

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB Bulletin No. 449



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

## Welcome to the November / December 2016 Edition

### RECENT BIRD REPORTS – *Headlines*

**RING-NECKED DUCK\*** **Nov & Dec:** Paxton Pits a female from the 27<sup>th</sup> Nov to the end of December.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER\*** **Nov:** Grafham Water from the 20<sup>th</sup> then 2 from the 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 2 early on, a single until the 23<sup>rd</sup>, then 3 on the 27<sup>th</sup> until the end of the month, all immatures.

*The extraordinary recent run of records of this species continues, in contrast to records of Red-throated Diver (numbers in brackets below) which have become more scarce in recent decades.*

*1950s: 1(9), 1960s: 5(16), 1970s: 10 (24), 1980s: 14 (30), 1990s: 15 (10), 00s: 19 (8), 2010-16: 13 (6).*

**GANNET** **Nov:** Croydon one over on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton village one over on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**CATTLE EGRET\*** **Nov:** Nene Washes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> until at least the 17<sup>th</sup>, then presumably the same on the 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** the Nene Washes bird from November was present throughout the month, Histon one flew over on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and Ouse Washes on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**GLOSSY IBIS\*** **Nov:** Ely on the 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ely the same bird was present until at least the 4<sup>th</sup>, then presumably the same at Barway on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER\*** **Nov:** Cambridge on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Eaton Ford on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**DIPPER\*** **Nov & Dec:** Barrington one present for both months (and indeed since July). *This is the third county record; the December e-bulletin discussed the age and origin of this bird.*

**SNOW BUNTING\*** **Nov:** Ickleton Grange on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**LAPLAND BUNTING\*** **Nov:** Eldernell 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes one on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Weather Following the dry and fairly mild October, colder conditions arrived in the first week of November with frosts and temperatures in single figures, and the first serious rain for a couple of months. Towards the end of the month an area of high pressure delivered settled cloudy and cool conditions. December started with frost and clear cold days, but a milder Atlantic system soon moved in and persisted for much of the month with occasional colder days. After Christmas, storm Barbara moved across the country (although Cambridgeshire escaped the worst conditions) and this was followed by a cold spell with some sharp frosts and water bodies icing over once again.

### A note on these records

Records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date. Asterisks indicate species for which it is necessary to send a description to the County Recorder for records to be accepted. The term 'reported from' gives an indication of distribution. Some species give maxima when a number of counts have been received. Where no numbers are given the record relates to a single bird. Occasionally the abbreviations M and F and 'max' are used.



*Great Northern Diver at Grafham Water: Photo by Alan Reynolds*

## ***Other records***

### Wildfowl

**Mute Swan** **Nov:** St Ives c30 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 292 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Bewick's Swan** **Nov:** Grafham Water 2 on several dates, Cambourne 2 flying over on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes 'a few' on 8<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 4 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Shippea Hill 78 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers 40 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Sutton Gault 10 on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 6 from 8<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 106 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 28 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 300+ on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** **Nov:** Ferry Meadows CP one briefly on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Littleport May Farm 7 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes 1477 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 17 on 6<sup>th</sup>, c115 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 200+ on 26<sup>th</sup>, 300 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 3 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 14 over on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Shippea Hill 463 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Sutton Gault 430 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Prior's Fen c300 on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 3569 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 250+ on 17<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP 22 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 438 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Bean Goose** **Dec:** Nene Washes 2 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 9<sup>th</sup>, singles on 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Pink-footed Goose** **Nov:** Nene Washes 205 over eastwards on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers 4 on 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 13 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** March Farmers 4 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**White-fronted Goose** **Nov:** Ouse Washes 9 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 7 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP 6 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Greylag Goose** **Nov:** Waterbeach GP 310 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 128 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 411 on 6<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen/Burwell Fen WeBS count 362 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 346 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** **Nov:** Trumpington Clay Farm maximum 55 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 523 on 14<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burghley Park 50+ on 4<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water WeBS count 42 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Barnacle Goose** **Nov:** Granta Park 14 on the 4<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 16 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11+ on 17<sup>th</sup>, Sutton North Fen 20 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 4 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Brent Goose** **Nov:** Nene Washes March Farmers on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Sutton North Fen on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Egyptian Goose** **Nov:** Mepal GP 28 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 5 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** pairs reported at Nene Washes Eldernell, Fen Drayton Lakes, Littleport May Farm, Burghley Park, and Hauxton.

