

Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 46 May 2017



Cattle Egret at Eldernell: photo by Ricahard Patient

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

HEADLINES

CATTLE EGRET* Eldernell: on the 2nd.

WHITE STORK* Hilton May 2nd and other dates was considered to be an escaped bird.

SPOONBILL Berry Fen on the 1st, March Farmers on the 4th - 8th.

BLACK-WINGED STILT* Ouse Washes on the 1st, and briefly on the 5th, 7th, 2 on the 15th, Paxton Pits on the 10th, Berry Fen on the 11th, Wicken Fen 2 on the 12th, Witcham 2 flyovers on the 13th.

TEMMINCK'S STINT Ouse Washes on the 5th - 6th.

GULL-BILLED TERN* Ouse Washes on the 15th, Burwell Fen on the 15th. Assuming this record is accepted and also assuming it involves the same individual it will be the first record for Cambridgeshire.

WRYNECK Witcham Gravel on the 7th.

RED-FOOTED FALCON* Fen Drayton Lakes a female from the 5th - 14th, Wicken Fen a male on the 12th.

SAVI'S WARBLER* Wicken Fen one singing on the 31st.

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 accepted.

Weather: May began with cool north-easterly winds, not much sun and no rain, followed then by a change to a westerly airstream which brought some rain and an inflow of migrants. In the middle of the month there were several days of (much needed) rain which gave way to southerly hot and humid air and temperatures well into the 20s.

Wildfowl

Mute Swan Burwell Fen maximum 45 on the 29th.

Whooper Swan Ouse Washes 5 on the 6th, 10 on the 7th, 3 on the 21st.

White-fronted Goose Ouse Washes on the 6th - 7th.

Greylag Goose Burwell Fen maximum 72 on the 16th, Wicken Fen maximum 35 on the 21st (17 young counted).

Canada Goose Burwell Fen maximum 18 on the 16th (bred), Chippenham Fen 11 on the 28th, Wicken Fen maximum 20 on the 26th.

Egyptian Goose Ouse Washes 6 on the 6th, 2 on the 21st, Burwell Fen 2 on the 25th and 29th, Littleport May Farm 2 all month.

Shelduck Littleport May Farm 2 on the 2nd - 8th, Paxton Pits a pair on the 4th, one on the 8th, 3 on the 9th, Burwell Fen 9 on the 5th and 29th, Wicken Fen maximum 28 on the 15th, Cambridge Research Park 2 on the 21st.

Mandarin Berry Fen on the 1st, Linton one with ducklings on the 11th.

Wigeon Paxton Pits a male on the 1st and 6th, a pair on the 11th, Littleport May Farm 2 on the 3rd, Ouse Washes 48 on the 6th, 6 on the 21st, Fen Drayton Lakes a drake on the 16th.

Gadwall Wicken Fen maximum 39 on the 10th, Ouse Washes 100+ (mostly males) on the 21st, Burwell Fen maximum 32 on the 29th.

Teal Paxton Pits 2 on the 1st, 2 pairs on the 5th and 6th, 4 on the 8th, 3 on the 11th, Ouse Washes 20 on the 6th, Wicken Fen 27 on the 10th, Littleport May Farm 8+ all month.

Mallard Wicken Fen maximum 96 on the 26th (39 young), Burwell Fen 53 on the 29th (11 pairs), Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Pintail Ouse Washes 7 on the 6th.

Garganey *reported from:* Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Ouse Washes (5), Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen (9) and Woodwalton Fen.



Garganey drake at Wicken Fen photo by Neil Bramwell

Shoveler Paxton Pits 2 on the 1st, 5 drakes on the 5th, 2 drakes on the 11th, Burwell Fen 12 on the 5th, Wicken Fen maximum 11 on the 21st.

Red-crested Pochard Ouse Washes a drake on the 6th - 7th.

Pochard Cambridge Research Park 2 on the 3rd, Paxton Pits a drake on several dates up to the 11th, Ouse Fen 40 on the 13th, Wicken Fen 2 on the 30th.

Tufted Duck *reported from:* Burwell Fen (9), Fowlmere NR (2), Littleport May Farm (10+) and Wicken Fen (2 pairs).

