

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB Bulletin No. 450



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

Welcome to the January / February 2017 Edition

RECENT BIRD REPORTS – *Headlines*

RING-NECKED DUCK* Jan-Feb: Paxton Pits the long-stay female was reported right through to the end of February.

LONG-TAILED DUCK* Jan: from Deeping High Bank (in Lincolnshire) one strayed into Cambridgeshire on the 29th.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER* Jan-Feb: Grafham the three immatures from December remained until at least the Feb 4th, then 2 on the 12th and a single until the end of the month.

CATTLE EGRET* Jan: Nene Washes (Eldernell) the long-stay individual present until at least the 28th (reported far less often than in 2016, maybe because there are fewer sheep around).

GLOSSY IBIS* Feb: Ely from the 14th until the 19th, presumably the same bird reported in the area in December, when it was last reported on the 12th.

SPOONBILL Jan: Burwell Fen 7 flew over on the 5th.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD* Jan: Wryde Croft Thorney from the 10th until the 14th. Feb: Wryde Croft Thorney still present from 14th until the 26th.

GLAUCOUS GULL Jan: Ferry Meadows CP on the 7th, Grafham Water 2 immatures on 8th, one on 14th, Dogsthorpe Tip an immature on 13th, Cambridge Research Park an immature from 14th until the end of the month (and seen at several places in the general area), 2 on 15th, an adult on 21st, Littleport May Farm a 2 c.y. on 28th. Feb: Cambridge Research Park/Long Drove Cottenham, an adult and a 2 c.y. from the 1st until at least the 9th, a 2 c.y. still present until the end of the month.

ICELAND GULL Jan: Grafham Water on the 11th, Milton/Cottenham Long Drove and at Fen Drayton Lakes roost a 3 c.y. on 19th, Dogsthorpe Tip an adult on 21st. Feb: Grafham Water on the 21st.

LAPLAND BUNTING* Feb: Earith one flying north on the 26th.

Other records

Weather: the first few days of January were cold with night frosts, followed by a short period of milder weather, then a return to dominant high pressure, dry with frosts and low daytime temperatures. The month ended slightly warmer but many water bodies remained partially iced over. February began with mild weather, then at the beginning of the second week, the Continental high returned bringing an easterly wind, temperatures close to zero and some flurries of weak snow. Mid-month the westerly wind brought milder, spring-like weather and then Storm Doris on the 23rd; the month closed mild and windy with some rain.

NB. 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.

Wildfowl

Mute Swan Jan: Ouse Washes 112 on the 20th. **Feb:** Ouse Fen 160+ on 4th.

Bewick's Swan Jan: Grafham Water 8 on the 3rd and 8th, Guyhirn 200 on 2nd, Nene Washes 393 on 17th, Littleport May Farm maximum 327 on 4th. **Feb:** Burwell Fen 2 on 4th and 5th, Ouse Washes 136 on 13th, Nene Washes (Ring's End) 85 on 20th, Littleport May Farm maximum 69 on 5th.

Whooper Swan Jan: Ouse Washes c3500 on 3rd and 5313 on 17th, Nene Washes 982 on 17th, Wicken Fen 45+ on 30th, Littleport May Farm maximum 1034 on 4th. **Feb:** Nene Washes (Eldernell) 350 on 13th, Ouse Washes c1500 on 17th, Littleport May Farm max 194 on 23rd.

'Tundra' Bean Goose* Jan: Ouse Washes 2 on the 2nd, 4 on 3rd, Nene Washes/Prior's Fen 3 from 14th until 22nd, Kingfishers Bridge 8 on 25th, Cambridge Research Park 2 on 29th – 31st. **Feb:** Cambridge Research Park 2 briefly on 1st, Nene Washes 3 on 13th, Farcet Fen 3 on 25th.

Pink-footed Goose Jan: Ouse Washes 20 on the 5th, Nene Washes 4 on 17th, March on 21st, Impington 45 flying over on 25th.

White-fronted Goose Jan: Guyhirn on the 2nd, Ouse Washes from 8 on 2nd up to 48 on 11th then 20+ until 22nd, Swaffham Prior Fen/Burwell Fen/Upware/Wicken Fen a group of 13 – 14 from 2nd – 23rd, Paxton Pits 18 flying over on 2nd, 18 – 19 from 5th until at least 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 12 on 19th, March 2 on 21st, Cambridge Research Park 3 on 29th, Earith/Bluntisham/Berry Fen 46 from 28th to 30th. **Feb:** Ouse Washes c30 on the 1st, Manea 28 by the fishing pit on 8th (*probably the Ouse Washes birds*), Burwell Fen c15 on 4th, 12 on 5th, then 37 on 6th dropping back to 18 on 20th and 24th, Cam Washes Upware 37+ on 17th, Needingworth Lakes max 46 on 6th, Paxton Pits 20 on 4th – 5th and 14 on 19th.

Greylag Goose Jan: Whittlesford GP 137 on 3rd, Wicken Fen max 300 on 22nd, Kingfishers Bridge 350 on 14th, Lt Shelford 250 on 16th, Cambridge Research Park 80 on 28th. **Feb:** Burghley Park 350+ on 1st, Burwell Fen 172 on 13th, Fowlmere NR 80 on 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 305 on 16th, Trumpington Clay Farm 52 on 27th, Cam Washes Upware 238 on 28th.

Canada Goose Jan: Ouse Washes 550 on 2nd, Kingfishers Bridge 340 on 25th. **Feb:** Godmanchester GP 234 on 4th, Ferry Meadows CP c100 on 4th.

Barnacle Goose Jan: Ouse Washes 22 on 5th, Sutton North Fen 31 on 15th. **Feb:** Ouse Washes 10 on the 1st, Paxton Pits on 11th.

Brent Goose Jan: Burwell Fen/Wicken Fen on 8th – 27th, Ferry Meadows CP on 10th. **Feb:** Kingfishers Bridge on 5th, Grafham Water on 15th, Earith on 26th.

Egyptian Goose Jan: Burghley Park 3 on the 11th, Fen Drayton Lakes 8 on 14th, Prior's Fen 2 on 15th, Ouse Fen 5 on 22nd, Littleport May Farm 2 all month. **Feb:** Kingfishers Bridge 4 on 2nd, Burwell (Priory Farm) 4 on 16th, Fen Drayton Lakes 6 on 19th, Paxton Pits on 17th and 2 on 26th.

