

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB

Bulletin No. 385



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

RECENT REPORTS MARCH AND APRIL 2006

These are unchecked reports rather than confirmed records, and comments are made by Bruce Martin (Wildfowl, Divers to Herons), Mark Hawkes (Gamebirds, Raptors, Rails), Jonathan Taylor (Waders), Steve Cooper (Skuas to Woodpeckers and Hybrids and Exotica), Stuart Elsom (Larks to Thrushes), Mike Foley (Warblers to Tits) and David Wege (Wood Nuthatch to Buntings). If you have valid reasons to dispute comments (e.g. further records) please forward these to the county recorder (address on back page).

Summer Field Meeting

Friday July 14th RSPB Lakenheath Reserve

Meet at 7p.m., in reserve car park, near Lakenheath station, grid reference TL 724865, for a guided walk with a reserve warden.

It is essential to book for this meeting by contacting Louise Bacon who can also give further information (contact details on back page).

For an account of last year's very successful visit to Lakenheath, please see Bulletin 379.

August 11th Barbecue at RSPB Fowlmere Reserve – see p 11.

Richard's Pipit at Witcham by Ben Green



Numbers in brackets indicate January and February maximums.

WILDFOWL

Mute Swan There were three-figure counts at Ouse Fen (157; 171), the Nene Washes (124; 54) and the Ouse Washes (225; 262). Double figures were seen at 6 other sites.

Tundra Swan 159 were in winter wheat fields south of Manea on Mar 5th and 269 on the Nene Washes on Mar 7th. A juvenile was in the Swaffham Prior Fen/Cam Washes area with Mute Swans throughout March until Apr 7th.

Whooper Swan At the Nene Washes (151; 4) and Ouse Washes (176; 20). Fourteen birds flew east over Grafham Water on Mar 11th and 114 were on Farcet Fen on Mar 22nd. The last birds seen on the Nene Washes were 1 at March Farmers on Apr 26th and at the Ouse Washes 2 on Apr 30th.

Pink-footed Goose Three birds were at the Nene Washes on Mar 13th and 31st with 1 on Apr 25th. Two birds were at the Ouse Washes during March and up to Apr 30th and 1 at Kingfishers Bridge until Mar 20th with 2 there from Mar 26th to Apr 24th. One bird was at Landbeach GP on Mar 19th.

Greater White-fronted Goose The flock of 38 at Hatley Park remained until March 17th and the 28 at the Ouse Washes until Mar 4th with 1 bird to Apr 10th. Another flock of 18 was at Paxton Pits from Mar 1st to the 5th with 3 birds there on Apr 3rd. Five birds were at Melbourn on Mar 9th and 10 flew over Grafham Water on Mar 15th. Two birds were at Cambridge Research Park on Mar 12th.

Greylag Goose At Fen Drayton GP (92; 53), Kingfishers Bridge (122; 96), the Ouse Washes (49; 66) and Needingworth GP (102; 129). Other three-figure counts were at Paxton Pits (60; 126).

Canada Goose Three-figure counts were noted at Kingfishers Bridge (107) and double figures at 9 other sites.

Barnacle Goose Reported from 6 sites with the maximum of 13 at Needingworth GP on Apr 6th.

Egyptian Goose Two birds were present at Swaffham Prior Fen mid March to early April. Another 2 birds were at Ouse Fen late March with 4 at the same site on Apr 2nd and 2 birds at Needingworth GP on Apr 30th.

Common Shelduck At the Nene Washes 124 birds were counted on Mar 13th. Double figures were at 5 sites and single figures at 8 sites.

Mandarin Four birds were at Grafham Water, 1 at Paxton Pits during the period and at Bolton's Pit a female in March and a male in April.

Eurasian Wigeon At Fen Drayton GP (547; 3), Kingfishers Bridge (410; 3), Needingworth GP (657; 221), Nene Washes (2788; 19), Ouse Washes (24382; 130), Paxton Pits (1162; 10), Shropshire's Reservoir (209; 64) and Wicken Fen (400; 12). These figures reflect the mass exodus from the county back to the birds' breeding grounds.

American Wigeon The male bird at the Needingworth complex continued to be seen until

Apr 6th and another male was found on Baker's Fen at Wicken on Apr 5th until Apr 7th.

Gadwall At Fen Drayton GP (23; 6), Grafham Water (51; 87), Needingworth GP (37; 25), Ouse Washes (2182; 1042) and Paxton Pits (126; ?). Double figures noted at 7 other sites. The drop in numbers at some sites may have been due to birds moving to more favourable conditions on the Ouse Washes where very high counts were recorded.

Eurasian Teal At Grafham Water (160; 58), Nene Washes (456; 187), Ouse Washes (3846; 1425), Paxton Pits (143; 17) and Wicken Fen (350; 70); 120 at Woodwalton Fen (120) and double figures at 6 other sites.

Green-winged Teal Amazingly 4 males were recorded in the county during the period. One at Woodwalton Fen from Mar 20th to Apr 22nd, 1 on the Ouse Washes from Apr 10th to the month's end and 2 on the Nene Washes on Apr 17th with 1 noted on Apr 22nd to 24th.

Mallard At the Ouse Washes (1354; 1029). Three-figure counts were noted at 4 other sites.

Northern Pintail The Ouse Washes counts were (2196; 260) and the Nene Washes had 281 on the March WeBS count and 2 on the April count. Small numbers were seen at 6 other sites.

Garganey A pair was present at Woodwalton Fen on Mar 20th. But the main influx was from Apr 9th with ones and twos appearing at a number of sites. The highest count was at the Nene Washes with 5 on Apr 22nd.

Northern Shoveler At Grafham Water (357; 10), the Nene Washes (213; 64), the Ouse Washes (1134; 1080) and Paxton Pits (178; 153). Double figures were noted at 7 other sites.

Red-crested Pochard Up to 4 males were present at Paxton Pits during the period with a female at Grafham Water from Mar 3rd to the 15th. A male was at Needingworth GP on Mar 18th.

Common Pochard At Fen Drayton GP (142; 0), Grafham Water (28; 0), Needingworth GP (29; 2), the Ouse Washes (242; 61) and Paxton Pits (160; 1). Counts declined as birds move out of the area back to the breeding grounds.

Tufted Duck Counts at Fen Drayton GP were (327; 395), Grafham Water (151; 79), Needingworth GP (129; 146), the Ouse Washes (832; 652) and Paxton Pits (457; 12). Other three-figure counts were 112 at Shropshire's Res on Mar 3rd and double figures were noted at 13 other sites.