**Shelduck** **Nov:** Cam Washes 3 on 26<sup>th</sup>, pairs at Grafham Water and Fen Drayton Lakes. **Dec:** Grafham Water 5 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Mandarin** **Nov:** Woodwalton Fen 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wimpole maximum 20 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Hauxton 6 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Wigeon** **Nov:** Ouse Washes 6250 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes (Waterbeach) c400 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen c250 on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Cam Washes (Upware) 250+ on 7<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers c500 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen/Burwell Fen WeBS count 630 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 11993 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Gadwall** **Nov:** Wicken Fen (West Mere) 30 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen max 68 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Milton CP 22 on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen max 240 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Milton CP max 46 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water 103 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Teal** **Nov:** Grafham Water 618 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 926 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 107 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fowlmere NR 38 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers c100 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 769 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 1621 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen/Burwell Fen WeBS count 580 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard** **Nov:** Littleport May Farm c500 all month, Grafham Water 471 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 366 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 250+ on 30<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 189 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Colne Fen GP 445 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 525 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 1407 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail** **Nov:** Wicken Fen (West Mere) a drake on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 5+ on 13<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 drakes on 13<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 10 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 13 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 128 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 19 on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Shoveler** **Nov:** Grafham Water 38 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 50 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 60 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 31 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 103 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Barleycraft GP c50 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 61 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen/Burwell Fen WeBS count 247 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-crested Pochard** **Nov:** Ferry Meadows CP on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water 5 (4 males) on 6<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits on 18<sup>th</sup>, a male on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Pochard** **Nov:** Littleport May Farm 18 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 34 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Block Fen GP 30 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 20 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Orton BP 30+ on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes c80 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 160 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 18 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 805 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** **Nov:** Colne Fen GP 130 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 1401 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Block Fen GP 180 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 47 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits 32 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 15 – 20 all month, Grafham Water 1218 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 325 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaup** **Nov:** Paxton Pits 3 females on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, Block Fen GP 2 F on 10<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen a F on 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 (1M and 2F) on 19<sup>th</sup>, 2F on 20<sup>th</sup>, a 1 c.y. M on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 1M on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes a 1 c.y. M on 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, a F on 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, then 1M 1F on 14<sup>th</sup>, 1F on 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 1F on 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 1F on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Scoter** **Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes a female on several dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> until 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water a female/immature on 18<sup>th</sup>, one on 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldeneye** **Nov:** Grafham Water 92 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 20+ on 19<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 31 on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes 40+ on 11<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits c80 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 148 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Bainton GP c50 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Smew** **Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 3 'redheads' on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, one on 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Milton CP a redhead on 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water 3 redheads on 5<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a redhead on 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 redheads on 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, Barleycraft GP 14 on 18<sup>th</sup> (one drake).

**Goosander** **Nov:** Farcet Fen 2 female/immatures on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 6 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits 10 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Maxey GP 21 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 16 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 6 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, near Christchurch (Sixteen Foot Drain) 3 on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Gamebirds

**Grey Partridge** **Nov:** Chatteris 15 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Grafham Water 14 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Nine Wells 58 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Littleport May Farm 10 – 12 all month. **Dec:** Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 18 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Littleport May Farm a remarkable 63 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 20 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Cormorants, egrets, herons and grebes

**Cormorant Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 180+ on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (West Mere) 36 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 172 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 4 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits 50+ on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Bittern Nov:** Fowlmere NR on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 15<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen on 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Farcet Fen on 1<sup>st</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 13<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen, Cam Washes (Waterbeach), Fen Drayton Lakes (27), Fowlmere NR (4), Littleport May Farm (6), Paxton Pits (3) and Trumpington Clay Farm. **Dec:** at the above sites plus Grafham Water (7), Haddenham/Aldreth Fens, Nene Washes (11) and Hauxton.

**Great White Egret Nov:** Paxton Pits on several dates from the 5<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 1 – 2 on several dates, May Farm Littleport on 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits present all month, Ely river bank on 4<sup>th</sup>, March Farmers 3 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 12<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Grebe Nov:** Colne Fen 43 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm max 13 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 3 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Bradly Fen 11 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 15 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** River Cam Baits Bite to Clayhithe c23 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 5 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen 23 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 36+ on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 324 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-necked Grebe\* Dec:** Grafham Water from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month.

