

# Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 37 July 2016



Cuckoo at Fen Drayton Lakes: photo by Colin Brown

*(doubtless now somewhere in Italy or Spain or even in Africa)*

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

## HEADLINES

**CATTLE EGRET\*** Earith on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**SPOONBILL** Ouse Washes RSPB an immature on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**BLACK-NECKED GREBE** Witcham Gravel on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**SPOTTED CRAKE** Ouse Washes on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**HONEY BUZZARD\*** Wicken Fen a flyover on 23<sup>rd</sup> - this bird was identified retrospectively by a photograph.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER\*** Ouse Washes RSPB on 31<sup>st</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 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 officially accepted.*

**Weather:** the unsettled weather continued throughout the first half of the month, although temperatures were seasonally warm; a plume of hot Mediterranean air brought a mini heat-wave just after the middle of the month, thereafter the weather remained warm with some isolated rainstorms in parts of the county.

## Wildfowl

**Mute Swan** Burwell Fen 10 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** Ouse Washes RSPB 2 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Greylag Goose** Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 28 on 9<sup>th</sup> (15 young), Fen Drayton Lakes 30 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 20 (including 5 half-grown young) on 11<sup>th</sup>, 30 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 26 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 27 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 8 (brood of 4 young) on 9<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 14 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 20 on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Egyptian Goose** Paxton Pits on several dates maximum 5 (also a nest), Trumpington Clay Farm 4 (2 adults and 2 half-grown young) throughout the month.

**Shelduck** Burwell Fen 5 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 juveniles on 19<sup>th</sup>.



This month I have chosen a number of photos of juveniles - always confusing to beginners (and some more experienced watchers). Shelduck at Burwell Fen: photo by Roger Cresswell

**Wigeon** Paxton Pits a drake on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 6 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Gadwall** Burwell Fen 28 (brood of 6 young) on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 24<sup>th</sup>. Fowlmere NR a pair on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Teal** Fowlmere NR on 1<sup>st</sup>, up to 7 from 5<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 9 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard** Burwell Fen 10 (brood of 6 young) on 4<sup>th</sup> and 73 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 19 (brood of 6 young) on 9<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 22 on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail** Ouse Washes RSPB on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Garganey** Ouse Washes RSPB 5 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 on 31<sup>st</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Shoveler** Burwell Fen 7 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-crested Pochard** Paxton Pits an eclipse drake from 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Pochard** Burwell Fen 2 broods on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) a brood on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a female on 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 females on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** Fowlmere NR a female with a brood of 7 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 12 (2 broods of 9 young) on 9<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 5 (plus 3 broods) on 11<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 12 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 8 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Scoter** Grafham Water on 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Gamebirds***

**Quail** Melbourn one calling on 15<sup>th</sup>, Kingston one calling on 27<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Cormorants***

**Cormorant** Burwell Fen 16 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 13 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 8<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 4 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 2 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Bittern** Wicken Fen on several dates, Ouse Washes on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (17 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 23 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 76 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 48 on 24<sup>th</sup>, 49 on 27<sup>th</sup> 32 on 28<sup>th</sup> ,), Fowlmere NR (4), Needingworth Lakes (12+), Nene Washes (Low Wash) 215 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, March Farmers 160+ on 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits (4), Trumpington Clay Farm (2), Wicken Fen (25+), (Baker's Fen) 28+ on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Great White Egret** Nene Washes (Low Wash) 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, March Farmers on 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, Needingworth Lakes into roost on 10<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 3 to roost on 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, single on 26<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 31<sup>st</sup>.



Great White Egret at Ouse Fen: photo by Colin Brown

### ***Grebes***

**Little Grebe** Littleport May Farm one all month, Wicken Fen on 5<sup>th</sup>, (Baker's Fen) 8 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 5 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 25 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits a juvenile on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (bred), Cambourne (bred) and Grafham Water.

### ***Raptors***

**Red Kite** Woodhurst on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Waterbeach on 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2+ on 30<sup>th</sup>, Hemingford Grey on 24<sup>th</sup>.



**Marsh Harrier** Fowlmere NR a pair on several dates bred successfully with juveniles also seen regularly, Hilton on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Earith on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Burwell Fen 3 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) on 19<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Buzzard** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Earith, Hemingford Grey, Melbourn (2), Paxton Pits (3), Six Mile Bottom and Wicken Fen (4).