Goldeneye Fen Drayton Lakes a drake on the 12th and 16th.

Red-breasted Merganser Grafham Water a male on the 12th.

Gamebirds

Red-legged Partridge Littleport May Farm 50-60 all month.

Grey Partridge Littleport May Farm 20+ all month.

Quail Fleam Dyke one calling on the 11th - first of the year, Swaffham Prior on the 31st.

Pheasant Littleport May Farm 50-60 all month

Cormorants

Cormorant *reported from:* Burwell Fen (6), Littleport May Farm (2), and Wicken Fen.

Egrets and herons

Bittern Fen Drayton Lakes, Ouse Fen, Wicken Fen,

Little Egret *reported from:* Burwell Fen (5), Cambridge Research Park (2), Littleport May Farm (2), Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes (c25), Paxton Pits (5) and Wicken Fen (10).

Great White Egret Fen Drayton Lakes on the 10th.

Grebes

Little Grebe *reported from:* Burwell Fen (3), Littleport May Farm (15+) and Wicken Fen (2 pairs).

Great Crested Grebe *reported from:* Burwell Fen (a pair), Littleport May Farm (4) and Wicken Fen.

Raptors

Red Kite *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes, Littleport May Farm (3), Paxton Pits (3) and Wicken Fen.

Marsh Harrier *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Littleport May Farm (6), Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes and Wicken Fen (5).

Sparrowhawk *reported from:* Great Shelford (displaying), Littleport May Farm (4), Paxton Pits (3) and Wicken Fen.

Buzzard *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Great Shelford (3), Littleport May Farm (6), Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits, Six Mile Bottom, Snailwell, Swaffham Prior and Wicken Fen.

Osprey Peterborough on the 2nd, Fowlmere NR on the 3rd, Wicken Fen on the 2nd, Paxton Pits on the 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes a flyover on the 9th, Brampton a flyover on the 14th, Grafham Water on the 15th.

Rails and crane

Water Rail *reported from:* Chippenham Fen, Littleport May Farm (6+) and Wicken Fen.

Moorhen Littleport May Farm 40+ all month, Burwell Fen maximum 7 on the 29th.

Coot Wicken Fen maximum 33 on the 10th, Burwell Fen 165 on the 5th, 149 on the 16th and 84 on the 29th, Littleport May Farm 20+ all month.

Crane March Farmers 5 on the 7th.

Waders

Avocet Ouse Washes 12 on the 1st, 23 on the 5th, 6 on the 6th, 18 on the 7th, 16 on the 21st, Grafham Water on the 5th and 10th, Burwell Fen 2 on the 6th, Paxton Pits 3 on the 6th, one on the 11th, Coveney Byall Fen on the 6th - 7th, Paxton Pits on the 10th.

Oystercatcher *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2) and Paxton Pits (4).

Grey Plover Berry Fen 3 on the 1st, 2 on the 2nd, March Farmers 3 on the 1st, 2 on the 2nd and 4th, 6 on the 6th, one on the 8th, 2 on the 11th, one on the 14th, Ouse Washes 14 on the 1st, 9 on the 2nd and 4th, 6 on the 5th, 16 on the 6th, 6 on the 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st - 2nd and 4th - 5th, 2 on

the 6th, Paxton Pits on the 4th - 5th, the 8th, a flyover on the 12th, and a single on the 17th, Grafham Water a flyover on the 5th, one on the 10th.

Passage began on April 9th and continued until May 17th so quite spread-out. Ones and twos until April 30th then 21 on the 1st and 14 on the 2nd although some may have stayed over from the previous day. On the 4th there were 13 then 24 on the 6th, 6 on the 7th and after that ones and twos so the peak passage seems to have been in the first few days of May.

Lapwing reported from: Burwell Fen (10), Cambridge Research Park, Paxton Pits (6) and Wicken Fen (20).

Little Ringed Plover reported from: Berry Fen (3), Coveney Byall Fen (4), Fen Drayton Lakes, Ouse Washes (2), Paxton Pits (3).

