

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB

## Bulletin No. 443

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

### Welcome to the November / December 2015 Edition

#### RECENT BIRD REPORTS: *November – December Headlines*

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL\*** Dec: Grafham Water from 20<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK\*** Nov: Grafham Water 2 males on 21<sup>st</sup>. Dec: Fen Drayton Lakes a female/immature from 4<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.

**VELVET SCOTER\*** Nov: Grafham Water 3 from October until 5<sup>th</sup>, another (or one of the 3) on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER\*** Nov: Paxton Pits on 14<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**SLAVONIAN GREBE\*** Nov: Grafham Water an immature bird on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. Dec: Fen Drayton Lakes 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER\*** Dec: Pymoor on 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**DOTTEREL** Dec: Ouse Fen a single bird among a flock of several thousand Golden Plover on 1st.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD\*** Nov: Great Fen on 6<sup>th</sup>. Dec: Haddenham a 'possible' on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ICELAND GULL** Dec: Cambridge Research Park a 1 c.y. from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (see photograph below) Grafham Water on 6<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a 1 c.y. from 11<sup>th</sup>.



*Iceland Gull at Cambridge Research Park: photo by Jon Heath*

### **Headlines (continued)**

**GLAUCOUS GULL** **Nov:** Ouse Washes a first-winter bird on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and a 1 c.y. on 31<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water an adult on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** **Nov:** Witchford on 6<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Buckden/Brampton Mill on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**SWIFT** **Dec:** Barleycroft GP and Earith on 16<sup>th</sup>; *the latest in a series of exceptional records of summer visitors out of season, including last year's Whitethroat and Turtle Dove, and the Dotterel and Ring Ouzel reported in this bulletin.*

### **Other records**

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.

**November / December Weather:** *November began on a remarkably mild note with occasional rainy days and, by mid-month, some gales. In the final third a cold spell with heavy frost around 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> seemed to be the trigger for some influxes; this was preceded by a northerly gale and followed by more wet and windy weather. December was an extraordinary month with almost constant wind and rain, unseasonably warm temperatures, and daffodils out!*

### Wildfowl

**Mute Swan** **Nov:** Ouse Washes 250 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 50 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts of 50+ at Fen Drayton Lakes 50 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Fen 115 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 295 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Bewick's Swan** **Nov:** Orchard Park 12 over on 13<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 3 on 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** Whittlesey 3 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 8+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Pymoor 20 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 3 on 13<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, Littleport 20 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 20 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** **Nov:** between Ring's End and Manea a group of 50 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 7 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 2135 on 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 150 – 300 regularly, dawn roost count 4086 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Wardy Hill 200+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 50 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Knarr Fen 45 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Manea 1121 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Bean Goose\*** **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes a single of the 'tundra' subspecies on 20<sup>th</sup> and another (or the same) at Godmanchester GP on 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Pink-footed Goose** **Nov:** Foul Anchor 38 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Greylag Goose** **Nov:** Burwell Fen 147 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes Upware 264 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts of 150+: Kingfishers Bridge 438 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 150 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Wimpole Park 150 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 270 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 247 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 350 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** **Nov:** Trumpington Clay Farm 43 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 1012 on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Trumpington Clay Farm 28 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 582 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes Upware 23 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Barnacle Goose** **Nov:** Granta Park 15 on 24<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Granta Park 15 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 4 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Brent Goose** **Nov:** Grafham Water 3 dark-bellied on 21<sup>st</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Egyptian Goose** **Nov:** Trumpington Clay Farm 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes 1 – 4 on several dates, Cambridge 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Eaton Socon 4 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 2 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 9 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Houghton Meadows 2 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 3 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Chatteris 3 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Shelduck** **Dec:** Burwell Fen 2 – 7 on several dates, Houghton Meadows a flyover on 13<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 3 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Peterborough 4 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Mandarin** **Nov:** Lt Shelford 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Linton 9 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water a drake on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water on 13<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits presumably the same bird on 18<sup>th</sup>, Hauxton a male on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Wigeon** **Nov:** Ouse Washes 6554 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen c155 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes (2 lakes only count) 188 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes Upware c450 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** *maxima:* Fen Drayton Lakes 400 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes 25213 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 375 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cam Washes Upware 355 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Godmanchester GP 200 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Barleycroft GP 440 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 325 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Gadwall Nov:** Burwell Fen 120 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes (2 lakes only count) 36 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 38 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 76 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec: maxima:** Grafham Water 300 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Milton CP 48+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 92 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 282 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 68 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Teal Nov:** Burwell Fen 300 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes 4448 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 57 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes Upware c120 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec: maxima:** Fowlmere NR 23 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 7816 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 155 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Burwell Fen 269 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 99 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 154 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Mallard Nov:** Chittering (Lazy Otter) 252 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes 1994 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Granta Park 130 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec: maxima:** Ouse Washes 3223 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Granta Park 160 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 220 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail Nov:** Paxton Pits 1 – 3 from 21<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a pair on 21<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water 11 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes 74 on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits 2 males on 13<sup>th</sup> and a female on 15<sup>th</sup>, a pair on 29<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 644 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 20<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 8 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Shoveler Nov:** Cambourne on 1<sup>st</sup>, Burwell Fen 350 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 126 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 107 on 14<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen 32 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes 668 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 100 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-crested Pochard Nov:** Paxton Pits 1 – 3 from 1st, maximum 9 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a pair on 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 (4 males 2 females) on 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, then 8 on 21<sup>st</sup> (*together with the Paxton birds suggestive of an influx 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>*). **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes 2 – 5 from 6<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 males on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Pochard Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 60 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 51 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec: maxima:** Whittlesford GP 36 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 27 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 536 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 58 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck Nov:** Trumpington Clay Farm 4 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water 100+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes (2 lakes only count) 50 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Orton BP 97 on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Dec: maxima:** Roswell Pits 58 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 500+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 500+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 41 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 70 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows 60 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 410 on 14<sup>th</sup>. *A Tufted Duck with a nasal saddle seen on the Ouse Washes had been marked in São Jacinto Nature reserve in Portugal on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2013. It was seen again in Portugal at Taipal freshwater marsh a few days later and again in early January 2014 and then at Hornsea Mere (Yorks) in September and October of this year. Where it went in the summers we do not know.*

