



A flight of waders at Burwell Fen: photo by Roger Cresswell - a good ID test!

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

Editorial note: this month many regular observers have devoted time to observations of visible migration (denoted in the bulletin as Vis Mig), almost all in the first light. In addition Simon Gillings and Jon Heath have both been operating night time recording systems in Cambridge which allow them to monitor overnight migration. This means that we have an interesting series of records as you will see below.

HEADLINES

DOTTEREL Ouse Fen on the 28th.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER* Brownhill Staunch on the 26th - 28th, Haddenham Long Drove on the 27th, probably the same individual.

GREAT SKUA Foul Anchor 12 flying over on the 29th.

WRYNECK Cherry Hinton Hall flying over (calling) on the 15th.

BEE-EATER* Stanground Gullet on the 27th.



Bee-eater at Stanground Gullet: photo by George Walthew.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER* Yaxley on the 31st.

DARTFORD WARBLER* Magog Down seen briefly on the 24th.

WOODLARK* Ouse Fen 2 flying over heading south-west on the 12th.

HAWFINCH an invasion - reports almost all the result of Vis Mig , i.e. flying over, as follows:

5th: Wimpole.

14th: Eaton Ford, Little Paxton 2.

15th: Paxton Pits 2.

16th: Cambridge (Lovell Road), Eaton Ford one in a garden, Stretham.

18th: Cambridge Chesterton a night-time flyover.

20th: Witcham 4, Stow-cum-Quy 6, Over one.

21st: Grafham Water 7.

22nd: Brownhill Staunch, Wisbech St. Mary, Witcham.

23rd: Eaton Ford, Ferry Meadows CP 6, Grafham Water, Newton, Roswell Pits, Trumpington 2, Witcham 5.

24th: Eaton Ford, Hilton.

26th: Maxey GP.

27th: Ferry Meadows CP 9 Grafham Water 6.

28th: Cambridge (Chesterton), Earith, Ferry Meadows CP 17, Stuntney 4, Witcham.

29th: Buckden 2, Ferry Meadows, Paxton Pits 2.

30th: Ferry Meadows 6, Grafham Water,

31st: Cambridge (Lovell Road and the Botanical Gardens).

LAPLAND BUNTING* Wimblington 3 on the 4th.

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: the month began with a classic autumnal mixture of sunshine, showers and periods of high winds and continued along the same lines with the odd day of warm sunshine. Also affecting us were tail ends of Atlantic hurricanes. Predominantly southern and western winds and a rather mild temperature prevailed until the first frost right at the end of the month.

Wildfowl

Mute Swan Woodwalton Fen 9 on the 8th, Darlow's Farm 10 on the 8th, Kingfishers Bridge 21 on the 29th.

Whooper Swan arrival seems to be in two phases early in the month and at the end as follows:

First phase....

6th: Burwell Fen 8, Coveney Byall Fen 16, Littleport May Farm 14, Nene Washes 27 on Low Wash, Stretham 4 flying over.

7th: Ouse Washes 219, Priors Fen 12, Maxey GP 2.

thereafter Wicken Fen on the 19th, Prickwillow c 50 on the 24th, Littleport May Farm 10+ all month.

Second phase....

28th: Paxton Pits 3 adults and a juvenile, Burwell Fen 9 flying over, Littleport May Farm 33.

29th: (all flyovers): Burwell Fen 10, Ferry Meadows CP 3, Kingfishers Bridge 8, Ouse Fen 9, Peterborough 20, Paxton Pits 2.

30th: Farcet Fen 4, Yaxley 8.

Pink-footed Goose Littleport May Farm 32 flying over on the 6th, Ferry Meadows CP 8 flying over on the 29th.

Greylag Goose Trumpington Clay Farm maximum 122 on the 3rd, Burwell Fen maximum c450 on the 25th, Wicken Fen 300 on the 8th, Holme Fen 109 on the 8th, Old Decoy Farm 32 on the 8th, Kingfishers Bridge 600+ on the 29th.

Canada Goose Trumpington Clay Farm maximum 121 on the 3rd, Great Fen Kesters Docking and Froghall 121 on the 8th, Holme Fen 55 on the 8th, Rhymes Reedbed 81 on the 8th, Old Decoy Farm 116 on the 8th, New Decoy Farm 75 on the 9th.

Brent Goose Trumpington Clay Farm from 11th - 13th.

This bird, a female, was ringed in Friesland Netherlands in spring 2015 and wintered in that area in 2015 and 2016.

Egyptian Goose Paxton Pits 2 on the 4th, Maxey GP 3 on the 7th and 15th, Fowlmere NR 5 flying over on the 21st, Eaton Ford 7 flying over on the 24th, Ferry Meadows CP on the 30th, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on the 29th, Littleport May Farm 2 all month.

