

# Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 63 September 2018



Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls at Grafham Water : photo by Phil Smith

## Details of the One-day Conference on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the end of the Bulletin

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

### HEADLINES

**FERRUGINOUS DUCK\*** Paxton Pits one reported in the first week of the month - no further details.

**RED-THROATED DIVER\*** Grafham Water on the 18<sup>th</sup>,

**MANX SHEARWATER\*** Grafham Water on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**GANNET** Guyhurn a juvenile over on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CATTLE EGRET\*** Fen Drayton Lakes on the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, then another 5 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and all 6 on the 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, *a County record number the previous best being 5 in 1992.*

**PURPLE HERON\*** Eldernell on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**WHITE STORK\*** Dog-in-a-doublet on the 1<sup>st</sup> - presumed to be the same bird that has been reported from this site previously and of unknown origin.

**SPOONBILL** Stetchworth Ley a group of 19 flying over towards Cambridge smashes the previous record number of 7 on the Ouse Washes in September 2014. This group (most likely) were seen at Beddington SF (London) the following day.

**PALLID HARRIER\*** Paxton Pits a possible on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 2 juveniles on the 17<sup>th</sup>, one on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** Barway on the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER\*** Ouse Washes on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Barway 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>.

**GREY PHALAROPE\*** Grafham Water a first-winter on the 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ARCTIC SKUA\*** Grafham Water briefly on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Foul Anchor 7 flying over on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**GREAT SKUA\*** Foul Anchor 16 flying over on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Grafham Water 3 flying over on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** Haddenham in a private garden coming to a feeder on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**PIED FLYCATCHER** Witcham on the 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<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 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:** typical autumnal flavours from the beginning, cooler with a mixture of warm sunshine and some cloud and a little rain from time to time. In the third week on the 20<sup>th</sup> overnight the first gale of autumn which led to several headline species arrival. Thereafter best summed up as autumnal variations although still dry and mild.

**Summary:** as it so often does this month produced a succession of exciting observations with 16 headline records and a continual passage of waders some passerines, as well as the arrival of increasing numbers of wildfowl. However, despite some rain, most of the waterbodies continued to dry out notably Fowlmere, Grafham Water, Wicken and Burwell Fens and the loss of water exposed

the mud which dried out quickly and was less accessible for wading birds. The flooding at Barway and the Lagoon at Longstanton provided some alternative habitat. From the records accessed so far no Avocets, Oystercatchers, Woodcocks or Ring Ouzels.

### **Wildfowl**

**Mute Swan** Kingfishers Bridge maximum 7 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 42 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 59 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 256 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Project 11 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen 13 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 16 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** Cambridge Research Park 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> - first returning birds, Grafham Water 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Pink-footed Goose** Grafham Water 21 flying over on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Eldernell 33 over on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Greylag Goose** Kingfishers Bridge 442 - 646 all month, Paxton Pits 160 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 206 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 147 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen 35 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 31 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** Kingfishers Bridge 97 - 376 all month, Paxton Pits 88 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 45 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Project 56 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen 50 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 34 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Barnacle Goose** Kingfishers Bridge 2 on several dates.

**Egyptian Goose** Fen Drayton Lakes 11 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 12 on several dates.

**Shelduck** Barway 2 juveniles on the 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>. Eldernell 2 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Wigeon** Barway 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, c30 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes c30+ on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 151 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 3-4 from the 9<sup>th</sup>, maximum 12 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 4 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 24 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 27 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 4 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Gadwall** Kingfishers Bridge 9 - 26 all month, Paxton Pits 80 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 90 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Barway c60 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 602 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Project 15 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen 30 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 3 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 15 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Teal** Kingfishers Bridge 7 - 8 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, then 61 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 20 - 30 thereafter, Paxton Pits 8 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 18 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon 180 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 220 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 120 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Barway c450 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 757 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 69 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 20 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard** (*counts 20+*), Kingfishers Bridge over 100 all month (maximum 187 on the 9<sup>th</sup>) until down to 37 and 30 in the final week, Barway c50 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 165 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen 32 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 40 on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail** Barway 2 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Bainton GP on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Maxey GP on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Garganey** Kingfishers Bridge on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 3 on the 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, one on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon on the 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, Barway on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Shoveler** Kingfishers Bridge 23 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 18 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, then an arrival with 139 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 97 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 35 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits 6 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 18 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Barway c100 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 91 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon 8 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 12 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-crested Pochard** Fen Drayton Lakes a female on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Pochard** Kingfishers Bridge 1-2 all month, Paxton Pits 6 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 37 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 23 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 9 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** Fen Drayton Lakes 200+ on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 449 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 72 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 25 on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaup** Grafham Water a juvenile on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Common Scoter** Cambridge recorded on noc mig on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldeneye** Grafham Water on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Goosander** Elton Lock a juvenile on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Gamebirds***