Ringed Plover Berry Fen 8+ on the 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 1st, 3 on the 7th, 2 on the 16th, Ouse Washes c10 on the 2nd, 11 on the 5th, 28 on the 6th, 10 on the 7th, one on the 21st, Paxton Pits on the 2nd, 3 on the 6th, 2 on the 11th, 16th, Burwell Fen 4 on the 6th, March Farmers 19 on the 6th, Coveney Byall Fen one on the 6th and 2 on the 7th, Fowlmere NR on the 6th and 14th, Grafham Water 3 on the 17th.

Whimbrel March Farmers on the 1st, Ouse Washes on the 1st, and 6th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st - 2nd, 6th and 7th, Paxton Pits on the 1st - 2nd, 5th, 7th, 2 on the 17th, Coveney Byall Fen on the 5th and 6th, Fowlmere NR a flyover on the 6th, Maxey GP 4 flew over on the 9th, Littleport May Farm 4 on the 15th.

Passage began on the 20th of April peaking almost immediately with 13 on the 21st and 7 on the 22nd, thereafter ones and twos. Contrasting with Grey Plover this is a short period (3-4 days) of intensity of passage although it continued until May 17th.

Curlew March Farmers: on the 1st.



Black-tailed Godwit at Berry Fen: photo by Thomas Reed.

Black tailed Godwit Paxton Pits on the 1st - 2nd, 6 on the 4th, Berry Fen 4 on the 1st, Ouse Washes 7 on the 5th, 36 on the 7th, Coveney Byall Fen 6 on the 6th - 7th.

Bar-tailed Godwit Eaton Ford a flyover on the 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st, Paxton Pits 3 on the 1st, one on the 2nd, 6 flew over on the 4th, Ouse Washes a flyover on the 4th, March Farmers on the 6th, Ferry Meadows CP 3 flyovers on the 7th.

Starting on the 18th of April but never particularly numerous with 5-6 on April 30th being the highest number and passage over by May 7th.

Turnstone Ouse Washes on the 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 4th - 5th, March Farmers 2 on the 6th, Paxton Pits on the 8th, Wicken Fen on the 18th,

Knot Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st and 4th, Paxton Pits 2 on the 5th,

Ruff Ouse Washes 10+ on the 1st, 7 on the 5th, 6 on the 6th, Burwell Fen 6 on the 6th, Coveney Byall Fen 4 on the 6th, 3 on the 7th, Wicken Fen 4 on the 9th and 2 on the 10th.

Passage apparently from April peaking on the 21st (48), 22nd (52), 24th (58), and 28th (30) with small numbers only in May.

Sanderling Berry Fen on the 1st, Maxey GP on the 3rd, Ouse Washes on the 5th, Paxton Pits on the 5th, 9th, March Farmers on the 6th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 6th and 14th, Coveney Byall Fen on the 8th, Grafham Water on the 17th.

Dunlin Berry Fen 3 on the 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on the 1st, 4 on the 8th, Ouse Washes 9 on the 1st, c10 on the 2nd, 13 on the 5th, 17 on the 6th, 8 on the 7th, Paxton Pits 3 on the 2nd, one on the 5th, 7th, 3 on the 8th, 2 on the 9th, 3 on the 15th, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on the 2nd, 2 on the 14th, Burwell Fen on the 6th, March Farmers 4 on the 6th, Coveney Byall Fen 2 on the 6th and one on the 7th, Fowlmere NR on the 12th, Grafham Water on the 17th.

Common Sandpiper *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes (3), Littleport May Farm and Paxton Pits (2).

Green Sandpiper *reported from:* Fowlmere NR and Littleport May Farm.

Spotted Redshank Ouse Washes on the 1st - 2nd, 4th - 7th, Coveney Byall Fen on the 8th, Littleport May Farm on the 15th.