Shelduck Littleport May Farm 2 juveniles 3rd - 24th, Burwell Fen 2 on the 30th.

Mandarin Wimpole Park 5 on the 9th, Ferry Meadows CP a drake on the 10th.

Wigeon Ferry Meadows CP 7 on the 3rd, 101 on the 9th, Wimpole Park 10 on the 5th, Woodwalton Fen 6 on the 8th, Holme Fen 30 on the 8th, Wimpole Park on the 9th, Haddenham Hinton Farm Reservoir 30 on the 25th, Burwell Fen c100 on the 31st, Littleport May Farm 10+ all month maximum 21 on the 3rd.

Gadwall Ferry Meadows CP 10 on the 3rd, Wicken Fen maximum 28 on the 6th, Holme Fen 47 on the 8th, Woodwalton Fen 6 on the 8th, Burwell Fen 36 on the 25th.

Teal Trumpington Clay Farm 7 on the 15th, Wicken Fen 54 on the 15th, Holme Fen 2 on the 8th, Fowlmere NR 3 on the 23rd, Burwell Fen c170 on the 31st, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Mallard Woodwalton Fen 48 on the 8th, Holme Fen 86 on the 8th, Fowlmere NR 24 on the 14th, Haddenham Hinton Farm Reservoir 30 on the 25th, Littleport May Farm 500+ all month.

Pintail Wicken Fen 3 on the 19th, Grafham Water on the 21st, Kingfishers Bridge a female on the 29th.



Pintail at Wicken Fen: photo by Roger Cresswell.

Shoveler Ferry Meadows CP 14 on the 3rd, Wimpole Park 2 on the 5th, Wicken Fen maximum 15 on the 6th, Holme Fen 3 on the 8th, Burwell Fen maximum 56 on the 12th, Fowlmere NR on the 14th, Haddenham Hinton Farm Reservoir 3 on the 25th.

Red-crested Pochard Fen Drayton Lakes a pair on the 15th.

Pochard Littleport May Farm 3 on the 3rd, Ferry Meadows CP 6 on the 15th, Whittlesford GP 6 on the 25th.

Tufted Duck (*counts over 20*) Grafham Water 1,584 on the 8th, Holme Fen 37 on the 8th.

Scaup Paxton Pits a male on the 9th, 16th, Grafham Water a male on the 11th.

Goldeneye Grafham Water 43 on the 8th, Ferry Meadows CP a male on the 9th, a female on the 21st, 3 on the 30th, Cambridge Research Park a female on the 20th - unusual at this site.

Goosander Ferry Meadows CP 2 females on the 5th and 11th - 12th, 7 on the 22nd.

Gamebirds

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

Grey Partridge Tubney Fen 9 on the 2nd, Littleport May Farm 30+ all month.

Pheasant Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Cormorants

Cormorant *reported from:* Burwell Fen (12), Fen Drayton Lakes (90), Fowlmere NR (13), Great Fen Corney's Farm (12), Darlow's Farm, Kesters Docking and Froghall (5), Holme Fen, New Decoy Farm (4), Haddenham Hinton Farm Reservoir and Littleport May Farm (8).

Egrets and herons

Bittern *reported from:* Cambridge Research Park, Farcet Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes and Nene Washes Eldernell (3).

Little Egret *reported from:* Burwell Fen (11), Cam Washes, Fen Drayton Lakes (50+), Ferry Meadows CP, Fowlmere NR (3), Grafham Water (10), Granta Park, Littleport May Farm (6), Paxton Pits (4), Trumpington Clay Farm (2) and Wicken Fen (9).

Great White Egret Burwell Fen on the 1st, (presumed same) Stretham flying over on the 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes 1-3 all month, exceptionally 4 on the 22nd, Wicken Fen and Burwell Fen on the 3rd - presumed the same individual, Paxton Pits on the 4th, 15th, Littleport May Farm on the 6th, Godmanchester NR 2 on the 8th, one on the 10th, 2 on the 11th, Burwell Fen 3 flew west on the 20th. *It remains difficult to be certain how many individuals are in the county this month.*



Great White and Little Egret at Fen Drayton Lakes: photo by Steve Cooper

Grey Heron Burwell Fen 6 on the 30th, Littleport May Farm 6+ all month.

Grebes

Little Grebe *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Ferry Meadows CP, Fowlmere NR, Holme Fen (31), Littleport May Farm (15+), Trumpington Clay Farm (10) and Wicken Fen.

Great Crested Grebe *reported from:* Littleport May Farm (4).

Raptors

Red Kite *reported from:* Abbots Ripton, Burwell Fen, Great Fen Darlow's Farm, Kesters Docking and Froghall (4), Rhymes Reedbed, Summer Standing, Ferry Meadows CP (4) and Littleport May Farm 2-3 all month.

