

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB

## Bulletin No. 429



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

## Welcome to the July / August 2013 Edition

*From the bi-monthly Bulletin Editor (Chris Brown)*

We hope that most you will have seen the new e-Bulletin available on the club's website on a monthly basis, produced by Peter Bircham. My role is to continue to produce the bimonthly paper version (whilst there is a demand for it), and there will inevitably some differences between the two formats. The e-bulletin has the advantages of speed and topicality and the use of colour including photographs, whilst the paper bulletin will allow us to give a fuller view of recent records, and ensure that members who prefer paper will not miss out on any news or articles. In this edition I have made some layout changes and will be interested to hear whether people find the Recent Reports section more or less readable; its style is more detailed but less narrative, but is this preferred? Peter and I would very much appreciate feedback on the format and merits of the new dual bulletin, and we continue to depend on you for news and articles. One of the aims of the Club is to 'advance the education of the public in the study of birds' and I am sure we would include our own members in that. As a relatively new member, and an 'on-off' bird watcher during my working life, I am conscious that there is much more to discover, so I echo the previous editor's invitation to members to contribute to the bulletin with pieces of advice on bird identification, songs and calls, distribution or behaviour, as well as accounts of birding trips, patch experiences or particular observations. You can contact Peter and myself at [cbbulletin@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:cbbulletin@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk) and my phone number is on the back page.

*Black-necked Grebe by Ben Green*



## RECENT BIRD REPORTS July / August 2013

### July Headlines

**GREAT WHITE EGRET** Burwell Fen/Wicken/Cam Washes all month; Fen Drayton Lakes (27<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup>).  
**PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** Burwell Fen (adult in summer plumage 24<sup>th</sup>).  
**BLACK KITE** RAF Wittering (a possible circling and drifting west 16<sup>th</sup>).  
**HONEY BUZZARD** Ouse Fen (one over 6<sup>th</sup>), Yaxley (a probable over north on 25<sup>th</sup>).  
**SPOTTED CRAKE** Ouse Washes (on last pool before railway 21<sup>st</sup>).

### August Headlines

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** Ouse Washes (an eclipse plumage male 3<sup>rd</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>).  
**GREAT WHITE EGRET** 2 long stayers all month at Wicken Fen/Cam Washes and Fen Drayton Lakes.  
**WRYNECK** Murrow (in a private garden on 26<sup>th</sup>).  
**RED-BACKED SHRIKE** Paxton Pits (a juvenile on 27<sup>th</sup>).  
**TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL** Fowlmere NR (flying north 7<sup>th</sup>), part of an invasion (see *British Birds*).  
**SPOONBILL** 2 at Ouse Fen on 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Summary

A very active migration of waders throughout July was reported from all the main wetland sites. At Wicken Fen there was some evidence of breeding by Bitterns. Bearded Tit have also been very successful there this year, and there was evidence of probable first breeding at Chippenham Fen. Little Egret numbers continue to astound, 82 at Burwell Fen and 77 at Berry Fen being the maxima; as recently as 2010 the highest count all year was 20. A Crossbill passage seems to have been concentrated around the 20<sup>th</sup>. Two scarce species recorded were Sandwich Tern and Raven. Numbers of most wildfowl increased during August. Feral geese numbers continued to rise with increasing reports of Barnacle and Egyptian Geese. The second earliest Hen Harrier record came from the guided busway; there was further passage by most of the more common waders with Green and Common Sandpiper recorded on almost every day of the month. Sequences of migration included parties of Sandwich Terns on 24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> Aug and small parties of Yellow Wagtails. An east coast fall at the end of the month brought singles of Red-backed Shrike and Wryneck our way, along with commoner species such as Tree Pipit, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Whinchat and Wheatear.

### July Reports

#### Wildfowl

**Whooper Swan** 5 at Wicken (10<sup>th</sup>) and 4 at Ouse Washes (18<sup>th</sup>).  
**Greylag Goose** Barleycraft GP had 284 on 21<sup>st</sup>.  
**Canada Geese** Maximum of 226 also at Barleycraft on 21<sup>st</sup>.  
**Egyptian Goose** At four Ouse Valley sites with a maximum of 12 at Fen Drayton Lakes on 17<sup>th</sup>.  
**Mandarin** Grafham Water (2 on 27<sup>th</sup>) and a single in Cambridge on 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Wigeon** 1 to 5 at six sites.  
**Gadwall** Wicken held up to 60 and Ouse Fen 50 (both on 21<sup>st</sup>).  
**Mallard** Maximum 149 at Ouse Fen on 21<sup>st</sup>.  
**Garganey** Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 10 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>), and Cam Washes (2 on 21<sup>st</sup>).  
**Shoveler** Juveniles were recorded on the Cam and Ouse Washes on 9<sup>th</sup>.  
**Red-crested Pochard** A pair bred at Ouse Fen.  
**Tufted Duck** Broods were recorded at 4 sites (12 broods) and there was a maximum count of 214 at Colne Fen GP (9<sup>th</sup>).

#### Gamebirds

**Grey Partridge** 12 with young at Four Gotes (24<sup>th</sup>), with other reports from Comberton, Paxton Pits and the Wicken/Burwell area.