Greenshank March Farmers 4 on the 1st, 5 on the 2nd, 6 on the 6th, 9 on the 7th, 5 on the 8th, 6 on the 11th, 2 on the 14th, Ouse Washes 10+ on the 1st, 4 on the 2nd, 35 on the 5th, 9 on the 6th, 15 on the 7th, Wicken Fen 5 on the 1st, 4 on the 8th, one on the 5th, 2 on the 6th, one on the 14th, Paxton

Pits on the 1st, 5 flew over on the 4th, 2 on the 5th, one on the 6th - 8th, 2 on the 10th, one on the 11th - 12th, Ouse Fen on the 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on the 4th- 5th, one on the 7th, Coveney Byall Fen 17 on the 5th, 5 on the 6th and 7th, Burwell Fen 2 on the 6th, Littleport May Farm on the 6th and 10th, Wicken Fen 4 on the 8th, 3 on the 9th, 5 on the 10th, one on the 15th, Maxey GP on the 9th.
Passage from April 16th peaking at the turn of the month 15 on the 28th, 23 on the 29th and 14 on the 30 then in May in the 20s most days until peaking at 57 on the 5th; after a couple more days of numbers in the 20s numbers declined. Maximum period April 28th to May 7th.

Wood Sandpiper Ouse Washes 5 on the 1st - 2nd, and 5th, 2 on the 5th, 3 on the 6th, 2 on the 7th, Coveney Byall Fen 9 on the 3rd, 14 on the 4th, 11+ on the 5th, 7+ on the 6th, 11 on the 6th, 17 on the 8th, Paxton Pits 3 on the 5th, 2 on the 7th, Fowlmere NR on the 6th (a flyover), 9th and 25th, Wicken Fen on the 9th, 3 on the 10th, Littleport May Farm 2 on the 15th, Fowlmere NR on the 25th.
Passage began on April 30th and continued until May 25th, with the peak period being May 4th until the 8th. Either side of those peak dates 1-5 birds reported.

Redshank reported from: Burwell Fen (2), Coveney Byall Fen (6), Littleport May Farm (6), Paxton Pits (4) and Wicken Fen (11).

Woodcock Littleport May Farm 4 all month.

Snipe reported from: Coveney Byall Fen (6), Fowlmere NR (4), Littleport May Farm (10+), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

Summary of wader passage in May

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
GPI	21	14		13	8	24	6	2		1	2	1		1			1
RPI	8	11			11	56	15				2			1		2	5
Whim	4	2			2	5	2		4	1					4		2
Bar	5	1		7		1	3										
Ru	10				7	10	3			2							
Sand	1		1		1	2	1		1					1			
Dun	17	16			14	24	9	7	2			1		2	3		1
CS	2			3	1	1	5	1	1	1		2				1	
Gsk	20	10		21	57	26	29	10	4	8	7	1	1	3	1		
WS	5	5	9	19	16	9	15	17	2	3					2		

From the top: Grey Plover, Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Sanderling, Dunlin, Common Sandpiper, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper.

To summarise: wader passage was marginally earlier than in 2016 with the peak in numbers May from the 4th to the 7th, whereas in 2016 it peaked on May 10th.

Terns and gulls

Little Tern Peterborough in flight towards Felton BP on the 26th - first of the year.

Black Tern Ferry Meadows CP 5 on the 1st - 2nd, 7 on the 4th, 6 on the 5th, 6 on the 7th, one on the 8th, Grafham Water 2 on the 1st, 3 on the 12th, one on the 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes c20 on the 1st, 10 on the 2nd, 4 on the 3rd, 10 on the 4th, 7 on the 5th, 10 on the 6th, 4 on the 7th, one on the 9th - 11th, Paxton Pits 8 on the 1st, 4 on the 2nd, one on the 5th, 8th, Shropshire's reservoir on the 4th, Fletton Lake 2 on the 5th.

Passage began on April 18th and peaked on April 30th when 73 birds were reported. In May smaller numbers continued to pass through until the 27th.

Common Tern *reported from:* Burwell Fen (4), Cambridge Research Park (4), Fen Drayton Lakes (35), Fowlmere NR, Littleport May Farm (6), Ouse Fen (4) and Wicken Fen (2).

Arctic Tern Fletton Lake 2 on the 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 2nd, 10 on the 3rd, Shropshire's reservoir on the 4th, Paxton Pits on the 8th, Ferry Meadows CP 5 on the 8th, 3 on the 9th.

