

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB

## Bulletin No. 437

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

## Welcome to the November / December 2014 Edition

### Club News from the Chair

The shortlist for the **2014 Photo of the Year** competition has been compiled and is on the club website; once again a stunning selection of varied images to drool over and to vote on. Narrowing it down to a short list was a hard task; picking 3 favourites will be a challenge for everyone! I am always looking for new people to help select the **Photo of the Month** for the website, but I don't have everyone's email address, so if you would like to be a selector in 2015, drop me a line.

Many of us are enjoying the Club's **Winter Garden Bird Survey** (details of which are at <http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/gardensurvey.html>) and it is not too late to start taking part. The survey closes on March 7th but several participants are interested in continuing into the spring and summer. Rebecca Buisson writes a short note about his later in this bulletin. I have paid more attention to the birds in my garden as a result of this survey and have noted the early departure of Great-spotted Woodpeckers once the local walnut crop was depleted, and the sudden arrival of Redwing and Fieldfare in the third week of November (both occurred for 5 weeks and have since been absent).

### Some New Year Resolutions:

**1.** See more birds in Cambridgeshire **2.** Send in your records with full and clear details suitable for incorporation into the club database and annual report, and  
**3. Help us run the club!** The officers and volunteers working behind the scenes to keep the club running could all use a bit of extra help. All Council members would like a deputy for those times when we are not able to do the things we are assigned to - after all, we are all entitled to a bit of down time! More specifically and urgently, we need a new Membership Secretary, someone to help maintain the website, a dedicated organiser for field trips in the summer, catering help at meetings, writers for the annual report, contributors of articles for newsletters, and recruiters of new members. There is much more we could do if there were volunteers available to help train beginners and student birdwatchers, seek out potential candidates for the Bob Scott award, and give talks to local societies about the birds of Cambridgeshire. I also think a new sub-committee and team of volunteer watchers dedicated to the Rare Breeding Birds in Cambridgeshire would improve one of the important aspects of our work, but it needs volunteers to get this off the ground. Please contact me if you feel you could offer a bit more help in any aspect of the club's activities - or if you have your own ideas about what we should be doing. A Happy New Year and good birding to you all!

Vince Lea [chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

## RECENT BIRD REPORTS

The records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date. An asterisk indicates a species which requires a description to be sent to the County Recorder; please note that there is new guidance (January 2015) on this on the club website. Where no numbers are given the record relates to single birds.

### *November – December Headlines*

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL\*** **Nov:** Berry Fen on 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes on 14<sup>th</sup>, (only 17 previous records, the latest in 2011).

**RING-NECKED DUCK\*** **Dec:** Paxton Pits a first-winter male from 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (16 previous records the last in 2014).

**RED-THROATED DIVER\*** **Dec:** Ouse Washes a single on 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>.

**GLOSSY IBIS\*** **Nov:** singles at Ouse Fen 4<sup>th</sup> and Fen Drayton Lakes on 11<sup>th</sup> and a flyover on 29<sup>th</sup> then present on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes one on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD\*** **Nov:** Trundle Mere from 9<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month. **Dec:** Trundle Mere and surrounding area all month.

**GREY PHALAROPE\*** **Nov:** Burwell Fen a single on 21<sup>st</sup> (c50 previous records).

**LITTLE AUK\*** **Nov:** Soham 6<sup>th</sup> one found and taken into care, but died (72 prior records, latest in 1999).

**ICELAND GULL** **Dec:** Dogsthorpe Tip a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter on 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, also at CEGB reservoir at roost.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** **Dec:** Dogsthorpe Tip a 1<sup>st</sup> winter on 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> and an additional 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird on 31<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** **Dec:** Paxton Pits one heard on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**PENDULINE TIT\*** **Dec:** Ouse Fen a single on December 4<sup>th</sup> (only 4 previous records, the last in 2013).

**RICHARD'S PIPIT\*** **Nov:** Fordham from 1<sup>st</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> (17 previous records the latest in 2012).

