

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB

Bulletin No. 439



Opinions expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Club.

Welcome to the March / April 2015 Edition

RECENT BIRD REPORTS

The records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date. An asterisk after the name of the species indicates that it is necessary to send a description to the County Recorder before the record will be accepted. Some species are 'reported from' to give an indication of distribution. Some entries (particularly wildfowl) have maxima given when a number of counts have been received. Where no numbers are given the record relates to single birds.

March – April Weather. March was a rather cold month with winds predominantly from the north or east, with only a slight window in the second week, when the wind was from the south. Undoubtedly this will have inhibited the arrival of most migrants. In March 2014 there were 'several' records of Swallows, 5 records of Wheatear from 10th, and Spotted Redshank, House Martin and Sedge warbler all reported. The month ended with strong winds but only a Kittiwake or two blown in. The first few days of April remained cold and then after then 5th a warmer spell with southerly winds arrived and with it the first burst of migrants. The month continued with more warm days, interspersed with the occasional cooler day but hardly any rainfall; high pressure dominated resulting in the odd frost or misty morning (for those up early enough to see). According to Met Office records this was an exceptionally warm April. The month ended with a change to wetter and cooler weather.

March – April Headlines

GREEN-WINGED TEAL* Mar: Ouse Washes RSPB on 28th – 29th, and to 9th Apr; seventeen previous records, the last in 2011.

RING-NECKED DUCK* Mar: Ouse Washes male on 16th – 21st; seventeen records, the last in 2014.

GLOSSY IBIS* Mar: one at Fen Drayton Lakes from 1st – 3rd then presumably the same Ouse Washes/Chain Corner on 7th and RSPB reserve on 20th – 28th. Apr: Fen Drayton Lakes one present all month.

SPOONBILL Mar: Ouse Washes on 20th – 22nd.

BLACK-WINGED STILT* Apr: Nene Washes 3 briefly on 16th.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD* Mar: Holme Fen area, the over-wintering bird reported until 5th.

ICELAND GULL Mar: Grafham Water an adult on 1st, Witcham Gravel one on 2nd and 6th – 7th.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER Mar: Cam Washes/Upware one 'nearby' on 22nd. Apr: Birds remained on territory at two traditional sites.

Other records

Wildfowl

Mute Swan Apr: Ouse Fen 305 on 12th.

Whooper Swan Mar: Wicken Fen 22 flying out on 3rd, Holme Fen 17 on 8th, Ouse Washes maximum 1800 on 16th, Pymoor 170 on 24th. Apr: Sutton Gault one on 11th, Oxlode 2 on 19th.

Pink-footed Goose **Mar:** Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 4th, Ouse Fen 3 on 8th. **Apr:** Ouse Fen 5 on 27th.

White-fronted Goose **Mar:** Burwell Fen on 4th. **Apr:** Ely BF on 19th.

Greylag Goose **Mar:** Fowlmere NR 78 on 6th, Wicken Fen maximum 131 on 9th, Colne Fen GP 195 on 14th. **Apr:** Buckden GP 111 on 20th, Trumpington/Clay Farm 18 on 20th with one nesting bird.

Canada Goose **Mar:** Burwell Fen 18 on 6th, Kingfishers Bridge 90 on 19th, Wicken Fen maximum 22 on 9th. **Apr:** Trumpington/Clay Farm 8 with a nesting bird, Fen Drayton Lakes c50 on 26th.

Barnacle Goose **Mar:** Coton footpath 2 on 4th then 10 – 11 on 5th, Trumpington/Clay Farm 2 on 16th then 11 on 20th, Paxton Pits on 20th and 23rd. **Apr:** Hemingford on 7th, Lt Shelford 11 on 7th.

Egyptian Goose **Mar:** Burwell Fen 2 on 4th, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on 14th, Paxton Pits 2 on 20th, Trumpington/Clay Farm 2 on 30th. **Apr:** Paxton Pits 1 – 2 on several dates, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 adults with 6 goslings (one of which is probably a Greylag) on 19th, Ouse Fen 7 on 26th.

Shelduck **Mar:** Burwell Fen 6 – 10 throughout the month, Bassenhally Moor Farm 60 on 10th, Cam Washes / Upware 14 on 8th. **Apr:** Ouse Washes 45 on 1st, Burwell Fen 38 on 7th and 9 pairs on 24th, Wicken Fen 23 on 20th, Paxton Pits max 4 on 22nd, Cam Washes 13 on 28th.

Wigeon **Mar:** Nene Washes 5600 on 9th. **Apr:** Fen Drayton Lakes 8 on 12th, Burwell Fen a drake on 24th, Paxton Pits 2 still on 28th.

Gadwall **Mar:** Nene Washes 428 on 9th, Wicken Fen maximum 180 on 9th. **Apr:** Burwell Fen 25 on 7th and 60 on 26th, Cam Washes 22 on 28th.

Teal **Mar:** Grafham Water 518 on 8th, Nene Washes 1707 on 9th, Wicken Fen 106 on 12th. **Apr:** Kingfishers Bridge 59 on 4th, Ouse Washes 506 on 11th, Cam Washes 58 on 28th.

Mallard **Mar:** Nene Washes 366 on 9th, Wicken Fen maximum 63 on 9th. **Apr:** Holme Fen 64 on 8th.

Pintail **Mar:** Cam Washes/Upware 13 on 8th, Wicken Fen 4 on 13th, Ouse Washes RSPB 120+ on 15th. **Apr:** Ouse Washes 80 on 2nd, Paxton Pits 17th and 20th, Cam Washes 26th – 28th.

Garganey **Mar:** First report at Ouse Washes on 8th, Wicken Fen a pair on 10th, and Ouse Washes a pair from 14th. **Apr:** reported from Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Ely BF, Isleham Washes, Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits, Tubney Fen and Wicken Fen.

Shoveler **Mar:** Kingfishers Bridge 57 on 3rd, Burwell Fen c50 on 6th, Cam Washes/Upware 50 on 8th, Grafham Water 61 on 8th, Wicken Fen 85 on 9th, Nene Washes 290 on 9th. **Apr:** Burwell Fen 149 on 9th, Berry Fen 189 on 14th.

Red-crested Pochard **Apr:** Paxton Pits a pair on 2nd – 4th, Bainton GP 4 on 20th, Buckden GP 4 on 20th.

Pochard **Mar:** Ouse Fen 32 on 22nd, Kingfishers Bridge 20 on 3rd, Burwell Fen 11 on 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes 27 on 18th. **Apr:** Burwell Fen 24 on 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes 4 on 25th.