Juvenile Buzzard at Paxton Pits: photo by Phil Smith

### ***Rails and crane***

**Water Rail** *reported from:* Chippenham Fen, Earith and Ouse Washes (3+),

**Coot** Burwell Fen 160 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 148 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 10 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Waders***

**Avocet** Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB a family on 4 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, single on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Oystercatcher** Littleport May Farm pair nested with 2 young, Paxton Pits all month maximum 4+ on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Golden Plover** Ouse Washes RSPB on 22<sup>nd</sup> - first returning bird, 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Lapwing** Paxton Pits 85 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 21 on 10<sup>th</sup> and c30 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 34 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 200 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 270 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 100+ on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Ringed Plover** Paxton Pits all month maximum 5 including some young birds, Ouse Washes on 21<sup>st</sup>, 3 (including a juvenile) on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fowlmere NR a juvenile on 27<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ringed Plover** Paxton Pits on 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-tailed Godwit** March Farmers 54 on 1<sup>st</sup>, c50 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 6 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge - an extraordinary record of a single bird in the Grand Arcade shopping centre around 9am on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 34 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 40 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 92 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 6 on 31<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) on 25<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 6 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Knot** Ouse Washes on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ruff** Wicken Fen Baker's Fen on 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 14 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 24 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, Burwell Fen 9 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11 on 24<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 25<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 12 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 11 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** Paxton Pits on 17<sup>th</sup> (first returning bird), Grafham Water on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** Paxton Pits 4 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>, single on 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 2 on 21<sup>st</sup>, one on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 11 on 31<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 29<sup>th</sup> and 5 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** Fowlmere NR on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 1+ on 19<sup>th</sup>, 2+ on 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** March Farmers 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Fowlmere NR 1-2 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm on 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 1 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>, one on 18<sup>th</sup>, 11+ on 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 4+ on 27<sup>th</sup>, 9 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 13 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 17<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>, single on 28<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 3 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Yaxley 5 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 11 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Spotted Redshank** Ouse Washes on 21<sup>st</sup> - first returning bird.

**Greenshank** Wicken Fen on 4<sup>th</sup> - the first returning bird, (Baker's Fen) on 25<sup>th</sup>, March Farmers on 6<sup>th</sup> 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, single on 25<sup>th</sup>, 3+ on 27<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Wood Sandpiper** Littleport May Farm on 15<sup>th</sup> - first returning bird, Yaxley on 21<sup>st</sup>, Burwell Fen on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank** Paxton Pits on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, a juvenile on 28<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 3 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, single on 30<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 17+ on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 3 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Snipe** Ouse Washes RSPB 35 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Burwell Fen 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 22+ on 30<sup>th</sup>.

### *Summary of wader passage in five day periods*

	1-6	7-11	12-16	17-21	22-26	27-31
Ruff	0	0	0	15	90	55
Sanderling	0	0	0	1	0	2
Dunlin	0	0	0	8	9	34
C Sandpiper	1	0	0	6	7	10
G Sandpiper	7	6	0	15	24	45
Greenshank	2	3	0	2	8	11
W Sandpiper	0	0	1	1	0	1

### ***Terns and gulls***

**Common Tern** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (bred), Cambridge, Fowlmere NR, Littleport May Farm, Waterbeach and Wicken Fen.

**Black-headed Gull** Great Shelford 50+ feeding on flying ants on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** Melbourn 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 juveniles on 25<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water a juvenile on 21<sup>st</sup> and 3 juveniles on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Common Gull** Fowlmere NR 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull** Paxton Pits 2-3 on several dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 21 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 17+ on 30<sup>th</sup>. Fowlmere NR 4 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 2 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water 'several' on 29<sup>th</sup>, 3+ on 30<sup>th</sup>, 28 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Caspian Gull** Paxton Pits on 27<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Great Black-backed Gull** Littleport May Farm on 15<sup>th</sup>, a ringed bird at Grafham on 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Turtle Dove** *reported from:* Cottenham, Fowlmere (4 calling birds), Grunty Fen, March,



Turtle Dove juvenile at Fowlmere NR: photo by Steve Roach

**Cuckoo** Earith 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, March Farmers on 6<sup>th</sup>, Witcham Gravel (a rufous bird) on 10<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a bird still calling on 19<sup>th</sup> - a late date and even later, Witcham Gravel an adult on 30<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 30<sup>th</sup> - presumed juvenile.

**Barn Owl** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Earith, Fowlmere NR and Wicken Fen Baker's Fen.

**Little Owl** *reported from:* Newborough.

**Short-eared Owl** Earith on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Swift** *breeding reports:* St Mary's Ely 57 occupied boxes, sightings elsewhere Paxton Pits c30 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Eaton Socon c80 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR c300 on 25<sup>th</sup> and c100 on 26<sup>th</sup>. Most villages seem to be deserted by the end of the month.