As with Black Tern, Arctic Tern passage peaked around the final few days of April having begun on the 15th. On April 24th 103, April 25th 40, April 27th 96 but then in May much smaller numbers the latest report being on the 9th.

Black-headed Gull Burwell Fen maximum 21 on the 29th, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Little Gull Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 1st.

Common Gull Paxton Pits 2 on the 1st.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Littleport May Farm 2 on the 13th and 27th, Wicken Fen on the 21st, Fowlmere NR 2 flying over on the 28th.

Herring Gull Fowlmere NR a flyover on the 1st, Littleport May Farm 3-4 all month.

Yellow-legged Gull Paxton Pits 2 on the 2nd.

Great Black-backed Gull Ouse Washes on the 7th.

Doves, cuckoo, owls and Kingfisher

Stock Dove Littleport May Farm 30+ all month.

Woodpigeon Littleport May Farm 200+ all month.

Collared Dove Littleport May Farm 50-60 all month.

Turtle Dove *reported from:* Cam Washes, Cromwell GC, Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Fowlmere NR (3), Orton BP, Maxey GP, Paxton Pits and Witcham (pair).

Cuckoo *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes (3), Fowlmere NR, Great Fen, Knapwell Grange Farm, Littleport May Farm (3), Little Wilbraham Fen, March Farmers (4), Maxey GP, Ouse Washes, Orton BP and Wicken Fen (3).

Barn Owl *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Coveney Byall Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Littleport May Farm (6), Little Wilbraham Fen, Ouse Washes and Six Mile Bottom.

Little Owl *reported from:* Littleport May Farm (4).

Tawny Owl *reported from:* Littleport May Farm (2), Little Wilbraham Fen and Wicken Fen.

Short-eared Owl Cottenham on the 4th, Witcham on the 13th, Littleport May Farm 2 all month.

Swift *large counts:* Fen Drayton Lakes 20+ on the 1st, reported widely on the 5th for example 36 at Burwell Fen, Ouse Washes 100+ on the 6th, Paxton Pits 300+ on the 8th.

Kingfisher *reported from:* Fowlmere NR (bred), Littleport May Farm (6), Paxton Pits (2) and Wicken Fen.

Falcons and parrots

Kestrel Littleport May Farm 8+ all month.

Hobby *reported from:* Chippenham Fen (1+), Barleycraft GP, Cambridge Research Park, Cam Washes, Fen Drayton Lakes (5+), Fowlmere NR, Great Fen, Littleport May Farm (2), March Farmers, Ouse Fen (10), Ouse Washes (2-3), Paxton Pits (3+) and Wicken Fen (10).
Exceptionally 23 in the area of Paxton Pits/Buckden Marina on the 20th; not quite the county record which is 25 at Wicken Fen in May 2008.

Peregrine Wicken Fen on the 5th, Ouse Washes a male and a female on the 6th.

Shrikes and corvids

Magpie Littleport May Farm 20+ all month.

Jackdaw Burwell Fen 26 on the 5th, Littleport May Farm 200+ all month.

Rook Littleport May Farm 200+ all month.

Carrion Crow Wicken Fen 17 on the 26th, Littleport May Farm 200+ all month.

Raven Littleport May Farm on the 21st.

Tits and larks

Marsh Tit *reported from:* Paxton Pits.

Bearded Tit *reported from:* Ouse Fen and Wicken Fen.

Skylark Littleport May Farm 40+ all month.

Warblers

Cetti's Warbler *reported from:* Cambridge Research Park (2), Cam Washes, Fen Drayton Lakes, Little Wilbraham Fen (2), March Farmers, Ouse Fen, Orton BP (5), Paxton Pits, and Wicken Fen (3).

Garden Warbler Fen Drayton Lakes c20 singers on the 7th,



Garden Warbler at Kings Dyke NR : photo by George Walthew

Whitethroat Cam Washes 11 singers counted on the 10th.

Grasshopper Warbler *reported from:* Cam Washes, Chippenham Fen (9), Fen Drayton Lakes (3-4), Fowlmere NR, Little Wilbraham Fen, Ouse Fen (3), Tubney Fen, Wicken Fen (3) and Witcham (2).

Reed Warbler Burwell Fen 18 on the 29th.