### *Other records*

#### Wildfowl

**Bewick's Swan** **Nov:** Grafham Water 3 on 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> then 5 adults on 24<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/Eldernell 12 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Coveney 40 on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Cambridge 4 flyovers on 4<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 5 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 119 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 15 flyovers on 28<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 35 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** **Nov:** Ouse Washes 78 on 11<sup>th</sup>, then 1232 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Reach-Upware 14 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Little Downham 500+ on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 25 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 52 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Somersham/Chatteris c 600 thought to be mainly of this species on 4<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 788 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes dawn roost 7129 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Reach Fen 25 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/Guyhirn 640 (some Bewick's) on 19<sup>th</sup>, Sutton West Fen 150 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes Rickwood hide 1000 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Bean Goose\*** **Dec:** all 'Tundra' subspecies, at Ouse Fen on 6<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/Guyhirn 2 on 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 3 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 9 on 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Pink-footed Goose** **Nov:** Grafham Water one on 7<sup>th</sup>, several reports of flyover birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> including Witcham 30+, Bretton 100 and Glinton 120, Great Fen c100 over on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Thorney 65 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Witchford one on 11<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes/Fortrey Hall 3 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 10 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/Guyhirn 5 and on 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, Block Fen 3 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Fen 9 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Over on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**White-fronted Goose** **Dec:** Paxton Pits 3 on 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP 3 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Greylag Goose** **Nov:** Sutton North Fen 1920 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen 255 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 243 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Sutton North Fen 1430 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** **Nov:** Ouse Washes 1002 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Trumpington/Clay Farm 43 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Barnacle Goose** **Nov:** Sutton N Fen 16 on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Sutton N Fen 18 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Granta Park 12 on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Brent Goose** **Nov:** Ouse Fen 6 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Egyptian Goose** **Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 26 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Fen 23 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Shelduck Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen a single on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Fen one on 28<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 6 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 28<sup>th</sup> then a pair on 30<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 9 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Wigeon Nov:** Ouse Washes 14911 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP 960 on 21<sup>st</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 10479 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 4210 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen c800 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Gadwall Nov:** Wicken Fen 140 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 200 on 8<sup>th</sup>, **Dec:** Holme Fen 50 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 57 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 17 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Teal Nov:** Wicken Fen 266 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 7179 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Woodwalton Fen 320 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Burwell Fen 300+ on 29<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 1685 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 605 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard Nov:** Ouse Washes 1881 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Holme Fen 164 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 522 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail Nov:** Grafham Water 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 4 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 7 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 4 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 28<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Garganey Nov:** *late date*, Ely BF a male on 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Shoveler Nov:** Wicken Fen 97 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Berry Fen 176 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 578 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 144 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen maximum 101 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 150+ on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-crested Pochard Nov:** Ferry Meadows CP 4 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a female on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits a pair on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a single on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, then 4 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Pochard Dec:** Paxton Pits 64 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes 1364 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 130 on 24<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits 218 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Holme Fen 16 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water 2031 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 34 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 17 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaup Nov:** Grafham Water 5<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits an immature female on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water a drake on 27<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes a female and a male on 28<sup>th</sup>, a female on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Goldeneye Nov:** Paxton Pits 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 on 9<sup>th</sup>, then 25 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes maximum 10 on 9<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Holme Fen 2 females on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water 62 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP a male on 12<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 43 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester/Cow Lane 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Smew Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes a single on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Fen 2 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a male on 28<sup>th</sup>, joined by a female on 29<sup>th</sup>, Needingworth Lakes RSPB 4 'redheads' on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Red-breasted Merganser Nov:** Paxton Pits 6 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Goosander Nov:** Castor Mill a male on 7<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water a female on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows 10<sup>th</sup> 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 6 on 27<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Maxey GP 22 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows on 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 on 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 1 or 2 from 6<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> then 4 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 5 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen one on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruddy Duck Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Gamebirds to Grebes