**Scaup Nov:** Paxton Pits on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldeneye Nov:** Grafham Water on 1<sup>st</sup>, 97 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 15<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits 32 on 24<sup>th</sup>. **Dec: maxima:** Ouse Washes 4 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 20+ on several dates, Grafham Water 20+ on several dates, Godmanchester GP on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Smew Nov:** Ouse Fen 5 on 23<sup>rd</sup> – *the first of the winter*, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes 2 – 8 ‘redheads’ from 6<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, Needingworth GP a male on 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 4 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-breasted Merganser Dec:** Fowlmere NR a redhead on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Goosander Nov:** Cambridge Science Park a drake on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP a flyover on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes on 15<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 drakes on 21<sup>st</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 5 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Ely BF 2 males and a female on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water 3 on 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a drake on 24<sup>th</sup> (*as with Red-crested Pochard there appears to have been an influx on 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>*). **Dec:** Grafham Water 2 – 13 on several dates, Burwell Fen on 9<sup>th</sup>, Maxey Pits 8 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 2 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruddy Duck Dec:** a female at an undisclosed site on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Gamebirds

**Grey Partridge Nov:** Nine Wells counts of 63 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 44 and 51 later in the month, Haddenham /Aldreth Fens 4 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Comberton 33 on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Nine Well 35 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Burwell Fen 18 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Barton Lark Rise Farm 5 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Foxton 12 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Comberton 12 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Cormorants, egrets and herons, grebes

**Cormorant Nov: maxima:** Grafham Water 50+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 37 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 24 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 23 on 21<sup>st</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen roost counts of 39 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 29 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 8 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 82 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 42 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Roswell Pits 23 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Earith sluice 26 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 34 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Shag Dec:** Earith sluice on 30<sup>th</sup> and another or the same at Fen Drayton Lakes on the same day.

**Bittern Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes, Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

**Little Egret Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen (10), Fen Drayton Lakes (16+ in a roost), Foul Anchor (2), Grafham Water (34), Paxton Pits (3+), Holme Fen, Trumpington Clay Farm and Wicken Fen (3).

**Dec:** reported from Burwell Fen (6), Chittering, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens, Hinchbrook CP, Holme Fen, Milton, Ouse Fen (3), Ouse Washes (3), Paxton Pits (3), Trumpington Clay Farm.

**Great White Egret Nov:** Chittering (Lazy Otter) on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Fen on 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR a flyover on 21<sup>st</sup>, St Ives a flyover on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Paxton Pits on 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, St Ives on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Heron Dec:** Ouse Washes 25 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Grebe Nov:** Trumpington Clay Farm maximum 8 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bradley Fen 11 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cambourne 7 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 3 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** River Cam Bait's Bite to Clayhithe c24 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes Upware 2 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes max 11 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe Nov:** Grafham Water 213 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Drysides BP 14 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes maximum 30 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes max 10 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 19 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Hinchbrook CP 10 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Raptors

**Red Kite Nov:** Holme Fen on 1<sup>st</sup>, Castor 27 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Little Shelford on 1<sup>st</sup>, Great Fen 9 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen 9+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 19<sup>th</sup>, Stilton 53 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Castor 10 on 27<sup>th</sup>, and a large roost at Belsize Wood of usually 50 – 80 birds and a maximum 110 on 28<sup>th</sup>; *this is a massive increase on the previous record of 44 in December 2013.*

**Marsh Harrier Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen, Ely BF (3), Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Holme Fen, Ouse Fen (6), Ouse Washes (5+), Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen (4), Woodwalton Fen (5) and Newmarket racecourse 15 on 8<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** reported from Burwell Fen, Ely BF, Fen Drayton Lakes, Great Fen, Nene Washes (4), Ouse Fen (6), Ouse Washes (13), Wicken Fen (4 – 5) and Woodwalton Fen (2).