Starling and thrushes

Starling Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Ring Ouzel Paxton Pits 2 on the 1st - 8th, Knapwell RSPB Hope Farm on the 2nd, Cambridge Research Park on the 6th - 7th, Etton pits a female on the 8th, Maxey Pits one on the 10th,

Fieldfare March Farmers on the 1st, Witcham 2 on the 1st, Witcham on the 13th, latest dates received.

Spotted Flycatcher Fowlmere NR on the 10th - first report, then *reported from:* Wicken Fen (14th)

Nightingale *reported from:* Barleycraft GP, Paxton Pits, Swaffham Prior (Devil's Dyke), and Wicken Fen (2).

Starts and chats

Black Redstart Ouse Washes a female by the pumping station on the 7th.

Whinchat Paxton Pits on the 1st, Wicken Fen 2 on the 1st and one on the 6th - 7th, Ferry Meadows CP on the 7th, Comberton Westfield Farm on the 10th, Knapwell Grange Farm on the 16th.

Stonechat Littleport May Farm 2-3 all month.

Wheatear Paxton Pits 5 on the 1st, Barrington on the 4th, Wicken Fen on the 6th, Knapwell Grange Farm on the 18th, Ouse Washes on the 21st, Littleport May Farm 2-3 until the 26th.

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

House Sparrow Littleport May Farm 25+ all month.

Tree Sparrow Redmere Farm up to 100 all month.

Yellow Wagtail Eltisley a male of the 'Blue-headed' race on the 10th, Ouse Washes another on the 21st, Littleport May Farm 20+ all month.

Grey Wagtail *reported from:* Fowlmere NR and Paxton Pits.

Pied Wagtail Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

White Wagtail Grafham Water on the 1st, Witcham on the 13th, Littleport May Farm 2 on the 13th.

Meadow Pipit Wicken Fen 2 pairs on the 26th, Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Finches and buntings

Greenfinch Littleport May Farm 20+ all month.

Goldfinch Littleport May Farm 80+ all month.

Siskin Foxton one on the 11th.

Linnet Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Corn Bunting Coveney Byall Fen 3 on the 7th, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Reed Bunting Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Exotica

Swan Goose Cambridge Research Park a pair on the 21st.

Keeping up the list: at the end of May (according to the E-bulletin records) the county species total for 2017 is now 193. New species this month: Quail, Temminck's Stint, Little Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Wryneck, Red-footed Falcon, Savi's Warbler.

Contributors:

Colin Addington, Richard Allison, Richard Aste, Malcolm Ausden, Louise Bacon, Peter Beesley, Peter Bircham, Philip Bubb, Mike Burdekin, Richard Caney, Saimon Clarke, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Terry Cooper, Robin Cox, Martin Davis, Ian Dawson, Tim Dee, Brendan Doe, David Ellis, Ian Ellis, Mike Everett, Rose Ferraby, David Fisher, Ed Gill, Ben Grieg, Richard Grimmett, Derek Gruar, James Hanlon, Andy Hannaford, Dean Harlow, Steve Hartley, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Gary Heath, Jon Heath, Jem Holding, Michael Holdsworth, David Hopkins, Mark Jackson, Frank James, Andy Jennings, Richard Johnson, Charlie Kitchin, Nick Laughton, Stella Laughton, Vince Lea, Bob Mansfield, Owen and Monica Marks, Paul Mason, Steve May, Rob McEwen, Matt Mellor, Steve Mumford, Martin O'Leary, Neil Parkin, Richard Patient, Doug Radford, Norman Ratcliffe, Chris

Rider, Tony Rowe, Clare Spottiswoode, Jim Stevenson, Simon Stirrup, Brian Stone, Jonathan Taylor, Richard Thomas, Bob Titman, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Hugh Venables, Luke Wake, Mark Ward, Robin Ward, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, Jamie Wells, Gwyn Williams, Kevin Wilson, David Withrington, Pete Wood, and Christoph Zöckler.

REMINDERS.....