Marsh Harrier *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Fowlmere NR, Great Fen Rhymes Reedbed, Haddenham Fen, Nene Washes Eldernell (3), Littleport May Farm (8+), Ouse Washes, Wicken Fen (3) and Woodwalton Fen (3).

Buzzard *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes (7), Fowlmere NR, Great Fen Middle Farm (5), Kesters Docking and Froghall, Middle Farm (5), Haddenham, Little Shelford, Littleport May Farm (10+), Nene Washes (Eldernell) (3), Newton, Old Decoy Farm, Rhymes Reedbed, Summer Standing (3), Trumpington Clay Farm, Wicken Fen (2) and Woodwalton Fen.

Osprey Fowlmere NR a flyover on the 1st - ? the latest date of the year.

Rails and crane

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

Moorhen Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Coot Holme Fen 37 on the 8th.

Common Crane Littleport May Farm 5 on the 9th, and 11 feeding on tilled land on the 11th, Wicken Fen on the 9th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 8 on the 25th, Ouse Washes 27-28 on the 28th, 24 on the 31st.

Waders

Golden Plover (*100 or more*), Burwell Fen 150+ on the 1st, 500+ on the 9th, 400 on the 28th, Trumpington A10/M11 junction 100+ on the 4th (had been present for a week at least), then 250 on

the 12th, 300+ thereafter on several dates, Cam Washes 250+ on the 8th, Nene Washes c500 on the 17th, Littleport-Queen Adelaide 300+ on the 19th, Wicken Fen 120 on the 20th, Littleport May Farm 163 on the 23rd, Brownhill Staunch 1,500 on the 26th, Ouse Fen c1,000 on the 25th (presumably the same flock), Ouse Washes 'a few hundred' on the 28th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens c2,000 on the 31st.

Grey Plover Nene Washes (Ring's End) 3 on the 15th, Burwell Fen on the 28th.

Lapwing (*counts of 100+*) Burwell Fen 500+ on the 9th, c100 on the 17th, Littleport May Farm monthly maximum 500 on the 24th, Ouse Fen c400 on the 25th, Haddenham Fen maximum c5,000 on the 26th, Wicken Fen 150 on the 27th.

Little Ringed Plover Littleport May Farm 2 on 24th - 27th.

Ringed Plover Burwell Fen see table, Cambridge night-time 1-2 on the 18th - 19th, Littleport May Farm 26th - 28th.

Black-tailed Godwit Burwell Fen see table, Littleport May Farm 3 on the 3rd, Tubney Fen 5 flew over on the 2nd, Kingfishers Bridge on the 29th.

Ruff Burwell Fen see table, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 3rd, one on the 5th, Littleport May Farm 5 on the 3rd, Wicken Fen 7 on the 6th, Kingfishers Bridge 35 on the 29th.

Sanderling Grafham Water on the 21st.

Dunlin Burwell Fen see table, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st, Littleport May Farm 3 on the 3rd, Grafham Water on the 8th and 28th, Paxton Pits 3 on the 15th, 2 on the 21st, Cambridge night-time 1-2 on the 18th - 19th, Kingfishers Bridge on the 29th.

Little Stint Burwell Fen see table, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st.

Common Sandpiper Littleport May Farm 2 on the 3rd, single on the 6th, Paxton Pits on the 14th - 15th, Foul Anchor 3 on the 22nd.

Green Sandpiper *reported from:* Burwell Fen see table, Cam Washes (2), Fen Drayton Lakes(2), Ferry Meadows CP, Grafham Water (2), Godmanchester NR, Littleport May Farm (4), Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits (3) and Trumpington Clay Farm (2).

Spotted Redshank Burwell Fen up to the 20th, Wicken Fen on the 3rd and 9th, (presumed to be the same individual), Littleport May Farm on the 3rd.

Greenshank Burwell Fen see table, Littleport May Farm 2 on the 3rd.

Redshank *reported from:* Grafham Water (2), Great Fen Middle Farm and Littleport May Farm (6).

Woodcock Littleport May Farm 4 all month.

Snipe *reported from:* Burwell Fen see table, Cambridge (Lovell Road) night-time, Chippenham Fen, Corney's Farm (2), Darlow's Farm, Ferry Meadows CP, Fowlmere NR (4), Grafham Water, Great Fen Middle Farm, Kesters Docking and Froghall, Rhymes Reedbed, Kingfishers Bridge (10), Littleport May Farm (50+), Paxton Pits (3) and Trumpington Clay Farm (8).