**Grey Partridge Nov:** Haddenham 15 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Hinxton a single on 16<sup>th</sup>, Nine Wells 68 on 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Knapwell 31 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen 16 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach Fen 6 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Cormorant Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 136 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester GP 75 on 6<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 262 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP maximum 7 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen max 28 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Bittern Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ely BF on 15<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen several dates maximum 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Fen 2 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret Nov:** Paxton Pits 19+ on 15<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester GP 39 on 18<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Fen 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Rampton 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 7<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 12<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 16<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 2 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester/ Cow Lane GP 3 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Great White Egret Nov:** Grafham Water 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen at least 2 reported on several dates, Cam Washes 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, single on 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Brampton a single flyover on 16<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on several dates and 2 on 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Fen Drayton Lakes a single on 6<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>; this bird was colour-ringed red/white on left leg and blue/white on the right leg, Burwell Fen one on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits one on 7<sup>th</sup> – end of the month, Ouse Fen a flyover on 13<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes one on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Grebe Nov:** River Cam (Baits Bite to Clayhithe) 19 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 11 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 24 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 16 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe** **Nov:** Godmanchester GP 76 on 18<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water c100 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Brampton Racecourse 32 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Slavonian Grebe\*** **Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes a single on 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Raptors

**Red Kite** **Nov:** Wittering 7 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Needingworth/Bluntisham a single on 30<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen a single on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Stilton area 4 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen a single on 5<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Harrier** **Nov:** Ouse Fen 4 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/Eldernell 3+ on 15<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen max 4 – 5, singles at 3 other wetland sites. **Dec:** Woodwalton Fen 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 5 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen a female and an immature male on 19<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen a female on 24<sup>th</sup> and 2 immatures on 29<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Hen Harrier** **Nov:** Nene Washes/Eldernell 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen a ringtail and an adult male on several dates then 3 on 16<sup>th</sup>, singles at Ouse Washes on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tubney Fen on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Great Fen on 29<sup>th</sup>, and Cam Washes on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 1 – 2 all month, Wicken Fen roost of 8 on several dates, max 10 on 21<sup>st</sup> (3 males and 7 ringtails), Woodwalton Fen a male on 2<sup>nd</sup> (a blue/yellow wing tagged bird is a returning individual 7 years old), Nene Washes a male and a female on 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, a male at Eldernell on 20<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 1 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes a ringtail on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Buzzard** **Nov:** reported from 6 sites. **Dec:** reported from 14 sites including Fowlmere, Nene Washes/March Farmers (2), Ouse Washes/Sutton Gault (5), Paxton Pits, and Woodwalton Fen.

### Rails and crane

**Water Rail** **Nov:** reported from Barleycraft GP, Berry Fen, Burwell Fen (2), Paxton Pits, Soham, Wicken Fen (3). **Dec:** at Cambridge Research Park(2), Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes/Sutton Gault, Paxton Pits (3), Wicken Fen (8) and Woodwalton Fen.

**Coot** **Nov:** Fen Drayton Lakes 250 on 24<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 1624 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Grafham W. 362 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Crane** **Nov:** Nene Washes 20 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, then 12 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 flyovers on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Nene Washes on several dates max 14, Wicken Fen 2 in the general area from 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Waders

**Golden Plover** **Nov:** Haddenham/Aldreth Fens maximum c1500 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen c500 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington 1580+ on 19<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen maximum 2000 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Colne GP 3000 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wicken Fen 100 on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Trumpington maximum 580 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Fen 400 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/March Farmers 500+ on 26<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen c500 over on 28<sup>th</sup>, Duxford c350 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 100 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Lapwing** **Nov:** Burwell Fen c500 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Colne GP 1500+ on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wicken Fen/Baker's Fen 2000+ on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Fen 1740 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Wicken/Upware c 3000 mixed flock with a few Golden Plover on 19<sup>th</sup>, Sutton West Fen 'several hundred' on 25<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/March Farmers 1500+ on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew** **Dec:** Ouse Washes 12 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/Eldernell one on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Black tailed Godwit** **Nov:** Paxton Pits single on 15<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 150 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits 35 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/March Farmers one on 26<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes c40 – 50 on 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 9+ on 28<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes at least 65 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ruff** **Nov:** Grafham Water 5 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 5 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 78 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Nene Washes/March Farmers 34 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 34 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** **Nov:** Haddenham Fen one on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** **Nov:** Burwell Fen 3 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 29 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 4 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/March Farmers 3 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 1 – 7 from 27<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 29 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** **Nov:** Grafham Water 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 2 on 8<sup>th</sup>, singles at Wicken Fen 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits several dates, Trumpington/Great Kneighton Lake 24<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Rampton 3 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 1 – 3 on several dates, Grafham Water 2 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>, singles at five sites.