Tufted Duck **Mar:** Trumpington/Clay Farm 12 on 2nd, Grafham Water 92 on 9th, Paxton Pits 60 on 16th. **Apr:** Burwell Fen 10 on 7th, Trumpington/Clay Farm 24 – 26 all month, Waterbeach GP 64 on 18th.

Scaup **Mar:** Ouse Washes RSPB a female on 15th then a male 18th – 20th, Mepal Outdoor Centre a male on 28th. **Apr:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 23rd – 27th.

Common Scoter **Mar:** Ferry Meadows CP 3 males on 19th, Grafham Water 2 on 20th and a male on 26th. **Apr:** Bainton GP 2 on 16th, Grafham Water 3 on 26th.

Goldeneye **Mar:** Holme Fen on 7th, Grafham Water 66 on 8th and 25 on 31st, Ouse Washes RSPB 2 on 15th, Fen Drayton Lakes maximum c20 on 14th. **Apr:** Paxton Pits 17 on 2nd, still 2 drakes on 17th with one on 23rd, Fen Drayton Lakes maximum 12 on 9th.

Smew **Mar:** Barleycraft GP 21 on 1st, Bainton GP on 12th. **Apr:** Ouse Fen 2 on 5th.

Goosander **Mar:** Paxton Pits max 7 on 15th, Grafham Water 8 on 8th, Ferry Meadows CP on 12th and 24th, Fen Drayton Lakes a pair on 15th – 18th and one on 27th. **Apr:** Ferry Meadows CP on 21st and 29th.

Ruddy Duck **Mar:** at an undisclosed fenland site on 20th. **Apr:** at a south Cambs site on 13th.

Gamebirds

Grey Partridge **Mar:** Burwell Fen on 8th, Aldreth 9 on 16th, Nine Wells 26 on 20th. **Apr:** Pymoor a pair on 13th, Grafham Water 5 on 17th, Comberton 8 on 14th, Melbourn 6 pairs on 30th.

Quail Apr: Comberton on 24th, the first of the year.

Divers, cormorants, egrets and herons and grebes

Great Northern Diver* Mar & Apr: Paxton Pits, the long-stay bird from February present throughout.

Cormorant Mar: Nene Washes (Eldernell) 79 on 9th, Barleycraft GP 60 on 27th. **Apr:** Ouse Washes (Sutton Gault) 87 on 2nd, Paxton Pits 87 on 19th.

Bittern Mar: Kingfishers Bridge on 3rd, Woodwalton Fen on 4th. **Apr:** reported from at least three sites.

Little Egret Mar: reported from Burwell Fen (5), Diddington, Fen Drayton Lakes (3), Nene Washes (14), Ouse Washes Earith to the RSPB reserve 40 on 14th then a roost of 120 on 19th, Paxton Pits (5), Trumpington/Clay Farm, Wicken Fen (5). **Apr:** at Burwell Fen (7), Cambridge, Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Ouse Washes (15), Paxton Pits (2), Wicken Fen (3), and Nene Washes (Eldernell) 27 on 8th.

Great White Egret Mar: Wicken Fen on 7th, Ouse Washes on 20th and 22nd. **Apr:** Hinchingsbrooke CP on 1st, Ouse Washes an adult on 2nd and a second (immature) bird on 6th, Wicken Fen 2 on 24th and 25th, Ouse Fen on 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 27th. *This species has been reported in every month since April 2014 (apart from November), so no longer merits a place in the headlines.*

Grey Heron Mar: Wicken Fen 7 on 10th and two nests; other active nests at Berry Fen and Stapleford.

Little Grebe Mar: Trumpington/Clay Farm 5 on 2nd, Fowlmere NR 2 on 6th, Wicken Fen a pair on 10th.

Apr: Burwell Fen 20 on 26th, Trumpington/Clay Farm 3 all month.

Great Crested Grebe Mar: Grafham Water 40 on 8th, Drysides BP 15 on 28th, Trumpington/Clay Farm on 2nd, Wicken Fen 4 on 9th, Fen Drayton Lakes 7 on 18th. **Apr:** Ferry Meadows 30 on 7th, and Cambridge a pair with young on 21st.

Black-necked Grebe Mar: Fen Drayton Lakes on 16th. **Apr:** reported from 2 sites.

Raptors

Red Kite Mar: Stilton 6 on 1st, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on 3rd, Castor Hanglands on 8th, Paxton Pits 3 on 15th, Huntingdon on 13th, Ouse Washes on 20th, Cambridge/Addenbrooke's on 25th, Thriplow on 27th.

Apr: Hamerton 8 on 3rd, Paxton Pits maximum 3 on 5th, Wyton on 6th, Ouse Fen on 9th, Wicken Fen on 11th, Grafham Water 3 on 17th, Mepal on 24th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 25th, Borrough Green on 27th.

Marsh Harrier Mar: Kingfishers Bridge 2 on 3rd, Burwell Fen 2 on 6th, Woodwalton Fen 4+ on 7th, Ouse Washes on 7th, Cam Washes/Upware on 8th, Wicken Fen 5 on 31st, Nene Washes 10 on 25th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 27th. **Apr:** reported from several localities including most of the above, maxima Wicken Fen (8+) and Woodwalton Fen (10+).

Hen Harrier Mar: Ouse Washes on 7th and 14th, Cam Washes/Upware a ringtail on 8th, Ely BF a ringtail on 11th, Nene Washes a male on 12th and 2 males on 25th, Wicken Fen a male and a ringtail on 21st, Burwell Fen a ringtail on 27th. **Apr:** Wicken Fen 8 on 9th, a ringtail until 24th at least, Nene Washes a male on 14th, Ouse Washes an immature male on 28th.

Sparrowhawk Mar: reported from Burwell Fen, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

Apr: also reported from Cam Washes, Chippenham Fen, Houghton Meadows, and Wyton.

Buzzard Mar: reported from 17 sites from Great Shelford to Castor Hanglands, maxima Chippenham Fen (8), Cottenham (4), and Paxton Pits (8+). **Apr:** similarly widespread including Burwell Fen (3), Ouse Fen (8), Paxton Pits (18), Swaffham Prior Fen/Tubney Fen area (11), Wicken Fen (5) and Wyton (4).

Osprey Mar: Ferry Meadows CP on 24th. **Apr:** Eaton Socon a bird flying north on 6th, Grafham Water on 8th, St Neots on 9th (this bird had been ringed as a juvenile at Rutland Water in 2011), Grafham Water on 22nd and on 26th, Ouse Washes on 22nd, Paxton Pits on 26th.