**Hen Harrier Nov:** Holme Fen a male on 1<sup>st</sup>, Farcet Fen a ringtail on 6<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen a male on 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, then 5 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Burwell Fen on 10<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 1 – 2 males and a ringtail on several dates, 5 on 15<sup>th</sup>, roost maximum 2 males and 2 ringtails/females on 17<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen on 12<sup>th</sup>, Ramsey St. Mary a male flyover on 15<sup>th</sup>, Glassmoor Bank on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Swaffham Prior Fen a ringtail on 26<sup>th</sup>, Yaxley on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen maximum at roost 4 males and 2 female/ringtails on 12<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 2 males on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ely 2 males on 6<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen 1 – 2 males on several dates from the 6<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes Eldernell on 9<sup>th</sup>, a ringtail on 26<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach Fen on 26<sup>th</sup>, Farcet Fen on 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Almost certainly two/three populations centred on roost sites at Wicken Fen and the Great Fen and possibly the Nene Washes with individuals wandering nearby. The total seems to be about 10 birds.*

**Buzzard Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen, Farcet Fen, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens, Paxton Pits (3), Tubney Fen, and Wicken Fen. **Dec:** reported from Comberton (3), Folksworth (2), Fowlmere (2), Great Fen (5), Little Wilbraham Fen (4), Lordsbridge (4), Madingley Wood, Nene Washes (5), Ouse Fen (2), Ouse Washes, Tick Fen (2), Wicken Fen (2) and Wimpole (2).

### Rails and crane

**Water Rail Nov:** reported from Houghton Mill (3) and Woodwalton Fen. **Dec:** reported from Chippenham Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Ferry Meadows CP (4), Godmanchester GP, Grafham Water, Kings Dyke NR (2), Little Wilbraham Fen, Maxey GP, Sutton Gault, and Wicken Fen.

**Moorhen Nov:** River Cam Bait's Bite to Clayhithe 32+ on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Hinxton 27 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, R Cam Bait's Bite to Clayhithe c68 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 23 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 23 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Coot Nov:** Trumpington Clay Farm 32 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes 241 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Orton BP 236 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 24 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 71 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts of 50+: Bradley Fen maximum 135 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 250 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes 1087 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Crane Nov:** Ouse Washes RSPB 11 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 21 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes Eldernell 4 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 3 on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 14 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Wicken/Burwell/Tubney Fens

3 on several dates with 16 flying over on 16<sup>th</sup> which may have included the three 'resident' birds, Nene Washes 2 – 6 on several dates maximum 18 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen on 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Norman Sills writes: "Today (Thursday 17 December, 11.00 to 12.00) I saw 14 cranes at Cranmoor Lots (2 miles NE of Manea and opposite Eldertree Farm). The flock was on the ground - in variously young wheat, maize & potato residue, and consisted of 12 ads plus 2 juveniles. These included the pair B + juvenile from RSPB Lakenheath Fen, the "mystery" fourth pair + juvenile from an unknown nesting site, Beatrice + mate, and six others all with dark or black bustle".*