Greater Scaup A maximum of 7 birds were at Grafham Water in March with 1 bird still present on Apr 10th. A female at Paxton pits on Mar 26–28th was believed to be one of the Grafham birds.

Lesser Scaup The 1st winter male at the Ouse Washes from Jan 28th was last seen on Mar 12th.

Common Scoter A male and female were present at Grafham Water on Mar 10th and 20th and a male on Apr 16th.

Goldeneye At Fen Drayton GP (124; 59), Grafham Water (91; 2) and Paxton Pits (132; 56). Numbers were down to single figures by the period end.

Smew The maximum count was at Needingworth GP with 15 on Mar 18th. Single figures were noted at 4 other sites and all birds had gone by the end of March.

Goosander Single figures were reported from 4 sites with the last bird noted at Paxton Pits on Apr 30th, the latest Paxton record. The bird with a broken wing was still surviving on the Ouse Washes to Apr 10th at least.

Ruddy Duck Noted at 9 sites.

GAMEBIRDS

Red-legged Partridge Recorded at 16 sites, numbers ranging from 1 to 10 birds.

Grey Partridge Recorded at 25 sites, numbers ranging from 1 to 6 birds., and as is usual, the majority of records came from Fenland areas.

Common Quail A single record: a singing male from the east end of Grafham Water on Apr 28–29th. This was the first site record since June 1997.

Common Pheasant Reported from just 10 sites, with numbers ranging from 1 to 25 birds.

DIVERS TO HERONS

Red-throated Diver The juvenile bird at Grafham Water first seen in November remained until April 14th, possibly the longest staying bird of this species in the county.

Great Northern Diver The long staying juvenile at Grafham Water was present throughout the period.

Little Grebe Double figures were seen at Block Fen GP (10), the Cam Washes (10), Kingfishers Bridge (14), Mepal GP (20), the Ouse Washes (30) and Shropshire's Reservoir. Single figures were recorded at 16 other sites.

Great Crested Grebe Counts at Fen Drayton GP were (20;16), Grafham Water (64; 44), Kingfishers Bridge (16; 8), Needingworth GP (10; 13), the Ouse Washes (23; 24), Paxton Pits (31; 3) Roswell Pits (7; 14). Other double figures were at Block Fen GP (13). Single figures were noted at 12 other sites.

Red-necked Grebe The bird at Fen Drayton GP from December was still present at the period end and a bird seen at Needingworth GP on Mar 6th was possibly the Fen Drayton bird on 'walk about'. Another bird was seen at Grafham Water on Mar 18–19th.

Slavonian Grebe A bird was present on the Ouse Washes on Mar 27th.

Black-necked Grebe A bird was present on the Ouse Washes on Apr 5th and that or another at Fen Drayton GP on Apr 18th.

Great Cormorant At Fen Drayton GP (32; 27), Grafham Water (223; 47), Kingfishers Bridge (23; 14), Ouse Washes (42; 158) and Wicken Fen (49; 17). The maximum dusk roost count in March at Paxton Pits was 589; at the same site 165 nests were occupied by early March, some with young 2–3 weeks old. On the Ouse Washes south of Sutton Gault there were 67 occupied nests by early April. Birds were also noted at 10 other sites.

Great Bittern The last wintering bird at Fen Drayton GP was seen on Mar 24th. Also reported

from 6 other sites in March and boomers at 2 sites in April.

Little Egret Birds have been returning to the Ouse Washes where it is hoped that they will breed again this year, with 8 seen by the end of April. Non-breeders also noted from 12 other locations.

Great Egret A bird was seen circling over Earith GP on Apr 30th before heading southeast. Since this sighting a farmer from Over reported that he had seen a large white heron, (he is familiar with Little Egrets), at Ouse Fen 10 days earlier.

Grey Heron At the Ouse Washes (25; 51). Breeding was reported from 3 sites and single figures from 13 other sites.

RAPTORS

European Honey Buzzard On Apr 26th 1 was seen over Fowlmere NR and 1 was seen at Fordham – both of these would represent a new county record for earliest date (c.f. May 4th 1991). Another early bird was seen over Fen Drayton GP on Apr 29th.

Red Kite A good period for this species, with 30 reports from 26 sites, all involving singles, apart from 2 at Caldecote (Cambs).

Eurasian Marsh Harrier Recorded at 21 sites, with peaks of 10 at Nene Washes in April, and 7 at Wicken Fen in March. Other records involved 1–6 birds, mostly from breeding areas, but migrants were recorded at Chippenham Fen, Coldham, Fordham, Fowlmere, Paxton Pits and Orton BP.

Hen Harrier Peak counts included Wicken Fen (4; 3), Woodwalton Fen (3; 1) and Ouse Washes (1; 2). Otherwise singles were seen at Grunty Fen (both months), Cam Washes (Apr), Kingfishers Bridge (both months) and Orton BP (Mar).

Northern Goshawk Reports received from Newnham (Cambridge) on Mar 19th, Woodwalton Fen on Mar 21st, Fen Drayton on Apr 5th and Monks Wood on Apr 12th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk Recorded at 35 sites, with all counts involving 1–4 birds, apart from 6 at Paxton Pits on Apr 1st.

Common Buzzard Recorded at a massive 53 sites. Most counts of 1–4 birds, but several sites recorded 6–7 birds. Several areas also had prospective breeders present. Despite the suggestion to the contrary in the last bulletin, all records of this species are still required.

Rough-legged Buzzard One was reported from Molesworth airfield on Apr 19th. The last accepted county record was in 2000.

Osprey The first was seen at Godmanchester GP on Mar 9th – setting a new county record for earliest date (c.f. Mar 18th 1990/2002), although birds were already back in Scotland before this date! Others were seen at Paxton Pits on Mar 30th, Apr 21st and 29th, Wicken Fen on Apr 7th and Peterborough on Apr 22nd.

Common Kestrel Recorded at 28 sites, all counts of 1–6 birds, apart from 14 along the Ouse Washes on Mar 13th.

Merlin Two birds were seen at Farcet Fen on Mar 22nd, with singles on Mar 29th, 30th, Apr 5th, 10th and 18th. Two were also seen at Paxton Pits on Apr 8th, with singles on Mar 12th, 20th, 22nd and Apr 11th. Singles were also seen on Nene Washes on Mar 2nd, 29th and Apr 10th, Wicken Fen on Mar 2nd, 3rd and Apr 1st, Soham on Mar 30th and Ouse Washes (Sutton Gault) on Apr 6th and 10th.