Rails and crane

Water Rail Mar: reported from 8 sites. **Apr:** reported from 10 sites including Wicken Fen 10+ on 9th.

Coot Mar: Berry Fen 197 on 8th, Nene Washes 352 on 9th. **Apr:** Bradley Fen 258 on 28th.

Common Crane Apr: Reported from 6 sites, several just as fly-over birds.

Waders

Avocet Mar: Paxton Pits 2 on 8th, Cam Washes/Upware 4 on 7th and 2 on 8th, Grafham Water 8 on 8th, Paxton Pits on 13th, Ouse Washes max 33 on 29th, Cam Washes/Upware 31 on 20th. **Apr:** Groups on passage in early April were followed by paired birds settling to breed at several locations.

Oystercatcher Mar: Paxton Pits 2 – 7 on 1st – 22nd, Burwell Fen 2 on 4th, Fen Drayton Lakes 1 – 4 all month, Woodwalton Fen 2 on 7th, Cam Washes/Upware 2 on 8th, Ouse Washes 9 on 15th, Burwell Fen 2 on 27th. **Apr:** at all the above sites, maxima Paxton Pits 5 on 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 9 on 12th, Isleham Washes a pair on 9th, Cam Washes 2 on 26th – 28th.

Golden Plover Mar: Soham c300 on 3rd, Four Balls Farm 500 on 7th, Nene Washes 1800 on 9th, Ouse Washes 194 on 15th, Trumpington c250 on 20th, Glatton 160 on 21st. **Apr:** Comberton 65 on 15th, Alwalton 100 on 17th.

Grey Plover Mar: Ouse Washes RSPB on 15th. **Apr:** Paxton Pits on 16th – 17th then 2 on 18th – 19th and a single on 20th – 21st, Ouse Washes single on 17th – 21st.

Lapwing Mar: Burwell Fen c250 on 6th, Wicken Fen c250 on 10th. **Apr:** Burwell Fen 11 on 7th, Fowlmere NR 2 pairs on 17th, Fen Drayton Lakes 45 on 26th.

Little Ringed Plover Mar: The first at Paxton Pits on the 11th, then 1 – 2 for rest of month. **Apr:** Groups on passage early on were followed by paired birds settling to breed at several locations.

Ringed Plover Mar: The first at Paxton Pits 2 on the 4th, then 6 on 17th, and Ouse Washes 7 on 15th.

Apr: Beeby's Pit 14 on 1st, and at Cam Washes (3), Paxton Pits (5) and Trumpington/Clay Farm (2).

Whimbrel Apr: Lt Shelford 7th, the first of the year, Nene Washes 16th, then Paxton Pits on 20th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 23rd – 26th; then on 26th an influx with birds reported from Berry Fen, Burwell Fen (3), Cam Washes, Ferry Meadows CP (5), Grafham Water and Ouse Washes (2), and Ouse Washes 2 on 28th. *A light passage so far this year with around 20 birds between 20th and 28th.*

Curlew Mar: Burwell Fen on 4th and 8th, Ferry Meadows CP a flyover on 12th, Paxton Pits on 13th, then 5 on 14th and a single on 15th, Ouse Washes RSPB on 15th and 21st, and 2 on 20th at Sutton Gault. **Apr:** Berry Fen flyover on 7th, Burwell Fen on 24th, Ouse Fen 2 on 27th.

Black-tailed Godwit Mar: Ouse Washes 1100 on 8th, up to 3500 on 16th – 21st. **Apr:** Ouse Washes maximum 1300 on 2nd, Berry Fen max 200 on 5th, Isleham Washes 10 on 9th, Sutton Gault 57 on 11th, Wicken Fen 4 on 11th, Fen Drayton Lakes max 15 on 13th, Burwell Fen max 10 on 15th.

Bar-tailed Godwit Apr: Paxton Pits & Grafham Water each with 2 on 17th were the first of the year, thereafter Paxton Pits 5 on 18th and 1 – 2 from 19th – 30th, Cam Washes on 26th.

Turnstone Apr: Paxton Pits on 6th – 14th; the same or another on 27th.

Knot Mar: Paxton Pits on 21st. **Apr:** Ouse Washes on 3rd.

Ruff Mar: Ouse Washes/Chain Corner 20+ on 7th, Ouse Washes RSPB 54+ on 8th, then Earith to RSPB 130 on 15th. **Apr:** Paxton Pits on 2nd and 12th then 3 on 23rd, Ouse Washes maximum 119+ on 9th, Fen Drayton Lakes 1 – 6 from 9th, Berry Fen 45 on 14th, Sutton Gault c60 on 11th, Cam Washes 10 on 26th.

Sanderling Apr: Fen Drayton Lakes on 23rd, the first of the year, Grafham Water 2 on 26th.

Dunlin Mar: Paxton Pits maximum 9 on 14th, Nene Washes 127 on 9th, Ouse Washes 82 on 15th. **Apr:** Paxton Pits 1 – 3 all month max 28 on 25th, Sutton Gault 9 on 11th, Ouse Washes 4 on 12th, Grafham Water 7 on 26th, Burwell Fen 2 on 16th and 3 on 26th, Cam Washes 7 on 26th.

Common Sandpiper Apr: Ferry Meadows CP on 16th, the first reported this year, Paxton Pits on 17th and 1 – 3 on 20th – 29th, Ferry Meadows CP on 20th, 2 on 26th, Fen Drayton Lakes 1 – 2 on 22nd – 29th.

Green Sandpiper Mar: Cam Washes/Upware 2 on 7th, Grafham Water 3 on 8th, Paxton Pits maximum 2 on 25th. **Apr:** reported from 10 sites, including Tanholt GP 4 on 11th, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on 16th.

Spotted Redshank Apr: Ouse Washes on 12th, the first of the year, Fen Drayton Lakes on 22nd – 23rd, Cam Washes 4 on 23rd, Ouse Washes on 26th.

Greenshank Apr: Nene Washes on 16th, the first of the year, Paxton Pits on 17th, Grafham Water on 17th, Ouse Washes on 18th, 3 on 22nd and 2+ on 26th, Isleham Washes on 19th, 4 on 20th and then 1 – 2 until 30th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 23rd – 24th, Cam Washes 6 on 28th, Offord Cluny on 28th.

Wood Sandpiper Apr: Fowlmere NR on 23rd, Cam Washes on 26th.

Redshank Mar: Nene Washes 133 on 9th, Fen Drayton Lakes 250 over on 17th, Paxton Pits maximum 6 on 25th, Ouse Washes/Chain Corner 26 on 15th. **Apr:** reported from Cam Washes (9), Fen Drayton Lakes (8), Isleham Washes (2), Ouse Washes (20), Paxton Pits (9+), Tanholt GP (7) and Wicken Fen (10).