### Waders

**Golden Plover Nov:** 540 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 850 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere 1260 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, c600 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 1500 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Needingworth 2000 on 8<sup>th</sup> (in addition to the Ouse Fen birds), Swaffham Prior Fen 150 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell 300 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington 103 on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** large counts: 1500 between Burwell Fen and Upware on 31<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes several thousand on several dates, WeBS count of 7435 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen maximum 1100 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington/Hauxton 250 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing Nov:** counts of 500+: Burwell Fen 1200 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 1100 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere c1000 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Farcet Fen 840 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 2000 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Swaffham Prior Fen 850 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 4761 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes Upware c850 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen maximum 1000 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes maximum 14161 from WeBS count on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen max 1200 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes c500 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew Nov:** Foul Anchor 16 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Burwell Fen a flyover on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Black-tailed Godwit Nov:** Burwell Fen 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, and singles on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 21<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes Four Balls Farm 1250 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Turnstone Nov:** Paxton Pits on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruff Nov:** Ouse Fen on 8<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 131 on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 110 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin Nov:** Burwell Fen 4 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 15 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 – 3 on 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes Four Balls Farm 2 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes maximum 161 from WeBS count on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 16 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper Nov:** Foul Anchor on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper Nov:** Burwell Fen on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Fen 2 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB on 16<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits on 13<sup>th</sup>, Peterborough 2 on 20<sup>th</sup>, River Cam Baits Bite to Clayhithe on 20<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Spotted Redshank Nov:** Ouse Fen on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank Nov:** Ouse Washes 17 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 6 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 11 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, Cam Washes on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 29 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Jack Snipe Nov:** King's Dyke NR on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Maxey GP on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Kings Dyke NR on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Stanground on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 4 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Isleham Washes on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Woodcock Nov:** Cambridge on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Needingworth STW on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Paxton Pits on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Swaddywell Pit on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on 23<sup>rd</sup> (*another species with an apparent influx on 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>*). **Dec:** Great Fen on 6<sup>th</sup>, Houghton 2 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Eversden Wood 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Castor Hanglands 5 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 21<sup>st</sup>, Needingworth STW on 22<sup>nd</sup> (*photo on club website photo gallery*), Fowlmere NR on 24<sup>th</sup>, Hauxton on 24<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on 29<sup>th</sup>, Hayley Wood on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Snipe Nov:** Burwell Fen 45 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Cambourne 19 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes RSPB 30 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 14<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wicken Fen 6 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 19 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Fen 5 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 13<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 90 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Skuas, terns and gulls

**Great Skua Nov:** Grafham Water on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Arctic Skua\* Nov:** Grafham Water on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Arctic Tern Nov:** Ferry Meadows CP on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Kittiwake Nov:** Grafham Water an adult on 18<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 21<sup>st</sup>, and a first-winter on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Black-headed Gull Nov:** Chittering (Lazy Otter) 960 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Burwell Fen 560 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes 1000 on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts 200+: Kingfishers Bridge 325 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere 230 near the NR on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 1000 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 600 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Peterborough 500 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** **Nov:** Grafham Water 1 on 7<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 6<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 31<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water a 1 c.y. on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP an adult on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Gull** **Nov:** Trumpington Clay Farm 5 all month, River Cam (Riverside to Baits Bite) 10 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes 30 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 6000+ into roost on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** **Nov:** Fowlmere 120 in field opposite the entrance to NR on 16<sup>th</sup>, Hinxton 245 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Trumpington Clay Farm 145 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Herring Gull** **Nov:** Drysides BP 300 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Bradley Fen 150 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 5 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 10 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Drysides BP 200 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull** **Nov:** Paxton Pits maximum 21 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Foxton 3 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Factory Road on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** reported from: Cambridge Research Park (5), Cambridge Science Park (3), Fen Drayton Lakes (13), Grafham Water (5), Milton Tip (5) and Paxton Pits (3).

**Caspian Gull** **Nov:** Paxton Pits on 1<sup>st</sup>, Cottenham Long Drove 2 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Milton 4 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** reported from: Cambridge Research Park (3), Cambridge Science Park (3), Fen Drayton Lakes (7), Grafham Water (5), Paxton Pits and Waterbeach (10).

**Great Black-backed Gull** **Nov:** Grafham Water 8 on 6<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> and a single on 19<sup>th</sup>, Lordsbridge 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Doves, owls and kingfisher

**Stock Dove** **Nov:** Four counts of 20+, maximum Hinxton c45 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** Comberton 6 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 12 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 22 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Woodpigeon** **Dec:** counts 200+: Nene Washes 300 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen c200 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach Fen c200 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Collared Dove** **Nov:** Foxton 40 on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Waterbeach Fen 47 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Barn Owl** **Nov:** reported from: Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Great Fen, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen. **Dec:** reported from: Balsham, Burwell Fen, Cam Washes Upware, Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water, Great Fen, Landbeach, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

**Little Owl** **Nov:** reported from Hinxton, Kingfishers Bridge and Holme Fen. **Dec:** Landbeach on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Tawny Owl** **Nov:** reported from Waterbeach and Witcham. **Dec:** reported from Castor Hanglands, Hayley Wood (5) and Little Shelford.

**Long-eared Owl** **Nov:** Aldreth on 4<sup>th</sup>, Wistow / Abbots Ripton a road casualty on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-eared Owl** **Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen (3), Great Fen (5+), Home Fen (8), Nene Washes Eldernell (4), Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes (2), Paxton Pits, Swaddywell Pit and Tubney Fen (2). **Dec:** reported from Burwell Fen (4), Cambridge (two sites), Fen Drayton Lakes (3), Great Eversden (2), Great Fen (16), Nene Washes Eldernell (5), Ouse Washes RSPB, Soham and Stanground (7).