**Grey Partridge** Great Fen Project 9 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Cormorants***

**Cormorant** *reported from*: Burwell Fen (11), Fen Drayton Lakes (163), Fowlmere NR (flyover), Great Fen Project (7), Holme Fen (3), Ickleton (5 flying over), Kingfishers Bridge (24) and Paxton Pits (72).

**Shag** Grafham Water on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Egrets and herons***

**Bittern** *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes and Maxey GP.

**Little Egret** *reported from:* Barway (23), Cambridge Research Park (2+), Ferry Meadows CP, Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 21 on the 4<sup>th</sup>), Kingfishers Bridge (8), Longstanton Lagoon, Maxey GP (2), Ouse Fen and Paxton Pits (18).

**Great White Egret** Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Fen 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on the 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, one on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Heron** Kingfishers Bridge 10 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Fen Drayton Lakes 18 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Grebes***

**Little Grebe** *reported from:* Barway (10), Cambridge Research Park, Fen Drayton Lakes (20), Ferry Meadows CP (2), Grafham Water, Hobson's Park (6), Holme Fen (16), Kingfishers Bridge (13), Paxton Pits, Stapleford Dernford Farm Reservoir (4), Wicken Fen (2), and Woodwalton Fen (3).

**Great Crested Grebe** *reported from:* Barway, Fen Drayton Lakes (80), Hobson's Park, Kingfishers Bridge (9) and Paxton Pits (10).

## ***Raptors***

**Red Kite** *reported from:* Fowlmere NR, Great Fen Project (4), Holme Fen (2), Ickleton, Monks Wood (2), Nene Washes (2) and Wicken Fen.

**Marsh Harrier** *reported from:* Barway (3), Burwell Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Great Fen Project (3), Great Wilbraham, Kingfishers Bridge (2), Nene Washes (7), Ouse Fen (2), Wicken Fen, Willingham (2), and Woodwalton Fen (3).

**Hen Harrier** Cambridge Research Park a ringtail thought to be of this species on the 15<sup>th</sup>,

**Buzzard** *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR (4), Great Eversden (3), Great Fen Project (2), Haslingfield (5), Ickleton, Kingfishers Bridge (4), Kingston (2), Little Eversden (3), Monks Wood (3), Nene Washes (3+), Ouse Fen (2), Paxton Pits (4), Toft (6), Weston Colville (2) and Wicken Fen (5).

**Osprey** Grafham Water 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, an adult on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a flyover on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge a juvenile on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Ely a flyover on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## ***Rails and crane***

**Water Rail** *reported from:* Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.

**Moorhen** Paxton Pits 18 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 17 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 21 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Coot** Kingfishers Bridge 23 - 69 all month, Burwell Fen 43 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Barway c240 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 1688 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen 29 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Hobson's Park 21 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Crane** Barway 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> then 3 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, (possibly the same birds as the Cam Washes record below), Lode 3 flying over on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 9 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, March 3 flying over on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 3 heading towards Cambridge on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 3 on the 16<sup>th</sup> (possibly the same birds as the Cam Washes), Ouse Washes 9 flying over on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 26 on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Waders***

**Golden Plover** Kingfishers Bridge 14 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 28 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Cottenham Long Drove 93 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Tick Fen 30 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Ickleton 50 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Eldernell c1000 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Project 10 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing** Kingfishers Bridge maximum 174 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Sutton Gault c290 over on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 100 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Barway 50+ on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 300+ on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Cambridge Research Park c50 on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Ringed Plover** Kingfishers Bridge 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon 2 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, one on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Ringed Plover** Fowlmere NR on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 4 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Grafham Water on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Barway 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 3 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Whimbrel** Ouse Washes on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew** Hemingford Grey 2 flying over on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 12 flying over on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 12 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, one on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Black tailed Godwit** Grafham Water on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, one on the 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 3 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 1- 7 throughout the month maximum 12 on the 9<sup>th</sup>,