Jack Snipe Mar: Kingfishers Bridge on 3rd, Kings Dyke NR on 6th and 18th, Trumpington 2 on 26th, Paxton Pits on 21st, Ouse Washes RSPB 4 on 28th.

Woodcock Mar: Monks Wood 'several' on 5th, Ditton Park Wood 5 on 9th, Ferry Meadows CP on 11th. **Apr:** Kings Dyke NR 2 on 6th, Wicken Fen 2 roding on 14th.

Snipe Mar: Paxton Pits maximum 17 on 17th, Cam Washes/Upware 120 on 7th, Burwell Fen 3 on 27th, Ouse Washes 21 on 28th. **Apr:** Fen Drayton Lakes 8 on 9th, Isleham Washes 2 on 9th, Wicken Fen 5 in a field near Priory Farm on 21st, Burwell Fen 17 on 24th, Berry Fen 2 on 26th, Cam Washes 12 on 26th.

Terns and gulls

Little Tern Apr: Fen Drayton Lakes on 26th, the first for the year.

Black Tern Apr: Grafham Water 1 on 16th, then Nene Washes 6 on 21st, Grafham Water (7), Paxton Pits (8), Fen Drayton Lakes (4), all on 23rd, thereafter singles at Fen Drayton Lakes.

Sandwich Tern Apr: Fen Drayton Lakes on 24th, the first of the year.

Common Tern Apr: Ferry Meadows CP on 6th, the first of the year, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 9th, Ferry Meadows CP 3 on 10th, Paxton Pits 5 on 11th, then a general arrival. Large counts: Paxton Pits maximum 90+ on 30th, Fen Drayton Lakes maximum 60 on 26th.

Arctic Tern Apr: Ouse Washes on 18th, the first record of the year, then Grafham Water on 20th (see table), Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 21st and a single on 22nd and 25th, 3 on 26th, Paxton Pits c10 on 21st and again on 26th then 2 on 28th, Ferry Meadows CP 12+ on 22nd a single on 23rd.

Arctic Tern counts at Grafham Water

20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th
1	5+	1	12+	3	30+	26		15	5

Kittiwake Mar: Grafham Water on 7th, 2 on 21st and a single on 31st. **Apr:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 29th.

Black-headed Gull Mar: Paxton Pits c1000 on 12th, Melbourn 600 on 22nd, Burwell Fen c320 on 27th, Trumpington/Clay Farm 150+ all month, maximum 210 on 16th. **Apr:** Peterborough Millennium Bridge 500 on 7th, Kingfishers Bridge 550 on 26th, Burwell Fen 426 on 24th.

Little Gull Apr: Ferry Meadows CP on 10th, 2 adults on 20th and a single on 23rd, Grafham Water 2 adults on 15th, 6 on 17th, 41 on 23rd and one on 26th – 28th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 17th – 23rd, Paxton Pits 2 adults on 22nd.

Mediterranean Gull Mar: Grafham Water on 8th, Ouse Washes 2 on 21st, Paxton Pits a 1st winter on 22nd and 2 on 24th. *On 30th March, one of the two fledged, colour-ringed Med Gulls from Cambridgeshire in 2014 was sighted in southern Morocco; this is the most southerly wintering Med Gull ever observed.* **Apr:** Ferry Meadows CP a 2nd- summer on 3rd – 9th, Paxton Pits on 6th 18th and 20th.

Common Gull Mar: Hinxton 12 on 3rd, Fen Drayton Lakes 47 on 20th, Melbourn 700 on ploughed land on 22nd. **Apr:** Fowlmere NR 20 over on 19th.

Yellow-legged Gull Mar: Grafham Water 3 on 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 14th, Burwell Fen and Milton Tip on 26th.

Caspian Gull Mar: Witcham Gravel on 6th, Grafham Water on 8th, Milton Tip on 20th, Kingfishers Bridge on 26th.

Great Black-backed Gull Apr: Tanholt GP on 7th, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on 20th.

Doves, owls, kingfisher

Stock Dove Mar: Holme Fen 80 on 8th. **Apr:** Fen Drayton Lakes c45 on 26th.

Turtle Dove Mar: Aldreth one on present 9th, *the same date on which presumably the same bird arrived in 2014, remarkable then and remarkable now*; also Soham on 15th. **Apr:** Holland Wood on 21st, Mepal on 24th, Fowlmere NR 2 singing on 30th.

Cuckoo Apr: Glatton on 11th was the first recorded this year, then Great Wilbraham Common on 17th and 2 on 19th, Little Wilbraham Fen on 19th, Paxton Pits on 19th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 19th, Chippenham Fen on 23rd, and Comberton 2 on 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP and Burwell Fen on 24th.

Barn Owl Mar: reported from Barway, Burwell Fen (2 – 3), Cottenham, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Little Thetford, Nene Washes (3), Ouse Washes (3), and Trumpington. **Apr:** at some of the above sites and Barton, Burwell Fen (one found dead on 16th), Chippenham, Tubney Fen and Wicken Fen (3).

Little Owl Mar: reported from 9 sites including Great Staughton, Woodditton and Landbeach. **Apr:** reported from 9 sites including Comberton, Foxton and Gt Stukeley.

Tawny Owl Mar: Woodwalton Fen 4 on 6th. **Apr:** Castor Hanglands 6 on 9th.

Long-eared Owl Mar: Woodwalton Fen on 7th. **Apr:** Barton on 27th.

Short-eared Owl Mar: Holme Fen on 8th, Wicken Fen on 11th probably the same at Burwell Fen on 12th, Nene Washes on 11th, Ouse Washes on 22nd, Nene Washes/Eldernell 2 on 25th. **Apr:** Ouse Washes on 2nd and Eldernell one on 6th (the last of the winter?)

Swift Apr: Foxton on 14th, the earliest record of the year, Ferry Meadows CP 3 on 16th and 4 on 24th, Paxton Pits 5 on 22nd, Ouse Fen 3 on 22nd, Grafham Water c30 on 28th.

Kingfisher Mar: reported *inter alia* from Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Nene Washes, Ouse Washes, Toft and Wicken Fen. **Apr:** at Godmanchester GP, Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits (3), Yaxley and Ely CP.

Falcons and parrots

Merlin Mar: Fen Drayton Lakes a female on 4th and 6th, Woodwalton Fen on 7th, Paxton Pits a female on 8th and one on 23rd – 24th, Wicken Fen a female on 8th, Aldreth on 16th. **Apr:** RSPB Grange Farm on 2nd, Nene Washes on 21st.