Eurasian Hobby Recorded at 17 sites, with the first returning birds on Apr 16th (Bedford Pulieus and Eynesbury). Peak counts included 12 at Wicken Fen on Apr 30th, 5 at Paxton Pits on Apr 29th and 3 at Fulbourn on Apr 18th. Otherwise counts were of 1–2 birds.

Peregrine Two were seen on Nene Washes on Mar 29th and Apr 11th, with a single on Apr 20th. Singles were seen along Ouse Washes on Mar 2nd, 4th, 12th, 27th and 31st and Apr 8th, 9th, 19th and 22nd, Paxton Pits on Mar 5th, 11th, 15th and 18th, Kingfishers Bridge on Mar 16th and 26th, Haddenham Fen on Mar 25th, Cambridge on Mar 30th and Apr 7th, Hampton Lakes on Apr 4th, Farcet Fen on Apr 5th and on 5 dates during April at Wicken Fen.

RAILS

Water Rail Recorded at 14 sites, numbers ranging from 1 to 10 birds.

Common Moorhen Reported from 18 sites. Peak counts included Ouse Washes (99; -), Fen Drayton GP (29; 32), Grafham Water (21; 19). Also, 26 counted along River Cam between Waterbeach and Ely. Otherwise 1–23 birds.

Common Coot Reported from 16 sites. Peak counts included Ouse Washes (3457; 3519) – a notable increase compared to 826 and 2336 for Jan and Feb – Grafham Water (446; 151), Nene Washes (341; 176), Paxton Pits (318; -), Fen Drayton GP (265; 162). Otherwise 1–98 birds.

Common Crane Singles (or the same?) reported at Wicken Fen on Apr 9th and 15th.

WADERS

Eurasian Oystercatcher Highest counts were from Ouse Washes with peaks of 16 on Mar 13th and 27 on Apr 10th, Nene Washes (9, 8 pairs mostly nesting in spring sown wheat), Grafham Water 8 on Mar 21st–22nd was exceptional for the site, Paxton Pits up to 6 birds with 3 nests, Kingfishers Bridge and Needingworth GP 4, 1–2 from a further 10 sites.

Avocet First date was Mar 11th. Recorded from 8 sites including Paxton Pits and Grafham Water where scarce, peak counts from 2 sites of 8 and 6.

Little Plover First recorded from Maxey GP on Mar 23rd and from a further 7 sites by end of month. In April peak counts from Paxton pits GP 8, Kingfishers Bridge and Over Fen 4, Kings Dyke NR 3 and 1–2 from a further 8 sites.

Ringed Plover Main locality was Paxton Pits GP with peaks of 18 on Mar 24th and 38 on Apr 21st with similar numbers present throughout.

European Golden Plover Main staging post was Nene Washes where up to 5500 Mar 9th to 25th, elsewhere 1000 at Ouse Fen on Mar 1st, 1695 at Swaffham Prior Fen on Mar 19th and flocks of 200–800 in the A14/M11 corridor to early April with 800 remaining at Bassingbourn to Apr 9th, 286 at Washingley on 18th and several groups 20–40 strong about the county to 28th at least.

Grey Plover Singles at or over Paxton Pits GP on Mar 18th, 24th and Apr 23rd.

Northern Lapwing WeBS counts of Mar 13th produced figures of 1575 at Nene Washes and 1471 at Ouse Washes, also 400 at Over Fen and 340 at Paxton Pits. Breeding population at Nene Washes 260 pairs plus some promising signs from arable areas in parts of county.

Red Knot Ten dropped into the Nene Washes on Mar 9th were heading south-west. A series of records from Paxton Pits GP on Mar 11th, 2 on 14th, Mar 31st, Apr 2nd and 12th–14th.

Sanderling Four at Paxton Pits GP on Apr 21st.

Curlew Sandpiper Single in partial breeding plumage at Paxton Pits Apr 21st to 22nd.

Dunlin Highest counts at Ouse Washes (132; 11), Nene Washes (110; 12), Paxton Pits (78; 65). Scarce away from these locations with 1–10 from a further four sites.

Ruff Main locality (as ever) Ouse Washes with peaks on 83 on Mar 27th and 31 on Apr 10th. Nene Washes 1–6, Needingworth GP up to 8 in April (both sites intermittently) and passage males in various dress passed through Kingfishers Bridge, Paxton Pits GP and Cam Washes.

Jack Snipe Highest counts Serpentine BP 6 on Mar 17th and Cambourne 4 on Mar 28th, 1–2 recorded from a further 8 sites with latest from Maxey GP on Apr 28th.

Common Snipe Widely reported, highest counts Kingfishers Bridge 55+, Ouse Washes (63; 59), Nene Washes (39; 210+drummers), Wicken Fen (9; 66), Over Fen (32; 28), Paxton Pits GP (12; 10).

Eurasian Woodcock Recorded from 18 sites during March indicating that migrants are present well into the local spring with roding birds at Holme Fen, Wicken Fen, and Woodwalton Fen in late March.

Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit Main locality Ouse Washes with peak counts of 1090 on Mar 13th rising to 2992 on 27th and 1300 to April 10th. Elsewhere 60–700 at Nene Washes Apr 1st to 18th, 500 at Hampton Lakes on Apr 4th, 160 at Fen Drayton GP on Mar 31st, up to 150 at Needingworth GP, and groups of 1–34 from several other wetland sites to end of April.

Black-tailed Godwit Breeding population at Nene Washes still increasing to a minimum of 48 pairs.

Bar-tailed Godwit Kingfishers Bridge on Mar 14th and Apr 29th, Paxton Pits GP 1–2 on Apr 22nd–24th and 4 on 29th.

Whimbrel An early bird at Ferry Meadows on Mar 15th. In April Farcet Fen on 4th, Paxton Pits GP on 16th, 20th and 2 on 26th and 29th, Kneesworth on

22nd, Ouse Washes on 22nd, Nene Washes on 22nd and 2 present from 25th to 28th.

Eurasian Curlew Eight at Grafham Water (heading north-west) on Mar 9th, singles at Paxton Pits, Nene and Ouse Washes and Wicken Fen on several dates in March and April and at Hampton Lakes on Apr 4th.

Spotted Redshank In April at Ouse Washes on 16th and 27–30th and Nene Washes 18–24th.