**Slavonian Grebe\* Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes from the 7<sup>th</sup>, then 2 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, one on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Raptors

**Red Kite Nov:** Paxton Pits 3 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 2+ on 13<sup>th</sup> then 2 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Thriplow on 8<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 1 – 3 regularly, Great Fen 40+ on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Great Fen 23 to roost on 8<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR occasionally, Paxton Pits on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Harrier Nov:** Ouse Washes 10 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 4 M on 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 F on 11<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a juvenile on 7<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes Eldernell 3 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on several dates, Tower Farm on 13<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 6 on 27<sup>th</sup> including a F on 28<sup>th</sup> with green wing tags reading P4. *This is a truly peripatetic individual which hatched at Haddiscoe, Great Yarmouth in 2015 (the only female from clutch of 3), and has since been seen near Cardiff, then Otmoor RSPB near Oxford, Clacton, the Isle of Sheppey, and most recently Cley in April this year.* **Dec:**

Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 1F on 1<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen 2 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Littleport May Farm max 6 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen max 5 (3M and 2F) on 9<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers 4 (1M and 3 immatures) on 7<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell 3 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 6 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 11<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Hen Harrier Nov:** Nene Washes a ringtail on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 13<sup>th</sup>, Farcet Fen 1M on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Eldernell a ringtail on 6<sup>th</sup>, 1M and 2F on 25<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 1M from 5<sup>th</sup>, Foxton on 13<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 1M on 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen 1M on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 2M and a ringtail on 11<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen 1M and a ringtail on 4<sup>th</sup>, a wing-tagged M on 8<sup>th</sup>, 1M and 1F on 9<sup>th</sup> and 1M on 17<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 1M on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Sparrowhawk Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes (3), Fowlmere NR, Great Shelford, Littleport May Farm (2), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits (2) and Wicken Fen. **Dec:** also reported from Nene Washes March Farmers, Foxton (3) and Willingham.

**Buzzard Nov:** widely reported including Cam Washes (Waterbeach), Ouse Washes (15), Nene Washes (11), Fowlmere NR (2), Littleport May Farm (6), Sawston (by-pass) and Wicken Fen (3). **Dec:** at the above sites plus Fordham, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens (3), Paxton Pits (3), and Sutton North Fen on 17<sup>th</sup> and Swaffham Prior Fen on 30<sup>th</sup> (both pale birds but not to be confused with Rough-legged Buzzard).

**Osprey Nov:** Farcet Fen on 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water one reported by fishermen on the 5<sup>th</sup> – *the latest date ever in Cambridgeshire if confirmed.*

### Rails and crane

**Water Rail Nov:** reported from Chippenham Fen, Fowlmere NR, Littleport May Farm (6) and Wicken Fen (6). **Dec:** also at Nene Washes Eldernell, Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water (5), Paxton Pits, Woodwalton Fen (c12), Cambridge (Logan's Meadow), and Little Wilbraham Fen (3).

**Coot** Wicken Fen 115 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 1144 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP 266 on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water c590 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 298 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Crane** **Nov:** a group of 20 – 23 in the Ouse Washes area from late October, Nene Washes Guyhirn 3 – 4 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell 3+ on 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and 16 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 5 on 13<sup>th</sup> (2 adults and 3 juveniles), Nene Washes March Farmers 9 in flight on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Nene Washes resident 7 (two families) with various numbers (max 33) coming in to roost all month, Wicken Fen 9 flying over on 11<sup>th</sup>, Thorney Toll 4 flying over on 12<sup>th</sup>.

*It seems that there is a resident group on the Nene Washes with other birds feeding in maize stubble and roosting on the Ouse Washes until it became too wet, since when they have moved to the Nene Washes. Records show that there is a minimum total of 33 Cranes (a new peak count for the County) in the fenland area. PB*

### Waders

**Ringed Plover** **Nov:** Nene Washes 3 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden Plover** **Nov:** Little Raveley 400 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Wicken/Burwell Fens 2500 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington 640 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes Eldernell 1000 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Toft 120 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fowlmere 140 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP 702 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen/Burwell 1150 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing** **Nov:** Burwell Fen c1000 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Little Raveley 600 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 300 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Newton c800 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Wicken/Burwell Fens WeBS count 2000 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 500+ on 27<sup>th</sup>, near Whittlesford GP c300 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 2500 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 350+ on 7<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP 4000+ on 18<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 1500 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 4967 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen/Burwell Fen 2200 on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew** **Dec:** Paxton Pits on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-tailed Godwit** **Nov:** Paxton Pits 5 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers 101 on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 55 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Isleham Washes a single on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Knot** **Nov:** Grafham Water one on the dam on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nene Washes Low Wash on 12<sup>th</sup>, another at March Farmers on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruff** **Nov:** Ouse Washes 142 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Nene Washes March Farmers 102 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** **Nov:** Paxton Pits 6 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 60 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Nene Washes March Farmers 97 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Colne Fen GP 24 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** **Nov:** reported from Coveney (Byall Fen), Grafham Water, Milton CP and Wicken Fen. **Dec:** Paxton Pits on 6<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on several dates, Sutton North Fen on 17<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP on 18<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach Fen 3 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank** **Nov:** Grafham Water 3 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Wicken/Burwell Fens on 16<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers 50 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** March Farmers c30 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 16 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Jack Snipe** **Nov:** Farcet Fen 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits on 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, Coveney (Byall Fen) on 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 4<sup>th</sup>, Nine Wells on 5<sup>th</sup>, Kings Dyke NR 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Woodcock** **Nov:** Littleport May Farm 8 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 12<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 1 – 2 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Pembroke College on 15<sup>th</sup> and Tavistock Rd on 26<sup>th</sup>, Milton CP on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ditton Park Wood on 9<sup>th</sup>, Wisbech 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Monks Wood on 11<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP on 18<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 24<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm on 28<sup>th</sup>, Milton CP on 28<sup>th</sup> and Lt Wilbraham Fen 3 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Snipe** **Nov:** reported from Coveney (Byall Fen), Fen Drayton Lakes (5), Littleport May Farm (50+ all month), Paxton Pits (5), and Trumpington Clay Farm. **Dec:** also at Burwell Fen (3), Fowlmere NR (8), Wicken Fen (9) and Kingfishers Bridge (12).