**Quail** Calling birds at Gunner's Hall Balsham (7<sup>th</sup>), Farcet Fen (8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup>), Crane Hill Abbotsley (several dates in late July, maximum 2), Melbourn (18<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>) and Tetworth (26<sup>th</sup>).

#### Egrets and herons

**Bittern** 3 at Ouse Fen (1<sup>st</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>), singles at Wicken Fen (20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Little Egret** Berry Fen (77+ on 7<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (Adventurers' Fen 37 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 45 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (40 roosting on 17<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere NR (4 on 10<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (8+ on 24<sup>th</sup>) and Burwell Fen (maximum 82 on 18<sup>th</sup>).

#### Grebes

**Little Grebe** Up to 19 at Ouse Fen (21<sup>st</sup>) and 12 (at least 4 broods) at Burwell Fen on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-necked Grebe** A single bird on 4<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> (site withheld).

**Black-necked Grebe** Bred successfully at one site and also a single at Grafham on 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### Raptors

**Red Kite** 4 at Wansford on 24<sup>th</sup> and singles at four other sites away from north-west Cambs.

**Marsh Harrier** Up to 8 at Ouse Fen and 6 at Wicken Fen, with smaller numbers at six other sites.

**Montagu's Harrier** A single was reported at Burwell Fen on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Buzzard** Reported from seven sites, maximum 15 near Duxford Grange (20<sup>th</sup>).

**Kestrel** Under reported with just three records from Barton, Comberton and Elm.

**Sparrowhawk** One record, from Elm.

**Hobby** Reported from ten sites throughout the month, with a maximum of 2 birds at any one site.

**Peregrine** Burwell Fen (12<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (31<sup>st</sup>) and Cambridge (11<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 12<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>).

#### Crane, Rails, Coot

**Common Crane** A pair raised 2 on the Nene Washes; also 2 over Haddenham on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Water Rail** Reported from Burwell Fen (14<sup>th</sup>) and Ely Beet Pits (14<sup>th</sup>).

**Coot** Eight sites held over 100 with peaks at Ouse Fen (439 on 21<sup>st</sup>) and Colne Fen GP (382 on 20<sup>th</sup>).

#### Waders

**Oystercatcher** Reported in small numbers from eight sites; a count of 66 including juveniles at Four Gotes (tidal Nene) on 24<sup>th</sup> stood out.

**Avocet** Adventurers' Fen Wicken (8 on 10<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 28 on 14<sup>th</sup>) and Burwell Fen (6 on 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Little Ringed Plover** Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 12 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (17<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (18<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (9 on 18<sup>th</sup>), Maxey Pits (2 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (2 on 25<sup>th</sup>) and Wicken Fen (4 on 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Ringed Plover** Mostly single reports from 5 sites.

**Golden Plover** Mostly singles from 18<sup>th</sup> onwards, and 2 at Burwell Fen on 24<sup>th</sup> with Pacific Golden Plover (noted above).

**Grey Plover** Wicken Fen (2 on 15<sup>th</sup>) and Burwell Fen (18<sup>th</sup>).

**Lapwing** Maximum count of 241 at Ouse Washes (21<sup>st</sup>), juveniles reported from just two sites.

**Knot** Fen Drayton Lakes (14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Washes (21<sup>st</sup>).

**Sanderling** Single at Grafham (24<sup>th</sup>).

**Little Stint** Single at Paxton Pits (20<sup>th</sup>).

**Ruff** Burwell Fen (2 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 81 on 21<sup>st</sup>).

**Woodcock** Just one report, from the club's field trip to Chippenham Fen (2 on 12<sup>th</sup>).

**Black-tailed Godwit** Wicken Fen (Adventurers' Fen, 15 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 14 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (2 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 5 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 23 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 41 on 9<sup>th</sup>) and Maxey Pits (28<sup>th</sup>).

**Whimbrel** Mostly flyovers: Fen Drayton Lakes (14<sup>th</sup>), Yelling (9 on 25<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (2 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 13 passed through on 28<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Washes RSPB (28<sup>th</sup>).

**Curlew** Ouse Washes RSPB (9<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (14<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (flew over 21<sup>st</sup>), Grafham Water (22<sup>nd</sup>) and Wicken Fen (5<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Sandpiper** Four Gotes 8 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes (17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 3 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (21<sup>st</sup>), Maxeys Pits (4 on 28<sup>th</sup>) and Burwell Fen (maximum 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Green Sandpiper** Cam Washes (2 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Ferry Meadows (12<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 4 on 20<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 2 on 21<sup>st</sup>), Cambridge Research Park (21<sup>st</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 5 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 8 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Maxeys Pits (maximum 6 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 7 on 30<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Fen (5 on 21<sup>st</sup>).

**Spotted Redshank** Fen Drayton Lakes (14<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) and Burwell Fen (28<sup>th</sup>).

**Greenshank** Wicken Fen (Adventurers' Fen, 5 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Maxeys Pits (14<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (21<sup>st</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 9 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Washes (maximum 14 on 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Wood Sandpiper** Ouse Washes RSPB (2 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and singles 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>), Burwell Fen (22<sup>nd</sup>) and Maxeys Pits (maximum 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Turnstone** Paxton Pits (21<sup>st</sup>) and Grafham Water (24<sup>th</sup>).