Shelduck Jan: Burwell Fen 5 on the 14th, Nene Washes 7 on 15th, Sutton North Fen 6 on 15th, Cam Washes on 18th. **Feb:** Burwell Fen 9 on 6th, 8 on 24th, Wicken Fen on 7th and 18th, Paxton Pits from 11th, Nene Washes 40 on 13th, Cam Washes Upware 6 on 16th – 17th and 2 on 28th.

Mandarin Jan: Wimpole Hall 13 on 15th, Crown Lakes Farcet 12 on 24th. **Feb:** Wimpole 8 on 9th.

Wigeon Jan: (counts over 400) Burwell Fen c600 on the 24th, Nene Washes 12017 on 15th, Cam Washes 540 on 18th, Ouse Washes 15776 on 20th. **Feb:** Nene Washes 12929 on 13th, Ouse Washes 9996 on 13th, Burwell Fen maximum 720 on 16th, Cam Washes Upware max c450 on 28th, Wicken Fen max 580 on 16th, Barleycraft GP 470+ on 18th.

Gadwall Jan: Burwell Fen 213 on the 2nd, c150 on 8th, Nene Washes 102 on 15th, Milton CP 167 on 27th. **Feb:** Burwell Fen maximum 142 on 8th, Milton CP 67 on 12th, Ouse Washes 245 on 13th, Nene Washes 228 on 13th, Cam Washes Upware 36 on 21st.

Teal Jan: Nene Washes 2333 on the 15th, Ouse Washes 1148 on 20th, and 100+ at nine other sites. **Feb:** Nene Washes 2726 on 13th, Ouse Washes 487 on 13th, Burwell Fen max 720 on 16th, Wicken Fen max 268 on 3rd.

Mallard Jan: Colne Fen GP 212 on 15th, Ouse Washes 1133 on 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 436 on 27th. **Feb:** Ouse Washes 619 on 13th, Wicken Fen max 220 on 16th, Littleport May Farm 300+ all month.

Pintail Jan: Ouse Washes 50 on the 20th, Nene Washes 250 on 21st. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 2 – 4 from 4th, Fowlmere NR 3 on 8th, Nene Washes 109 on 13th, Ouse Washes 70 on 13th.

Shoveler Jan: Burwell Fen max 60 on the 12th, Nene Washes 171 on 15th, Pymoor 260 on 17th, Wicken Fen (Mere) 50 on 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 62 on 28th. **Feb:** Nene Washes 226 on 13th, Burwell Fen max 192 on 16th, Wicken Fen max 270 on 16th, Cam Washes Upware 28 on 28th.

Red-crested Pochard Jan: Grafham Water a pair on the 3rd and 10th. **Feb:** Ouse Washes Earith to Sutton 2 on 18th (a male and a female).

Pochard Jan: Whittlesford GP 21 on the 3rd, Littleport May Farm 27 on 19th, Ouse Washes 570 on 20th. **Feb:** Milton CP 3 on 12th, Paxton Pits c60 on 6th, Ouse Washes 482 on 13th.

Tufted Duck Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes 349 on the 15th, Ouse Washes 370 on 20th, Whittlesford GP 41 on 3rd, Milton CP 40 on 15th. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 136 on 12th, Ouse Washes 444 on 13th.

Scaup Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 1st, 4 on 3rd and 5th, 3 on 6th and 7th, 2 on 20th, Ouse Washes on 3rd – 22nd, Paxton Pits a male from 18th – 23rd. **Feb:** Ouse Washes (Earith to Sutton) 9 on 18th – 25th, 7 on 26th, Grafham Water 4 on 19th – 22nd, Witcham Gravel 2 on 24th.

Common Scoter Jan: Grafham Water all month. **Feb:** Grafham Water a long-staying female still present until the 12th.

Goldeneye Jan: Ouse Washes 2 on the 1st, Grafham Water 38 on 5th, Fen Drayton Lakes 51 on 17th, 30 on 20th. **Feb:** Paxton Pits c90 on 4th, Grafham Water 146 on 12th.

Smew Jan: Needingworth GP 7 on the 1st rising to 10 on 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on 6th, 5 redheads on 20th, Ferry Meadows CP a redhead on 26th. **Feb:** Needingworth Lakes on 6th, 3 redheads on 19th, Fen Drayton Lakes a male and 2 redheads on 12th, one on 17th, Colne Fen GP 2 redheads on 12th, Grafham Water a redhead on 17th, Earith a redhead on the river.

Goosander Jan: Grafham Water max 7 on the 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes a redhead on 6th, 3 on 7th, 2 on 8th and 14th, Paxton Pits 3 on 7th, 4 on 21st, Maxey GP a redhead on 16th, Burghley Park 4 on 26th. **Feb:** Grafham Water 8 on 12th and 11 on 21st, Paxton Pits 2 on 7th, 3 on 19th, 2 on 20th – 21st, and Maxey Cut 5 on 25th.



Goosander at Paxton Pits: photo by Phil Smith

Gamebirds

Grey Partridge Jan: Foxton 20 on the 1st, Nine Wells 28+ on 18th, Littleport May Farm present all month maximum 93 on 19th, Melbourne 23 on 29th. **Feb:** Nine Wells max 34 on 2nd, Comberton 20 on 19th, and much smaller counts at three sites.

Cormorant, herons, egrets and grebes

Cormorant Jan: Grafham Water c60 on the 6th and 140 on 26th, Wicken Fen roost 39 on 5th, River Cam (Cambridge to Baits Bite) 17 on 18th, Ouse Washes 41 on 20th. **Feb:** Kingfishers Bridge 19 on 2nd, Ouse Washes 52 on 19th, one 'continental' race bird at Barleycraft GP on 20th.

Bittern Jan: reported from Cambridge Research Park, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Wicken Fen, Woodwalton Fen (3) and Kingfishers Bridge (3). **Feb:** also at Paxton Pits.

Simon Wotton of the RSPB has just released his summary of Bittern breeding in the UK in 2016 which shows an increasing number of booming males in the East Anglian Fens. Numbers since 2004 per annum are 2, 4, 2, 6, 12, 12, 14, 15, 15, 16, 22, 25, and in 2016, 28.

Little Egret Jan: widely reported (19 sites) maxima Nene washes (Eldernell 6) and Littleport May Farm (6). **Feb:** similar distribution and numbers.