Summary of wader passage at Burwell Fen

	1	2	5	6	7	9	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	25	27	28	29	30	31
RPI	13	9		1		8	3							5	4		1	1		
BltG	2			2			1				2						9			
Ru	50+	50		173		100	93			20	30			127	16		15	13		
Dun		13		11		13	10				4			13			14			14
LS	10	12		5		5					2			5			2	2		1
CS																				
GS	1			1																1
Gsk	2	1																		
Snipe		9		30		7														

From the top: Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Dunlin, Little Stint, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper Greenshank, and Snipe.

Terns and gulls

Black Tern Grafham Water a juvenile on the 5th - 8th.

Black-headed Gull Melbourn 40 following the plough on the 3rd, Burwell Fen 99 on the 12th, Fowlmere NR up to 80 on the 15th, 110 on the 11th, Great Shelford 61 heading north-west at dusk on the 16th, Fowlmere near the NR 100+ on the 21st, Trumpington Clay Farm 52 on the 25th, Haddenham Hinton Farm Reservoir 130 on the 25th, Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Mediterranean Gull Ferry Meadows CP on the 8th.

Common Gull Ferry Meadows CP on the 3rd, Melbourn 2 following the plough on the 3rd, Littleport May Farm 23 on the 3rd, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 120 on the 31st.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*counts of 100+*) Melbourn 900 following the plough on the 3rd, Littleport May Farm 221 on the 3rd, 167 on the 6th, Fowlmere near the NR 200+ on the 21st.

Herring Gull Melbourn 4 following the plough on the 3rd, Littleport May Farm 93 on the 3rd, 112 on the 6th, Great Fen Kesters Docking and Froghall 5 on the 8th, Fowlmere on the 21st, Ferry Meadows CP 76 on the 25th, Burwell Fen on the 12th.

Yellow-legged Gull *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere (2), Melbourn (7), Ouse Washes and Trumpington Clay Farm (adult).

Caspian Gull Melbourn 3 following the plough on the 3rd.

Great Black-backed Gull Littleport May Farm 3 on the 3rd and 2 on the 14th, Great Fen Summer Standing 4 on the 8th, Ferry Meadows CP on the 22nd, 3 flying over on the 30th, Haddenham Hinton Farm Reservoir 4 on the 25th.

Doves, owls Kingfisher and woodpeckers

Stock Dove Great Fen Kesters Docking and Froghall 69 on the 8th, Rhymes Reedbed 11 on the 8th, Great Fen Summer Standing 10 on the 8th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 250 on the 31st, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Woodpigeon Ferry Meadows CP (VM) 450+ on the 23rd, 1,510 on the 25th, 4,027 on the 26th, 4,079 on the 27th, c1,000 on the 29th, 1,259 on the 30th, Littleport May Farm 200+ all month then 5,000 on 14th - 15th.

Collared Dove Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Barn Owl *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Cambridge (night-time record) on the 15th, and 2 on 15th - 16th, Fowlmere NR (2), Littleport May Farm (6+) and Rhymes Reedbed.

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

Tawny Owl *reported from:* Haslingfield and Littleport May Farm (2).

Short-eared Owl Nene Washes on the 6th, Fowlmere NR on the 21st, Histon, Cambridge Science Park and Ouse Fen on the 29th - possibly the same bird, Littleport May Farm 2 all month.

Kingfisher *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Corney's Farm (2), Ferry Meadows CP (2-3), Littleport May Farm (4), Paxton Pits (2), Wicken Fen (3) and Woodwalton Fen.

Falcons and parrots

Kestrel Nene Washes 7+ on the 25th, Littleport May Farm 20+ all month.

Merlin Cambridge one in pursuit of Skylarks on the 14th, Fowlmere NR on the 14th, Grafham Water on the 15th - 16th, Little Paxton on the 15th (maybe the same bird as the previous record), Brownhill Stauch on the 26th, Nene Washes on the 25th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 29th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens a male on the 31st.

Hobby Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on the 1st and 3rd, Fowlmere NR on the 3rd, Littleport May Farm on the 27th - the latest date reported.

Peregrine Burwell Fen on the 1st, a juvenile on the 6th, one on the 20th, 28th and 29th, Littleport May Farm a male on the 4th and 2 males on the 10th, Paxton Pits a juvenile on the 4th, one on the 21st, and on the 29th, Grafham Water on the 6th, Fowlmere NR on the 21st chasing a passing Short-eared owl, Wicken Fen on the 22nd, Brownhill Stauch 2 on the 26th (interested in the Golden Plover flock),

Studies on the Cambridge Peregrines have shown that as well as many feral pigeons, prey items include: Teal, Shoveler, Grey Partridge (2), Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Woodcock, Common Tern, Blackbird, Redwing and Starling - a remarkable collection from the city skies (or maybe a bit further afield).

Ring-necked Parakeet* Soham on the 6th, Peterborough on the 26th.

Corvids

Magpie Littleport May Farm 30+ all month.

Jackdaw Littleport May Farm 300+ all month.