Common Redshank Separating breeding birds from migrants is difficult though a group of 50 at Nene Washes on Apr 18th were likely candidates. Peak counts from other sites as follows: Ouse Washes 235 on Mar 27th, Kingfishers Bridge (12; 32), Paxton Pits (13; 25), Wicken Fen (3; 25).

Greenshank In April first at Needingworth GP on 2nd, Ouse Washes on 23rd, 28th, 29th and 2 on 30th, Nene Washes on 18th, 23rd and 3 on 28th, Paxton Pits 22nd and 24th, Kingfishers Bridge and Wicken Fen on 15th.

Green Sandpiper Highest counts from Paxton Pits (2; 3), Wicken Fen 3 on Apr 10th and 1–2 from a further 11 sites. Latest date was Apr 24th from Paxton Pits.

Wood Sandpiper Single at Paxton Pits GP on Apr 24nd.

Common Sandpiper In March singles at Paxton Pits GP on 5th and Maxey Cut on 7th. In April first true migrants arriving from 13th with highest counts from Paxton Pits (3), Nene Washes, Ouse Washes and Grafham Water (2) and singles from a further 5 sites.

SKUAS TO TERNS

Mediterranean Gull A good period for this species with up to 3–4 individuals noted at Grafham Water and Paxton Pits, also noted elsewhere at Farcet Fen, CEGB Res, Ouse washes, Nene Washes and Wicken Fen.

Little Gull A poor spring once again with 1–2 at Paxton Pits in late March–early April, also singles noted at Ouse Washes on Apr 15th and Grafham Water on Apr 20th. However a peak movement was noted on Apr 21st with birds at Grafham Water (10), Paxton Pits (4) and Upware (5).

Black-headed Gull Grafham Water held up to 11, 000+ roosting birds in March. Counts of 1100 at Nene Washes, 420 at Kingfishers and 2142 at Paxton Pits were all from breeding sites hopefully data on breeding pairs would also be forth coming for this amber species.

Common Gull No real information received of any spring movements, but up to 2000+ roosted at Grafham Water on Mar 13th and 600 noted at Paxton Pit on Mar 22nd perhaps indicate main passage movements.

Lesser Black backed Gull Highest count received was 300 at Nene Washes on Apr 14th and 3 pairs were nesting at Paxton Pits by the end of April.

Herring Gull Breeding was again noted from one site.

Yellow-legged Gull More records received than the previous two species put together, why? During

the period birds noted at 8 sites with display noted at Grafham Water and Paxton Pits.

Caspian Gull In March singles noted at CEGB Res, Dogsthorpe Star Pit, Grafham Water, Landbeach, Milton and Paxton Pits. In April the only record received was from Paxton Pits on the 12th.

Iceland Gull A prolonged northerly airflow resulted in an unprecedented 6 individuals being noted during the period. A 2cy was at Milton / Landbeach on Mar 1st–5th becoming a garden tick on the 5th! An adult was also noted at Landbeach Tip on 4th. Other 2cy birds were noted at Dogsthorpe Star Pit on Mar 12–15th and Coldhams Common on Mar 27th. At CEGB Reservoir, 3cy birds were present on Mar 15–20th and on Mar 28th.

Greater Black-backed Gull A large count of 300 at Nene Washes on Mar 12th.

Kittiwake A single 2cy was at Paxton Pits on Mar 9th, thereafter a passage of birds was noted from Grafham Water / Paxton Pits on Mar 25–29th peaking at 16 birds at Grafham on the 28th.

Sandwich Tern In April, singles noted at Paxton Pits and Ouse Washes on 23rd and 2 at Grafham Water on 24th.

Common Tern First noted at Ferry Meadows on Apr 1st then reported from 5 other sites in the following week. Peak numbers include 165 at Paxton Pits and 40+ at Grafham Water.

Arctic Tern First noted at Kingfishers Bridge and Fen Drayton on Apr 17th. Classic conditions of a northerly airflow and overcast conditions predictably brought down excellent numbers from the 23rd to the month's end. At least 320+ and 180+ passed through Grafham Water and Paxton Pits respectively during this time with peak counts of 136 at Paxton Pits on 29th, 90 at Grafham on 27th, 26 at Kingfishers Bridge 26 on 23rd and Fen Drayton 17 on 24th.

Little Tern A single noted at Paxton Pits on Apr 29th.

Black Tern First noted at Paxton Pits on Apr 16th. A noticeable movement on 21st with records at Grafham Water (8), Paxton Pits (14) and Upware (2).

NEAR PASSERINES

Feral Pigeon Birds noted at Cambridge (112), Whittlesey (100+) and Wisbech (170+).

Stock Pigeon Noted nesting in owl boxes and an allotment shed. A nest at Somersham had young by Apr 1st.

Wood Pigeon A large count of 1800 at Kingfishers Bridge on Mar 22nd.

Collared Dove Largest count received was 20+ at Elm; any breeding counts out there?

Turtle Dove First noted on Apr 21st at Grunty Fen and Paxton Pits. Recorded from 8 other sites.

Common Cuckoo First noted at Paxton Pits on Apr 15th, reported from 20 other sites. Not heard in Melbourn again this year the third blank year in a row.

Barn Owl Sixty-six records received from 39 sites!

Little Owl Twenty-two records received from 20

sites.

Tawny Owl Only 23 records from 17 sites a low return for a species that is very vocal during the period covered.

Long-eared Owl Reported from 8 sites.

Short-eared Owl Thirty records received from 12 sites including up to 6 at Orton BP.

Common Swift First reported on Apr 16th at Fen Drayton and main arrival somewhat early on Apr 27–29th when peak counts included 90 at Fen Drayton on 28th and 200 at Grafham Water on 29th.

Kingfisher Reported from 21 widespread sites.

Hoopoe A very popular singing bird at Fowlmere NR on Apr 13–14th.

Green Woodpecker Reported from 37 sites including 8 at Grafham Water.

Greater Spotted Woodpecker Up to 4 heard drumming in Hardwick Wood and 3 at Paxton Pits.

Lesser-Spotted Woodpecker Noted from 11 sites the highest number for some years.

PASSERINES

Skylark Reported from 15 sites with a maximum of 43 at Lark Rise Farm, Barton on Apr 7th

Sand Martin Reported from 32 sites. The earliest record was from Wandlebury on Mar 1st. The maximum number recorded during the period was 500 at Fen Drayton on Mar 30th.

Barn Swallow First returning birds were noted at Ferry Meadows on Mar 25th. Numbers increased throughout the period with birds recorded from at least 40 sites. The maximum record was 50+ at Kingfisher's Bridge on Apr 9th,

House Martin With the first of the spring noted on Mar 27th at Fen Drayton, passage picked up by Mid April with a maximum of 74 recorded at East Fen, Isleham on Apr 29th.