**Redshank** **Nov:** Grafham Water maximum 8 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes a single on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Grafham Water 13 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 5 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen one on 15<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes/March Farmers 10 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes c20 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Jack Snipe** **Nov:** Sutton/Mepal airfield 6 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 12 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a single on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Kings Dyke NR 6 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen a single on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits one on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Woodcock** **Nov:** Comberton 2 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Ditton Park Wood 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Kings Dyke 3 on 24<sup>th</sup>, singles at 3 sites. **Dec:** Conington 4 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 3, singles at 5 sites.

**Snipe** **Nov:** Burwell Fen 6 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Sutton/Mepal airfield c30 on 19<sup>th</sup> and c16 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen c20 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 23 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 37 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 50+ on 29<sup>th</sup>, Lt Shelford 48 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 1 – 8 from 20<sup>th</sup>, Kings Dyke NR 27 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tubney Fen 11 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Gulls, doves, owls and kingfisher

**Black-headed Gull** **Nov:** Ferry Meadows 4500 on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen c1000 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** **Nov:** Ferry Meadows CP an adult on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water an adult on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Milton Tip one on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Gull** **Nov:** Ferry Meadows 400 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens c100 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Great Kneighton Lake 16 on 24<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Trumpington maximum 6 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** **Nov:** Fowlmere Airfield 350 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull** **Nov:** Grafham Water 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> plus an 'Azorean' type bird, Paxton Pits 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Milton Tip 6 on 14<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Milton Tip 5 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Caspian Gull** **Nov:** Grafham Water 4 on 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Milton Tip one on 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Turtle Dove** **Nov:** Haddenham a juvenile on 3<sup>rd</sup> (*the latest is November 16<sup>th</sup> 1957 in Cambridge*).

**Barn Owl** **Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen (3), Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits. **Dec** at Great Fen (3), Nene Washes (2) Ouse Washes (5), Paxton Pits (2), Wicken Fen (2) and 3 other sites.

**Tawny Owl** **Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen, Waterbeach (3), Wicken Fen (2). **Dec:** reported from Waterbeach, Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.

**Long-eared Owl** **Nov:** Fordham a single on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-eared Owl** **Nov:** Cambourne 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nene Washes/Eldernell 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 3 – 4 on several dates from 9<sup>th</sup> maximum 5 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen 4 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen max 4 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Eldernell max 13 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen one on 15<sup>th</sup>, Little Downham one on 16<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen max 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Kingfisher** **Nov:** reported from Cam Washes (2), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits (4), Sutton/Mepal airfield and Wicken Fen. **Dec:** at Cambridge Research Park, Paxton Pits (3), Byron's Pool and Wicken Fen.

#### Falcons and parrots

**Kestrel** **Nov:** Wicken Fen 11 on 9<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 6 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 5 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Merlin** **Nov:** Nene Washes on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Burwell Fen on 9<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** singles at Burwell Fen on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, Holme Fen on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 6<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Nene Washes 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Ditton 14<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere 14<sup>th</sup>, Eltisley 19<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 21<sup>st</sup>, and Eldernell on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** **Nov:** Burwell Fen a single on 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 10<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen a single on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** reported from Burwell Fen, Colne, Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP, Holme Fen, Nene Washes maximum 4, Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes and Paxton Pits.

**Ring-necked Parakeet\*** **Dec:** Fordham Woods one on 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Shrikes and Corvids

**Great Grey Shrike\*** **Dec:** Tubney Fen a single on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Jackdaw/Rook/Carrion Crow** **Nov:** Wicken Fen a roost of 2000 – 3000 throughout the month.