Barway 9 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 3+ on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 14 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, one on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 8+ on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Knot** Grafham Water on the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ruff** Grafham Water 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, one on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Barway 30+ on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 21 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10+ on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 34 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 20-30 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 15+ on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Great Fen Project on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 13 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 24 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell c35 on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** Grafham Water on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** Barway on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Grafham Water one on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon 2 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell 4 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Stint** Grafham Water on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew Sandpiper** Grafham Water on the 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>.



Curlew Sandpiper at Grafham Water : photo by James Hanlon.

**Common Sandpiper** Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, one on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon on the 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 10 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 from 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, 8 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Stapleford Dernford Farm Reservoir 2 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Accumulated totals*

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
3	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	20	6	4	4	4	4	6	7	6	7	4	1	8
22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>												
				2		4														

**Green Sandpiper** Barway 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 8 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 12 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and one on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on the 7<sup>th</sup> then 2 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Cottenham Long Drove on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ouse Washes on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits one on 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 8 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 26<sup>th</sup>, one on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Barway on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Maxey Pits on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Redshank** Barway on the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenshank** Grafham Water 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, one on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 on the 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 3 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Barway on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Stapleford Dernford Farm Reservoir on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 3 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, one on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Accumulated totals*

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
2	1	5		1		3	1	9		8	7	4	4		1				1	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>												
3	1	2			3	1		2												

**Wood Sandpiper** Barway on the 16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> .

**Redshank** *reported from:* Barway (10-20), Grafham Water (26), Kingfishers Bridge (3) and Stapleford Dernford Farm Reservoir.



**Snipe** *reported from:* Barway (maximum 171 on the 14<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen, Cambridge Research Park (4), Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Fowlmere NR, Great Fen Project (7), Kingfishers Bridge (6 - 23), Longstanton Lagoon, Nene Washes (35), Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen (7+).

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

**Black Tern** Grafham Water 8 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a juvenile on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, one on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Sandwich Tern** Cambourne and Cambridge on noc mig on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Tern** Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 10+ on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8+ on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 10 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 5 flying over on the 18<sup>th</sup>, *late dates:* 20<sup>th</sup> -Grafham Water, 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP (a juvenile), 24<sup>th</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP.

**Arctic Tern** Stapleford Dernford Farm reservoir a juvenile on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a juvenile on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water a juvenile on the 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> then 20 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Black-headed Gull** Kingfishers Bridge maximum 347 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits 150 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 52 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Barway 100+ on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Little Gull** Grafham Water a juvenile on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP a juvenile on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** Grafham Water a first-year on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP an adult on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Longstanton Lagoon a 1 C.Y. on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Gull** Fowlmere one with Lesser Black-backs on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*large counts 50+*) Longstanton Lagoon 640 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 60 flying over on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 350+ in nearby field on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Sawston by-pass c150 in a field being ploughed on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Herring Gull** Great Fen Project on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *reported from:* Cottenham Long Drove (6), Fowlmere NR (flyover) and Longstanton Lagoon (10).

**Caspian Gull** Grafham Water 1-2 on several dates, Longstanton Lagoon on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Black-backed Gull** Kingfishers Bridge on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Doves, owls kingfisher***

**Stock Dove** Great Fen Project 50 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 9 - 10 all month.

**Wood Pigeon** Kingfishers Bridge 170 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Barn Owl** *reported from:* Nene Washes, Wicken Fen.

**Little Owl** *reported from;* Kingfishers Bridge.

**Tawny Owl** *reported from:* Haslingfield.

**Short-eared Owl** Burwell Fen on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Swift** *late dates:* 8<sup>th</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP, 9<sup>th</sup> - Paxton Pits, 18<sup>th</sup> - Cherry Hinton Hall.

**Kingfisher** *reported from:* Cambridge Research Park, Ferry Meadows CP (2), Great Fen Project, Kingfishers Bridge, Paxton Pits (2), Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.