Richard's Pipit A very welcome long-staying individual frequented an area of farmland at Bury Lane, Witcham from Apr 8th to at least 24th. This represented the first spring records for the county. See p 9 for an account by the finder.

Tree Pipit Two were seen in the period, both in April. The first was at Serpentine BP on 20th and the next occurring at Kingfisher's Bridge on 29th.

Meadow Pipit Records were received from 17 sites with the highest count coming from Paxton Pits with 90 present on Mar 15th.

Rock Pipit Three birds, suspected to be of the Scandinavian race *littoralis* recorded in April at Paxton Pits, 2 were noted on 2nd and 1 on 8th.

Water Pipit 1–2 were noted at Kingfisher's Bridge, Paxton, Mepal and Nene Washes during March with as many as 3 noted at Ouse Washes throughout March and into early April.

Yellow Wagtail The first returning bird was noted at Ouse Washes on the early date of Mar 13th, of course this could involve the same individual seen here in February. The maximum count during the period was from Ouse Washes on Apr 30th. Individuals of the blue-headed subspecies *flava*, were noted in April at Grafham Water from 5 to

10th, 2 at Paxton Pits on 11th, Dog-in-a doublet on 17–18th, Ely BF on 22nd, Grafham, a female on 24th and finally a male at Ouse Washes on 30th.

Grey Wagtail Reports were received from 19 sites with the majority of records concerning 1–2 birds, so hopefully breeding pairs. The maximum was 7 at Ely on Apr 18th.

Pied Wagtail Counts received from 10 sites with maximum of 128 at Ouse Washes on Mar 13th. Individuals of the nominate subspecies *alba* noted in much higher numbers than in previous years with a maximum of 19 at Paxton Pits on Apr 12th:

Bohemian Waxwing After last year's invasion it was back to normal this year with only a handful of spring records. The first record concerned 2 at Cambourne on Mar 11th with a single noted in Cambridge on Mar 17th

Nightingale First noted at Kingfisher's Bridge on Apr 6th. Records then followed from another 8 sites. The maximum was at Paxton Pits with up to 27 singing males by the end of the month.

Black Redstart Only 1 record in the period concerned a female at Cambourne on Mar 28th staying until next day.

Common Redstart Singles were noted from early April at Fowlmere with as many as 4 individuals; other singles were noted from Cambridge, Crafts Hill, Denton, Little Wilbraham Fen and Thriplow,

Whinchat First arrival noted on Apr 21st at Thriplow with other records coming from Grafham Water, Haddenham, Nene Washes, Paxton Pits and Serpentine BP.

Stonechat 1–2 birds were noted from at least 10 sites with records from Caxton/Bourn, Chatteris, Cam Washes Ely, Gorefield, Kingfisher's Bridge, Over Fen, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen. Maximum in the period was 7 birds present at Nene Washes.

Northern Wheatear Spring 2005 saw a movement involving as many as 100 individuals, but the spring of 2006 will surely go down as the most memorable Wheatear migration to date in Cambs with several sites recording flocks of 30 or more. A detailed breakdown follows:

First noted at Farcet Fen on Mar 22nd with additional records from the following sites (Highest counts): Haddenham 33, Priory Farm, Wicken 30, Wicken Fen 30, Prior's Fen 27 and Yaxley Fen 24.

- 15–20 birds: noted at Farcet, Haddenham, Serpentine BP, Swaffham Prior Fen, Wardy Hill and Wicken Fen.
- 10–14 birds: noted at Doddington, Farcet, Haddenham and Wicken Fen.
- 5–9 birds: noted at Alconbury, Blackbush Drove, Cambourne, Farcet Fen, Haddenham, Newborough, Paxton Pits, Trumpington and Wicken Fen.
- 1–4 birds: noted at Bedford Purlieus, Borough Fen, Bottisham, Cambourne, Connington, Devil's Ditch, Farcet Fen, Fen Drayton, Fordham, Gog Magog, Grafham Water, Great Eversden, Grunty Fen, Hatley, Kneesworth, Manea, Maxey GP, Needingworth, Nene Washes, Orton

Southgate, Over, Oxloade, Paxton Pits, Prior's Fen, Pymoor, Ramsey Mere, Stilton, Toft and Upper Knarr Fen.

In addition, a single on 16th April at Paxton Pits was of the Greenland race *leucorhoa*.

Ring Ouzel A small influx was noted in April. A maximum of 4 were noted at Wardy Hill with 3 at Witcham the same day. In addition, singles were recorded at Boxworth, Cambridge, Devil's Dyke, Ely, Fulbourn, Paxton Pits, Queen Adelaide, Swaffham Prior Fen and Wimpole.

Blackbird Records were received from 13 sites with maximum of 15 at The Gloucesters on Apr 5th

Fieldfare Records received from 17 sites with average numbers recorded. The maximum count was 720 at Farcet Fen on Mar 22nd. Last noted on Apr 27th at Wicken Fen.

Song Thrush Records were received from 12 sites with 1–3 individuals being the norm at most sites. The maximum was 11 at Wicken on Apr 1st.

Redwing Recorded from at least 13 sites with lower than average counts. The maximum noted during the period was from Monks Wood with 100 on Mar 8th. Last noted on Apr 14th at Wicken.

Mistle Thrush Reports were received from 8 sites with 1–2 being the norm. Five were noted at Elm on Mar 31st.

Cetti's Warbler Noted at Fen Drayton GP until Apr 25th at least, with a singing male present in both months; 4+ singing males present at Wicken Fen in April. Also one at Fortrey's Hall (Apr 15th).

Common Grasshopper Warbler First reported a few days earlier than in 2005 and 1 day ahead of the average (Woodwalton Fen on Apr 9th). Birds were heard or sighted at 14 locations, with a maximum of 3 at Wicken Fen on Apr 23rd.

Sedge Warbler Few records beat the average earliest date of arrival of Apr 6th: one did at Haddenham (Apr 3rd) and another at Milton CP, Cambridge (Apr 4th). Many more were first noted around Apr 9–14th with Paxton Pits holding 48 by Apr 23rd.

Eurasian Reed Warbler First dates for records were around a week later than the county average. From 10 sites, the earliest was on Apr 12th at Wicken Fen, with 10+ present at Fen Drayton GP by Apr 25th.