### Gulls and terns

**Black-headed Gull** 500+ at Long Drove Cottenham on 19<sup>th</sup> and c. 1100 at Burwell Fen (20<sup>th</sup>).

**Mediterranean Gull** Cambridge (over Lovell Rd on 5<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (31<sup>st</sup>) and Orton Mere (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** One large count of 600+ at Long Drove on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Herring Gull** 45 in Wisbech Town centre (31<sup>st</sup>) where they also bred.

**Yellow-legged Gull** Paxton Pits (c15 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (max. 8 on 14<sup>th</sup>) and Wicken Fen (28<sup>th</sup>).

**Caspian Gull** One at Long Drove Cottenham on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Tern** Paxton Pits (2 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 on 21<sup>st</sup>) and Grafham Water (adult 27<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup>).

**Sandwich Tern** Cam Washes (6<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Tern** Maximum 90 at Fen Drayton Lakes (24<sup>th</sup>), with reports from 5 other sites including breeding success at two of these.

### Near-passerines and passerines

**Stock Dove** Reported from two sites including 14 at Elm (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Turtle Dove** Reported from 21 sites with the maximum of 10 (including 3 juveniles) at Wisbech on 31<sup>st</sup>; thirteen other sites had more than one bird with the majority in Cambs rather than Hunts.

**Cuckoo** Reported from eight sites including 3 birds at Wicken Fen (7<sup>th</sup>).

**Barn Owl, Tawny Owl** Reported from eight and four sites respectively.

**Little Owl** At six sites including Burwell Fen (2 on 4<sup>th</sup>) and Fowlmere (2 on 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Swift** Counts of over 100 from Burwell Fen (20<sup>th</sup>) and Cambridge (200 on 24<sup>th</sup>), and a movement of over 3000 in a few hours over Duxford Grange (20<sup>th</sup>).

**Kingfisher** Reported from Fowlmere NR (10<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (4 on 10<sup>th</sup>) and Overcote (20<sup>th</sup>).

**Jackdaw** 300 at Long Drove Cottenham on 19<sup>th</sup>; the same site held 1500 **Rooks** on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Raven** 3 at Crane Hill Abbotsley (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Bearded Tit** Chippenham Fen family parties (5<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (2 on 6<sup>th</sup>) and Wicken Fen 35 different birds (adults and juveniles) caught by ringers in July.

**Cetti's Warbler** Reported from six sites with the maximum 7 at Wicken Fen on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Grasshopper Warbler** Reported from Chippenham Fen (up to 4 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes, Wicken Fen and Teversham Fen.

**Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler** Ringing totals of 72 and 109 respectively at Wicken Fen.

**Starling** 550 at Burwell Fen (20<sup>th</sup>).

**Spotted Flycatcher** Reported with young from 4 sites (5+ pairs).

**Black Redstart** One at a site in South Cambridgeshire 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>.

**House Sparrow** A good count of 145 at Elm on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Yellow Wagtail** 12 at Grafham on 12<sup>th</sup> and 8 at Melbourn on 27<sup>th</sup> (bred at both sites).

**Tree Pipit** At Devils Dyke (2<sup>nd</sup> and two on 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Crossbill** Almost all flyovers: Cottenham (including 8 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere (2 juveniles on 19<sup>th</sup>), Cambridge (5 over Lovell Road also on 20<sup>th</sup>), Little Shelford (2), Murrow (juvenile), Swaffham Prior, (all on 20<sup>th</sup>), Colne (22<sup>nd</sup>), Haddenham (2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Landbeach (male over plus 2 juveniles on 24<sup>th</sup>) and Swaffham Prior (6 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Corn Bunting** 10 at Melbourn including 5 pairs (27<sup>th</sup>).

## **August Reports**

### Wildfowl

**Mute Swan** Counts over 100 from Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 197 on 17<sup>th</sup>).

**Greylag Goose** Cambridge Research Park (180 on 25<sup>th</sup>) and Cam Washes (255 on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Canada Goose** Over 100 at Godmanchester GP (198 on 7<sup>th</sup>) and Isleham Washes (245 on 29<sup>th</sup>).

**Barnacle Goose** Whittlesford GP (11 on 4<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (6<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (2 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Granta Science Park (10 on 22<sup>nd</sup>) and Sutton North Fen (19 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Egyptian Goose** Fen Drayton Lakes (16 on 8<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 7 on 15<sup>th</sup>), Earith GP (39 on 25<sup>th</sup>) and Berry Fen (8 on 24<sup>th</sup>).

**Mandarin** Reported from Wimpole Park (2–3), Hauxton GP (9 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Woodwalton Fen / Ramsey Heights (female on 26<sup>th</sup>) and Paxton Pits (a female-type on 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Wigeon** Fen Drayton Lakes, a large count of 164 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Gadwall** Fen Drayton Lakes (387 on 17<sup>th</sup>).

**Teal** Ouse Washes (c. 150 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 300 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 1000 on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Garganey** Burwell Fen (juvenile on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Ouse Washes (30 on 26<sup>th</sup> and double-figure counts on eleven other days), Cam Washes (maximum 5 on 31<sup>st</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (14<sup>th</sup>, a female on 28<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>) and Paxton Pits (24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>).