Great White Egret Jan: Paxton Pits the long-stay bird present until at least the 15th, Sutton Gault on 3rd, Fen Drayton Lakes on 3rd, 7th – 8th, Littleport May Farm on several dates. **Feb:** Fen Drayton Lakes from 13th – 17th, Ouse Washes (Chain Corner) on 18th, 2 on 21st, single on 24th, then 2 on 26th and one flying north on 27th.

Little Grebe Jan: reported from River Cam (Baits Bite to Clayhithe 14), Littleport May Farm (15+), Milton CP (6), Trumpington Clay Farm (5) and Whittlesford GP. **Feb:** also at Colne Fen GP (20), Burwell Fen, Cam Washes Upware (2), Wimpole Park and Wicken Fen.

Great Crested Grebe Jan: Grafham Water max 260 on 1st, Paxton Pits c40 on 23rd. **Feb:** Grafham Water c400 on 6th, Burwell Fen on 13th, Wicken Fen on 16th.

Red-necked Grebe* Jan & Feb: Grafham Water the long-staying bird was present throughout.

Raptors

Red Kite Jan: Fowlmere NR on the 2nd, Grafham Water 2 on 2nd, Brampton tip 9 on 14th, Stilton max 53 on 18th, Littleport May Farm 2 on 19th, Paxton Pits on 23rd. **Feb:** Grafham Water 5 on 4th, Paxton Pits 8 on 4th, Fowlmere NR on 14th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 17th, Great Chishill 24 heading over the county boundary to Herts on 21st, Woodditton on 22nd, Heydon on 24th.

Marsh Harrier Jan: reported from Burwell Fen (4), Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Nene Washes (9), Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Fen (8+), Ouse Washes (2), Wicken Fen (8), Woodwalton Fen (4 into roost) and Littleport May Farm 6 all month. **Feb:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 4th, Paxton Pits on 4th, Burwell Fen/ Wicken Fen roost count maximum 8 on 4th, Cam Washes 1 – 2 on 16th – 18th.

Hen Harrier Jan: Woodwalton Fen a male on the 1st, 2nd and 27th, Dimmock's Cote on 2nd, north edge of Cambridge on 7th, Burwell Fen a ringtail on 8th, Wicken Fen roost maximum two males and two ringtail/females, Cam Washes 2 males and a ringtail on 18th, Eldernell on 22nd. **Feb:** Wicken Fen 2 on 4th and a male on 21st, Cam Washes Upware a male on 17th.

Sparrowhawk Jan: reported from Burwell Fen, Great Shelford, Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits (2 displaying) Wicken Fen, Burghley Park, and Woodwalton Fen (3). **Feb:** Cambridge (Milton Road) 2 attracted by the Waxwings, Chippenham Fen one seen to take a Great Spotted Woodpecker from a feeder on 7th, Wicken Fen 2 males chasing on 16th, Littleport May Farm up to 4 all month.

Buzzard Jan: reported from Babraham, Brinkley, Fordham, Great Shelford, Little Eversden, Littleport May Farm (6+), March Farmers (2), Nene Washes (13), Newton (2), Ouse Fen (2), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits (2), and Swaffham Prior Fen (the pale individual still present). **Feb:** also at Burwell Fen (2), Chippenham Fen (2), Great Chishill (11+), Haddenham/Aldreth Fens (5), Newton-Fowlmere (road casualty), Sutton Gault (2), Thriplow, and Wicken Fen (3). *The pale individual at Swaffham Prior resembled a Rough-legged Buzzard, so much so that I turned my car around; when within 20 yards with a clear close-up view in binoculars I saw that it had bare legs, no feathering - a smooth-legged Buzzard; this bird is a pitfall for the unwary birder. (PB)*

Rails and crane

Water Rail Jan: reported from Burwell Fen, Fowlmere NR, Littleport May Farm (6+), Lt Wilbraham Fen (4), Wicken Fen (2) and Woodwalton Fen (3). **Feb:** at these sites and Kingfishers Bridge (3).

Moorhen Jan: River Cam (Baits Bight to Clayhithe) c40 on 7th, Burwell Fen 12 on 14th, Farcet Fen 44 on 25th, Littleport May Farm 60+ all month. **Feb:** Burwell Fen 14 on 16th, Fowlmere NR 22 on 17th.
Coot Jan: Grafham Water 600+ on 5th, Fen Drayton Lakes 543 on 15th, Earith GP 262 on 15th. **Feb:** Kingfishers Bridge 137 on 2nd, Ouse Washes 1971 on 13th, Burwell Fen max 347 on 16th.
Common Crane Jan: Ouse Washes 19 on the 2nd, 22 on 8th, Nene Washes 3 on 2nd and 11th, 11 on 15th, 13 (at Eldernell) on 22nd, Burwell Fen 7 on 8th, March 8 on 21st, Stonea 3 flying over on 29th.
Feb: Burwell Fen 3 on 6th, Cam Washes 8 on 18th, Wicken Fen 3 on 4th and 6th, 8 on 19th (many sightings of the same individuals), Nene Washes 24 on 13th.