**Kingfisher** **Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen, Comberton, Ferry Meadows CP (2), Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water (2), Great Fen (2), Haddenham/Aldreth Fens, Houghton Mill (2), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen. **Dec:** reported from Barton Lark Rise Farm, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water, Houghton Meadows (2), Maxey Cut, Ouse Washes (5) and Trumpington Clay Farm.

### Falcons and parrots

**Kestrel** **Nov:** Aldreth 6 on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Merlin** **Nov:** Fowlmere NR on 6<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen on 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen/Wicken Fen a female on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a male on 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen on several dates from 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a male on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes a female on 7<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** **Nov:** Ouse Fen on 8<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 10<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes on 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Foul Anchor on 21<sup>st</sup>, Cambridge Trumpington St 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Burwell Fen on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Dec:** Barrington on 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cambridge on 9<sup>th</sup>, Chatteris on 9<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 11<sup>th</sup>, Barton on 11<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen on 12<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a male on 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ring-necked Parakeet\*** **Nov:** Fordham on 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Corvids

**Magpie Nov:** Ferry Meadows CP 11 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 12 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Chatteris 12 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester GP 18 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Kings Dyke NR 30 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Jay Nov:** Barton 6 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Woodwalton Fen 8 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Jackdaw Nov:** Wicken Fen c400 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts 100+: Fen Drayton Lakes 100 going to roost on 10<sup>th</sup>, c250 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 150 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 500 into roost on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Rook Dec:** counts 100+: Wicken Fen c500 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 100 into roost on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Jackdaw/Rook Nov:** Wicken Fen c 1500 into roost on 7<sup>th</sup>, c280 during the day on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Carrion Crow Nov:** Wicken Fen 24 on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts 30+: Fen Drayton Lakes 40 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nene Washes 30+ on 4<sup>th</sup>, Chatteris 30 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 43 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 100+ on 16<sup>th</sup>, c70 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge (Parkers Piece) 56 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Raven Dec:** Woodhurst a pair on 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a flyover on 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Crests, tits and larks

**Goldcrest Nov:** Kingfishers Bridge 9 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 10 counted along the Lode on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Firecrest Nov:** Earith on 12<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen one re-trapped on 14<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Madingley on 12<sup>th</sup>, Buckden/Brampton Mill on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Marsh Tit Nov:** reported from Chippenham Fen, Madingley Wood, Paxton Pits and Woodwalton Fen. **Dec:** reported from Cambridge, Chippenham Fen, Gamlingay Wood (4), Hayley Wood (3) and Madingley Wood.

**Bearded Tit Nov:** Wicken Fen 35 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lt Wilbraham Fen 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Woodlark Nov:** Kingfishers Bridge a flyover on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Skylark Nov:** Nine Wells c100 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Barton 176 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** counts 50+: Nine Wells c50 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Comberton Westfield Farm 58 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Hirundines, long-tailed tit and warblers

**Swallow Nov:** Tubney Fen a single seen going to roost with starlings on 5<sup>th</sup> (when it was also reported at Wicken Fen), and again on 9<sup>th</sup>, Haslingfield on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Cetti's Warbler Nov:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes (3), Grafham Water, Maxey GP, Woodwalton Fen and Wicken Fen (2). **Dec:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes (c4), Maxey GP, Ouse Washes (2), Sutton Gault, Wicken Fen (4) and Woodwalton Fen (2).

**Long-tailed Tit Nov:** Kingfishers Bridge 29 on 5<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Soham 25 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes up to 50 seen on 10<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester GP 17+ on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Chiffchaff Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen a total of 3 ringed during the month, Comberton on 19<sup>th</sup>, Needingworth STW on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Paxton Pits on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Barton Lark Rise Farm on 12<sup>th</sup>, Ely Pocket Park 3 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester GP on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackcap Nov:** Comberton 2 seen regularly, Cambridge E Chesterton on 14<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wicken Fen 3 ringed in the month. **Dec:** Lordsbridge a female on 11<sup>th</sup>, Ramsey a male on 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Waxwing, nuthatch, starling, thrushes and chats

**Waxwing Dec:** Ely a flyover on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Nuthatch Nov:** reported from Chippenham Fen, Fordham Wood, and Madingley Wood. **Dec:** reported from Madingley Wood (2), Ferry Meadows CP, Gamlingay Wood (2), and Hayley Wood.