FIELD TRIPS contact/booking via Louise Bacon, cbcrecorder@gmail.com

Friday July 14th Great Fen project. Meet 6.30pm at the 'Last of the Meres trail' parking on the B660. A walk to see some of the areas coming into the Great Fen project, returning arable land to wetland habitats

Friday August 11th Cavenham Heath. Time tbc, Booking essential. Site Manager for Natural England, Mike Taylor, will lead a walk around the heath, hopefully with a chance to see the post-breeding Stone Curlew aggregation which often occurs at that time of year.

Club research - you can help with:

Sand Martin Survey

Robert Brown

The Cambridgeshire Bird Atlas notes that a survey of Sand Martins (*Riparia riparia*) is overdue. I recently volunteered to become the club's research officer and would like to instigate such a study in 2017.

The study will be in two parts. First, I would like to get an accurate and comprehensive record of nesting colonies. Secondly, I believe it would be valuable if we could get a more general idea of where the birds are and what they are doing. Sand Martins are insectivores but arrive early and leave late so certain habitats must be vital to their well-being.

User-friendly forms to assist in the survey work will be available from the club's web site, or by request from Robert Brown or Louise Bacon by email to research@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk.

Finally and importantly, care is needed particularly when surveying Sand Martins. Obvious hazards are deep water bodies and steep unstable slopes. The laws relating to trespass and access also apply.

Cambridgeshire Spotted Flycatchers

Michael Holdsworth

The CBC is planning to continue the Spotted Flycatcher Project into 2017.

2016 was the second year of this survey and we found many more pairs than we had in 2015, mainly because we put in more effort and hours. A hundred or so observers sent in records. A high proportion of these turned out not to be Club members but ordinary householders (often still BTO and RSPB members) responding to publicity in parish magazines and on websites.

If you just see even a single Spotted Flycatcher after 1 June this year, it will be worth following up. Do you know of a pair nesting near you this year, or of a traditional site which may be being used again?

Email me at spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk with any information you have, including records of single birds; and please provide a map reference, preferably to 100m (as TL000000). Follow your leads up and keep us informed or we can arrange to follow up if you don't have time yourself.

secretary@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

Whiffwaff singers

Tony Fulford

Tony Fulford is continuing his investigations into why some Willow Warblers sing like Chiffchaffs. Last year, with help from local birders, he found eight such singers. This allowed some preliminary playback experiments to discover how Willow Warblers (ordinary and wiffwaffs) and Chiffchaffs react to one another's songs. In order to follow up these studies this year he is again asking people to listen out for and report (to tonyfulford@gmail.com) any wiffwaffs they might come across in Cambridgeshire this spring. Listen for "chiffchaff" songs sung rather too fast (4 notes per second rather than 3) or with odd stray notes in them, or for Willow Warblers adding odd scratchy bits to the end of their usual liquid song; such bird often sooner or later reveal themselves to be mixed singers. They are commoner than you may think.

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for May 2017

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 10 different days in May; numbers were boosted by pulli ringed in the Group's nestboxes. The month's ringing total was 390. The species breakdown is below:

Sparrowhawk	1	Grasshopper Warbler	1
Cuckoo	1	Sedge Warbler	18
Jay	1	Reed Warbler	41
Jackdaw	12	Treecreeper	1
Blue Tit	153	Wren	6
Great Tit	62	Starling	1
Bearded Tit	2	Blackbird	4
Cetti's Warbler	2	Song Thrush	1
Long-tailed Tit	3	Robin	10
Chiffchaff	32	Dunnock	4
Willow Warbler	1	Greenfinch	1
Blackcap	16	Goldfinch	1
Garden Warbler	5	Bullfinch	4
Lesser Whitethroat	1	Reed Bunting	3
Whitethroat	2		

Old birds retrapped during the month were;

Garden Warbler X875672 at 7y 0m,

Dunnock L504728 at 6y 1m,

Reed Warbler L505110 at 5y 10m,

Blackbird LB03670 at 5y 8m,

Long-tailed Tit DDA865 at 4y 9m,

Bullfinch Y409137 at 4y 6m,

Great Tit Y856527 at 3y 10m,

Cetti's Warbler Y855616 and Reed Bunting Y855414 both at 3y 9m

and Bearded Tit Y857816 at 3y 0m.
