anglian Corn Buntings – Rosemary Setchfield

1020–1100 Tree Sparrows and technology – Ken Smith

1100–1130 Tea/Coffee & poster presentation

1130–1210 Satellite tagging gulls in Landguard – Viola Ross-Smith

1210–1250 Migration and tracking devices – Chris Hewson

1300–1400 Lunch

Afternoon topic: Volunteers and BTO

Chair: Dave Leech (Senior Research Ecologist, BTO)

1400–1430 Fen Nesters: bringing back nest monitoring at Wicken Fen Ringing Group – Carl Barimore

1430–1500 RAS – My Siskins and other species: making the most of ringing in a Thetford garden – Jeff Kew

1500–1530 CES – Chris Hughes

1530–1545 Summary – Dave Leech

1545–1630 Tea/Coffee and poster presentation

1630–1730 Ringers' meeting held by Ringing Committee member or BTO staff member

Booking contact details: Jane Waters [jane.waters@bto.org](mailto:jane.waters@bto.org) 01842 750050