### Skuas and gulls

**Black-headed Gull** **Nov:** Littleport May Farm 200+ on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 750 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Burwell Fen c200 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 800 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 281 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Cambridge Research Park c1600 to roost on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Burghley Park 500+ on 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) c500 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** **Dec:** Ferry Meadows CP on the 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Gull** **Nov:** Trumpington Clay Farm 2 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 20+ on 25<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Hinxton c50 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Paxton Pits 101 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 14 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Longstanton 26 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** **Nov:** Littleport May Farm c100 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park c400 on 5<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Trumpington Clay Farm 5 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Paxton Pits c45 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Herring Gull** **Nov:** Littleport May Farm 20+ on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 200 on 8<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Littleport May Farm 26 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 180 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Drysides BP 200 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull** **Nov:** reported from Fowlmere NR and Littleport May Farm. **Dec:** reports from Paxton Pits and Fen Drayton Lakes.

**Caspian Gull** **Nov:** reported from Long Drove Cottenham, Milton Tip and Paxton Pits (2). **Dec:** reported from Cambridge Research Park, Fen Drayton Lakes (4), Grafham Water, and Paxton Pits.

**Great Black-backed Gull** **Nov:** Cambridge Research Park 100+ on 20<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits 30+ on 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Doves, owls and Kingfisher

**Stock Dove** **Nov:** Mepal Fen 65 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Cambridge (NIAB) 35 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Comberton 41 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Woodpigeon** **Nov:** Mepal Fen 700 on 7<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** counts of c300 at Littleport May Farm, Gt Abington and Lt Wilbraham Fen.

**Collared Dove** **Dec:** Cambridge (NIAB) 135 on 9<sup>th</sup>, feeding on maize trash.

**Barn Owl** **Nov:** reported from Nene Washes Eldernell (4), Great Fen Tower Farm, and c11 other sites. **Dec:** also at Burwell Fen (3+), Littleport May Farm (5), Kingfishers Bridge and Thriplow.

**Little Owl** **Nov:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes, Tetworth, Hinxton and Great Fen (Tower Farm). **Dec:** reported from Littleport May Farm (4), Wicken Fen, Granchester and Toft.

**Tawny Owl** **Nov:** reported from Littleport May Farm (2) and Wicken Fen (2). **Dec:** also reported from Six Mile Bottom (2), and Peterborough North Bretton (2).

**Long-eared Owl** **Nov:** Woodwalton Fen on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-eared Owl** **Nov:** Burwell Fen 3 – 9 all month from 3<sup>rd</sup>, Coveney (Byall Fen) 3 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nene Washes Eldernell 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> and March Farmers 2 on 26<sup>th</sup>, RSPB Grange Farm Knapwell on 10<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen 11 at roost on 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 3 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 all month. **Dec:** Great Fen 5 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen many reports with up to 15 in the air at the same time on 26<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell 3 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Kingfisher** **Nov:** reported from Barrington, Cam Washes (Waterbeach), Chippenham Fen, Coveney (Byall Fen), Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Grafham Water (2), Milton CP, and Wicken Fen (2). **Dec:** also at Burwell Fen (2), Fowlmere NR (2), Littleport May Farm (4), March Farmers, and Paxton Pits (3).