Rook Littleport May Farm 500+ all month.

Carrion Crow Great Fen Kesters Docking and Froghall 18 on the 8th, Woodwalton Fen 34 on the 8th, Wicken Fen c20 on the 15th, Littleport May Farm 300+ all month.

Raven Huntingdon 2 flying over on 1st, Great Cambourne 2 flying over on the 2nd, Little Downham on the 3rd, Litlington 2 briefly on a ploughed field on the 15th, Abbot's Ripton on the 16th, Foxton on

the 17th, Grafham Water on the 19th, Knapwell Grange Farm on the 19th, Paxton Pits 2 on the 21st, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on the 24th and 28th, Fen Drayton village a flyover on the 26th.

Crests, tits and larks

Firecrest Cottenham on the 9th, Dry Drayton on the 18th, Witcham on the 22nd.

Goldcrest one ringed at Skeffling East Yorkshire on September 7th was caught at Wicken Fen on the 3rd of October. A distance of 149 miles south. It just shows how these amazing little birds can travel.

Marsh Tit *reported from:* Chippenham Fen, Holme Fen, Knapwell Grange Farm, Paxton Pits and Woodwalton Fen.



Marsh Tit at Woodwalton Fen: photo by Thomas Reed.

Bearded Tit *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Ouse Fen (3), Paxton Pits (2) and Wicken Fen.

Skylark Great Fen Middle Farm 59 on the 8th, Rhymes Reedbed 47 on the 8th, Summer Standing 22 on the 8th, Darlow's Farm 32 on the 8th, Grafham Water 25+ on the 15th, Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Hirundines and warblers

Sand Martin *late date*: Littleport May Farm 12 on the 3rd.

Swallow *late dates*: Burwell Fen 17 on the 2nd, Cam Washes 8 on the 8th, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on the 11th, Graveley on the 15th, Grafham Water on the 21st, Wicken Fen 2 on the 22nd, Littleport May Farm 9 on the 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP on the 23rd and 26th.

House Martin *late dates*: Eaton Ford 4 on the 16th, Hartford Marina 2 on the 17th, Dry Drayton 2 on the 21st.

Cetti's Warbler *reported from*: Burwell Fen (2), Cam Washes, Darlow's Farm, Ferry Meadows CP, Fowlmere NR (4), Littleport May Farm (3), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen (7).

Chiffchaff *late dates - 10th and after (maybe complicated by over-wintering birds)*: Ferry Meadows CP 5+ on the 12th, Grafham Water 3 on the 19th, Fowlmere NR 4 on the 15th one on the 21st, Wicken Fen 2 on the 19th, one on the 20th, Paxton Pits on the 24th, Burwell Fen on the 31st.

Blackcap *late dates: (as with Chiffchaff)* Ferry Meadows CP on the 12th, Wicken Fen 3 on the 12th, one on the 28th and 2 on the 29th.

Nuthatch, starling and thrushes

Nuthatch *reported from*: Granta Park, Littleport May Farm and Wimpole Park.

Starling Rhymes Reedbed 101 on the 8th, Ferry Meadows CP (VM) 385 on the 15th, 800 on the 22nd, 710 on the 23rd, 1,170 going west on the 24th, 1,609 on the 26th, 2,870 on the 27th, 2,814 on the 28th, 1,493 on the 30th, 1,912 on the 31st, Wicken Fen c300 on the 15th, Grafham Water 50+ heading south on the 16th, Fowlmere NR 400 flying west on the 27th, Littleport May Farm 1,000+ all month.

Ring Ouzel Fowlmere NR on the 8th, Cambridge night-time record of 1-2 on the 18th - 19th, Coppingford on the 26th, Earith on the 26th.

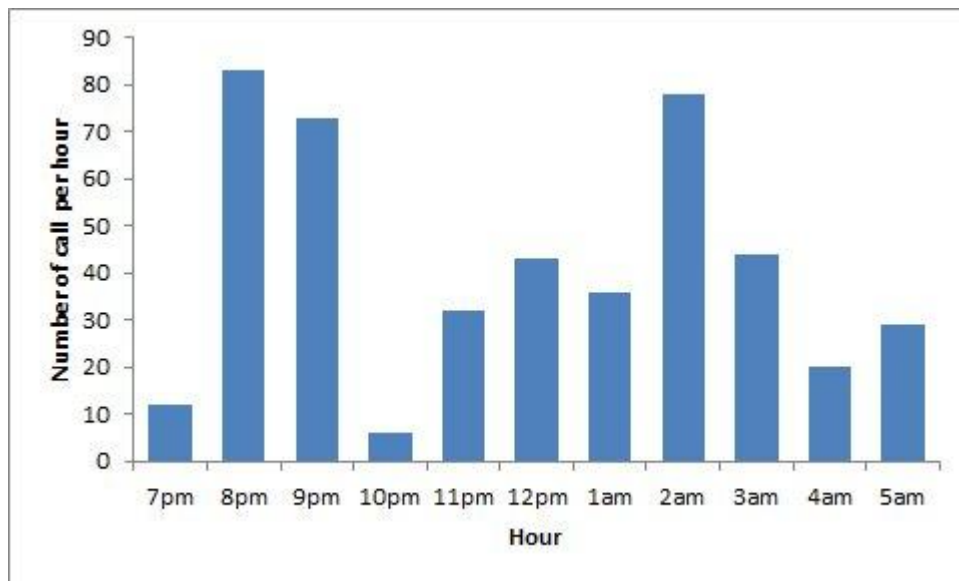
Blackbird Ferry Meadows CP 26 on the 31st.