**Shoveler** Counts of 100 at Ouse Washes (100 on 22<sup>nd</sup>) and Cam Washes (110 on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Red-crested Pochard** Grafham Water (11<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>).

**Pochard** One count of over 100, from Fen Drayton Lakes (138 on 17<sup>th</sup>).

**Tufted Duck** Maxima at Fen Drayton Lakes (496 on 17<sup>th</sup>) and Godmanchester GP (242 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Ruddy Duck** Kingfishers Bridge (juvenile on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>).

### Gamebirds

**Quail** Abbotsley, 2 still calling at Crane Hill (1<sup>st</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>) and Tetworth (3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup>).

**Grey Partridge** Little Wilbraham (30 on 20<sup>th</sup>) and Haddenham/Aldreth Fen (12 on 31<sup>st</sup>).

### Cormorants, egrets and herons

**Cormorant** Highest counts from Ouse Fen (48 on 9<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (76 on 14<sup>th</sup>).

**European Shag** Fen Drayton Lakes (26<sup>th</sup>).

**Bittern** Ouse Fen (4<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Washes (18<sup>th</sup>).

**Little Egret** Most sites saw a decrease in numbers from July: Burwell Fen (maximum 30+ on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Kingfishers Bridge (20 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 5 on 13<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (5 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Grafham Water (daytime maximum 41 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 41 roosting on 20<sup>th</sup>) and Milton CP (29<sup>th</sup>).

### Grebes

**Little Grebe** Seen in greater numbers than in July, the highest counts being from Burwell Fen (29 on Aug 4<sup>th</sup>), Colne Fen (43 on 26<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Fen (43+ on 29<sup>th</sup>).

**Great Crested Grebe** Highest count at Grafham Water (maximum 41 on 12<sup>th</sup>).

**Red-necked Grebe** One at a confidential site (2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>).

**Black-necked Grebe** Cam Washes (juvenile 6<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup>), Cambridge Research Park (11<sup>th</sup>).

### Raptors

**Red Kite** 3 at Hamerton (25<sup>th</sup>), singles at Wicken Fen (6<sup>th</sup>) and Orwell (23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Marsh Harrier** Reported from Burwell Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water, Little Wilbraham Fen, Ouse Fen (maximum 7), Ouse Washes (maximum 3) and Wicken Fen (maximum 4).

**Hen Harrier** Oakington (a male seen from the guided busway on 5<sup>th</sup>), 'ringtails' at Tubney Fen on 10<sup>th</sup> and Mepal on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Buzzard** Reported from six sites, maximum 5 at Barton on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Osprey** Nene Washes (4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (25<sup>th</sup>), Cambridge (over Cheney Way/Fen Road on 27<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>), Milton CP (29<sup>th</sup>) and Cam Washes (over on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Hobby** Reported from Barton, Burwell Fen (maximum 5 on 10<sup>th</sup>), Cambourne, Cam Washes (maximum 2 on 31<sup>st</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water, Hardwick Wood (3 on 17<sup>th</sup>), Hilton, Landbeach, Ouse Fen (maximum 4 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 3 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 3 on 19<sup>th</sup>) and Wicken Fen (maximum 5 on 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Peregrine** Reported from Burwell Fen, Cambridge (St George's Church spire), Ouse Washes, St Neots, Wicken Fen and Peterborough power station (2 on 4<sup>th</sup>).

**Merlin** One at Paxton Pits (27<sup>th</sup>).

### Crane, rails, coot

**Common Crane** 4 at Nene Washes including 2 juveniles on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes (maximum 3 from 7<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>) and Tubney Fen (3 in recently harvested fields on 24<sup>th</sup>).

**Water Rail** Reported from four sites, including a chick at Fowlmere NR on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Coot** Counts over 200 from Cam Washes (210 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Godmanchester GP (206 on 25<sup>th</sup>), Colne Fen GP (220 on 26<sup>th</sup>) and Kingfishers Bridge (245 on 30<sup>th</sup>).

### Waders

**Avocet** Barleycraft GP (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Ouse Washes (4 on 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Little Ringed Plover** Burwell Fen (2 juveniles 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 4 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (10<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (11<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Washes (maximum 5 on 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Ringed Plover** Wicken Fen (2 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Great Shelford (11<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 3 on 13<sup>th</sup>), Trumpington (Clay Farm 13<sup>th</sup>), Cambridge (over Nuttings Road on 20<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 11 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>) and Sutton North Fen (25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Golden Plover** Reported from eight sites with the first sizeable flocks at Sutton North Fen (26 on 25<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Washes (80 on 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Grey Plover** Paxton Pits (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Lapwing** More numerous than in July with counts at Sutton North Fen (270 on 25<sup>th</sup>), Colne Fen GP (255 on 26<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Fen (1300 on 29<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 700 on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Little Stint** Ouse Washes (3<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>).

**Dunlin** Ouse Washes (maximum 13 on 4<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (2 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (13<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (3 on 20<sup>th</sup>) and Sutton North Fen (up to 3 on 26<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup>).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** One reported at the Ouse washes on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruff** Mainly at Ouse Washes (64 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 120+ on 21<sup>st</sup>, 86 on 24<sup>th</sup>, c80 on 27<sup>th</sup> and 135 on 31<sup>st</sup>), but also at Paxton Pits (3 on 19<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (2 on 24<sup>th</sup>) and Grafham Water (5 on 24<sup>th</sup>).