Waders

Avocet Feb: Isleham Washes 12 on the 20th, Dunkirk on 24th.
Oystercatcher Feb: Paxton Pits 1 – 4 from the 5th, Burwell Fen on 13th, Cam Washes Upware on 16th – 18th, Ouse Washes (Earith to Sutton) on 18th, 2 on 24th and 25th, Godmanchester GP 8 on 28th.
Golden Plover Jan: (counts over 400) Great Shelford c450 on 7th, Ouse Washes 500 on 8th, Nene Washes 3000+ on 11th, 6200 on 15th, Norman Cross 300+ on 18th. **Feb:** Sutton Gault 'several thousand' on 7th and 1600 on 25th, Nene Washes 6500 on 13th, Gt Wilbraham 700 on 25th.
Lapwing Jan: Burwell Fen c100 on the 5th, c800 on 8th, Nene Washes 5000+ on 11th, 9000 on 15th, Littleport May Farm max 184 on 26th. **Feb:** Nene Washes 11375 on 13th, Ouse Washes 3072 on 13th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 2750 on 14th, Paxton Pits 100 – 200 from 13th, Burwell Fen 850 on 16th, Wicken Fen c750 on 16th.
Ringed Plover Feb: Ouse Washes (Earith to Sutton) 3 on 18th (*the first of the year*), two on 25th.
Black-tailed Godwit Jan: Ouse Washes 200 on the 1st, 750 on 2nd, 650 on 8th, 1200 on 10th, Fen Drayton Lakes 100+ on 14th, Eldernell 190 on 15th, Nene Washes 400 on 15th. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 21 on 9th, Nene Washes 780 on 13th, Ouse Washes (Earith to Sutton) 500 on 18th and 1600 on 25th.
Bar-tailed Godwit Jan: Ouse Washes on the 10th.
Ruff Jan: Eldernell 89 on 15th and 22nd. **Feb:** Nene Washes 120 on 13th, Ouse Washes 15 on 24th.
Dunlin Jan: Nene Washes 70 on the 15th, Chain Corner 34 on 22nd, Paxton Pits on 23rd. **Feb:** Nene Washes 103 on 13th, Ouse Washes (Earith to Sutton) 60 on 18th and 90 on 24th.
Green Sandpiper Jan: reported from Cam Washes, Dimmock's Cote, Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water (2), Holme Fen, Littleport May Farm, Milton, Needingworth GP, Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits (2), Sutton Gault and Witchford. **Feb:** also at Burwell Fen, Colne Fen GP, and Etton.
Redshank Jan: Ouse Washes 20 on 1st, Grafham Water 7 on 21st. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 1 – 2 from 5th, Berry Fen 23rd on 12th, Ouse Washes (Earith to Sutton) 26 on 18th, Cam Washes Upware 5 on 18th.
Jack Snipe Jan: Paxton Pits on the 8th and 28th, Colne Fen GP on 15th. **Feb:** Kings Dyke NR 2 on 8th, Paxton Pits on 10th, Ferry Meadows CP on 21st.
Woodcock Jan: Wicken Fen on the 2nd, Paxton Pits on 7th and 18th, Littleport May Farm 2 on the 12th and 19th, Brampton tip on 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on 15th. **Feb:** Fowlmere NR on 2nd, Kings Dyke NR 3 on 6th, Ferry Meadows CP 3 on 10th and 4 on 21st, Littleport May Farm 2 on 14th, Ditton Park Wood 2 on 22nd, Wicken Fen on 26th.
Snipe Jan: reported from Cam Washes (23+), Earith (83), Kingfishers Bridge (21), Ouse Washes (40), Littleport May Farm (50 – 60 all month). **Feb:** also at Burwell Fen (10), Fowlmere NR (2), Wicken Fen (6), Colne Fen GP (38), Ferry Meadows CP (40), and Witchford (12).

Gulls

Kittiwake Jan: Ferry Meadows CP an adult on the 16th.
Black-headed Gull Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes 1000 on 5th, Cambridge Research Park 2000 roosting on 7th, CEGB Reservoir 8000 on 22nd, Bradley Fen 1000 on 26th. **Feb:** Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 2000 on the 14th, Wicken Fen 1360 on 18th, Chittering 700 on 19th.
Little Gull Jan: Ferry Meadows CP on the 31st.
Mediterranean Gull Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes an adult on the 7th – 10th, Burwell Fen an adult on 8th, Yaxley on 15th. **Feb:** Cottenham an adult at the roost on 14th, Wicken Fen on 17th, Grafham Water on 21st, Ferry Meadows CP on 23rd, Yaxley an adult on 25th.

Common Gull Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes 150 into roost on the 5th, CEGB Reservoir c1000 on 22nd, Melbourn 45 on 29th. **Feb:** CEGB Reservoir 300 on 16th, Chrishall Grange c125 on 10th, Fowlmere NR 80 on 10th, Littleport May Farm 10+ all month.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Jan: Fowlmere NR 28 on the 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes 240 into roost on 5th, Grafham Water 600 on 10th, Littleport May Farm 5 – 6 all month max 21 on 28th. **Feb:** CEGB Reservoir 250 on 16th, Wicken Fen 20 on 18th, Melbourn 54 heading west on 21st.

Herring Gull Jan: Wicken Fen 12 on the 2nd and 11 on 22nd, Fowlmere NR 5 on 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes 1000 into roost on 5th, Grafham Water 3500 on 10th, Dogsthorpe Tip c2000 on 21st, Littleport May Farm 12+ all month. **Feb:** Bradley Fen 200 on 13th, CEGB Reservoir 1000 on 16th.

Yellow-legged Gull Jan: reported from Cambridge Research Park (2), Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Ouse Washes (3), Milton CP and Grafham Water (3). **Feb:** still at Cambridge Research Park (2), and at Cottenham (4), Ferry Meadows CP, Grafham Water and Paxton Pits.

Caspian Gull Jan: reported from Cambridge Research Park (2), Dogsthorpe Tip, Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Grafham Water and Paxton Pits. **Feb:** also at Cottenham Long Drove (6+).

Great Black-backed Gull Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes 104 into roost on the 5th, Grafham Water 755 on 8th and 235 on 10th, Dogsthorpe Tip 450 on 21st.

Doves, owls and Kingfisher

Stock Dove Jan: Cambridge (NIAB site) 90 on 8th, Coveney Byall Fen 50 on 28th, Littleport May Farm 30+ all month. **Feb:** NIAB site 117 on 6th, Colne Fen GP 51 on 12th, 20+ at six other sites.

Woodpigeon Jan: Comberton 1200 on 23rd. **Feb:** Offord D'Arcy 1300 on 12th.

Collared Dove Jan: Littleport May Farm 50 – 60 all month. **Feb:** Melbourn a juvenile on 11th.

Barn Owl Jan: reported from Fowlmere NR, Foxton (3), Littleport May Farm (6), Nene Washes, Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen. **Feb:** also at Burwell Fen (3), Cam Washes Upware, Grafham Water, Kingfishers Bridge (3), Paxton Pits, and Sutton Gault (4).

Little Owl Jan: reported from Littleport May Farm (4), Hinxton, Landbeach and Bedford Purlieus. **Feb:** also at Ferry Meadows CP and Barton.

Tawny Owl Jan: reported from Littleport May Farm (2) and Woodwalton Fen. **Feb:** reported from Abbots Ripton, Barton, Foxton, Wilbraham Fen, and Hare Park Six Mile Bottom.

Long-eared Owl Jan: Ferry Meadows CP one calling on the 4th.