Fieldfare First reported on the 8th with 25 at Godmanchester NR and 3 at Castor Hanglands. Thereafter: Earith 5 on the 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP 8 on the 24th, (many observers reported slow arrival), then 343 on the 27th, 22 on the 28th, 445 on the 30th and 43 on the 31st (all VM),

Haddenham Hinton Farm Reservoir on the 25th, Paxton Pits 14 on the 25th, Grafham Water 190+ on the 28th.

Song Thrush Ferry Meadows CP 40 on the 15th, Cambridge 110 over during the night of 15th - 16th, 30 on 17th - 18th.

Redwing *an arrival from the 6th/7th*: on the 6th, Little Shelford c12 flying over, on the 7th, Ouse Washes 4, Maxey GP 2, then more widespread reports including Cam Washes 55 on the 8th and 135 at Castor Hanglands also on the 8th, Hare Park Six Mile Bottom 40 on the 9th, Mepal 250+ flying over on the 9th, Ferry Meadows CP 112 on the 15th, Grafham Water 50+ on the 15th, 140+ heading south on the 16th, Peterborough 'loads' on the 16th, Cambridge 530 over during the night 15th - 16th, 700+ on the night 18th - 19th, Fowlmere NR 115 on the 21st, Ferry Meadows CP 320 on the 23rd, 184 on the 24th, 200 on the 26th, 1,376 on the 27th, - most of these larger counts of from VM observations.



Redwing night-time recordings 8th - 9th by Simon Gillings.

Robin Witchford 24 on the 1st, Home Fen 22 on the 8th.

Starts and chats

Whinchat Ouse Washes 2 on the 2nd - latest date so far.

Stonechat *reported from*: Burwell Fen (6), Corney's Farm (5), Darlow's Farm, (6), Fen Drayton Lakes, Ferry Meadows CP (2), Godmanchester NR, Grafham Water, Great Fen Middle Farm (4), Kester's Docking and Froghall (4), Rhymes Reedbed (4), Kingfishers Bridge (2), Littleport May Farm (4), Nene Washes Ring's End and Eldernell (2), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen (3).



Stonechat at Wicken Fen: photo by Roger Cresswell.

Wheatear Witchford on the 1st, Littleport May Farm 3 on the 6th and 2 on the 26th (latest date so far reported), Paxton Pits on the 14th - 15th, Littleport-Queen Adelaide on the 19th.

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

Tree Sparrow Foxtan on the 18th, Littleport May Farm 18+ all month, Redmere Farm 120+ all month.

Yellow Wagtail *late dates*: Littleport May Farm 9 on the 3rd.

Grey Wagtail *reported from*: Eaton Ford (2), Ferry Meadows CP (3), Fowlmere NR, Godmanchester NR, Grafham Water (3), Little Paxton, Littleport May Farm (2), Witchford and Wicken Fen.

Pied Wagtail Witchford 29 on the 1st, Cottenham 50 on the 10th, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Meadow Pipit Great Fen Middle Farm 164 on the 8th, Rhymes Reedbed 53 on the 8th, Grafham Water 60+ on the 15th and 16th, Eaton Ford 47 on the 23rd (VM), Ferry Meadows CP (VM) 32 on the 23rd, Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Rock Pipit Grafham Water a flyover on the 5th, 5 on the 19th, 2 on the 24th, Paxton Pits on the 15th, 2 on the 16th, Ferry Meadows CP a flyover on the 23rd.

Water Pipit Burwell Fen on the 28th- 31st.

Finches and buntings

Chaffinch migrant records as follows: Cambridge (Lovell Road) night-time 71 on the 22nd - 23rd, Eaton Ford 43 VM on the 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP 102 VM on the 23rd, 183 on the 26th, 24 on the 27th, 55 on the 28th, 39 on the 31st.