**Snipe** Wicken Fen (9 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 23 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (maximum 8 on 15<sup>th</sup>), Maxey Pits (maximum 20+ on 17<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (5+ on 20<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 46 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Berry Fen (24<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere NR (2 on 24<sup>th</sup>) and Earith Washes (26<sup>th</sup>).

**Woodcock** Reported from Chippenham Fen and Wicken Fen.

**Black-tailed Godwit** Burwell Fen (9<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (10<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 7 on 13<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 20 on 13<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (17<sup>th</sup>).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** Ouse Fen (17 on 5<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (2 on 9<sup>th</sup>).

**Whimbrel** Most, but not all, flyovers: Ferry Meadows (1<sup>st</sup>), Paxton Pits (7 on 5<sup>th</sup> single on 11<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (3 on 11<sup>th</sup>), Melbourn (22<sup>nd</sup>), Fowlmere NR (24<sup>th</sup>) and Grafham Water (4 on 24<sup>th</sup>).

**Curlew** Toft (flyover 6<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Fen (2 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Cambridge (Nuttings Road flyover 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (20<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 22<sup>nd</sup>), Manea (3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (24<sup>th</sup>) and Paxton Pits (26<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Sandpiper** Quite widely reported from suitable sites with 3 or more at Burwell Fen (25<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (4 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Maxey Pits (4<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (4 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) and Sutton North Fen (26<sup>th</sup>), and records from 12 other sites.

**Green Sandpiper** Over 100 records; counts of 5 and over from Burwell Fen (maximum 18+ on 6<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Fen (5 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Berry Fen (9 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 6 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 7 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Maxey Pits (maximum 13 on 7<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 10 on 11<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (6 on 11<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (7 on 24<sup>th</sup>), and Somersham GP (7 on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Spotted Redshank** Ouse Washes (1 or 2 all month) and Ferry Meadows (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Greenshank** Over 60 records; counts of 3 and over from Paxton Pits (maximum 12 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 6+ on 26<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (6<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (1–3 all month with 5 on 10<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Fen (3 on 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Wood Sandpiper** Burwell Fen (1 or 2 until 13<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (singles throughout the month), Maxey Pits (1 or 2 throughout, with 3 juveniles on 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>), Isleham Washes (15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) and Barleycraft GP (1+ on 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Redshank** Only reported from Cam Washes (16<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Fen (7 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

### Skuas, Gulls and Terns

**Black-headed Gull** Fen Drayton Lakes (600+ roosting on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Little Gull** Grafham Water (2 on 24<sup>th</sup> and a single on 28<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Gull** A single record from Ouse Fen (2 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Large counts at Tanholt GP (400 on 1<sup>st</sup>), Cottenham Long Drove (1500+ on 10<sup>th</sup>), Melbourn (421 on 11<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (450+ on 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Herring Gull** The only large count was from Tanholt GP (500 on 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Yellow-legged Gull** Grafham Water (maximum 5 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere NR (4 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Cottenham Long Drove (11 on 10<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 11 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (5 roosting on 31<sup>st</sup>) and three other sites with up to 3 birds.

**Caspian Gull** Paxton Pits (1 or 2 all month), Tanholt GP (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>), Dogsthorpe Tip (30<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Great Black-backed Gull** Just three records, maximum 20 at Tanholt GP on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Tern** Grafham Water (2 on 5<sup>th</sup>, single 8<sup>th</sup> and 11 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Ferry Meadows (Gunwade Lake on 24<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (24<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>) and Cam Washes (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Sandwich Tern** Paxton Pits (10 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Diddington Pit (10 over on 24<sup>th</sup>) and Grafham Water (26<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Tern** Largest counts at Grafham Water (100+ on 5<sup>th</sup> and 93+ on 8<sup>th</sup>).

**Arctic Tern** Woodwalton Fen (6<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (17<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> maximum 6 on 24<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (24<sup>th</sup>, and a juvenile on 28<sup>th</sup>).

### Near passerines and passerines

**Stock Dove** 20 or more at Stapleford (Dernford Quarry, 30 on 18<sup>th</sup>), Sutton North Fen (38 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Turtle Dove** Reported from Bury, Cambridge Research Park (maximum 3 on 11<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Maxey Pits, Ouse Fen, Over, Paxton Pits, Stretham and Wilbraham Fen.

**Cuckoo** Burwell Fen (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (14<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (16<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (18<sup>th</sup>), Coton (23<sup>rd</sup>), Aldreth (25<sup>th</sup>), Cambridge Research Park (25<sup>th</sup>), Cottenham Long Drove (28<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Washes RSPB (29<sup>th</sup>).

**Barn Owl** At Fowlmere NR, Ouse Fen (bred), Low Farm Tetworth, Swavesey (bred) and Stretham.

**Little Owl** Reported from Burwell Fen, Castor Mill, Christchurch and Tubney Fen.

**Tawny Owl** Reported from Crane Hill, Fenton, Fen Drayton Lakes and Ouse Washes Welches Dam.

**Swift** A single record from Burwell Fen (30+ on 4<sup>th</sup>).

**Kingfisher** Reported from Burwell Fen, Cambridge Maid's Causeway, Cambridge Research Park, Cam Washes, Berry Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR (maximum 3 on 21<sup>st</sup>), Maxey Pits (maximum 2 on 18<sup>th</sup>), Milton CP (2 on 29<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits and Toft.