Short-eared Owl Jan: reported from Burwell Fen/Wicken Fen (10), Eldernell (4), Fen Drayton Lakes, Holme Fen (3), Great Eversden (7 to roost), Nene Washes (10), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits (3+). **Feb:** reports from Burwell Fen/Wicken Fen (6), Fen Drayton Lakes, Littleport May Farm (2), Paxton Pits and Sutton Gault. *The much photographed individuals at Burwell Fen made their way into The Times on January 17th with a third of a page of one in flight. Unfortunately one or two photographers have ignored the code of conduct and caused disturbance at this site. Please stick to the paths at all sites.*

Kingfisher Jan: reported from Chippenham Fen, Fowlmere NR (2), Kingfishers Bridge, Paxton Pits, Woodwalton Fen (2), Stanground Wash (3) and Wicken Fen. **Feb:** at the above sites plus Haddenham/Aldreth Fens, Littleport May Farm (4 – 6), Ferry Meadows CP (5), and Milton CP.

Falcons

Kestrel Jan: Wicken Fen 6 on the 30th, Littleport May Farm 8+ all month. **Feb:** Burwell Fen 5 on 6th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 6 on 14th.

Merlin Jan: Fowlmere NR hunting on several dates, Nene Washes on 2nd and 15th, Woodwalton Fen on 2nd and 24th, Grafham Water on 3rd, a female on 10th, Littleport May Farm a male on 15th, 19th and 24th, Eldernell on 22nd, Paxton Pits on 22nd, Wicken Fen on 20th, and on 31st (M). **Feb:** Somersham on 10th(F), Paxton Pits on 16th(F), Witchford on 14th, and Harston on 18th(M).

Peregrine Jan: Fowlmere NR hunting over the reserve on several dates, St. Ives on the Free Church on January 2nd, Paxton Pits 1 – 2 on several dates, Fen Drayton Lakes on 6th and 14th, Ouse Washes on 10th, Burwell Fen on 14th, 22nd and 27th, Nene Washes 2 on 15th, Eldernell 2 on 22nd, New Shardelows Farm 2 on 26th, Littleport May Farm on several dates. **Feb:** Burwell Fen on 4th and 24th,

Ferry Meadows CP on 16th and 21st, Cam Washes Upware on 17th and 24th, Wicken Fen 2 on 17th, Ouse Washes (Earith to Sutton) 2 on 18th, Cambridge on 20th.

Shrikes and corvids

Great Grey Shrike* **Jan:** Wicken Fen throughout the month. **Feb:** Melbourn one from 6th – 10th, and the Wicken Fen individual continued to be reported until the end of the month. *There is some evidence that two birds were present, based on timings and locations of sightings; comparisons of the photographs submitted to the Club's gallery seem to back this up.*

Magpie **Jan:** Cambridge Coldhams Common c30 on 29th. **Feb:** Kings Dyke NR 22 on 15th.

Jackdaw **Jan:** Ferry Meadows c700 on 2nd, Burghley Park 250+ on 13th, Great Shelford 150+ on 11th, Littleport May Farm 200+. **Feb:** Kingfishers Bridge 500 on 4th, Sutton Gault 1000+ on 19th.

Rook **Jan:** Ferry Meadows CP c300 on 2nd. **Feb:** May Farm Littleport 200+ all month.

Carrion Crow **Jan:** Ferry Meadows c150 on 17th, Wicken Fen 23 on the 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 43 on 24th, Littleport May Farm 200+ all month. **Feb:** Kingfishers Bridge 72 on 8th.

Raven **Jan:** Paxton Pits 4 on the 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes on 7th, Arrington on 21st. **Feb:** Morborne Hill 2 on 5th and 19th.

Crests, tits and larks

Goldcrest **Jan:** Woodwalton Fen 9 on 8th. **Feb:** Godmanchester SW 9 on 4th.

Blue Tit **Jan:** *Wicken Fen a bird retrapped this month was first ringed in 2009 – remarkable longevity for a bird whose normal average lifespan is probably no more than about 18 months.*

Marsh Tit **Jan:** reported from 10 sites including Chippenham Fen, Woodwalton Fen, Ferry Meadows CP, Bedford Purlieus, Hayley Wood, Eversden Wood, Toft, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

Feb: also at Fordham Wood and Ditton Park Wood.

Bearded Tit **Jan:** Woodwalton Fen 2 on the 1st and 8th, Lt Wilbraham Fen 5 on 19th, Burwell Fen 5 on 22nd, Ouse Fen 2 on 22nd. **Feb:** Wicken Fen 2 birds ringed as juveniles on June 25th 2016 turned up at Holme Bird Observatory (Norfolk) on October 29th. *A paper in the latest issue of Bird Study by Malzer and Hansell relating to a study in the Scottish lowlands, highlights the importance of unmanaged reedbed for nesting Bearded Tits. For several years now the reedbed at Wicken Fen has been uncut and this may explain the suggested population growth shown by ringing records:*

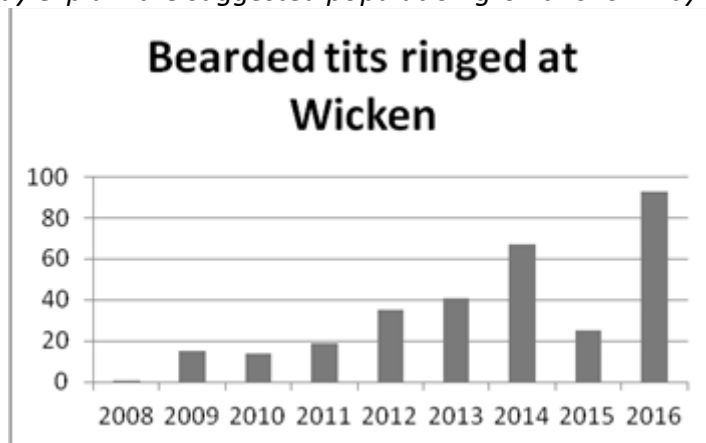


Figure courtesy of Jo Jones

Skylark **Jan:** Littleport May Farm 40+ all month, Comberton 50 on 14th, Thriplow 50 on 22nd.

Warblers

Cetti's Warbler **Jan:** reported from Fowlmere NR (3), Ouse Fen (3), Kingfishers Bridge and Woodwalton Fen. **Feb:** also at Fen Drayton Lakes (3), May Farm Littleport (2 – 3), Paxton Pits (3) and Wicken Fen (max 12).