### ***Falcons and parrots***

**Hobby** Witcham 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 'a lot' on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 3 (including 2 juveniles) on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Cottenham Lode on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ouse Fen on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Horningsea on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Sutton Gault on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 11<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, Nene Washes 2 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Barway on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Peterborough on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Late dates:* 21<sup>st</sup> - Barway, Histon, 23<sup>rd</sup> - Fowlmere NR (2), Kingfishers Bridge (juvenile), Paxton Pits (3), 24<sup>th</sup> - Maxey GP, 30<sup>th</sup> - Kingfishers Bridge.

**Peregrine** Kingfishers Bridge on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a juvenile on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Barway a juvenile on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Eldernell on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Corvids***

**Carrion Crow** Great Fen Project 51 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Raven** Monks Wood 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Wimpole Park 2 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 flyovers on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## ***Tits and larks***

**Marsh Tit** *reported from:* Grafham Water (2) and Monks Wood (46).

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

**Skylark** Great Fen Project 64 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Hirundines and warblers***

**Sand Martin** Barway 'hundreds' on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 50+ on the 12<sup>th</sup>, c100 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes 20 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, *late dates:* 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP (c25), Kingfishers Bridge (13).

**Swallow** Paxton Pits mixed hirundines 400+ on the 9<sup>th</sup>, *late dates:* 22<sup>nd</sup> - Burwell Fen (2), 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP (c75), Kingfishers Bridge (50), 30<sup>th</sup> - Great Fen Project 6.

**House Martin** (*counts over 30*) Sutton Gault 35 over on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 150+ hirundines, mainly House Martins on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 32 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Stapleford Dernford Farm Reservoir 100+ on the 10<sup>th</sup>, *late dates:* 22<sup>nd</sup> - Burwell Fen (12), 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP (c500), Fowlmere NR (30+), Kingfishers Bridge (20), Paxton Pits (hundreds).

**Cetti's Warbler** *reported from:* Fowlmere NR (2), Kingfishers Bridge, Nene Washes (2), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen (5+).

**Long-tailed Tit** Kingfishers Bridge a remarkable count of 36 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Chiffchaff** Kingfishers Bridge 14 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 25+ on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11+ on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 6 on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Willow Warbler** *late dates:* 20<sup>th</sup> - Paxton Pits, 22<sup>nd</sup> - Barway (4).

**Blackcap** Wicken Fen 29 caught on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 23 on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Garden Warbler** *late dates:* 9<sup>th</sup> - Grafham Water (2).

**Lesser Whitethroat** Kingfishers Bridge 4 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, *late dates:* 24<sup>th</sup> - Cambridge Research Park, 30<sup>th</sup> - Kingfishers Bridge.

**Whitethroat** Kingfishers Bridge 11 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, *late dates:* 16<sup>th</sup> - Kingfishers Bridge, 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ickleton.

**Reed Warbler** *late dates:* 23<sup>rd</sup> - Wicken Fen, 24<sup>th</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP, Wicken Fen, 29<sup>th</sup> - Wicken Fen, 30<sup>th</sup> - Kingfishers Bridge (2).

## ***Nuthatch, Starling and thrushes***

**Nuthatch** *reported from:* Monks Wood ('lots').

**Wren** Kingfishers Bridge 16 on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Starling** Burwell Fen 40 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Project 180 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 54 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Barway 113 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen c100 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Redwing** Cambridge recorded on noc mig on the 26<sup>th</sup> - first of the autumn.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *reported from:* Ferry Meadows CP, nr Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water (2), Wicken Fen, *late dates:* 17<sup>th</sup> - Cambridge, 24<sup>th</sup> - Maxey GP, 27<sup>th</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP.

## ***Starts and chats***

**Redstart** Ferry Meadows CP on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Whinchat** RAF Molesworth 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wicken Fen 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 7 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Maxey GP on the 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>.

**Stonechat** Kingfishers Bridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Hobson's Park 2 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, Maxey GP 2 on the 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 2 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Wheatear** Grafham Water on the 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Stretham 2 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Wagtails and pipits***

**Yellow Wagtail** Great Fen Project 47 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, *late dates:* 21<sup>st</sup> - Barway 4, Grafham Water 4+, 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP (5), Longstanton Lagoon (2), 24<sup>th</sup> - Ferry Meadows CP.