**Kingfisher** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Chippenham Fen (2), Fowlmere NR (bred), Ouse Washes (3), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

**Green Woodpecker** *breeding records from:* Chippenham Fen and Comberton.

## **Falcons**

**Merlin** Peterborough a flyover on 28<sup>th</sup>, *a very early returning bird, but not quite the earliest which was on July 5<sup>th</sup> 1997 at Godmanchester GP. This year the latest (wintering) record was on June 3<sup>rd</sup> so it seems possible that this species will be recorded in every month of 2016 - it has been so far.*

**Hobby** Littleport May Farm 1-4 most days, Wicken Fen on 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, Little Paxton 3 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 10<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 3 on 4<sup>th</sup>, one on 11<sup>th</sup>, Melbourn 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Weston Colville on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** Grafham Water on 1<sup>st</sup>, St Neots on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wicken Fen on 3<sup>rd</sup>, March Farmers 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Hemingford Grey on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Hare Park on 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Corvids**

**Jackdaw/Rook** Chippenham Fen c650 emerging from a roost at dawn on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Raven** Woodhurst on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Tits**

**Marsh Tit** *reported from:* Chippenham Fen (bred) and Wicken Fen.

**Bearded Tit** *reported from:* Wicken Fen where 12 were ringed during the month.

## **Warblers and Spotted Flycatcher**

**Cetti's Warbler** *reported from:* Fowlmere NR (3) and Wicken Fen.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *reported from:* Chippenham Fen and Wicken Fen

**Sedge Warbler** Wicken Fen 49 ringed during the month.

**Reed Warbler** Wicken Fen 138 ringed during the month.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *reported from:* Fowlmere NR (pair + 2 young), Granta Park (2 pairs), Haddenham (pair with young), Impington (pair), Meldreth (pair), Over ( pair with 2 fledged young), Stukeley Park (3).

## ***Chats***

**Whinchat** Burwell Fen on 20<sup>th</sup> - first returning bird.

**Stonechat** Littleport May Farm a male from 11<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen a family of male female and 3 juveniles on 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Stonechat juveniles, male on the left and female on the right: photos by Steve Cooper at Burwell Fen.

**Wheatear** Littleport May Farm 2-5 from 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, Frampton on 27<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes singles passing through on several dates.

## ***Wagtails***

**Yellow Wagtail** Burwell Fen several young birds reported from the middle of the month.

## ***Finches***

**Siskin** Fowlmere NR a juvenile on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Crossbill** Cambridge 2 flyovers on 19<sup>th</sup>, Hemingford Grey 2 juveniles in a private garden on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**White Stork correction:** in a previous bulletin we suggested the White Stork had escaped from Welney but in fact it escape from Diss and ended up at Welney before its peregrinations.

## ***Contributors:***

Peter Bircham, Sam Boden, Paul Bolton, Neil Bramwell, Mike Burdekin, Tim Caldicott, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Godfrey Curtis, Martin Davis, Brendan Doe, , Richard Grimmett, James Hanlon, Andy Hannaford, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jon Heath, Michael Holdsworth, David Hopkins, Charlie

Kitchin, John Lindsell, Paul Mason, Duncan McNiven, Dick Newell, Martin O’Leary, Richard Patient, Doug Radford, Gary Rawlings, Gareth Rees, Bill Simmonds, Clive Sinclair, Brian Stone, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Luke Wake, Mark Ward, Matt Webb, Jamie Wells, Kevin Wilson, Hugh Wright and Barbara York.

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## ***WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP*** ***Brief news for July 2016***

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 7 different days in July (5 of these being CES sessions); additionally some owls were ringed, in the Group’s boxes. The month’s ringing total was 444.

Barn Owl	5	Sedge Warbler	49
Great spot Woodpecker	1	Reed Warbler	138
Blue Tit	16	Tree Creeper	5
Great Tit	15	Wren	17
Bearded Tit	12	Blackbird	8
Cetti’s Warbler	9	Song Thrush	3
Long-tailed Tit	3	Robin	23
Chiffchaff	35	Redstart	1
Willow Warbler	12	Dunnock	10
Blackcap	19	Chaffinch	1
Garden Warbler	3	Bullfinch	8
Whitethroat	9	Reed Bunting	41
Grasshopper Warbler	1		

Old birds retrapped during the month were:

Chaffinch X875810 at 6 years 3 months,

Reed Warbler L505396 at 5 years 0 months and Bearded Tit Y408308 at 4 years 0 months.

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## ***Field Meeting***

Friday 12th August, Paxton Pits (north end)

by arrangement, a trip to the north end of Paxton Pits with site ranger, Jim Stevenson. time 7pm. Meeting place will be provided to those who book, but expect a reasonable walk to be part of this visit. Book with Louise Bacon ([recorder@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:recorder@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)), places limited to 15 (only 3 places left at the time of going to print).

## ***Next indoor meeting:***

Friday 9th September, Cottenham Village College

### **Climate Change and Local Wildlife by Brian Eversham**

In this talk, Brian will discuss how wildlife has responded to past climates, including the series of Ice Ages, how plants and animals are being affected by changes now, and how climate interacts with other threats to local wildlife. He will consider the 'winners' and 'losers' in the face of climate warming, and will conclude by explaining how we should respond to the threats, and what the local Wildlife Trust is doing already.