#### Falcons and parrots

**Kestrel** **Nov:** widely reported, max Ouse Washes 18 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 12 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Merlin** **Nov:** Wicken Fen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Balsham on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, Block Fen on 10<sup>th</sup>, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Nene Washes on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Great Fen a female on 4<sup>th</sup>, Swaffham Bulbeck a female on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes Eldernell on 7<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 11<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** **Nov:** Ouse Washes on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Farcet Fen on 3<sup>rd</sup>, St Ives on 5<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 6<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge on 11<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes Eldernell on 11<sup>th</sup> and March Farmers on 20<sup>th</sup>, Wilburton/Stretham a female on 14<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm on 21<sup>st</sup>, Fowlmere NR one pursued by two Buzzards on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** March Farmers 1 – 3 up to 11<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 4<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell on 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 11<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Riverside on 27<sup>th</sup>, Morborne 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Isleham Washes on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ring-necked Parakeet\*** **Dec:** Comberton one reported on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Coveney on 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Shrikes and corvids

**Great Grey Shrike\*** **Nov:** Burwell Fen on the 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> presumably the bird first seen in October.

**Dec:** probably the same bird at Wicken Fen on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, back at Wicken Fen on 20<sup>th</sup> and until 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Magpie Nov & Dec:** several counts of 20+ including Cambridge, Milton CP, Littleport May Farm.  
**Jackdaw Nov:** Ouse Washes 300 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 300 on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) c200 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Granchester Meadows 250+ on 14<sup>th</sup>.  
**Jackdaw/Rook Dec:** Chippenham Fen c2000 emerging from a roost (mostly Jackdaws) on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Dernford Fen c500 going to roost (half and half) on 21<sup>st</sup>.  
**Rook Nov:** Mepal Fen 250 on 7<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen 600 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Carrion Crow Nov:** Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 37 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes 132 on 14<sup>th</sup>, near Fowlmere NR 46 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm c100 all month. **Dec:** Great Fen Yaxley 46 on 18<sup>th</sup>.  
**Raven Nov:** Old Hurst 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, Impington 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** (almost all flying over) Little Shelford 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Great Fen 2 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 1 – 2 from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Neots 2 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Monks Wood 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Bar Hill on 22<sup>nd</sup> and Hauxton on 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Tits, larks and warblers

**Coal Tit Nov:** reported from just 6 sites. **Dec:** Monks Wood 21 on the 11<sup>th</sup>.  
**Marsh Tit Nov:** reported from Woodwalton Fen (9), Chippenham Fen, Grafham Water, Hayley Wood and Monks Wood. **Dec:** also at Hardwick, Waresley, Ditton Park, Fordham, and Southey Woods, and Paxton Pits.  
**Bearded Tit Nov:** Burwell Fen 9 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Woodwalton Fen on 11<sup>th</sup>, Little Wilbraham Fen 5+ on 18<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 29<sup>th</sup>, and Wicken Fen where the catch total of 22 in December indicates a healthy population.  
**Skylark Nov:** Great Fen 47 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Comberton 39 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm c40 all month. **Dec:** Newborough 20+ on 1<sup>st</sup>, Comberton 33 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach Fen 20 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Roman Road 20 on 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Cetti's Warbler Nov:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes (4), Fowlmere NR (3), and Wicken Fen (4). **Dec:** also at Grafham Water (2), Littleport May Farm (3), and Woodwalton Fen (8).  
**Chiffchaff Nov:** Fowlmere NR 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Block Fen on 10<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Milton CP on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fowlmere NR 2 – 3 all month, Grafham Water on 8<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Stirtloe SW on 17<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen on 17<sup>th</sup>, Haslingfield SW (4), Littleport May Farm 2 – 3 all month.  
**Siberian Chiffchaff\* subspecies tristis Nov:** Grafham Water on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Woodston on 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, and Ely on 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, Stirtloe SW a probable on 17<sup>th</sup>.  
**Blackcap Nov:** Fowlmere NR a male on the 5<sup>th</sup> and a female on 26<sup>th</sup>, Chippenham Fen a male ringed on 8<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 11<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm a male on 28<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Lovell Road on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Cambridge (4 locations), Peterborough on 9<sup>th</sup>, and Linton on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### Waxwing, starling, thrushes, starts and chats