Hobby Apr: Paxton Pits on 17th, first record of the year, Wicken Fen on 19th then 4 on 23rd and 30th, Fulbourn on 21st, Devil's Dyke on 21st, Quy on 22nd, Wicken Fen and Yaxley on 24th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 25th, Paxton Pits maximum 4 on 26th, Ouse Fen maximum 4 on 28th.

Peregrine Mar: Kingfishers Bridge 2 on 3rd, Holme Fen on 7th, Cam Washes/Upware on 7th, Cranmoor Lots a pair on 7th, Grafham Water on 8th, Ouse Washes 1 – 2 on several dates, Paxton Pits on 20th and 21st, Babraham on 26th. **Apr:** reported from several sites across the county.

Ring-necked Parakeet* Mar: Witcham 2nd, Ouse Washes RSPB 5 on 15th. **Apr:** Peterborough Cathedral 1 on 9th, Ouse Washes 2 on 22nd.

Shrikes and corvids

Great Grey Shrike* Mar: Swaffham Prior on 22nd.

Magpie Mar: Cambridge 18 on the Milton by-pass, Barford Pocket Park 30 roosting on 8th.

Raven Mar: Monks Wood a flyover on 5th, Castor Hanglands/Southey Wood on 8th, Burwell Fen a flyover on 8th, Stuntney 2 flyovers on 21st. **Apr:** Coploe Hill Ickleton 2 briefly on 21st.

Tits

Firecrest Apr: Murrow on 23rd.

Coal Tit Mar: reported from Chippenham Fen and 5 other sites. **Apr:** reported from 8 sites.

Marsh Tit Mar: reported from 10 sites including Chippenham Fen, Paxton Pits and Woodwalton Fen. **Apr:** reported from 13 sites, largest count 8 singing at Eversden Wood on 10th.

Bearded Tit Apr: reported from 6 sites including Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Fen, and Wicken Fen.

Hirundines and warblers

Sand Martin **Mar:** First reported Witcham and Over on 8th, Paxton Pits 14 on 14th, thereafter reports from most sites with open water. **Apr:** Fen Drayton Lakes c100 on 12th, Cam Washes 175 on 24th.

Swallow **Mar:** Grafham Water on 28th, the first of the year, Ferry Meadows CP on 31st. **Apr:** reported increasingly from the 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes 100+ on 27th.

House Martin **Apr:** First at Fowlmere NR 40 on 2nd, Cambridge SF 4 on 9th; single figure reports daily from 9th – 19th, and Fen Drayton Lakes c 100 on 12th; double figure reports from 22nd – 28th.

Cetti's Warbler **Mar:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes (4), Grafham Water, Paxton Pits (2) and Wicken Fen (2). **Apr:** reported from at least 18 sites, maxima Wicken Fen 12 on 12th, Fen Drayton Lakes 11 on 18th, Roswell Pits Ely (5), and Woodwalton Fen (3).

Wood Warbler **Apr:** Comberton on 24th.

Chiffchaff **Mar:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 2nd then 4 by the 14th, Wicken Fen on 10th, Paxton Pits on 13th and 5 by 16th, Milton GP on 13th; thereafter reported widely. **Apr:** Fen Drayton Lakes 10 on 9th, Paxton Pits & Holme Fen both 20 on 11th. **'Siberian' Chiffchaff** **Mar:** Ely SF on 11th 17th and 26th.

Willow Warbler **Mar:** Little Paxton on 20th, the first of the year, Ely BF on 24th. **Apr:** Wicken Fen on 8th, Holme Fen 3 on 11th, Paxton Pits 5 on 11th, Ferry Meadows CP 10 by 13th.

Blackcap **Mar:** Cambridge on 12th 15th (3) and 16th (all different sites). **Apr:** reported increasingly in the first ten days of the month, Paxton Pits 12 on 11th, Fowlmere NR 19 on 19th.

Garden Warbler **Apr:** Paxton Pits on 18th was the first of the year, Godmanchester GP 2 on 19th, then reported daily; Fen Drayton Lakes c10 on 26th.

Lesser Whitethroat **Apr:** Sutton Gault on 15th, the first of the year (Apr 5th in 2014), Fowlmere on 17th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 18th and Paxton Pits 2 on 18th.

Whitethroat **Apr:** First on the 12th at Fen Drayton Lakes and Paxton Pits (Apr 3rd in 2014), thereafter reported from a number of sites.

Grasshopper Warbler **Apr:** Wicken Fen on 11th, the first report of the year (Apr 11th in 2014), Stanground on 14th, Maxey Pits on 15th, Woodwalton Fen on 15th and 5+ on 24th, Ferry Meadows CP on 17th, Paxton Pits on 18th, Little Wilbraham Fen on 19th, Chippenham Fen 2 caught and ringed on 21st and 4 counted on 23rd, Ouse Fen 2 on 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes on 22nd, Castor Mill on 22nd.

Sedge Warbler **Apr:** Ouse Fen 2 on 8th, the first of the year (Apr 1st in 2014), Paxton Pits on 11th, Woodwalton Fen on 11th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 12th, Wicken Fen on 12th, then general arrival.

Reed Warbler **Apr:** Gunthorpe on 6th (first was Apr 10th in 2014), Wicken Fen on 14th, Fowlmere NR on 16th, Paxton Pits on 19th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 22nd, Chippenham Fen 4 on 23rd, Woodwalton Fen 10+ on 24th and Fowlmere NR 38 singing by 30th.

Nuthatch and thrushes

Nuthatch **Mar:** reported from Chippenham Fen and Ferry Meadows CP. **Apr:** reports from 10 sites including Ten Wood Stetchworth 4 on 27th.

Ring Ouzel **Apr:** *A very pronounced county-wide passage; difficult to be certain about individual numbers and multiple records from some sites, but at a conservative estimate, about 60 birds involved.*

9th: The first, at Trumpington Meadows

11th: singles at: Glatton, Sutton Gault, Witcham and Wicken Fen

12th: Pymoor Bridge (for several days maximum 2) and Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits (2)

13th: Moonshine Gap (3 then 4 on 14th), Witcham a male, Eldernell, Ouse Washes Visitor Centre Car Park (and on 14th)

14th: Barrington 2 males, Cambourne a male and a female, Witcham 2 females

15th: Hope Farm Knapwell a female, Castor Hanglands (3), Devil's Dyke a male, Swaddywell Pit, Woodwalton Fen (2)

16th: Witcham a male at Wardy Hill and 6 at Clare Farm, also Castor Mill, Ferry Meadows CP 2

17th: Fowlmere
 18th: Little Abington, Ouse Washes 3, Devil's Dyke 5
 19th: Wicken Fen 3, Mepal Airfield 5
 21st: Coploe Hill Ickelton 3, Wicken Fen 4, Ouse Washes/Chain Corner, Kingfishers Bridge
 23rd: Fen Drayton (and on 24th)
 24th: Maxey GP (and on 25th and 26th)
 25th: Devil's Dyke 2 still
 26th: Paxton Pits (also on 27th and 28th)
 27th: Castor Mill.