Brambling (many a result of VM), Cambridge a flyover on the 8th - first of the autumn, Godmanchester GP a flyover on the 10th, Grafham Water 3 on the 15th, 2 on the 27th, Cambridge (Lovell Road) night-time recording on the 23rd, Earith 2 on the 23rd, Eaton Ford a flyover on the 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on the 23rd, 7 on the 26th one on the 27th then 7 on the 28th, 5 on the 30th, Littleport May Farm 6 on the 23rd, 28 on the 28th, 14 on the 29th and 9 on the 30th, Hilton on the 24th, Paxton Pits on the 25th and Fowlmere NR on the 27th.

Greenfinch Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Goldfinch Witchford 42 on the 1st, Great Fen Kesters Docking and Froghall 105 on the 8th, Corney's Farm 136 on the 8th, Darlow's Farm 60 on the 8th, Cottenham 50 on the 10th, Grafham Water 50 heading south on the 21st (Vis Mig), Eaton Ford 33 on the 23rd (Vis Mig), Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Siskin Ferry Meadows CP 2 on the 3rd, single on the 9th, Cam Washes 5 flying over on the 8th, Wicken Fen 6 on the 6th, Paxton Pits 2 flying over on the 15th, Grafham Water 2 on the 16th, thereafter (mostly Vis Mig) reported from: Earith (14), Eaton Ford (11), Ferry Meadows CP 37 on the 23rd, 26 on the 24th, Fowlmere NR (20) and in small numbers subsequently from many sites.

Linnet Witchford 32 on the 1st, Great Fen Kester's Docking and Froghall 725 on the 8th, Haddenham Fen 300 on the 26th and 31st, Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Lesser Redpoll the wintering population seemed to arrive at the end of September and beginning of October. Wicken Fen 4 flying over on the 2nd, Over 6 flying over on the 3rd, Ferry Meadows CP on the 3rd and 9th, Fen Drayton Lakes 6 on the 3rd, Foxton 3 on the 4th, Cam Washes 6 on the 8th,

thereafter many reports of small numbers exceptionally: Block Fen c20 on the 17th, Little Shelford 30 on the 18th, Ferry Meadows CP 58 (Vis Mig) on the 23rd, Grafham Water 20 on the 28th.

Corn Bunting Ouse Washes 5 on the 7th, Great Shelford 32 on the 26th, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Reed Bunting Great Fen Kesters Docking and Froghall 51 on the 8th, Fowlmere NR a roost of 610 on the 31st, Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Exotica

Tufted/Scaup hybrid Grafham Water a male on the 21st.

Bar-headed Goose Wicken Fen 2 with Greylags on several dates, also reported from Kingfishers Bridge and the Cam Washes.

Harris Hawk Witcham on the 5th, Barton on the 6th (this bird has been around for several months and attempted - unsuccessfully- to pair with a Buzzard).

Contributors:

Colin Addington, Richard Allison, John Atkins, Malcolm Ausden, Louise Bacon, Helen Bailey, Chris Barker, Geoff Barlow, Ian Barton, Rowena Baxter, Peter Beckenham, Peter Bircham, Will Bowell, Chris Brown, Mike Burdekin, Howard Butler, Josh Carter, Pete Cook, Ade Cooper, Ali Cooper, Steve Cooper, Roger Cresswell, Martin Davis, Ian Dawson, Ian Dickerson, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, David Ellis, Pam Evans, Mike Everett, David Fisher, Mike Foley, Richard Fowling, Pete Fretwell, Katie Fuller, Paul Gallagher, Don Gardener, Ian Gordon, Derek Gruar, Peter Gruar, Andy Hannaford, Ron Harrold, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jon Heath, Graham Hirons, James Hitchcock, Michael Holdsworth, Malcolm Holley, David Hopkins, Neil Howard, Richard Johnson, Charlie Kitchin, Marcus Kohler, Derek Langslow, Vince Lea, Jeremy Lindsell, Paul Mason, Matt Mellor, Philip Miller, Steve Mumford, Alexey Murzin, Martin O'Leary, John Paice, Dave Palmer, Rob Partridge, Richard Patient, Mark Peck, Duncan Poyser, Doug Radford, Norman Ratcliffe, Gareth Rees, Duncan Ritchie, Martin Shadbolt, Martin Shelagh, Bill Simmonds, Jonathan Taylor, Michael Taylor, Richard Thomas, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Bob Titman, Hugh Venables, George Walthew, Mark Ward, Iain Webb, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, David Wege, Jamie Wells, Kevin Wilson, Matt Wilson, David Withrington, Ken Wolstencroft, Karen Woods, Hugh Wright and Christoph Zöckler.