**Waxwing Nov:** March 10 in a private garden on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cambridge flyovers Madingley Road on 4<sup>th</sup> and Glisson Road on 4<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Chatteris on 14<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Somersham on 1<sup>st</sup>, Melbourn on 28<sup>th</sup>, Glinton 3 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Anglesey Abbey on 29<sup>th</sup>, Horningsea 10 near the Garden Centre on 31<sup>st</sup>.  
**Nuthatch Dec:** Ditton Park Wood 5 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Chippenham Fen on 21<sup>st</sup>, Orton Longueville on 27<sup>th</sup>.  
**Starling Nov:** largest roosts at Cambridge Bolton's Pit 7000 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen c5000 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Trundle Mere 4000 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm c3000, Ferry Meadows CP 1500 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 600 on 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen 5000 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Granta Park 1000 on 17<sup>th</sup>.  
**Blackbird Nov:** an obvious 'fall' of 40 – 50 reported from Cambourne on the 9<sup>th</sup> and other observers reported larger than usual numbers on that day.  
**Fieldfare Nov:** Wicken Fen c1000 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 450 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 other counts of 200+.  
**Dec:** Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) c300 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Newton-Fowlmere 400+ in a mixed flock with Redwings (c80% Fieldfare), then 3 further counts over 200.  
**Redwing Nov:** Wicken Fen 300+ on the 25<sup>th</sup>, Barton 255 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 200+ on 8<sup>th</sup>,  
**Dec:** Kings Dyke NR 200 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Little Wilbraham Fen c260 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Burghley Park 150+ on 21<sup>st</sup>, Fowlmere NR 150+ on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Wheatear Nov:** May Farm Littleport on the 19<sup>th</sup> – a very late date; the all-time latest date is November 24<sup>th</sup> (Melbourn 1957).

**Black Redstart Dec:** Cambridge (Pembroke College) on 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Stonechat Nov:** Burwell Fen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ouse Washes 2 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 8<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Cambourne on 11<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen (Tower Farm) on 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 13<sup>th</sup>, Magog Down on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen 3 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a pair all month, Ely on 4<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge NIAB on 9<sup>th</sup>. Trumpington Clay Farm on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Littleport May Farm 5 – 6 all month, Maxey Cut on 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

**House Sparrow Nov:** Gamlingay Heath 25 on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Stanground Wash 120 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Tree Sparrow Dec:** Thorney Dyke 15 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes 35 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Earith GP 3 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail Nov:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water (5+ leaving a roost on 30<sup>th</sup>), Milton CP, Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits and St Ives. **Dec:** also at Haslingfield SW (4), Littleport May Farm, Stirtloe SW (3), Wicken Fen, and Peterborough Millennium Bridge (3).

**Pied Wagtail Nov:** Mepal Fen 75 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Decoy Farm 32 on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Stirtloe SW 98 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Cambourne roost of 180 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford BP garage roost of 200 – 300 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Meadow Pipit Dec:** Stirtloe SW 38 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm c100 all month.

**Rock Pipit Nov:** Grafham Water on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Pipit Nov:** Burwell Fen on the 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, Mepal/Sutton Gault 30 to roost on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Sutton Gault on 17<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Finches and buntings

**Brambling Nov:** Six Mile Bottom Hare Park 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Littleport May Farm 6 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Southey Wood c30 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Hare Park 4 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Wandlebury area c20 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenfinch Dec:** Cambridge Botanic Garden c60 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm c40 all month.

**Goldfinch Nov:** Burwell Fen 31 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Haddenham Aldreth fen 100 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Chippenham Fen 45 – 50 feeding in alders on 8<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 120 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm c80 all month. **Dec:** Fordham Wood c100 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen Yaxley Lode 134 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Siskin Nov:** Fowlmere NR 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Cambourne c10 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Milton CP 10+ on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Holme Fen 30+ on 17<sup>th</sup>, Chippenham Fen c40 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 20 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Linnet Nov:** Haddenham/Aldreth Fen c300 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen 640 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** Haddenham / Aldreth Fen groups of 60 – 100 and 150 on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Lesser Redpoll Nov:** reported from Fowlmere NR, Woodwalton Fen and Wicken Fen. **Dec:** Monks Wood 'small flocks' on 11<sup>th</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 20+ on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Bullfinch Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes 15 on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Corn Bunting Nov:** Sutton Gault 65 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 10 – 20 all month. **Dec:** Littleport May Farm 59 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 74 on 11<sup>th</sup>, and 54 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 14 on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellowhammer Nov:** Shepreth L-Moor c30 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 50 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Reed Bunting Nov:** Fowlmere NR 200 to roost on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen a catch of 35 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** Littleport May Farm c150 all month.

#### Exotica

**Black Swan Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes on the 25<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Alexandrine Parakeet Dec:** Hilton on the 24<sup>th</sup> (very similar to Ring-necked Parakeet, so beware).

**Red-fan Parrot Nov:** Grafham Water an escape reported on from 23<sup>rd</sup> may have been present earlier and was seen after that date; a South American species. **Dec:** Grafham Water still present.