**Grey Wagtail** *reported from:* Barway, Ferry Meadows CP (2), Fowlmere NR (2), Kingfishers Bridge, Paxton Pits, and Wicken Fen.

**Tree Pipit** Trumpington a flyover on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR a flyover on the 14<sup>th</sup> associated with Meadow Pipits see below, Cambridge a flyover on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Maxey GP a flyover on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Meadow Pipit** *usual seasonal migratory movements:* Great Fen Project 112 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and 114 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 56 flying over on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Shelford Rugby Club c100 roosting overnight on

the 13<sup>th</sup>, a clear passage on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with: Grafham Water 'strong passage, Ferry Meadows CP 160 over and Ickleton vis mig 350, Kingfishers Bridge 12 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Meadow Pipit at Grafham Water : photo by Garth Peacock

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

**Goldfinch** Kingfishers Bridge 31 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 164 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Project 39 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 90 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 19 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Siskin** Fen Drayton 2 flyovers on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on the 16<sup>th</sup>, a passage movement on the 22<sup>nd</sup> albeit small numbers: Grafham Water 7 flying over, Ferry Meadows CP 3 over and Ickleton vis mig watch 3 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Paxton Pits one over on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wicken Fen a flyover on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and another on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Linnet** Paxton Pits 50 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Project 50 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Corn Bunting** Fowlmere NR 30 on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Reed Bunting** Fowlmere NR a roost of 60+ on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Exotica***

Ross's Goose Kingfishers Bridge on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Hybrids:***

Canada Goose/Greylag Goose Kingfishers Bridge 2-3 on several dates.

Greylag Goose/ Ross's Goose: Kingfishers Bridge 1-2 on a couple of dates.

## ***Contributors: (many thanks to all)***

Colin Addington, Richard Allison, David Angus, Louise Bacon, Geoff Barlow, Paul Bennett, Peter Bircham, Chris Bowden, Alan Brimmell, Richard Broughton, Chris Brown, Terry Brown, Alan Bull, Mike Burdekin, Howard Butler, Ade Cooper, *Steve Cooper*, Nick Croft, Martin Davis, Ian Dawson, Brendan Doe, *Steve Dudley*, Mike Everett, David Fisher, Andy Frost, Don Gardener, Simon Gillings, James Hanlon, *Andy Hannaford*, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jon Heath, Mike Hodgson, Michael Holdsworth, David Hollin, David Hopkins, Colin Kirtland, Derek Langslow, *Vince Lea*, Ade Long, Owen and Monica Marks, Bruce Martin, Matt Mellor, Philip Miller, Martin O'Leary, John O'Sullivan, Richard Patient, Pam Peacock, Mark Peck, Duncan Poyser, Neil Rawlings, Tim Rea, Graeme Reed, Stuart Short, Phil Smith, Henry Stanier, Jonathan Taylor, Richard Thomas, Hugh Venables, Mark Ward, Iain Webb, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, Jamie Wells, Matt Wilson, Hugh Wright, and Christoph Zöckler.

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

**12th Oct:** *Life in a world full of predators : saving the UK's black-tailed godwits* by Jen Smart

Breeding waders are in trouble and the beautiful black-tailed godwit is among the most threatened, with fewer than 50 breeding pairs and 90% of these at one nature reserve. I will talk about an ambitious and novel partnership project between RSPB and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, with funding from EU-LIFE, which aims to secure the future of godwits as a breeding species in the UK.

Dr Jennifer Smart is a Principal Conservation Scientist at the RSPB Centre for Conservation Science. Much of her career has been focused on the ecology of breeding waders developing conservation solutions to reverse their severe population declines. Increasingly this involves understanding and managing the impacts of predation and finding ways to influence landscape-scale management of wet grasslands.