Next indoor meetings:

Friday 10th November, St Johns Hall, Cambridge

Cuckoos: an African perspective by Claire Spottiswoode

Claire joined the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, in 2002 as a PhD student (supervised by Professor Nick Davies), coming from the University of Cape Town in her home country of South Africa. She has stayed on ever since supported by a series of research fellowships from Sidney Sussex College, The Royal Society, and currently the BBSRC, and is a Senior Research Fellow at Magdalene College. From mid-2016 she has been splitting her time between the Department of Zoology and the [FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology](#) in Cape Town.



Friday 8th December, St Johns Hall, Cambridge

Christmas Social

Come and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine in good company while listening to inspiring short talks by club members.

Please contact [Vicki Harley](#) if you would like to give a short presentation.

Notes from the Chair

Nominations for Chair 2018

Vince Lea

My term of office (5 years) comes to an end in April, so Council is seeking volunteers or nominations for the next Chair. It's a very rewarding post and not too taxing so please do consider if you might be interested or know someone who may be suitable. I am happy to describe the role as I see it, though of course there is scope to make what you want of the role and every Chair has been different. I think it would be good to get a different emphasis from someone with a different

approach to birding in the county to myself - I'm a total non-lister, non-photographer and non-twitcher which is rather out of line with the general membership I feel! It would also be good to get someone from the northern part of the county, as the large size of Cambridgeshire, plus the fact that Peterborough has its own bird club, means that we are rather Cambridge-centred in some ways. And a female successor would be good to balance the gender of Council. I deliberately changed the post title to Chair at the start of my term to remove the gender bias of the old 'Chairman' title, in the hope that a female successor might be found.

Annual Report News

Vince Lea

Things are running a bit behind schedule this year, with one or two avoidable and unavoidable factors coming into play. As you may recall, 2016 was a bumper year for rarities, with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd for the county and large numbers of supporting species, so getting final decisions on many of these has taken some time, particularly as the abundance of Yellow-browed Warblers among other species, seemed to increase the reluctance of observers to submit descriptions for what is still quite a rare bird in reality. Add to that a broken wrist for one of the editorial team and various workload issues and trying a new approach to help deal with the vast amount of BirdTrack data. We will be working on the final stages over the next few weeks.

State of Bird Populations, continued

Vince Lea

We continue to get comments supporting the more pessimistic view proposed by myself. Mrs Vivian Mash sent in notes from her teenage years at St Leonards in Sussex (and various other holiday and evacuation locations) during the period 1941-46. While her observations were not particularly quantitative, some of the comments hinted at abundance and diversity that we no longer see in the general countryside:

13/1/1942 'more snow' - 27 species on the bird table

21/4/1942 - Many Cirl and Corn Buntings and Greenfinches about

13/2/1945 - Bird song is deafening!

12/3/1945 - nests everywhere. Blackbirds, Robins, Greenfinches and 3 Hawfinches in the hollies

The nesting birds of her garden and neighbourhood gave a lot of interest to the young Vivian and why wouldn't they? There were all three resident woodpeckers, plus Wrynecks. The still-common-today finches plus Hawfinches and Redpolls. Turtle Doves, Cuckoo, Hobby and Red-backed Shrikes were around the area also Willow and Marsh Tits, Spotted Flycatchers, Wood Warblers, Cirl Buntings and Tree Sparrows. It was a couple of years before a Nightingale was heard, which frustrated her as there were 'hundreds' at Battle not that far away! Winter visitors included

Waxwings and a Jack Snipe on the local pond and another year there were 1000 Lapwings on the field nearby. There were a few rarities over the 5 years including Honey and Rough-legged Buzzards a Grey Plover and other passage waders and one or two Black Redstarts. With other species added during trips to Dartmoor, the Isle of Wight and especially the Norfolk Broads (where a family connection got her to Hickling Broad and a guided tour by the famous Jim Vincent), her 10 pages of notes made it sound like a good 5 years, despite the war going on!

From the Editor.....

My final say will appear in next month's E-bulletin.

If you have any contributions for the November edition please get them to me by the 4th of December.

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for October 2017

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 13 different days in October. The month's ringing total was 355; the species totals shown below:

Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	Bearded Tit	1
Meadow Pipit	12	Long-tailed Tit	29
Goldcrest	36	Chiffchaff	17
Wren	6	Blackcap	28
Dunnock	4	House Sparrow	7
Robin	6	Chaffinch	3
Blackbird	5	Greenfinch	5
Song Thrush	1	Goldfinch	18

Redwing	19	Lesser Redpoll	3
Starling	1	Bullfinch	3
Cetti's Warbler	8	Yellowhammer	2
Blue Tit	27	Reed Bunting	84
Great Tit	28		

Old birds retrapped during the month were:

Great Tit L505752 at 6y 2m, Long-tailed Tit DDA663, Robin Y856190 and Cetti's Warbler Y855616 all three at 4y 2m, Dunnock Y856400 at 4y 1m and Goldfinch Y857057 at 3y 10m.