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**Last call reminder** - this is the last call for 2016 records to be submitted to the County Recorder, for inclusion in the 2016 Annual Report.

### ***Sand Martin Survey 2017***

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

Sand Martins are the smallest of the hirundines to be seen in Cambridgeshire. The flight is often described as "weak" or "fluttering" but even so they migrate thousands of miles and are one of our first summer visitors. The earliest county record comes from the Nene Washes, the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1994, and the latest is from the Ouse Washes, the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1968.

Sand Martins nest throughout most of Europe. They can cope with a wide range of climatic conditions, from the north of Norway to the hotter parts of Spain. They winter in Africa with British birds travelling through France and Spain to the Sahel.

The 2015 Cambridgeshire Bird Report notes that Sand Martins are on the "green list" but that they have suffered declines in the past. 184 pairs nested in 2015 at 7 sites. Peak counts recorded 175 individuals on the Cam Washes in spring and 500 at Burwell in late summer. The highest ever count was an estimated 2 million birds at a roost on the Ouse Washes in August 1968.

Birdlife (Birds in Europe 2004) give the status of the species as "depleted" with moderate declines in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. They say the situation has stabilised but with very confused local variations. There appear, for instance, to have been recent gains in Ireland but falls in the UK.

A survey in Cambridgeshire should throw some light on the picture locally. It may also help us influence planning decisions and assess the value of purpose built nesting structures. The surveyors will be club members making specific notes of their observations during their normal bird watching. I do not envisage surveyors having to "sign up" for specific routes at specific intervals. I'm sure there are sufficient of us to produce interesting and valid results as part of our normal activities.

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

I will prepare user friendly forms to assist us in the survey work and will post them on the web site and in the next edition of the e-bulletin.

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

*Robert Brown*

## **Nathistcam**

A new project, 'Nathistcam', looking at the flora and fauna of Cambridge City including of course the birds, has commenced. The project has two main objectives:

- To create a snapshot of the flora and fauna of Cambridge City and its immediate environs.
- To increase public awareness of the diversity of plants, animals, birds and fungi in the City.

Recording will run to December 2019. Records from the decade 2010-2019 are the main focus, but earlier records will provide historical background. The area covered is bordered by the A14 in the north, the M11 in the west, Trumpington in the South and Cherry Hinton and Fen Ditton in the east. A map of the 64 x 1Km squares covered is available on the project website [www.nathistcam.org.uk](http://www.nathistcam.org.uk) At our Christmas Bird Club meeting I introduced the project to the Club and suggested we become involved in a specific topic as well as record the bird life of the City during the project period. The specific topic I propose is a survey of wintering Blackcaps – I have put this on the CNHS website blog.

*The objective is to record the number and distribution of wintering Blackcaps in the project area.*

Why Blackcaps?

- This study is inspired by Roger Isted's work. Roger found, using coloured rings, 12 different Blackcaps used his Harston garden in winter 2012/13 and 13 different Blackcaps used his garden in winter 2013/2014 - all were different individuals from the winter 2012/2013.
- The British Trust for Ornithology in their Garden Birdwatch project says the availability of garden bird food and milder winters has helped Blackcaps evolve a new migration route and new behaviour. Blackcaps breeding in S. Germany and Austria now migrate NW to Britain instead of SW to Spain.
- Rebecca Buisson in her Cambridge garden bird survey has some City records available.
- Blackcaps readily come to garden feeders, and can be identified by birders and non-birders!
- This topic would tie-in with the NatHistCam Mistletoe survey – Blackcaps have become our most efficient distributors of mistletoe seeds (apparently better than Mistle Thrushes!)

The information on wintering Blackcaps requested is: Date seen; where seen (Street name); male or female; optional - any other observations such as feeding habits – what are they eating (e.g. Apples, Ivy, Mistletoe, Honeysuckle berries etc.); display/aggression. It is also worth looking for any which are colour-ringed and report these to the BTO.

The project will last until to March 2019 covering winter periods: 16/17, 17/18, 18/19.

Please send winter Blackcap records to me: [bobjarman99@btinternet.com](mailto:bobjarman99@btinternet.com). All records will also sent to Louise Bacon, the Club Recorder, and written up as part of the project. *Bob Jarman*

## **Cambridgeshire Bird Club Summer Garden Bird Survey 2016**

May I send an immense 'thank you' to all that took part in this survey. From comments received many of you have enjoyed this survey and quite a few recorders have sent in more detail than requested about the birds feeding, nesting and using their gardens.

In total 30 gardens were surveyed last summer in the county. Of these 19 were rural and 11 were urban. The largest numbers of species recorded were, rural garden - 43 species, urban garden - 37 species.