**Jackdaw** Two counts reported, Tanholt GP (150 on 14<sup>th</sup>) and Wansford (155 on 16<sup>th</sup>).

**Raven** Fowlmere NR (20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>), Gamlingay (2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>), Tetworth Estate (2 on 26<sup>th</sup>) and Paxton Pits (2 over on 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Bearded Tit** Reported from Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Fen and Wicken Fen (maximum 6 on 4<sup>th</sup>).

**Sand Martin** Two notable counts over the Cam Washes, 300 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 250 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Cetti's Warbler** Reported from Eye Green, Fen Drayton Lakes, Orton BP and Wicken Fen.

**Lesser Whitethroat** Reported from Cam Washes (2 on 6<sup>th</sup>) and Fen Drayton Lakes (3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Whitethroat** 14 at Fen Drayton Lakes on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Grasshopper Warbler** One report, from Wicken Fen (11<sup>th</sup>).

**Nuthatch** Reported from Crane Hill, Tetworth Estate and Wimpole Park.

**MistleThrush** 19 at Wimpole Park on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Flycatcher** Reported from Brampton, Cambridge, Crane Hill, Fowlmere NR, Great Abington, Haddenham, Harston, Hauxton, Waterbeach, Wimpole Park (16 on 13<sup>th</sup>) and Yelling.

**Pied Flycatcher** In a Yelling garden (26<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup>).

**Nightingale** Paxton Pits (17<sup>th</sup>).

**Redstart** Fen Drayton Lakes (14<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere NR (24<sup>th</sup>, and a female-type on 29<sup>th</sup>).

**Whinchat** All records from 21<sup>st</sup> onwards: Ouse Washes (2 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (2 on 25<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>), Devil's Dyke (2 on 26<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (a juvenile on 27<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 31<sup>st</sup>) and Castor Mill (29<sup>th</sup>).

**Wheatear** Ouse Washes (9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>), Mepal (10<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (11<sup>th</sup>), Barton (13<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (14<sup>th</sup>), Foxton (27<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>) and Haddenham/Aldreth Fens (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Yellow Wagtail** Gatherings of 10 or more at Burwell Fen (10 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (16 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (11 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere (22 on 13<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (30 on 16<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (15+ flying over on 18<sup>th</sup>, 30 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 16 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (15+ on 17<sup>th</sup>), Diddington Pit (30+ on 19<sup>th</sup> and 40+ on 22<sup>nd</sup>), Berry Fen (11 on 24<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (c60 on 26<sup>th</sup>) and Ouse Fen (16 on 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Grey Wagtail** Singles and pairs from nine sites.

**Tree Pipit** Cam Washes (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Crossbill** Reported from Huntingdon (2 on 1<sup>st</sup>), Brampton Wood (3<sup>rd</sup>), Hemingford Grey (5<sup>th</sup>), and Great Shelford (3 on 15<sup>th</sup>).

*Recent Reports were compiled by Peter Bircham and Chris Brown assisted by Louise Bacon. These are unchecked reports rather than confirmed records, sourced from sightings received by our County Recorder or reported on the 'What's About?' page on the CBC website. Records were also taken from BirdTrack, the CBC website and Cambirds with special thanks to Tony Roberts. Many thanks to all who contributed their records. Contributors:* Richard Allison, David Avis, Louise Bacon, Guy Belcher, Chris Brown, Ian Burfield, Malcolm Busby, James Cadbury, David Collins, Ade Cooper, Ali Cooper, Steve Cooper, M. J. O'Leary, Robin Cox, Tim Dee, Ian Dickerson, Sheila Dickerson, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, Mark Eaton, Ian Ellis, Stuart Elsom, Mike Everett, Mike Foley, Don Gardener, Simon Gillings, Dennis Hall, Kevin Hand, John Harding, Stephen Hartley, David Heath, Michael Holdsworth, John Hoppett, S. Jarrett, Richard Johnson, Charlie Kitchin, Vincent Lea, Tony Mallyon, Bob Mansfield, Monica Marks, Owen Marks, Paul Mason, Matthew Mellor, Andy Merryweather, Mark Missin, Dick Newell, Dave Palmer, Richard Palmer, John Parslow, Gavin Paterson, Doug Radford, Gareth Rees, Tony Roberts, RSPB Reserves, Simon Stirrup, Kevin Taylor, Richard Thomas, David Fisher, Andrew Tongue, Hugh Venables, Mark Ward, Matt Webb, John Wells, Peter Wells, Chris Went, Kevin Wilson, Barbara York, Christoph Zöckler.