You can find out more about her and the RSPB Centre for Conservation Science at the following webpages:

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/centre-for-conservation-science>

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/centre-for-conservation-science/our-team/jennifer-smart/>

## **St Johns Church Hall, Cambridge**

**9th Nov: *Green birding, the RSPB and the adventures of a biking birder* by Gary Prescott**

Gary Prescott, The Biking Birder, will be talking about Green Birding, the growing way in which birders are being more environmentally friendly when birding. You will meet the characters from around the World who participate in Green Birding and find out why they do what they do. Gary will also be talking about his Biking Birder adventures, telling stories from his three years on the road as he cycled around the UK visiting every RSPB and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust nature reserve - twice! The first person ever to do this, Gary also has some Green Birding records to discuss, as well as tales from his latest Biking Birder adventure in Peru last year.

## ***Situations vacant (from the Chairman)***

The Cambridgeshire Bird Club relies on members volunteering to fulfil its many functions, and we are extremely grateful for their help. Some are filling multiple roles and would like help to take some of these away, and some have done their stint and would like to find replacements, in particular:

**Web Manager** - Chris Quy has announced he will be standing down at the end of the year, after many years of running this essential part of the club's resources. A quick look through reports reveals his first mention in the role as being in 2010 so many thanks to Chris for creating such a useful website. We have the rest of this year to transfer the operation to a new web manager...

**Art Editor** - Richard Johnson has been curating the artwork for the Annual Report since 2012, and I have just had the privilege of getting first look at the pieces for the 2017 report, another stunning collection. He would like to pass this role on to a new artistic enthusiast for the 2018 report

**Bulletin Editor** - the 2-monthly compilation of records which is posted to those members not receiving eBulletins, and which also has a more complete coverage of the monthly records (compared with the rapidly produced monthly eBulletin) is being done by Louise Bacon but she

already has the vast task of County Recorder to contend with, so it is being done at a notional level until someone new can take it on.

**Chair** - I would love to stand down from this role and put more energy into the Annual Report role.

## **Research Projects:**

### **Cambs Autumn Thrush Survey**

The first *tsee* of arriving Redwings can now be heard and this autumn the club would like to take a snapshot of the spread and timing of thrush movements across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This simple survey requires you to stand outside on two evenings (Sunday 14th October and Sunday 21st October) and estimate the number of passing Redwings, Song Thrushes, Blackbirds and Fieldfares in one or more 10-minute periods. We're keen to get returns (including all-important zero counts) from throughout the county, from fenland to city centre. Further details are below.

1. The chosen count dates are Sunday 14th October and Sunday 21st October. Mid-October is peak arrival time, and Sunday evenings are often a bit quieter in urban areas for hearing birds. The count will go ahead on those evenings unless the weather is exceptionally stormy. Should that happen, the reserve dates are the following Mondays.
2. Counts should last exactly 10 minutes and start on the hour. Everyone should do the 9pm count (21:00 to 21:10) to provide a synchronised snapshot. Additional 10-min counts on the hour between 7pm and midnight are optional - the more the merrier.
3. Separately for each 10-minute session, count the number of each thrush species passing over. Bear in mind some individuals may call more than once as they pass over. More details on identifying thrush calls and counting them can be found here: <https://nocmig.wordpress.com/2018/09/26/autumn-thrushes/>
4. Enter your counts on this form as soon as possible after your counts, and remember, zeroes are just as important as big numbers: <https://goo.gl/forms/JQALLc9vhgxKjjkk1>

### **BTO Tawny Owl Calling Survey**

Following hot on the heels of the Tawny Owl Point Survey (many thanks to all of you who got involved in that over the past couple of months!), the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) complementary Tawny Owl Calling Survey (or "TOCS") started at the end of September. Unlike the Point Survey, TOCS has no spatial restrictions, so anyone with a garden - or access to a local park or woodland - can take part, wherever you are in the County. All that is required is the ability to listen out for the characteristic hooting or "ke-wick" of Tawny Owls (recordings of calls also available on the [survey website](#)) for 20 minutes on a number of evenings - ideally once a week, but even monthly would be useful - between now and the end of March.



At the time of writing, over 4,800 volunteers had signed up already for the survey nationwide, which is great, but it would be good to have strong representation from Cambridgeshire again (as we achieved with the Point Survey). Hopefully, the survey instructions and FAQs are fairly self-explanatory, but if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me (or Derek Langslow - the BTO's Regional Representative for the "[Huntingdon & Peterborough](#)" region - if you live in the north-west of the County).