Brian Eversham is Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants. He was previously conservation director, responsible for nature reserves, wider countryside conservation, and training. He introduced landscape-scale conservation to the Trust, helping launch the Great Fen, and schemes in the Nene Valley, the North Chilterns and Cambridgeshire's ancient woodlands. He is author of the Atlas of the Dragonflies of Britain and Ireland and author of over 200 scientific papers and reports.

## ***Cambridgeshire Bird Club Conference***

### ***RARE BREEDING BIRDS***

Saturday 24th September 2016      0930-1700 at Cottenham Village College

Sunday 25th September 2016      Visits to various nature reserves

The conference, organised by Cambridgeshire Bird Club in collaboration with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), will provide an opportunity for everyone to learn more about recording and conserving rare breeding birds in the UK with a focus on Cambridgeshire and East Anglia. On Saturday, there will be a programme of lectures and discussion, displays and stalls. On Sunday, there will be an opportunity to visit various reserves to hear how rare breeding birds are protected and monitored on site.

### **Saturday 24th September**

The programme will present overviews of recording and protection issues for rare breeding birds, and present several species studies and look at the changing status of species at the rare end of the spectrum.

*The role of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel - Mark Holling (RBBP)*

*The challenge of monitoring ducks, waders, crakes and cranes in vast wetlands: The Nene and Ouse*



*Washes Rare Breeders* - Jonathan Taylor (RSPB)

*The Full Monty - how satellite tags are helping in Montagu's Harrier conservation* - Mark Thomas (RSPB)

*In confidence: Using BirdTrack to record breeding activity* - Steven McAvoy (BTO)

*Work of the Cambridgeshire Rare Breeding Bird Group* - Kevin Hand (CBC)

Short species accounts after lunch, including:

*Lesser-spotted Woodpecker* - Ken Smith

*Cranes* - Norman Sills

*Muscovy Duck* - David Ewbank

*The changing status of rare breeding birds and how you can help us learn more* - Dawn Balmer (BTO)

Further talks to be announced.

Tickets must be booked in advance: £25.00 per person (includes coffee, lunch and tea)

For further details or enquiries check the Club's website ([www.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk)

) or contact Vicki Harley (Tel.: 01954 250340; email: [vicki.harley@care4free.net](mailto:vicki.harley@care4free.net)).

### **Sunday 25th September - field visits**

Visits commence at 11:00. There will be guided walks lasting about 2 hours at each venue, with the opportunity to learn about how the site is managed and monitored. Details of the sites can be found on the CBC website, or by contacting Vicki Harley (phone and email above) or Vince Lea (email: [vincelea@btinternet.com](mailto:vincelea@btinternet.com)).

Please indicate your first, second and third choice, as numbers will be limited at each venue.

Please check details of meeting points and time, etc. which will be sent with confirmation of your booking. Information about any changes will be available at the conference.

Choice - Ouse Washes, Burwell Fen, Nene Washes

NB: Bookings may not be acknowledged until early September. If you wish to check your booking has been received, please contact Vicki Harley (phone and email above).

Check the Club's website for conference updates: [www.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk)

**Booking form for CBC Rare Breeding Birds conference**

Send your completed booking form to: Vicki Harley, 30 Margett St, Cottenham, Cambridge, CB24 8QY

Tel.: 01954 250340; email: vicki.harley@care4free.net

Bookings must be received at latest by Saturday 17th September, but early booking is advisable.

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**Saturday 24th September - Cottenham Village College**

Please send me.....tickets @ £25.00 a ticket. I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to 'Cambridgeshire Bird Club'.

Bookings will be acknowledged by email. If you wish to receive a hard copy acknowledgment, please send a stamped addressed envelope.

Please delete/fill in as appropriate:

1 I/We require directions to the venue YES/NO

2 I/We have special dietary requirements as follows (vegetarian/gluten-free choice available)

Name.....

Full address.....

.....

Tel:.....Email:.....

Signed..... Date.....

Please write below in BLOCK CAPITALS your name(s) as you would like it to appear on your participant's badge.

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***Kingfishers Bridge Open Day***

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, details on the website [www.kingfishersbridge.org](http://www.kingfishersbridge.org)

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## The Great Fen

The Great Fen project is now well under way and there are a number of sub-sites. Since the area of the Great Fen is so large it seems a good idea to delineate sightings according to each sub-site. Therefore I have copied this map from the Wildlife Trust Newsletter to help everyone to understand the naming and indeed the locations of the various places (see below).



The next E-bulletin date for publication is September 10<sup>th</sup>, any contributions please send to me by the 4<sup>th</sup>.