Lesser Whitethroat Although reported from more sites than in 2005 (17 v 12), first records were generally later than last year and all were later than the average. First records were at Comberton, Haddenham and Paxton Pits (all Apr 22nd).

Common Whitethroat Another summer visitor whose arrival was generally later than in 2005, and also later than the average. The first report from Grafham Water on Apr 3rd preceded other first sightings by about a fortnight. The greatest concentration of birds reported in April was 20 at East Fen (Isleham) on Apr 29th.

Garden Warbler Reported from 13 sites, all first records were later than the county average (Apr 10th). The earliest report was from Godmanchester (Apr 16th), the maximum number of 8 was reported

from Fen Drayton GP (Apr 28th).

Blackcap Of the numerous individual reports received, those from 11 sites included March sightings out of a total of 43 sites reporting for Mar/Apr. It was said that some overwintered individuals continued to be loyal to specific gardens even into April.

Wood Warbler One singing male was present at Roswell Pits (Ely) on Apr 21st.

Common Chiffchaff Reports received from only 4 sites on Mar 1st–9th. Most records were from Mar 19th onwards, with a peak count of 24 on Mar 31st at Paxton Pits. Noted at numerous sites in April.

Willow Warbler Records for March are conspicuous for their rarity: received only from Ferry Meadows and Paxton Pits (Mar 29th) and Fen Drayton (Mar 31st) – about a fortnight later than in 2005. Eleven singing males at Earith GP on Apr 22nd was a record number for the site.

Goldcrest Reports from 7 sites, generally 1–2 birds were present, with 3 at Paxton Pits on Mar 29th.

Firecrest A total of 5+ birds was reported: from Fowlmere NR (Apr 2nd), Haddenham (Apr 1st, 3rd), Hayley Wood (Apr 2nd), Paxton Pits (Apr 22nd; possible on Mar 27th) and Wilburton (Apr 7th).

Pied Flycatcher A male was present at Marsh Lane GP on Apr 21st, and a further report from there on Apr 26th was probably the same bird.

Long-tailed Tit No double-digit March counts, with a maximum of 9+ at Elm. Three breeding pairs noted at Kingfisher's Bridge.

Marsh Tit Noted at 9 sites, some higher numbers were recorded at Monks Wood (23 pairs), 4 at Paxton Pits (2 pairs), Eversden Wood (3 birds) and Buff Wood (3 pairs). No reports of April birds were received from Monks Wood, and no records at all from Woodwalton Fen.

Coal Tit From 10 sites, numbers were generally low at 1–3 birds, with 6 at Gransden/Waresley Woods and nest-building noted at the Cobb's Wood (Wimpole).

Blue Tit At 15 sites, reports were mainly of 1–2 birds, also some groups (maximum 12 at the Gloucesters (Wimpole) on Apr 5th. At Hardwick Wood, the first nest-box with evidence of nesting was found on Mar 31st.

Great Tit At 15 sites, highest numbers generally arose from visits to woods – 21 at the Gloucesters (Wimpole), 10 at Buff Wood and 8 from Eversden Wood, but 9 were reported from East Fen (Isleham).

Wood Nuthatch Records from 8 sites included 7 birds at Monks Wood on Mar 15th, 4 at Hayley Wood on Apr 28th and 3 at Gransden/Waresley Woods on April 11th.

Eurasian Treecreeper Records from 17 sites were mainly of 1–2 birds although 6 at Paxton Pits on Apr 10th, 5 at Hayley Wood on Apr 28th, and 4 at Hardwick Wood on Apr 5th were exceptions.

Great Grey Shrike The Wicken Fen bird, present since the end of 2005, was last noted on Mar 2nd.

Eurasian Jay Records from 12 sites refer to counts of 1–4 birds apart from 8 at Paxton Pits on Apr

10th, and a flock of 6 at Wicken Fen on Mar 29th. **Black-billed Magpie** Up to 21 were reported from Monks Hardwick (St Neots) in March with 23 at Purls Bridge on Mar 30th.

Eurasian Jackdaw The highest count was of just 12+ birds at Elm in March. A Nordic Jackdaw was at Lode on Mar 10th and 16th.

Rook The highest count was of 120+ at Elm during March. Counts of active nests included: Paxton Pits, 71; Little Eversden, 66; Toft, 60; Willingham, 36; and Caldecot, 35.

Carrion Crow High counts included 77 at Sutton Gault on Mar 27th, 30 at Nene Washes on Apr 24th, 25 at Monks Hardwick (St Neots) on Mar 5th, and 25 at Port Holme Meadow on Apr 30th.

Common Starling 1200 birds at the Nene Washes on Mar 28th was one of the highest counts of the winter. A roosting flock of 300 at Kings Ripton on Mar 10th was also notable.

House Sparrow Counts more than 10 birds were limited to 60+ at Elm throughout March, and 12 at Toft on Apr 15th.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow Recorded from 9 sites. Maximum counts included up to 45 at Farcet Fen throughout the period, 30+ at Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) on Mar 4th, and 16 at Block Fen on Mar 16th.

Chaffinch Highest counts involved 150 at Swaffham Prior fen on Mar 18h, and 70 at Whittlesford on Mar 12th.

Brambling Records of 1–6 birds from 15 sites continued throughout the period. The large flock at Fowlmere NR was still 157 strong on Apr 2nd.

European Greenfinch Maximum counts related to 30+ birds at Elm throughout March, 20 in a Comberton garden throughout April, and 20 in a Stretham garden on Mar 14th.

European Goldfinch Maximum counts were of 50+ at Dimmock's Cote on Apr 9th, 29 in a Stretham garden on Mar 14th, 25+ at Elm throughout March, and 25 at Ely Fen on Apr 24th.

Eurasian Siskin Recorded from 30 sites. High counts came from Woodwalton Fen (60 on Mar 21st), Fowlmere NR (60 on Mar 15th), Paxton Pits (50 on Mar 11th), Grafham Water (32 on Mar 7th) and Cambridge (20 on the Backs on Mar 5th).

Common Linnet Records were received from over 20 sites. The highest counts received included 140 at Lode on Apr 4th, 80 at Long Drove (Waterbeach) on Mar 4th, and 80 at Nene Washes on Mar 13th although there were many flocks of 40–70 reported.

Lesser Redpoll Records were received from 13 sites. Counts of 30 at Over – Needingworth GP on

Mar 4th and 15–20 at Wicken fen on Apr 16th are noteworthy.