*Rob Pople, Regional Rep. for the BTO's "[Cambridgeshire](#)" region (robgpople@hotmail.com)*

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## **News and Comment**

### **The Hen Harrier saga.**

As reported in the latest issue of *British Birds* Natural England have finally released the data from their Hen Harrier tagging programme. Of 59 birds tagged, 47 have 'gone missing'. Final fix given in six-figure references show 'marked spatial clustering in Yorkshire Dales National Park, Nidderdale AONB and Bowland NAOB' - all areas where there are driven grouse moors.

### **Bird names in Google -speak.**

On a happier note the Club's Ringing Secretary is (was) in Denmark and sent this example of a Google translation of the Observatory blog (presumably in Danish originally). Guessing the species referred to is an interesting task....

....there were a total of 1290 book / queuer finches, and it was the first day with a few chopper finks, about 20%. The black maids continue and today pulled 295. First then with over 1000 star and so the teachers have also begun their moves. Today there are 10 singles and 4 hats. Although there were a lot of birds on the windwind, the number of engibbers was incredibly low when they thought they should culminate now.

....The blackmail groups came today whining through the gardens, to the delight of the ring marks. Otherwise, the red neck and iron spur were dominant. Ring marking: Gårdesmutte 2, iron spur 27, red neck 33, red star 2, singing dog 1, monk 2, groin singer 3, bird's bunny 3, black meal 46, mouse white 8, forest squirrel 2, bookfin 6, greenery 4, yellow whiting 2. A total of 141 of 14 species . A monk she with a deformed beak was caught. There was something like a wart as on a witch nose, and the beak had grown far too far and could not be closed out. Nevertheless, she had a fat score of 3.

.....Otherwise, it has been a long time since there have been pulling hoods, but today they pulled 487. The small birds also showed a little windshield with 300 scooters and 200 bog finches. A total of 50 black mushrooms also came whining through the vegetation.

Eat your heart out 'Professor' Stanley Unwin (for older readers or Lewis Carroll for even older readers). Although I think these are very good names if one only knew what was referred to.

### **Wicken Fen West Mere Hide**

For those who make the trek down the side of the Lode The National Trust have replaced the rather cramped old hide with a far more state of the art edifice.

### **Reflections on Barway - contributed by Colin Kirtland.**

The recent practice of flooding certain fenland fields in autumn to prevent crop damage by nematode worms inevitably gives those of us with long memories reason to recall the similar conditions provided by the old style sewage farms. We were fortunate to have two of the best examples in the country at Wisbech and Cambridge and it was the latter that was the attraction for the majority of the keen students and local teenagers whose transport in the 1950s and earlier was limited to bicycles. In late 1957 the partial modernisation of the Cambridge farm halved the number of fields available but that autumn was one to remember with a total of 24 wader species including single Pectoral Sandpiper, Avocet, Red-necked Phalarope and Stone Curlew and counts of 55 Ringed Plovers, 25 Ruffs, 22 Little Stints and 8 Wood Sandpipers. Some have expressed the desire for suitable habitat to be provided on one of our local reserves such as the Ouse and Nene Washes or Wicken Fen. The major problems however would be controlling the water level and the need for discouraging the growth of rank vegetation. Moreover the main focus of such reserves is to provide nesting habitat for rare and declining species and a winter refuge for thousands of wildfowl, consequently the provision of feeding for migrant waders is a low priority. Thus we will probably have to remain content with the occasional habitat provided by the fenland farms however much we may wish for the glories of the past to be repeated.

### **ONE DAY CONFERENCE**

**Saturday November 3rd at Cottenham Village College, the theme is Migration**

A whole day learning about migration, how we observe it visually and by sound recording, the role of bird observatories, and case studies revealing the migration routes of birds which use Cambridgeshire as either a summer or a winter base, and how new technology has helped reveal this knowledge. Talks will feature observatories, noc-mig, Blackcaps, Swifts, Nightingales and Spotted Flycatchers.

More details and a booking form are now available at

<http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/documents/2018ConfBookingform.pdf>

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The next issue (October) will be in your in-box on November 10<sup>th</sup>. As usual contributions should reach me by the 4<sup>th</sup>. Ed.