Ring Ouzel spring records in recent years

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
46	24	4	12	8	14	15	15



Ring Ouzel male at Devil's Dyke: photo by Neil Bramwell

Fieldfare Mar: Caldecote (Hunts) 500 on 6th, and counts of 100+ in Hunts to 21st, Cam Washes 250 on 8th. **Apr:** Washingly c400 on 9th, Moonshine Gap 100 on 13th, Wicken Fen 2 on 26th, Mepal GP on 30th possibly the last of the winter.

Redwing Apr: Wyton 4 flyovers on 6th, Castor Hanglands 6 on 9th.

Mistle Thrush Mar: Newborough 4 on 16th, Paxton Pits 2 singing on 15th. **Apr:** reported from 13 sites, Byron's Pool (5), Mepal GP (2), Paxton Pits (2), Woodwalton Fen (3), and Hatley Park (4).

Nightingale Apr: Paxton Pits on 7th, the first of the year, Marsh Lane GP on 9th, Paxton Pits 4 by 11th, Castor Hanglands 2 singing on 14th, Bainton GP on 16th, Wicken Fen on 16th, 26th and 30th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 18th and 2 on 22nd, Monks' Wood on 21st, Grafham Water 8 singing on 21st.

Starts and chats

Pied Flycatcher Apr: Hinxton 30th.

Redstart Apr: Peterborough a male on 11th, Cambridge/Coldham's Common on 14th, Fowlmere NR 3 on 15th, Ferry Meadows CP a male on 16th, Ferry Meadows a female on 23rd, Six Mile Bottom a female on 29th, nr Tubney Fen on 29th, Fowlmere NR a female on 30th.

Stonechat **Mar:** Fen Drayton Lakes a pair on 2nd, Nene Washes 3 on 9th. **Apr:** Wicken Fen 4 on 8th.
Whinchat **Apr:** Wicken Fen on 23rd, the first record of the year, Tubney Fen 2 on 24th and 29th, Maxey GP on 29th, Burwell Fen on 30th.
Wheatear **Mar:** first of the year at Offord/Godmanchester on 20th, Longstowe on 26th. **Apr:** singles at 11 sites from 10th – 29th, higher counts at Moonshine Gap 4 on 13th, Aldreth 2 on 14th, Soham 6 on 14th, Comberton 5 on 15th, Ferry Meadows CP 6 on 16th, Yaxley 3 females over on 17th, Comberton 2 on 24th, Paxton Pits 3 on 27th – 30th, Upware/Reach 3 on 29th.

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

Tree Sparrow **Mar:** Holme Fen 9 on 8th, Great Wilbraham on 15th, Lt Eversden 5 on 30th.
Yellow Wagtail **Mar:** first of the year at Farcet Fen on 24th. **Apr:** Ouse Fen a flyover on 5th, and 2 on 6th, Ferry Meadows CP a male on 7th, Haddenham/Aldreth 2 on 10th, Sutton Gault 2 on 11th and c20 on 26th, Cam Washes 40 on 20th, and thereafter widely reported. **'Blue headed' Wagtail** (*the continental race flava*) **Apr:** Cam Washes on 24th, Sutton Gault on 26th.
Grey Wagtail **Mar:** at 20 sites including Haslingfield STW 5 on 19th. **Apr:** at a similar range of sites.
Pied Wagtail **Mar:** Whittlesford / Pampisford filling station c300 on 21st.
'White' Wagtail *the continental race of Pied* **Mar:** Ferry Meadows CP 2 on 19th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 22nd. **Apr:** Paxton Pits 2 on 12th and 5 on 13th, Soham on 14th, Fowlmere on 26th, Upware-Reach on 29th.
Tree Pipit **Apr:** Nene Washes a flyover on 14th, Yaxley Lode flyover on 15th, Ferry Meadows CP on 16th.
Rock Pipit **Mar:** Paxton Pits on 23rd. **Apr:** Paxton Pits on 5th – 11th.
Water Pipit **Mar:** Ouse Washes/Chain Corner 3 on 7th, 11 on 20th. **Apr:** Ouse Washes on 5th.

Finches and buntings

Brambling **Mar:** Wicken Fen on 10th, Cambridge on 21st, Chippenham Fen 2 on 23rd.
Goldfinch **Mar:** Fen Drayton Lakes 40 on 22nd, Holme Fen 60 on 7th.
Linnet **Apr:** Melbourn 330 on 26th.
Siskin **Mar:** Ferry Meadows CP c12 on 3rd, Castor Hanglands/Southey Wood on 8th, Ferry Meadows CP on 24th. **Apr:** Wicken Fen on 18th.
Lesser Redpoll **Mar:** Grafham Water 2 on 8th, Cambridge 4 feeding on sunflower hearts on 18th.
Reed Bunting **Mar:** Fen Drayton Lakes a mixed flock of 150 finches on 18th, mostly Reed Buntings.
Corn Bunting **Mar:** Cottenham 14 on 22nd. **Apr:** Fowlmere NR 19 on 30th.

Exotica

White Stork **Mar:** Ferry Meadows CP an escaped bird from 8th.
Wood Duck **Apr:** Barton a pair on several dates.

Reminder re rare breeding birds

The bird breeding season is upon us and contributors are asked to be mindful of disseminating information that could be used by a person or persons who do not have the interest of the birds in mind. For that reason some information may be omitted from the bulletins at this time of year. If in doubt contact the County Recorder.