Three species were seen in 2016 but not seen in the previous summer's survey: Little Egret, Lesser Redpoll and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Six species that were seen in 2015 and but not 2016 were: Cuckoo, Fieldfare, Pied Flycatcher, Sedge Warbler, Brambling and Racing Pigeon. There were no direct observations of the disease Trichomoniasis from any of the gardens surveyed last summer.

Notes that observers have included are:

*-the Heron has eaten my two goldfish*

*-returning home after being away to find a pair of Mallards nesting in the garden*

*-a conversation with neighbours about Tawny Owls nesting in the neighbouring garden and seeing Treecreepers in the garden*

As many of you may know by now, the decision has been made to take a break from the survey of garden birds for a while. The number of people taking part had declined and it was felt that it would be a good idea to take a break with a possibility to start again in October 2019. I am planning to write up the results with more details of the two years that were surveyed. All the results have been entered into the Bird Club's records and are available on request. *Rebecca Buisson*

### **John Clark**

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of John Clark (on Boxing Day at Peterborough Hospital). The amalgamation of 'old' Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire in 1972 presented a tricky dilemma for organisations such as the Bird Club. The avifaunal records had, for obvious reasons, always been separate and published separately. Gradually and with some reluctance the Club began to face reality and publish the records from both sources in its Annual Report although for several years they were kept separate. For most of those years John wrote the whole of the Huntingdonshire section in his capacity as Recorder for Hunts. At the time when I was Editor the joy of working with John was that his copy was presented on time and he helped massively by checking and correcting the printer's proofs, again returning them on time. After I relinquished the Editorship John nobly took it on, not just that, he expanded the production in all its forms including illustrations, tables and references to the past together with snippets of interesting behaviour of species. Today's Annual Reports follow the pattern he set. Unless you have done the job it is quite difficult to understand the volume of work required to put the Report together, a job that John did wonderfully well. He was made a Vice President of the Club to acknowledge his enormous contribution. Our Club has been, and still is, very fortunate that a few individuals are prepared to give their time so freely. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. *PB*

### ***Next Indoor Meetings***

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, St John's Community Hall Cambridge, 7.30 for 8pm.**

**Looking for the Goshawk – the lost raptor by Conor Jameson.**

"I wrote *Looking for the Goshawk* because I was seeking answers to questions, prompted by an unexpected encounter. I thought I knew this bird, but this incident with the Goshawk challenged me. My mind raced with questions, and I became fixated by them and by the idea that the Goshawk could and should be anywhere, at any time, in the environment around me. Why was I not seeing it? What does its presence or absence tell us about us? I developed the sense that this is arguably the finest, best adapted, most versatile and rapacious bird we have; the apex, alpha predator of our landscapes... And we aren't even missing it. This was once the bird they measured a man or a forest's value by. Today, it has vanished from the cultural memory. I set out to try to change this. The book is, in the end, a book about us."

Conor Mark Jameson has worked in conservation for 25 years, and is the author of *Silent Spring Revisited*, *Looking for the Goshawk*, and *Shrewdunnit: The Nature Files*. He lives in north Cambs.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, St Johns Hall, Cambridge, 7.30 for 8pm.**

**Annual General Meeting** The Agenda accompanies this bulletin; the 2016 Accounts are on the club website. ***Followed by Pineapple Peril for Palearctic migrants & African forest species by Ann Scott*** The story of an African reserve set up in memory of Bob Scott to help overcome some of the problems facing trans-Saharan migrant birds. Bob Scott worked for the RSPB for many years and, after his retirement, was chairman of Cambridgeshire Bird Club from 1999 to 2004. For more information go to: [www.whyTSbirds.org](http://www.whyTSbirds.org)

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April, Cottenham Village College, 7.30 for 8pm.**

**Feathered Fiends? Reasons to love your neighbourhood gulls by Viola Ross-Smith**

### **Three reminders**

- Please remember that club subscriptions were due on 1st January 2017. Rates for 2017 are: Full £17; Senior/Concessionary £12; Student £8.
- Photo of the year competition: the selected entries are now on the Club website. Please take the time to admire them and vote by February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **"Birds of the Nene Washes" by Jonathan Taylor** is still available at a reduced price for club members, £8 plus £2 p&p. Send your cheque (payable to Jonathan Taylor) and name/address to: Jonathan Taylor, 28 Elm Crescent, Glinton, Peterborough, PE6 7LE.

### **New Members**

We welcome James Littlewood of Cambridge, Alan & Marilyn Fersht of Cambridge, Paul Craske of Burwell and Josie Sutton of Cottenham.

**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.

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**Other Council Members: Mike Foley**

#### **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!**