Mealy Redpoll Records of 5 at Woodwalton Fen on Mar 2nd and 1 at Swaffham Prior fen on Mar 18th, were the only ones for the period.

Common Crossbill Up to 8 birds were present at Monks Wood during the period.

Common Bullfinch Reported from 14 sites. Ten at Grafham Water on Mar 7th was the highest count.

Hawfinch A good series of records related to 6 at Castor Hanglands on Mar 6th (with 1 there on Mar 15th), 1 at Dogsthorpe Star Pit LNR on Mar 7th and then a succession of reports from Monks Wood of 1–5 birds throughout the period.

Yellowhammer Recorded at 26 sites, with high counts of 32 at Lark Rise Farm (Barton) on Apr 7th and 30 at Swaffham Prior Fen on Apr 3rd.

Reed Bunting Recorded at 26 sites, with 100 near Dimmock's Cote on Apr 9th, and 59 at Ouse Washes on Apr 10th being the most notable counts.

Corn Bunting Records were received from 23 sites. Records of 50 or more were from Block Fen (100 on Mar 16th), Farcet Fen (65 on Mar 22nd), Swaffham Prior Fen (50+ on Mar 18th) and Haddenham (50 on Apr 10th).

HYBRIDS

Canada x Greylag Up to 4 noted at Paxton Pits.

Gadwall x Mallard A male was noted at Ouse Washes on Mar 4th.

Tufted Duck x Pochard Noted at Grafham Water on Mar 7–12th and Paxton Pits 12–24th.

EXOTICA

Black Swan Two noted at Ely throughout and on R. Cam Cambridge during March.

Lesser Canada Goose A single – probably Richardson's was noted at Kingfishers Bridge on Apr 22nd.

Bar-headed Goose Noted at Earith to Mar 12th at least.

Red-billed Pintail A single noted at Sutton Gault on Mar 27th.

Wood Duck A drake on the R. Cam Cambridge throughout the period.

Muscovy Duck Fifteen at Ely Fen on Apr 24th.

Purple Swamphen Now nest building at Fen Drayton – what an optimistic fellow!

Sudan Golden Sparrow A single noted at Farcet Fen on Apr 10th. This species had previously been recorded at the same site in Aug–Sept 2004.

Contributors: Colin Addington, Jake Allsop, Louise Bacon, Ian Barton, Rowena Baxter, James Cadbury, Robin Cox, Carlos Davies, Ian Delgado, Ian Dickerson, Dr Mike Foley, David Griffiths, James Hanlon, Kevin Harris, Jack Harrison, Brian & Sheila Harrup, Mark Hawkes, Peter Herkenrath, Pete Holt, David Hopkins, Julian Hughes, Bob Humphrey, Michael Jennings, Colin Kirtland, John Le Gassick, Vince Lea, Jono Leadley, Tony Mallyon, Owen & Monica Marks, Bruce & Gwen Martin, Mark Missin, Dick Newell, John Oates, Rob Palmer, Michael Price, Tony Roberts, Kathleen Rosewarne, Paul Rule, Bob & Ann Scott, Clive Sinclair, Chris Thorne, Alan & Brenda Wadsworth, P. M. Warrington, Lionel Webb, David White.

Apologies to anyone whose name has been omitted. Any records received after the deadline date may not appear in the Bulletin though the observers may be acknowledged. They will be entered on the Clubs database for the Annual Report.

Bulletin bird: Richard's Pipit at Witcham

David Hopkins

April and October are two months when I get the urge to work my local 'patch'. On April 8th at the end of a long walk around Mepal and Witcham parishes (speculatively looking for Ring Ouzels, which would turn up a couple of days later), as I walked home along Bury Road I heard a bird calling above me and saw it drop down into the paddock alongside the track. The call was a vaguely sparrow-like 'tschreep', but the bird looked like a pipit and had landed in a grassfield; this set alarm-bells ringing in my mind, but I only had binoculars with me! So I called John Oates, Paul Mason and Rob Partridge, explaining to them I had a "pipit with a funny call", and then shot home to get my 'scope.

Returning five minutes later, I re-located the bird, feeding in the grass some 40 metres from me. Although not wholly visible all the time, I could see it was of large proportions, like a "long-legged, upright, portly Grey Wagtail", with a heavy long bill, and was mostly buff-coloured, with darker streaking, above, paler underparts, with dark streaking around the upper breast; pale lores, (which at times showed a hint of a darker line), white outer-tail feathers, combining to give a somewhat thrush-like appearance. And it called like a Richard's Pipit, a bird I have seen and heard in Witcham, and North Norfolk, before.

But this was April and inland Cambridgeshire, and I needed back-up to ensure I wasn't hallucinating! The next five minutes saw both Common Buzzard and male Hen Harrier fly over the field, and I desperately hoped they wouldn't spook the bird. Then Paul Mason arrived, and viewed the bird, whilst I referred to his Collins Field Guide. Upper-breast streaking, pale lores, and perhaps the early date, ruled out Tawny Pipit, and the only Blyth's Pipit I have heard reminded me more of Yellow Wagtail, (besides which, photos I took the following day revealed pointed dark central markings on the median coverts). Richard's Pipit it was!

John and Rob then arrived, and after forty minutes or so the bird re-appeared (after a brief scare when a Meadow Pipit walked out from where the Richard's Pipit had been), and its identity was wholly confirmed.

This was the first opportunity I had to study this species at any great length, and although it was frequenting quite lengthy grass, it showed well at times in the shorter patches. It favoured the wettest part of the field, along a line of seepage from a nearby pond, and would run down flies and bees in short dashes, and then gently pump its tail. It would often rise to the air, calling 'tschreep', or less often 'chip' or 'cheep', and would fly quite high, and sometimes more than a field away, but usually returned, often landing in the hedges with exaggerated, stepped 'parachutes'.

The bird was present from 8th to 27th of April and (eventually) afforded views to most people who went for it. It seems (to me, anyway), most unusual that it remained faithful to such a small area for so long, and I wonder just how long had it been around before I found it? Last October?

BirdTrack – making more use of your birdwatching records*

Dawn Balmer, BTO BirdTrack Organiser

What is BirdTrack (www.birdtrack.net)?

The BirdTrack project organised by BTO on behalf of BTO, RSPB and BirdWatch Ireland is interested in tracking the arrival of migrants through its specially designed website. BirdTrack is not just interested in your first sighting of a Redwing, Pink-footed Goose, Swallow or Cuckoo but wants to monitor the mass arrival of these species and others. By recording lists of species you see and hear on a regular basis we can also gather important information on departure dates. Birdwatchers are very good at recording arrival dates, but do you know when you've seen your last Cuckoo of the summer, for example?