Contributors: Colin Addington, Richard Allison, Dave Anderson, Richard Astle, John Atkins, David Avis, Louise Bacon, Andrew Balmford, Andy Bayes, Peter Beesley, Mick Beeson, Guy Belcher, Mac Bell, Peter Bircham, Colin Brett, Richard Bradbury, Mark Brandon, Richard Broughton, Chris Brown, Mike Burdekin, Ian Burfield, Howard Butler, James Cadbury, Keiran Claiden-Yardley, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Vic and Pauline Cousins, Gillian Cox, Robin Cox, Richard Dale, Gerry Davies, Carole Davis, Martin Davis, Sheila and Ian Dickerson, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, Mark Eaton, David Elliot, Ian Ellis, Mike Everett, Tony Fenn, Mike Foley, Katie Fuller, Ben Fraser, Andy Frost, Andrew Gardener, Don Gardener, Ed Gill, Ben Green, Richard Grimmett, Derek Gruar, Chris Hainsworth, Dennis Hall, James Hanlon, Andy Hannaford, Dean Harlow, Kevin Harris, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jon Heath, Philip Hobson, David Hoccom, Michael Holdsworth, David Hollin, Ken and Maggie Hook, David Hopkins, John Hoppett, Carl Howard, Sarah Howlett, Bob Humphrey, Phil Jackman, Sue Jarrett, Andy Jennings, Richard Jones, Colin Kirtland, Charlie Kitchin, Peter Lawrence, Keith Lawton, Vince Lea, Jono Leadley, John Le

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Cambridgeshire Spotted Flycatchers – we need your help

The CBC is planning to survey breeding Spotted Flycatchers in 2015. This is the perfect activity for bored birders during those long summer evenings between early June and the start of the autumn passage in late July.

Do you know of a pair nesting near you this year, or a traditional site which may be being used again? If you haven't seen one of these delightful birds for years, now is your chance.

You can find full details at:

<http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/spofl.html>

We want to hear from anyone who sees flycatchers after 1 June, or knows of a current or recent site.

Please email spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

With any information you have; 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. In addition we've identified a hundred or so likely sites which we need to get checked. There's a list of these here.

<http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/spoflsites.html>

Let us know if you want to check any of these for us or have previous knowledge of them.

The survey is being coordinated by Michael Holdsworth.

The Bob Scott Memorial Appeal: What has happened and what should we do next?

Growing concern for our environment and its effects on our birds and other wildlife began for Bob and me way back in the late 1980s. Our own travelling experiences after we retired and the rapid decline in our spring and summer migrants only added to our fears. A talk at the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Conference by a person who had been ringing in the Sahel area, moved to another site and returned to the original place a week later to find not a tree or bush standing, only added to our fears. We started then to look for ways of helping, but then sadly Bob became very ill and passed on. It was some three months after his death that I decided to honour his memory with something positive and worthwhile, hence the Appeal.

With the aid of a group of friends and past colleagues I set about raising money. Birdlife International, through their staff member Peter Hendley, kindly offered to be my bankers and we quickly raised £10,000. This was about to be sent out to Burkina Faso, one of the eleven nations that make up the Sahel, to assist the Dutch, who were already working there reinstating/recreating scrub and reedbed habitat on the edge of the desert, when severe drought hit and fighting between the military and civilians forced the Dutch to return home. Everything was put on hold.

Colin Jackson of A Rocha Kenya, the religious conservation organisation with branches in various parts of the world, informed Graham Hirons, a good friend who was on holiday in Kenya, of the destruction of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest – which used to stretch from the Somalian border south to Tanzania, some 10360 square kilometres but now down to less than 400 square kilometres – and of the new threat to the remainder from Pineapple Growers. This forest acts as an important area for eastern migrants on their journeys north and south. Some birds, like Spotted Flycatchers, Shrikes and Golden Orioles may stay throughout the wintering period whilst others like European Rollers use it for several weeks whilst travelling. There have been counts of over 2,000 rollers on occasions. Its rich biodiversity includes a concentration of endemic and endangered flora and fauna. Clarke's Weaver, Sokoke Scops Owl, Sokoke Pipit and Golden-Rumped Elephant shrew are just a few of its gems. If the forest goes completely, so does the food supply and resting area of migrants and habitat for many other inter African species. We subsequently purchased 219 acres of land which is now known as the Kiroso Scott Reserve. Katana, an A Rocha staff member, lives in the village so is able to ensure that the land stays fully protected as both he and his relatives are in the immediate area. They have also been looking out for further land that we may be able to purchase and that is our next move. I hope, within the next few weeks, to be able to send a further £10,000 to A Rocha for the purchase of yet more land, hopefully making the area up to 500 acres.

We then hope to turn back to Burkina Faso to assist the habitat there just as soon as we can get back into the area or, with the help of BirdLife, find an equally important area needing our support and funding. If we can achieve both of these aims we will be giving protection to both Eastern and Western migrants in a changing world, and the death of Bob Scott at the age of 70 will not have been in vain.

Please support The Bob Scott Memorial Appeal by donating to: www.justgiving.com/ann-scott1/ or by post to BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA. Please mark your payment for The Bob Scott Memorial Appeal. If it is possible please Gift Aid, as even £5.00 gift-aided will be £1 more, and that is a number of young trees! Many thanks.

Ann Scott

Action for Swifts

Action for Swifts (AfS) - was the brainchild of Jake Allsop and Chris Mead. Set up in 1995, it became a group of like-minded Swift enthusiasts concerned about the diminishing numbers of swifts seen in our skies. It is thought that one of the biggest causes in their decline is the loss of nest sites; old buildings knocked down, old pantile type house roofs replaced with modern designs that have no access, and new projects constructed with no thought of access for Swifts.

So Action for Swifts is living up to its name and trying to create more opportunities for swifts to breed locally; it co-operates with other groups of swift enthusiasts country-wide to share expertise. Since its inception it has taken part in many projects locally and further afield. The majority of these involved the making and erecting of nest boxes in church towers and in schools, as well as private houses.

The total number of boxes so far placed in or on building now stands at over one thousand in this county, and over 5000 Swift boxes have been sold by John Stimpson of Wilburton using a Dutch design provided by AfS.

Action for Swifts worked closely with Cambridge City Council and the artist Andrew Merritt to create the Cambridge Swift Tower on Pye Fen, (Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve in East Chesterton). It advises architects and builders and individuals on making building projects swift-friendly, and has built and erected a Swift Tower for the Trumpington Community Orchard.

It promotes and assists at events to encourage more people to look after their Swifts such as at Worlington Church, St Neots Church and Fulbourn Community Swifts project, (see below for the dates

and venues). It has produced and published a delightful booklet about Swifts aimed mainly at children and called "I am a Swift; I am in trouble."

It even has a rehabilitation programme where experienced rehabbers rescue, rear and release Swifts that may have fallen to the ground, usually young birds straight out of the nest. A high rate of success has been achieved in this.

Have a look at the AFS blog which gives more information on the activities of the group <http://actionforswifts.blogspot.co.uk/>

We are not an elitist group, don't have an official membership or subscriptions, but do encourage those with the same interest to help reverse the decline of this wonderful bird. Do get in touch.