**Starling Nov:** Tubney Fen roost c10000 on several dates, Fen Drayton Lakes roost c5000 on several dates, Farcet Fen 1200 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Wimpole Basin 1000 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 2000 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 20000 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Steeple Morden c2000 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester GP 1000 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach Fen c1300 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Ring Ouzel Dec:** Lode a female on 1<sup>st</sup> then the same or another on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> – *the latest records for the county but unlikely to involve late passage, more probably a bird intending to winter in the area.*

**Fieldfare** **Nov:** Witchford 300+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Aldreth c4000 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Lt Wilbraham Fen 207 on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts 100+: Christchurch c100 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere c120 in hedgerow feeding on haws on 7<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 127 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Peterborough 100 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Coates 123 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Foxton 100+ on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Song Thrush** **Dec:** Chatteris 15 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Redwing** **Nov:** Wicken Fen 200+ on 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Castor Hanglands 210 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Chatteris 45 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Redstart** **Dec:** Cheveley on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Stonechat** **Nov:** Holme Fen on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes 4 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Cambourne a pair on 12<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 2 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, a female on 31<sup>st</sup>, Stanground 6 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water a pair on 13<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen 2 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 3 pairs on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows on 29<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen a pair on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

**House Sparrow** **Dec:** counts 25+ at Chatteris 25 on 9<sup>th</sup>, and Ouse Washes 30 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Tree Sparrow** **Nov:** Ouse Washes 6 on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes regularly, maximum 8 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail** **Nov:** Fowlmere NR on 16<sup>th</sup>, Witchford on 20<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Burwell on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** reported from Cambridge Lovell Road (up to 3) Peterhouse College and St. Catherines College (2), Fen Drayton Lakes, Houghton and Wyton (7 – 8), Maxey Cut, Toft, Witcham (up to 3) and Whittlesford.

**Pied Wagtail** **Nov:** roosts at Addenbrooke's Hospital 150, Whittlesford BP garage c300, West Cambridge 100 – 120. **Dec:** roosts at Cambourne 101 on 13<sup>th</sup>, St Neots 148 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Meadow Pipit** **Nov:** Grafham Water 35+ on 6<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Foxton 47 on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Rock Pipit** **Nov:** Witchford on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Pipit** **Dec:** Isleham Washes on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes (Earith) 4 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes (Four Balls Farm) 5 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Finches and buntings

**Chaffinch** **Nov:** Haddenham Fens 30 on 10<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Chatteris 20 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Peterborough 20 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Brambling** **Nov:** Woodhurst 6 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water 8 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Hare Park Six Mile Bottom 3 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere 4 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Farcet Fen 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ouse Washes on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and 2 on 31<sup>st</sup>, Gamlingay 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenfinch** **Dec:** counts of 30+: Cambridge Botanic Gardens c60 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 30 into roost on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldfinch** **Nov:** Bradley Fen 124 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Fordham Wood 100 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts of 50+: Burwell Fen c150 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 100+ on 31<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen 50 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 60 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Siskin** **Nov:** widespread reports continued this month with 50+ at Chippenham Fen on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** counts of 10+: Fen Drayton Lakes 10 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Houghton Meadows 10+ on 13<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge (Regional College) 15 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Milton CP 13 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Linnets** **Nov:** Comberton 60 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Foxton 40 on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Comberton 35 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Redpoll** **Nov:** Holme Fen 370+ in three flocks on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts of 20+: Ferry Meadows CP c20 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Holme Fen (Long Drove) 40 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Crossbill** **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes a flyover on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellowhammer** **Nov:** Comberton 80 on 11<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Barton Lark Rise Farm peak count 72 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Comberton Westfield Farm peak count 35 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Foxton c70 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Corn Bunting** **Nov:** Great Fen 15 on 1<sup>st</sup>. **Dec:** counts of 10+: Great Fen 16 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Foxton 19 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Heydon 25 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Exotica

**Reeve's Pheasant** **Dec:** Toft, a male on 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## **BirdTrack: a personal experience**

I first started using BirdTrack (<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdtrack/about>) in 2005. I can't remember now exactly what prompted me to try it, but I think I'd read about it in *BTO News* and thought I would give it a go; now I have to say that I can't imagine birding without it! I know that there are other record-management packages available (particularly outside the UK), but for me at least, BirdTrack meets my main requirements: namely, a user-friendly system that allows me to keep track of my birding records, whilst also making them available for conservation and research purposes.

Initially, BirdTrack had a strong emphasis on migration, most notably the timing and spatial distribution of arriving and departing migrants. Although this remains a strength, data from BirdTrack now feed in to a wide range of local, national and international processes, including the Club's database (and the bulletins and annual *Bird Reports*), reports of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP), the EuroBirdPortal ([www.eurobirdportal.org](http://www.eurobirdportal.org), well worth a look, if you haven't already), as well as the new European Breeding Bird Atlas project (<http://www.ebba2.info/>). Personally, one of my favourite outputs remains the reporting rate graphs (available for anyone to view, on the BirdTrack website); these show the proportion of BirdTrack 'complete' lists each week that include the species in question (complete lists include all species seen and heard by the observer at a particular site). The data underpinning these graphs are inevitably subject to some bias (for example, related to what habitats/sites BirdTrack users choose to visit at different times of the year), but generally these graphs provide a nice overview of the relative abundance and/or 'detectability' of species throughout the year.