BirdTrack isn't just about migrants. We can also monitor seasonal movements, such as the autumn and spring movements of Siskins or perhaps a cold weather movement of Lapwings or Starlings. We can also use records of scarce species such as Lesser Spotted Woodpecker to help build up a picture

of distribution on an annual basis. Given that national bird atlases are compiled every twenty years or so, BirdTrack could help fill gaps in species monitoring. Just think how the distribution of the Buzzard and Little Egret has changed since the last Breeding Atlas in 1991!

One of the most exciting aspects of taking part in BirdTrack is entering your records of migrants, and looking at your dot on the map and seeing how it fits in with movements at the national scale. BirdTrack is updated every night so you will be able to see your sighting on the map the next day. Graphs and tables are produced at the regional and national scale, whilst all maps are at the national scale only. Using BirdTrack also means that your records are stored in a safe place and you can easily download your records into Excel for your personal use.

What records do we want?

Anyone can take part in BirdTrack, whether you go birdwatching to your local park, nature reserve, coast or just your garden. What we really want are lists of all the species you see and hear whilst out birdwatching at a site. These 'complete lists' are really the basis of BirdTrack, and from these we can plot the pattern and timing of arrival and compare with previous years. The real benefit of using 'complete lists' is that it overcomes variation in recording effort – so listing can be scientific! Incomplete lists and casual records can also be entered. Wherever possible, we are keen to receive counts of birds, rather than simple presence (a tick). Estimates of flocks can be entered using circa or plus. You can also enter your historical records and we already have a number of people who have submitted their records from the late 1960s and 1970s! Think about choosing a site you have visited regularly over the years and enter the records from there.

Edit, search and download your records

Since BirdTrack was launched in August 2004 at the Bird Fair, we have added an editing facility, which allows you to edit your own records. The 'Search and Download' facility allows you to search your own records and to view the results online in the form of a table or a graph (where applicable). You can also download your records to Excel or a Comma Separated Values (csv) file for your own use. Some birdwatchers now enter their records into BirdTrack first and then download the records and load into other systems such as Mapmate, Excel for their own purposes.

Contribute to national and local bird recording

By entering your records into BirdTrack you are contributing to national and local bird recording. Your records are automatically used in the nightly updates of BirdTrack and they can also be downloaded by your Bird Club (only if you have given us permission to do so). One or two nominated Bird Club officials (usually the recorder and data manager) can be set up with special access to BirdTrack so they can download the records relevant to their recording area at whatever frequency they want. They will receive all the information they need, together with the name and contact details of the observer.

Work in progress...

BirdTrack is very much 'work in progress' with many exciting additions planned for the next year or so. We have set up a BirdTrack Working Group, made up of a small number of bird recorders and data managers, who have been able to advise us on many issues relating to bird recording. We thank them for their help. See www.bto.org/birdtrack/bird_recording/btwg_home.htm for more information.

How to take part

To take part in BirdTrack, visit www.birdtrack.net and register as a recorder. We ask you to register so we can store your records securely and because we may need to contact you in the future. Once you have your User name and password, you can 'Login to enter sightings'. You will arrive at 'Data Home' and from there you can create sites, enter lists, view and edit records, etc. We prefer if sites can be registered at the 1km level (which gives more detailed information to BirdTrack and the bird recorder) but large sites can be registered at the 10km level. For these large sites, we suggest you make a note of six-figure grid references of particularly interesting species you see and record this information in the comments box against the species. It is important that you keep your email address updated and you can do this in 'My Details and Settings'. If you have any queries or comments, please contact birdtrack@bto.org. For technical issues the Web Support Team can help you (web.support@bto.org).

***From the bulletin editor:** I have a longer version of this article with sample colour maps and graphs, which I can email to any member on request (vicki.harley@care4free.net).

Cambridgeshire Bird Club – Membership Survey

Stuart Elsom

Firstly, a huge 'thank you' to all those who took the time to complete and return their surveys. The 78 completed surveys represent approximately 26% of the membership so this is a good return rate.

The results can broadly be assigned to two categories: Positive and Negative.

Positive

Of those surveyed, 97% believe their membership represents value for money, 96% regularly read the bulletin and 60% say the indoor meetings programme has the right balance of subjects. The 'What's about?' section on the website is also very popular with 60% of you visiting this area most often.

Negative

Of those surveyed, only 40% attend indoor meetings and 56% have not attended an outdoor meeting. With a large club like CBC it is inevitable that the membership will be well distributed across the county and not necessarily based within Cambridge itself, so this is not a major reason for concern. It is also noted that 23 members said they 'never' visited the club website. It is important to realise that this could also mean the individual doesn't have access to a computer.

The future – Room for improvement:

Of those surveyed 60% send in records to the county recorder. Many of those who indicated that they didn't send records in said that they felt their contribution was not worthwhile as it only represented 'common birds'.

SUMMER FIELD MEETINGS 2006

Friday July 14th RSPB Lakenheath Reserve – see page 1.

August 11th Barbecue at RSPB Fowlmere Reserve.

Arrive during afternoon/evening for birding. Walk led by Doug Radford (Warden) at 6.30 p.m. Barbecue cooking in the picnic area from 7.30 p.m. – bring your own food to cook. Salad, baps, sauces, soft drinks available – donation towards costs welcome.

We hope to arrange a moth trapping session later in the evening. Toilets are available.

Contact Vicki Harley (01954 250340) or Louise Bacon (01223 263962) by 6th August if you intend to come – this will help us with the catering.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We welcome the following new members, Stephen Adams of Fenstanton, Andrew Bryce of Cambridge, Nick Faiers of Cambridge, Steve Hartley of Cambridge, Robert Pople of Cambridge, John Raven of Cambridge and Leo Young of Willingham.

Bruce Martin

CBC E-Communication: bulletin by email and CBC-Announce

If you would like to receive your bulletin by email or be subscribed to CBC-ANNOUNCE, please contact Vicki Harley. If anyone has asked to receive the bulletin this way but is still getting the print version, please let me know: email vicki.harley@care4free.net

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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.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk

Birdline number

Remember that your Cambs bird sightings can be phoned in free of charge to Birdline East Anglia on 0800 083 0803.

Please email records to: John Oates by July 7th

Please send records by post to: Louise Bacon by July 7th

Next Bulletin due out August 2006, covering May–June 2006

GOOD BIRDING!