## From the Chair

As I write this in the upstairs back room of our house, which acts as an office, a group of Mistle Thrushes is devouring the rowan berries in the back garden, with a couple of Bullfinches lurking around the honeysuckle vines, extracting seeds from the berries. Both of these species are Amber-listed for their population declines and not generally common but we get them around this time of year, every year, since allowing our garden to wild up. For the rest of the year, they are seldom seen, an example of the movements made by what are considered to be resident species. The rowan was one of four trees already present in the garden when we moved here, but other than that it was a featureless strip of mown grass between cuboid hedgerows of beech and leylandii. Being out in the



countryside, quite a nice selection of birds visit, and it is interesting to note the passing seasons and how the species change accordingly; autumn always brings a touch of anticipation, will anything new turn up this year? In the past we've had a Redstart, and often get visits from berry-feeding warblers. I'm sure that the previous 'tidy' garden would have made seeing any of these birds a lot easier, but I am equally sure that the habitat we have created here persuades them to stop by and feed a while on their way south. We rarely think about habitat management for migratory birds – lots of effort goes into creating perfect conditions for wintering wildfowl or breeding waders in our county, for example, but in a highly modified landscape, do small migrants have enough opportunities to stop and feed on their long and arduous journeys?

There are plenty of things going on in the Club at the moment, and our new bulletin editors have given me a nice break from the job. Andrew Tongue has taken on the role of Research Officer. Andrew is a regular birder at Paxton Pits, and has just completed his first contract as a field researcher with the RSPB, studying Yellow Wagtails on farmland in Essex. The idea he is working on is to study in more detail the distribution of Corn Buntings in the county. The survey will be co-ordinated with similar studies in Herts, Beds and (perhaps) Essex, to see how many Corn Buntings this key area of the national distribution actually holds. The atlas shows it is very important, but this species may not have been fully monitored by atlas methods – given a choice of habitats in a tetrad, many observers may have shunned open farmland in favour of more varied habitats, for example, and it is a particularly late breeder, so if the timed visits were completed before the end of May they may have missed the arrival of this species.

Here's a quiz for you. Below are four groups of four birds; which is the odd one out in each group, and what links them all? Guesses to [chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk) or write / phone me using contact details on the back page. Correct answers will be drawn out for a star prize of a day's birding with lunch provided by me! All will be revealed in the next paper bulletin / November e-bulletin.

1. Wigeon, Pintail, Pochard, Common Scoter
2. Red Kite, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Peregrine
3. Little Ringed Plover, Dotterel, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff
4. Red-backed Shrike, Firecrest, Bluethroat, Black Redstart

## **Burwell Fen – a new wetland area**

It is not every day (or year) that we get the opportunity to watch the development of a new wetland from scratch, so the last ten months at Burwell Fen have been interesting, not least for birders. Its increasingly frequent mention in the Recent Reports section is evidence of this.

Burwell Fen lies between Burwell and Reach Lodes, immediately south of the main Wicken Fen area. Part of the area is developing as seasonal wetland, whilst part remains drier rough grazing. In the 1930s the land was wetland with reed beds and pools, drawn and described by Eric Ennion in his book 'Adventurers Fen' (1942). But during the 2nd World War, along with adjacent fens, it was requisitioned by the Government, drained and converted to agriculture. After the War, land to the north of Burwell Lode (now shown as Adventurers' Fen on OS 1:25,000 maps) passed back to the National Trust and was returned to wildlife habitat, but the 169 hectares (ha) of Burwell Fen Farm was cultivated through to the late 1990s. In 2001 it was acquired by the National Trust as part of the Trust's Wicken Vision. A further 51 ha of adjacent land has since been added.

The Wicken Vision aims to create, over the next century, a mosaic of habitats and accessible countryside stretching from Wicken towards Cambridge. The Vision recognises that not all areas can

or should be returned to wetland, and so it proved with Burwell Fen. The excavation of an Internal Drainage Board (IDB) main drain through the centre of the area had altered the drainage pattern irreversibly, but studies showed that 80ha between the IDB drain and Reach Lode could be re-wetted if the drain itself and the banks of Reach Lode bank could be protected.

The solution was to construct a clay 'bund' tied into the underlying clay subsoil, so that a waterproof barrier was created. The bund was re-covered with peat and has vegetated so that it is now barely visible. The scheme was funded by EU, Countryside Stewardship and Wren (landfill tax credit) money, and carried out by a local contractor in 2011. Water is fed onto the site from the Reach Lode by means of a valve, but the abstraction licence only allows this between November and March, and limits abstraction to 100,000 cubic metres each year. The first water was let onto the site in November 2012, and following this year's wet spring, water levels remained high into June and July; but they then fell steadily so that by mid-August only the original agricultural ditches held water. Tempting though it might be to wish for more water at this time, agricultural demands mean that this is not possible at present.

Management of the site follows the Trust's overall approach in the Wicken area, based on the semi-natural development of vegetation patterns under the influence of grazing animals at low stocking rates. Breeding cattle and non-breeding Konik ponies will be introduced later this year. The Trust believes that this less prescriptive approach to management provides a more diverse suite of habitats. The area can be expected to develop further, but not necessarily to produce the same conditions for birds each year.