Chiffchaff **Jan:** Fowlmere NR on the 4th and 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on 5th, Needingworth GP 6 on 8th and SW 14 on 22nd, Ely SW 3 on 21st, Paxton Pits on 23rd, Wicken Fen singles ringed on 3rd and

8th, and 2 on 30th. **Feb:** Godmanchester SW 7 on 4th, Ely SW 5+ on 15th, 2 on 26th plus 4 birds of undetermined race, Ouse Washes Earith to Sutton on 24th.

'Siberian' Chiffchaff* **Jan:** Paxton Pits on the 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes on 5th – 8th, Cambridge Research Park on 7th, Ely SW on 21st. **Feb:** Ely SW on the 15th – 16th and 26th.

Blackcap **Jan:** Cambridge City reported from 13 sites, also from Ramsey, Linton, Hauxton, Melbourn and Littleport May Farm. **Feb:** Nine reports from Cambridge and also at Waterbeach, Burwell, Stanground and Folksworth.

Waxwing, nuthatch, starling and thrushes

Waxwing **Jan:** A national influx this winter is reflected in these records: Melbourn on the 3rd, Swavesey 2 on 3rd, 11 on 7th, Cambridge Science Park a flyover on 3rd, 12 on 31st, Cherry Hinton on 4th, then 10 on 6th, 26 on 9th, 8 on 14th and 15th, 18 on 30th, Peterborough (Thorpe Road) 4 on 4th and (Shrewsbury Avenue) 9 on 9th and 10th, Cambridge (Castle Street) on 5th, Brownhill Stauch a flyover on 8th, Cambridge (Lovell Road) 5+ on 12th, Barton on 12th, Soham 2 on 16th, Gt/Lt Paxton on 18th, Stow-cum-Quy 13 at the recreation ground on 22nd, Cambridge University Botanic Garden 6 on 27th – 28th. **Feb:** Cambridge Milton Road /Science Park 12 – 15 from 1st until at least 25th, Yaxley 2 in a private garden on 12th.

Nuthatch **Jan:** Burghley Park 2 on 6th, Arrington 2 on 21st, Paxton Pits 3 on 22nd, Littleport May Farm 2 on 19th. **Feb:** reports from Chippenham Fen, Borley Wood, Wimpole and Ditton Park Wood.

Starling **Jan:** Cambridge Research Park a roost of 1000 on 21st, Littleport May Farm c500 all month.

Feb: Isleham a roost of 10000 to 15000 on the 6th, Sutton Gault 5000 roosting on 19th, Wimblington a roost of 4000 – 5000 on 26th.

Fieldfare **Jan:** Haddenham c5000 on 6th, Thriplow 500 on 22nd, Caxton c1000 on 31st. **Feb:** Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 650 on 14th, Ouse Washes 300 on 25th.

Redwing **Jan:** Burghley Park 100+ on 4th, Caxton c1000 on 31st, but otherwise reported in small numbers. **Feb:** Granta Park 150 on 7th, Cambridge (Lammas Land) 280+ on 11th, Burghley Park 200+ on 16th.

Starts and chats

Black Redstart **Feb:** Cambridge on the roof of St. Botolph's Church on the 27th.

Stonechat **Jan:** Ouse Washes max 8 on the 2nd, Wicken Fen a pair on 2nd and 20th a single on 5th and 2 females on 29th, Nene Washes 5 on 2nd, Paxton Pits a pair on 26th, Cambourne on 12th, Cam Washes (Waterbeach) on 18th, Burwell Fen on 22nd, Holme Fen 2 on 29th, Littleport May Farm 5 – 6 all month. **Feb:** Burwell Fen 1 – 3 on several dates from the 4th max 5, Wicken Fen 2 pairs on 28th, Ouse Fen a pair on 4th, Sutton Gault 2 on 7th and 25th, Trumpington Clay Farm on 10th, Paxton Pits max 4 on 19th, Ouse Washes Earith to Sutton 2 on 18th, Littleport May Farm 5 – 6 all month.

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

Tree Sparrow **Jan:** Ouse Washes 51 on 3rd, Foxton one on a millet feeder on 9th, Aldreth one on a feeder on 13th, Colne Fen GP 21 on 15th. **Feb:** Foxton up to 14 on a garden feeder on 8th, Ouse Washes Welches Dam 83 on 8th, Littleport Redmere Farm up to 85 during the month.

Grey Wagtail **Jan:** Foxton SW 3 on 1st and reports from 24 other sites. **Feb:** Haslingfield SW 4 on 13th and reports from 15 other sites.

Pied Wagtail **Jan:** Foxton SW 150 on the 22nd, Littleport May Farm a roost of up to 700 all month. **Feb:** Whittlesford 250 in a roost on 12th, Cambridge Regional College 101 on 15th.

Meadow Pipit **Jan:** Granta Park 30 on 9th and 31st, Ouse Washes 83 on 20th, Stanground Wash 30 on 21st, Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Water Pipit **Jan:** Ouse Washes on the 2nd, Chain Corner on 22nd, Ouse Fen 2 on 22nd, Sutton Gault 28 on 7th and 10 on 31st. **Feb:** Wicken Fen on 4th, Sutton Gault 20+ on 7th, 28 on 19th, 26 on 25th.

Finches and buntings

Brambling **Jan:** Bedford Purlieus 12 on the 5th, Hare Park Six Mile Bottom 2 on 15th, 6 on 16th. **Feb:** Roman Road (Copley to A11) c10 with Chaffinches on 6th, Ouse Washes Welches Dam on 8th,

Cambridge (Windsor Road) in a garden on 13th, Fowlmere NR 2 on 17th, Lark Rise Farm one with other finches on feeders on 20th, Hare Park Six Mile Bottom 3 with Chaffinches on 27th.

Greenfinch Jan: Cambridge University Botanic Gardens a roost of 120 on the 7th, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month. **Feb:** the Botanic Garden roost 70+ on 14th.

Goldfinch Jan: Yaxley Lode 109 on 14th, Ramsey 28 on 27th, Cam Washes c120 on 29th, Littleport May Farm 80+ all month. **Feb:** Witchford 54 on 14th, Wicken Fen 50 on 18th.

Siskin Jan: Ferry Meadows CP c60 on the 17th. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 12+ on 4th, 17+ on 11th, Chippenham Fen 12+ on 7th, Fowlmere NR on 14th, Wicken Fen one caught and ringed on 17th.

Linnet Jan: Nene Washes 250 on 1st – 2nd, Paxton Pits 300+ on 21st, Melbourn 1250+ birds feeding in a cover crop on 29th. **Feb:** Paxton Pits c520 on 4th, Melbourn 250 on 4th.