Wednesday 1st July 2015, 18:00 to dusk:

St Neots Swift Festival 2015 will be held at St Mary the Virgin Church. The Swift colony has grown to 9 pairs since nest boxes were installed in 2006. There are now 44 nest boxes ready for 2015. It is hoped to arrange visits to the belfry for those who wish to climb the steps. There will be displays, refreshments and a talk by Edward Mayer of Swift Conservation.

Friday 17th July 2015, 18:00 to dusk:

Worlington Swift Festival 2015. Come and celebrate the Swifts in All Saints, Worlington, Suffolk. The colony has grown to 20 pairs in 2014. There will be displays, refreshments and a talk by Edward Mayer of Swift Conservation.

Bruce Martin

Club News

Rare Breeding Birds Action Group

Following earlier bulletin announcements and discussions, four club members have kindly stepped forward to help the Chair and County Recorder to monitor, report and safeguard our rare breeding birds. Many thanks to Mike Everett, Bruce Martin, Garth Peacock and Kevin Hand. On joining the group Kevin commented "I'm looking forward to having an excuse to spend more time in new countryside areas, doing something both exciting and productive for conservation, by gathering info on rare breeding birds. There is little recording done in Cambs on the breeding numbers of even 'familiar' birds like Little Egret, Marsh Harrier, Pochard and Shoveler...and with the ducks even just counting males in summer is very helpful".

We still welcome additional members for the group; if you are interested contact the County Recorder.

Vacancy - Research Officer

We are looking for a new Research Officer as Andrew Tongue's research is taking him to another level, with a PhD placement in Birmingham in the autumn. He has given us plenty of notice and will continue to work on the Corn Bunting analysis and write up over the summer. If this post interests you, please contact the Chair.

Contact Details Required

We would like to make contact with Bird Club members D Jones and Andrew Curtis. If anyone can provide any contact details for either of these members please email

membership@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk or phone Clive Sinclair on 01223 263509

New Members - We welcome

Rosamond Richardson of Arkesden and Eve Corder from Cambridge

IBIS - Nigel Westwood has a run of the BOU journal IBIS (1960-70 period) and early issues of the BTO - BIRD STUDY, Vol 1 to 31, which he wishes to off load. If any Club member is interested in them, please contact him to arrange a date for collection:
N.J.Westwood, 43 Houghton Road, St.Ives, PE27 6RQ. Tel 01480 469520.

Outdoor Meetings

Friday 12th June, Greys Farm, Therfield, near Royston, 7.30pm.

Edward Darling is a passionate and practical farmer-cum-conservationist, and will show us the many measures he has put in place on his farm to improve bird numbers, particularly of red-listed species such as Grey Partridge, Lapwing, Yellow Wagtail and Corn Bunting. Booking is not essential but helps ensure we don't start the tour without you; contact Vince Lea. To find Greys, take the A505 to the Western end of the Royston bypass, and then take the Therfield and Royston turn off the dual carriageway at the roundabout. This road turns left, and then very soon on the right there is a turn to Therfield - you will see a carpark for the heath ahead of you, but continue up the hill - Greys is near the rise of the hill on the left, on a marked turning in the trees (TL337395).

Friday 10th July, Ouse Fen, 6:30pm

Meet at the public car park at Earith Bridge on A1123 by the New Bedford River, just west of the junction with the B1050 from Willingham, TL393748. A guided walk with the warden Barry O'Dowd; limited to about 12 people so please contact Vince or Louise to book.

Friday 14th August, 7:00pm - To be arranged, but likely to be to Woodwalton Fen. Please contact Louise for further details and to book.

Other Events

26th – 28th June 2015 - Weekend course: "Bees, flies and flowers: the ecology of pollination and why it matters"

Are you worried about the plight of wild bees and other pollinators? These insects provide a crucial service pollinating crops and wildflowers. Yet there is widespread concern about their decline. This course will teach you how to identify and monitor common pollinators such as bumblebees and hoverflies, how to measure their importance to flowers, and how you can contribute to pollinator conservation.

You will learn to assess your own garden for its value to pollinators. You will try out practical techniques used in pollination ecology, including preparing a pollen sample for microscopic examination and measuring insect behaviour. Expect to go home with an entirely different view of flowerbeds and road verges. The course is taught by Dr Lynn Dicks, Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge Department of Zoology. Lynn has a PhD in the ecology of pollinating insects, awarded from Cambridge in 2002 and has continued to work as a science writer and broadcaster for 10 years. She is keen that as many people as possible notice and enjoy the diversity of wild pollinators that busy themselves around us every summer.

This weekend course takes place at the Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education's home, Madingley Hall. The course costs £250 which includes lunch & dinner over the weekend, refreshments, and tuition. It is also possible to stay at Madingley Hall's B&B over the weekend at an additional cost starting from £50 per night, subject to availability. If you would like to sign up or would like more information about the course, please visit www.ice.cam.ac.uk/bees

Saturday 25th July - The Neotropical Bird Club will be holding a summer meeting in Cambridge and members of the CBC are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at St John's Church Hall in Hills Road. Entrance is free, doors open at 10:30 for coffee & cakes and the meeting starts at 11:00. The talks will include Trish Allison on 'The state of birds in the Neotropics', Richard Thomas on 'Birding the Colombian Andes: how I learned to love tapaculos', Chris Sharpe on 'Three Decades of Birding in Venezuela', Tom Stuart on 'Recent NBC Conservation Awards' and Raymond Jeffers on 'Northeast Brazil: land of endemics and more!' A sandwich lunch will be available, and the meeting will close around 5.00.

Club Contacts

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Other Council Members: Ali Cooper, Mike Foley

The Cambridgeshire Bird Club exists to promote the conservation of birds and their habitats in the county, identify areas of conservation value, and advance the education of the public in the study of birds. www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

The editors would welcome contributions to the E-Bulletin and print edition, on topics such as identification problems, behaviour, summaries of club talks, and book reviews. Contact us at cdbcbulletin@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk, and use this address to let us know if you would like to receive your bulletin in e-mail format rather than paper.

Bird Records, sightings and news

If you have seen a scarce or local bird, please submit the news to the '[What's about](#)' page on the Club website via [Pete and Paul](#) who maintain an up-to-date selection of recent highlights. You can also report interesting sightings on the [Cambirds](#) email group (not run by the Club, but we access the records). Any major rarities can be phoned in to Birdline East Anglia on 07941 333970.

Full lists of your records should continue to be submitted monthly to **Louise Bacon** the County Recorder, preferably using the [spreadsheet](#) available on the Records section of the website, **by the 5th of the following month.**

GOOD BIRDING!