When it comes to data management, personally I think BirdTrack works well. Like any system, it has its idiosyncrasies; defining the location of birding sites – particularly important when it comes to determining how records can be used for atlas projects – is not without its quirks, for example. But generally I find it easy to use and pretty flexible when it comes to exploring my records. Checking a county, year or month list involves just a few clicks of the mouse (I'm gradually entering my older records, but there are still quite a few gaps in my UK list...), and it is equally straight-forward to produce a list of records for a particular species or site. The results of these queries are displayed as a table (the contents of which can be exported to Excel, for further exploration), or a selection of graphs (e.g. a species accumulation curve or a bar chart showing subtotals per month) and a map. With a bit of care, more complex queries can also be created. For example, BirdTrack informs me that so far in 2016 I've seen 69 species at the three sites that make up the patch I've adopted this year for Patchwork Challenge (<http://patchworkchallenge.blogspot.co.uk/>); this is just ten short of the total number of species I've ever recorded at these sites in any January. This may not be the most fascinating example, but it is an illustration of the functionality of the system, and a gentle health warning perhaps to other data geeks out there, particularly if you have a self-competitive streak... It can be a little addictive!

*Rob Pople - CBC Research Officer*

*The County Recorder adds:*

Many of you use BirdTrack, which is great (and easier for me), but here are a few things to think about. Those of you who did the BTO atlas used the breeding codes – they still exist – so do use

them when appropriate for breeding bird behaviour. If you find a bird on a site which you wish to keep confidential for reporting purposes use the confidential tag.

There are lots of sites in the county, and it would be great if you can use the names from the club's site gazetteer, just as they appear; we have to change all other 'versions' to make a full dataset for our report. When using your mobiles, do remember to go back and name the place afterwards – did you know that lots of you have a place called Mobile-TL4567 (or similar)! Also, please do not call a site 'Fred's garden' or some such, which is meaningless to all apart from you. Instead, use the village as a preference; a road is OK, but house numbers are best omitted as most of the time we don't need to know such details.

Lastly, county rarities need to be described on the club form not the BirdTrack one, and please, only if you are the finder and not just twitching something found by others. *Louise Bacon*

## **Biodiversity benefits on Fenland waterways**

Five years of working towards biodiversity targets have produced real gains for wildlife in the Middle Level area of the fens. The Middle Level Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership comprises 36 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) and the Partnership's annual meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 included a review of targets achieved.

One much-loved species that has benefitted from Drainage Board Biodiversity Actions is the kingfisher. To provide nest sites for these jewels of our waterways 150 holes have been drilled during the last five years through steel, brick and concrete structures at 80 IDB sites. When a 50 to 70mm diameter hole is drilled through steel piles or concrete headwalls that have soil behind them an opportunity is created for kingfishers to establish very safe nesting tunnels and chambers. Natural nest sites in riverside soil cliffs are often quickly eroded and only last a few years but sites like these behind steel piles will remain available for more than 20 years. Though just 7 of the drilled holes were occupied by successful Kingfisher pairs in 2015, it is expected that adoption of the new sites may take several years. Meanwhile, there is general feeling among IDB members and waterways users that 2015 was a boom season for kingfishers in the Middle Level with many more sightings than usual reported.

Other species that have benefitted in the five year biodiversity plans of the 36 IDBs have been bats, barn owls, water voles, otters and black poplars. 82 large panel bat boxes have been attached to pumping stations and 26 bat bricks have been installed in culvert tunnels. During the first five-year IDB Biodiversity Action Plan period 91 barn owl boxes have been erected in the 36 IDB Districts, consolidating the Middle Level of the Fens as a stronghold for the species. The boxes are monitored, though the species had a poor breeding year in 2015 compared to 2014.

The 70,000 hectare Middle Level catchment is also a national stronghold for water voles. 1,770 meters of coir rolls pre-planted with native marginal water plants have been installed at 23 sites to create 'instant habitat' for water voles, provide pollen for insects and to stabilise bank margins. Otters have benefitted from the construction of 79 otter holts in the banks of Middle Level waterways and spraints have been recorded at over 60 bridges throughout the 120 miles of main drains and rivers in the catchment. Lastly, the black poplar is the UK's rarest timber tree and traditionally grows in damp locations beside water; 140 black poplars have been planted from cuttings taken from local trees and have been established at new sites throughout the Middle Level.