To visit Burwell Fen, park at the NT Wicken car park (a 3km walk) or at one of the small car parks off Priory Drove Burwell (TL 564691) or at the end of Split Drove, Swaffham Prior (TL 555677 - but beware the very bumpy approach road to this one). The Lodes Way cycle route skirts the east side of Burwell Fen.  
*Chris Brown (with thanks to Martin Lester NT)*

## **Refreshments at Indoor Meetings – volunteers needed**

Volunteers are needed to organise refreshments for the meetings at St Johns **Community Hall**. If you think you can help – for the winter season of meetings or just occasionally contact Vince Lea or Vicki Harley (emails on the back page). Rowena Baxter will continue to organise refreshments for our meetings in Cottenham, but if no-one volunteers, those cups of tea and chats, will be a thing of the past at St Johns.

## **Forthcoming Events**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there is another change to the programme for 11th October.

**Friday 11th October, Cottenham Village College** Doors open 7.30 pm for 8 pm start  
**Birds of Ecuador; a Journey from the Andes to the Amazon** *by Jo Thomas*

From Hoatzins (known locally as Stinky Turkeys) in the Amazon, brightly coloured Tanagers and loud Tapaculos of the western Andean forested slopes to the mighty Andean Condor of the high paramo grasslands, enjoy hearing all about Ecuador's fascinating wildlife.

Jo has been interested in birds and wildlife since her early teens. After working for the RSPB and Wildlife Trust for over 17 years, including positions as Information Warden at Titchwell, Warden at Loch of Kinnordy and Warden at Grafham Water Nature Reserve, Jo now runs Wild About Travel. She has travelled extensively across India over the last 20 years and more recently Ecuador, Panama, Spain and Sri Lanka. Her passion is sharing her enthusiasm for wildlife with others.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November, St John's Community Hall** Doors open 7.30 pm for 8 pm start  
**Where do Seabirds go when they head out to sea? Insights from New Technology** by Mark Bolton

The UK holds internationally important numbers of breeding seabirds, yet numbers have declined dramatically in recent decades, linked, in some cases, to poor food supply. Development of offshore renewable energy supplies represents a further potential threat to foraging seabirds. We know comparatively little about seabird behaviour at sea, making it difficult to predict where problems are likely to arise, or which areas merit special protection. Now the revolution in tracking technology allows us to begin to unravel the mysteries of where seabirds go when they head over the horizon. Since 2009 the RSPB has tracked over 1000 seabirds of five species from 18 colonies in UK, with some startling results. In this talk Dr Mark Bolton, will describe some of the remarkable habits of seabirds, and how this information can build our understanding of why seabirds forage where they do, so that key foraging areas at sea can be protected.

In the 25 years since Mark Bolton was an undergraduate at Cambridge, he has worked on seabirds in many of the most far-flung islands in the Atlantic, from the Falklands to Shetland, by way of St Helena, Ascension, Cape Verde and the Azores, discovering a new species or two on the way. He now leads the RSPB's UK marine research programme and is always on the lookout for some new gizmo or gadget that will help us to understand better the remarkable lives of seabirds.

**Friday 13th December, St Johns Hall, Cambridge** Doors open 7.30 pm for 8 pm start  
**Christmas Social**

Come and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine in good company while listening to inspiring short talks by club members. Please contact [Vicki Harley](#) if you would like to give a short presentation.

#### **RSPB Cambridge Local Group Events**

Indoor meetings are at St John's Hall, Hills Road, Cambridge starting at 7.30 pm.

- Weds 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, Indoor Meeting: Sam Lee - Welney Winter wetland birds.
- Sat 9th Nov, Field Trip - Welney Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and Ouse Washes RSPB, 9.45am at Welney WWT. Booking essential; telephone 01638 741018
- Weds 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, Indoor Meeting: Steve Magennis - Exploring Iceland

More information at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/cambridge> or call 01954 202354

#### **RSPB Huntingdonshire Local Group Events**

Indoor meetings are at The Free Church, Market Hill, ST. IVES, Cambridgeshire, starting at 7.30 pm.

- Weds 30 Oct, Indoor Meeting: RSPB - Corn Bunting research & Hope Farm - Rosemary Setchfield & Ian Dillon
- Weds 27 Nov Indoor Meeting: Cuba - A Caribbean Wilderness - Martin Davies

More information at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/huntingdonshire/> or call 01480 464769

**2020VISION** - Thursday December 5th starting at 7.30pm in the Lady Mitchell Hall in Cambridge. This will be an evening of spell-binding imagery, music and anecdotes from 2020VISION, the UK's most ambitious conservation photography project. Some of the UK's top nature photographers, Andy Rouse, Chris Gomersall, Mark Hamblin and Peter Cairns, will present a fascinating insight into the ethos behind 2020VISION, reveal inspiring stories of our natural ecosystems being repaired and re-connected, and showcase some of the very best wildlife and landscapes the UK has to offer. Tickets (£12 each) are strictly limited and expected to sell fast. Book at [www.2020v.co.uk](http://www.2020v.co.uk)

## **New Members**

We welcome the following new members – Kevin & Caroline Cade of Peterborough, Russell Davies of Houghton, Tony Weston of Isleham and Bill Williamson of Peterborough.

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#### **Mike Foley**

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

[www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

## **Bird Records, sightings and news**

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

Full lists of your records should continue to be submitted to the County Recorder, preferably using the [spreadsheet](#) available on the Records section of the website. **To ease the workload and increase the relevance of news in future bulletins, please send your records MONTHLY to Louise Bacon by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month after.**

# *GOODBIRDING!*