Lesser Redpoll Jan: reported from Chippenham Fen (4), Grafham Water (5), Wicken Fen (4) and Woodwalton Fen (80 on 21st). **Feb:** reported from Woodwalton Fen, Wicken Fen, and Ferry Meadows CP 6 on 15th.

Mealy Redpoll Jan: Woodwalton Fen on the 2nd. **Feb:** Woodwalton Fen 2 on 17th.

Yellowhammer Jan: Paxton Pits 100 on the 21st. **Feb:** Paxton Pits c50 on 4th, Cam Washes Upware 20+ on 17th.

Corn Bunting Jan: Woodwalton Fen c45 on the 1st, Ouse Fen 40+ on 22nd, Littleport May Farm 78 on 15th and 82 on 25th, Sutton Gault 30+ on 31st. **Feb:** Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

Reed Bunting Jan: Ouse Fen 200 on the 22nd, Littleport May Farm 200+ all month. **Feb:** Cam Washes Upware 50+ on 17th, May Farm Littleport 100+ all month.

Exotica

Red-fan Parrot Jan: The Grafham Water bird was eventually captured and returned to the owner.

Glaucous/Herring Gull hybrid Feb: Cambridge Research Park a possible on the 1st.

American/Eurasian Wigeon hybrid Feb: Chain Corner a male on several dates from the 21st.

Harris Hawk Feb: Barton on 16th and 27th, seemingly paired with a Common Buzzard.

Contributors: Colin Addington, Chris Akhurst, Jill Aldred, Richard Allison, Malcolm Ausden, David Avis, Louise Bacon, Geoff Barlow, Peter Beesley, Guy Belcher, Peter Bircham, Sean Blackmore, Richard Bradbury, Chris Brown, Andrew Bryce, Roger Buisson, Alan Bull, Ian Burfield, Ellie Burke, Malcolm Busby, James Cadbury, Michael Cadney, Josh Coe, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Robin Cox, Vic Cozens, Godfrey Curtis, Carol Davies, Martin Davis, Ian Dawson, Anthony Deans, Ian and Sheila Dickerson, John Dingemans, Joy Dingley, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, Kevin Du Rose, Steve Dutton, Mark Eaton, David Ellis, Ian Ellis, Mike Everett, Ben Fraser, Andy Frost, Don Gardener, Simon Gillings, Richard Grimmett, Richard Gregory, Ben Greig, Richard Grimmett, Kevin Hand, James Hanlon, Andy Hannaford, Ron Harold, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jon Heath, Michael Holdsworth, David Hollin, John Hoppett, Tom Howson, Bob Humphrey, Mark Jackson, Bob Jarman, Sue Jarrett, Richard Johnson, Colin Kirtland, Charlie Kitchin, Mike and Anne Knowles, Marcus Kohler, Nick Langley, Neil Larnar, Nick Laughton, Stella Laughton, Vince Lea, Martin Leader, David Lee, Diana Leech, John Le Gassick, Ian Gordon, Rita Lingard, Stephen Lowe, Duncan Mackay, Andrew Maddocks, Bob Mansfield, Owen and Monica Marks, Bruce Martin, Tony Martin, Paul Mason, Donal McCarthy, Rob McEwen, Duncan McNiven, Matt Mellor, Andy Merryweather, Steve Mumford, Martin O'Leary, Daniel Osborne, James Page, Dave Palmer, Richard Palmer, Gill Parish, Richard Patient, Mark Peck, Chris Percival, Rob Pople, Duncan Poyser, Doug Radford, John Raven, Gary Rawlings, Mike Redshaw, Gareth Rees, Chris Rider, Tony Roberts, David Saunders, Liz Scott, Norman Sills, Clive Sinclair, Bob Smith, Simon Stirrup, Jonathan Taylor, Paul Taylor, Iain Thomas, Richard Thomas, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Gary Thornton, Keith Tinworth, Bob Titman, Calum Urquhart, Hugh Venables, Ken Venus, Luke Wake, George Walthew, Mark Ward, Robin Ward, Iain Webb, Mat Webb, Mike Weedon, Jamie Wells, John Wells, Anthony Weston, Kevin Wilson, Mat Wilson, David Withrington, Patrick Woods, Hugh Wright, and Bartow Wylie.

Rare Breeders: As it is now March, some of our early starting rare breeding birds are back on their territories, and others are arriving. Care and common sense should be used when reporting sightings of ANY species listed by the Rare Breeding Bird Panel (rbbp.org.uk for details) and they will cease to be posted on our news services and in bulletins except in a generalised way. Early species such as Stone Curlew, Lesser-spotted woodpecker, Peregrine and Crane are heading to territories NOW, so please think before you type. Contact Louise Bacon, your county recorder, for advice and further information on cbcrecorder@gmail.com.

Cambridgeshire Spotted Flycatchers

The club is planning to continue the Spotted Flycatcher Project into the coming summer. 2016 was the second year of this survey and we found many more pairs than we had in 2015, mainly because we put in more effort and hours. A hundred or so observers sent in records. A high proportion of these turned out not to be Club members but ordinary householders (often still BTO and RSPB members) responding to publicity in parish magazines and on websites – genuine citizen science!

Most pairs were finally pinned down by dogged fieldwork from a handful of flycatcher *aficionados*, cold-searching traditional sites, peering suspiciously into people's gardens and lurking in churchyards. Most popular were gardens (not necessarily large ones) with good herbaceous plantings and often with some water (where free-range dogs seemed to help, deterring cats, squirrels and corvids), and parkland or churchyards with good nettle or umbellifer patches, often under pollarded limes or with animals. None were in our cities or in or directly adjacent to arable land. Pairs were generally unobtrusive and often entirely silent. Many never ranged further than 50 or so metres from their nest-site; others only fed high in the canopy. Quite a nesting challenge!

We confirmed 58 pairs as definitely breeding, at 49 sites (there were some mini-'colonies'). We found 36 actual nests, and most of the other confirmed records were based on reports of adults with very recently fledged noisy dependent young, either close to sites where birds had been present earlier in the season, or at traditional sites from previous years where we couldn't find the actual nest this year.