*This article is based on a Middle Level Commissioners press release with thanks to Cliff Carson for further details. For more information, please contact Cliff Carson [cliff.carson@middlelevel.gov.uk](mailto:cliff.carson@middlelevel.gov.uk)*

## Christmas Quiz

Professor Eno Zallott hopes that those of you who attempted the quiz did not find it too difficult, particularly if you were imbibing large quantities of the festive spirit. It may soon have become apparent that the alternative names, often used in earlier ornithological literature, were all names of people. Thus the solution is:

1. *parasiticus* ..... Arctic or Richardson's Skua
2. *borealis* ..... Arctic or Eversmann's Warbler
3. *longicauda* ..... Upland or Bartram's Sandpiper
4. *fuscicollis* ..... White-rumped or Bonaparte's Sandpiper
5. *grisegena* ..... Red-necked or Holboell's Grebe
6. *longicaudus* ..... Long-tailed or Buffon's Skua
7. *subminuta* ..... Long-toed or Middendorf's Stint

Taking the appropriate letters which are I,D,E,T,P,T,L,U,N,I,E and N, the easy anagram gives the answer - Penduline Tit. Congratulations to those who solved it!

## Indoor meetings

**Friday 12th February, St Johns Hall, Cambridge, 7.30 for 8pm**

**Birds' Interactions with the Landscape: BTO research at global and local scales by Andy Clements**

Monitoring UK's birds relies on the observations of thousands of volunteer birders and BTO's analysis and interpretation of that data. In addition, our research on the distribution, abundance and migration of birds enables us to tell captivating stories that deepens the public's understanding of wildlife and conservation. Andy Clements has been Director of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) since summer 2007.

**Friday 11th March, St Johns Hall, Cambridge at 7.30 pm**

**Annual General Meeting at 7.45 followed by Bird Conservation in Nepal by Carol Inskipp**

The AGM Agenda accompanies this bulletin; Approved Accounts for 2015 will be on the club website from mid February and available at the meeting.

Carol Inskipp's talk will introduce us to Nepal's diverse birds, their habitats and conservation. It will also include the impact of the 2015 earthquakes on Nepal's people and environment. Carol has visited Nepal many times and has written several books on Nepal's birds. At this meeting you will be invited to make a donation to a small charity that Carol is supporting: 'Go School Initiative' which is funding materials for temporary schools in one of the areas the worst hit by the 2015 earthquake.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April, Cottenham Village College, 7.30 for 8 pm**

**Bewick's Swans in Northwest Europe: Addressing a population decline by Eileen Rees**

Eileen has worked on wildfowl research and conservation projects at WWT for over 30 years, since joining the organisation in the late 1970s to continue the long-term study of Bewick's Swans wintering at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire. Her recent research includes tracking swan migration in relation to wind farms and, with WWT partners and international colleagues, determining the reasons for the Bewick's Swan population decline. The latter research will form the core of the talk which will also outline WWT's involvement in Bewick's Swan research, beginning with initial observations made by Sir Peter Scott.

## Annual Report

The 2014 Annual Report is in the final phase of production. We would like to speed up the process of producing the report, with the objective of publishing within a year. The earlier request to submit bird records for 2015 by the end of January 2016 had this objective in mind. We are always pleased

to have assistance on the production team, and if you can offer help in any way please contact Vince Lea on [chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk) . We are particularly looking for an articles editor.

### **Photo of the Year competition**

Entries have now been selected and are now on the Club website. Please take the time to admire and vote by February 29<sup>th</sup> on the great work of our photographers.

### **New Members**

We welcome Martin Feaviour of Steeple Morden, Mark Pettit of Cambridge, and Dorothea Noble of Cambridge.

#### **Club Contacts**

**Chair:** Vince Lea Tel: 01223 263962 [chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Michael Holdsworth Tel: 01223 476643 [secretary@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Roger Swain [swainrog@aol.com](mailto:swainrog@aol.com)

**Annual Report Editor:** Vince Lea (acting) [chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

**County Recorder:** Louise Bacon Tel: 01223 263962 [recorder@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:recorder@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

**Meetings Secretary:** Vicki Harley Tel: 01954 250340 [vicki.harley@care4free.net](mailto:vicki.harley@care4free.net)

**Research Officer:** Rob Pople [research@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:research@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

**Bulletin Editors:** Peter Bircham (e-Bulletin) Chris Brown (paper editions)

[cbcbulletin@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:cbcbulletin@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk) or write to CB at 200 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1NE.

**Membership Secretary:** Clive Sinclair Tel : 01223 263509 [membership@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:membership@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

**Website:** Chris Quy [webmaster@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

**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](http://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 [cbcbulletin@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:cbcbulletin@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).

Full lists of your records should continue to be submitted monthly, either via BirdTrack by the end of the month in question, or to **Louise Bacon** the County Recorder, preferably using the [spreadsheet](#) available on the Records section of the website, **by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month**. There is no need to duplicate records across both channels.

# ***GOOD BIRDING!***