There were a further nine probable/almost certain pairs - one or two birds present on several occasions in good habitat or again at traditional sites. Some of these may have failed, or been predated, or may just have been single unrequited birds. We also had a further 19 possible pairs at new or non-traditional sites, but again, many may just have been single unpaired birds. This makes a maximum total of 86 pairs, which I suspect (a wild guess) represents 20% to 60% of the possible Cambridgeshire total. This is nicely in line with the *2007-11 Cambridgeshire Bird Atlas* 'guesstimate' of 100 to 200 pairs in the County.

Flycatchers continue to be in deep decline, see <http://blx1.bto.org/birdtrends/species.jsp?&s=spofl> and in 2016 I had the opportunity of working with the BTO's Chris Hewson and Lee Barber on a geo-locator project, divided between Cambridgeshire and Devon.

SpotFly problems are as likely to be during the nine months they are 'overseas' as they are here in the UK. There have only ever been half-a-dozen ring-recoveries south of the Sahara, so we don't really know where they go or what threats they might be facing. Cutting-edge geo-locators for birds of this size now weigh about 0.3 gms (a grain of rice) and that's a tiny fraction of a flycatcher's body weight. But this constraint means that there can be no antenna, solar-recharging or remote satellite sensing (as you can achieve with Cuckoos and Nightjars). The geo-locators need to be retrieved at some stage to be read. All they do is record light change and time, so that by recording dawn, dusk and time you have a rough idea of where the bird is every day.

Keen eyesight, virtuoso manoeuvrability and near-zero braking distances made the birds tricky to mist-net, but they turned out to be suckers for perch-traps! We fell just one short of our funded quota of twenty tagged birds (plus another twenty 'controls' for comparisons of survival) and all we have to do now is recapture them this summer to retrieve the devices and download the data. Some 66 nestlings were ringed, mainly by the BTO's Lee Barber. Some pairs were leading interesting lives; one ménage-a-trois saw a single male bird with two females and nests on the opposite sides of the same house. And there were two cases of males apparently abandoning single mums as soon as nest-provisioning duties were required. This sort of bad behaviour is only revealed when you start individually marking the birds.

If you just see even a single Spotted Flycatcher after 1 June this year, it will be worth following up. Do you know of a pair nesting near you, or of a traditional site which may be being used again? If so, email me at spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk with any information you have, **including records of single birds**; and please provide a map reference, preferably to 100m (as TL000000). Follow your

leads up and keep us informed or we can arrange to follow up if you don't have time yourself.
Michael Holdsworth

Sand Martin Survey 2017

The previous CBC bulletin included a short article announced the forthcoming a survey of Sand Martins in 2017. Further details can now be given.

The basic methodology will be for club members to record results during the course of their normal bird watching. Two forms have been created to record observations. One deals with general sightings of Sand Martins throughout the County and examines the numbers of birds and behaviour. The second looks at nesting colonies and is perhaps more challenging. One of the interesting features of these martins is that they can establish colonies remarkably quickly but appear to desert them equally quickly. Why? The survey may be able to throw some light on this behaviour. It does, though, lead to some problems of collecting information. If you find a colony it would be very helpful if you could survey it regularly throughout the breeding season, capturing the key information set out in these forms. A few sites are well known but the club's annual report over the years mentions numerous instances of temporary colonies.

The two forms are: Sand Martin Survey 2017 Sightings and Sand Martin Survey 2017 Nesting Colonies, and they can now be found on the Club's website.

Robert Brown

Wiffwaffs

Tony Fulford is continuing his investigations into why some Willow Warblers sing like Chiffchaffs. Last year, with help from local birders, he found eight such singers. This allowed some preliminary playback experiments to discover how Willow Warblers (ordinary ones and wiffwaffs) and Chiffchaffs react to one another's songs. In order to follow up these studies this year he is again asking people to listen out for and report any wiffwaffs they might come across in Cambridgeshire this spring; please email reports to tonyfulford@gmail.com. Listen for "chiffchaff" songs sung rather too fast (4 notes per second rather than 3) or with odd stray notes in them, or for Willow Warblers adding odd scratchy bits to the end of their usual liquid song; such birds often sooner or later reveal themselves to be mixed singers. They are commoner they you may think.

Next Indoor Meetings

Friday 7th April, Cottenham Village College, 7.30 for 8pm.

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

Viola Ross-Smith is Science Communications Manager at BTO, responsible for spreading the good word about the BTO's research through print publications, social media and as many other channels as possible. Before taking on this role in 2015, Viola worked on gulls for 10 years, starting during her PhD and continuing in her previous job at the BTO, as an ecologist. She is still involved in seabird tracking and research, and sits on the Executive Committee of the Seabird Group.

Friday 12th May, Cottenham Village College, 7.30 for 8pm.

Reclaiming South Georgia by Tony Martin

Two centuries ago, rats and mice were inadvertently introduced to the UK overseas territory of South Georgia by sealers and then whalers. Over time, these unwelcome guests ate their way through most of the island's wildlife, reducing the bird population by more than 90%. They threatened the extinction of an endemic bird and fundamentally changing the entire ecosystem of this globally important sub-Antarctic wildlife refuge. Tony Martin led a 6-year project to eradicate these invaders on behalf of the South Georgia Heritage Trust, using 3 helicopters, 300 tonnes of bait, £8m and a team of 40 people. This talk will explore what was involved in carrying out the world's largest rodent eradication project on a remote glaciated island, the very encouraging results

so far, and what lies ahead before South Georgia can finally be declared rodent free. Tony Martin is Professor of Animal Conservation at the University of Dundee, and currently under secondment to the South Georgia Heritage Trust as Director of the South Georgia Habitat Restoration Project. He was previously a researcher at the Sea Mammal Research Unit and then the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge for 30 years, working on cetaceans and other aquatic vertebrates, especially in polar regions and the Amazon. At home in Cambridgeshire, Tony's garden has grown alarmingly, now hosting breeding avocets, harriers, kingfishers and sand martins.

New Members

We welcome Lou and Josh Carter from Cottenham, Robert Crozier of Needham Market, Jean Prince of Duxford, David Seilly of Cambridge, Kenneth Venus of Barton Mills, and Bartlow Wylie of Cambridge.

Just for fun - keeping a tally of species recorded in CBC bulletins in 2017 (adding E-bulletin records and unlisted common species), the total at the end of January was 137. By the end of February the total was 141; the new species were Glossy Ibis, Avocet, Ringed Plover, and Black Redstart.

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

www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

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

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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 5th of the following month**. There is no need to duplicate records across both channels.

GOOD BIRDING!