**Raven** **Nov:** Wimpole a single on 11<sup>th</sup>, Peterborough/Milton estate a pair flyovers on 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Morborne Hill a pair on 13<sup>th</sup>, St Ives a flyover on 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Tits to warblers

**Coal Tit Nov:** Chippenham Fen 6 caught and ringed on 18<sup>th</sup>, also reported from Paxton Pits. **Dec:** Chippenham Fen 7 different birds caught on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Tit Nov:** Chippenham Fen 4 ringed on 18<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Chippenham Fen 4 different birds on 15<sup>th</sup>, Castor Hanglands 11 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Woodwalton Fen 8 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes/Fortrey Hall one on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Bearded Tit Nov:** Ouse Fen 3 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 5+ on 25<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen one caught on 16<sup>th</sup>, maximum 9. **Dec:** reported from Ouse Fen and Woodwalton Fen.

**Skylark Dec:** Paxton Pits c40 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes c120 on field on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Swallow Nov:** Brampton Wood flyover on 24<sup>th</sup>; *the latest date is December 16<sup>th</sup> 2005 at Caldecote.*

**Goldcrest Nov:** Wimpole 20 on 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP 14 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Firecrest Nov:** Singles at Nene Washes (Eldernell) on 20<sup>th</sup> and Barleycraft Lake on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Cetti's Warbler Nov:** reported Wicken Fen (7), Fowlmere 15 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Four sites with 1 – 4.

**Long-tailed Tit Dec:** Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP 30+ on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Chiffchaff Nov:** Wicken Fen a single ringed on 4<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 3+ on 9<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits singles on 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Great Fen on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Godmanchester/Cow Lane a remarkable 7 on 28<sup>th</sup>, singles at Paxton Pits on 6<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge/Radegund Road on 20<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP on 21<sup>st</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Blackcap Nov:** Wicken Fen 2 caught and ringed on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Cottenham a male on 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, Papworth a pair on 13<sup>th</sup>, Fulbourn a male on 28<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge/Windsor Rd 25<sup>th</sup> and Chesterton 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Waxwing Nov:** Wicken Fen one reported on 19<sup>th</sup>, Peterborough a single on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Nuthatch Nov:** Chippenham Fen a re-trapped bird on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Starling Nov:** Major roosts at: Fen Drayton Lakes all month with c28000 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Tubney Fen 12000 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 5000 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 4000+ on 28<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Tubney Fen roost of c10000 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 1000 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP c1000 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Ring Ouzel Nov:** Ouse Washes one on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Fieldfare Nov:** Burwell Fen c200 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Haddenham 1000 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Barton 700 on 24<sup>th</sup> then 1500 in a mixed flock on 26<sup>th</sup> (c20% were Redwings), Wicken Fen c1000 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Tubney Fen 150 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Mistle Thrush Nov:** Wicken Fen a single ringed on 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 6 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Redstart Nov:** Duxford 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Folksworth a male on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Whinchat Nov:** Ouse Fen a single on 8<sup>th</sup>, *still a month earlier than the latest date Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1976.*

**Stonechat Nov:** reported from Burwell Fen (4), Ferry Meadows CP, Great Fen, Kingfishers Bridge, Nene Washes (2), Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits (2). **Dec:** at Burwell Fen (2), Cam Washes, Holme Fen, Nene Washes 25 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen (4), Ouse Washes (2), Paxton Pits (3), Sutton West Fen and Wicken Fen.

### Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

**Tree Sparrow Nov:** Colne Fen GP 8 on 9<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Rampton 18 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Orton BP 15 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail Nov:** singles widely reported. **Dec:** again scattered reports, Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Pied Wagtail Dec:** roosts at Addenbrooke's Hospital maximum c 300, Whittlesford BP filling station maximum c400, Woodwalton Fen 80 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Paxton Pits c100 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Water Pipit Nov:** Paxton Pits 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Sutton Gault a single on 8<sup>th</sup> and 4+ on 11<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ouse Washes 3 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 3+ on 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Finches and buntings

**Chaffinch Dec:** Knapwell (Grange Farm) 106 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 40+ on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Brambling Nov:** Hare Park 7 feeding on Beech mast, Wicken Fen a single on 8<sup>th</sup>, Beechwoods NR 8+ on 21<sup>st</sup>, Cambridge a single on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Cambridge/Richmond Road a single on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Greenfinch Nov:** Holme Fen 100+ on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldfinch Nov:** Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 30 – 40 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Fen 150 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere c100 on 21<sup>st</sup>. **Dec:** Burwell Fen 100+ on 16<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester/Cow Lane GP 60 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Siskin Nov:** Paxton Pits a single on 16<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Paxton Pits a flyover on 6<sup>th</sup>, Whittlesford GP 8 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Chippenham Fen at least one on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Linnet Nov:** Ouse Washes 100 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 220 on 18<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Wicken Fen two roosts each 30 – 40 birds on 14<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 210 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and c100, Colne Fen GP 150 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Redpoll Nov:** Wicken Fen 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Ferry Meadows 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Castor Hanglands 25 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Bullfinch Dec:** Fordham Woods a flock of 35 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Snow Bunting\* Nov:** Fordham single 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellowhammer Dec:** Paxton Pits 60+ on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 107 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Reed Bunting Nov:** Granta Park a roost of 60+ on 17<sup>th</sup>. **Dec:** Orton BP 60+ on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Corn Bunting Nov:** Paxton Pits 4+ on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5+ on 16<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 8 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 10 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Colne GP 47 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Little Downham 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dec:** Colne 60 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Sutton West Fen 35 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits c10 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach Fen c30 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

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## **CBC / BTO / RSPB Conference on Woodland Birds 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

*September's conference produced a wealth of interesting material, some of which is summarised in the following notes. My thanks to Erica Towner for the species notes, and to Mel Quy, Jenny Brightwell and Rodney Aldis (Norfolk) for notes on the field visits, which I have had to edit and combine. The notes on Rob Fuller's presentation are my own (Ed).*

**“What makes a good wood?”** Rob Fuller (BTO) opened the day by posing this key question for woodland birds. Every woodland species has its own needs, so the answer isn't simple. All birds need food, nest sites, shelter (including the ability to escape predators), territorial space, and connectivity between these resources. For example, Nightingales need to nest in one habitat (usually dense thicket) and feed in another (bare ground). There may also be social factors at play: in the United States, Least Flycatcher territories are grouped together rather than being spread evenly through apparently suitable habitat. But also, habitat requirements are not fixed; for the Nightingale, one study showed that scrub accounted for less than 30% of territories in 1976, but for over 55% of territories in 2012.

Despite these observations, some trends in woodland birds and their habitats can be identified. One is that in the UK most woodland species have seen range contractions, with overall losses in the South and East of England, and upland coniferous woods becoming a refuge for some species.

Also, the current increase in all species of deer is leading, in the southern broadleaved woods, to a reduced shrub layer through browsing and the spread of the thicker grasses and sedges. At Sheephouse Wood (Bucks) this has been shown to produce a loss of bird species in the interior of woods with edge habitat becoming relatively more important. At Bradfield Wood (Suffolk), when plots were fenced off from Fallow Deer, songbird density increased markedly especially Dunnock and Garden Warbler. Seven Nightingales observed spent 69% of their time in the 7% of the wood that had been fenced off.

It is clear that woodland structure is a key factor; the ideal is a mix of open ground and a rich shrub layer, with the retention of older trees in the main canopy. This can be produced by selective thinning, but in the UK this technique is not considered ideal from an economic point of view (though it is traditional in some other European countries – *Ed.*) That said, every wood is different; the complexities of bird / habitat interactions are not fully understood; diversity is good, fine scale management actions affect birds and no one management solution will be best in all circumstances. (CGB)

### **What's driving the Marsh Tit decline? Studies in Cambridgeshire and beyond.**

(Presentation by Richard Broughton, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology)

The Marsh Tit, *Poecile palustris*, is a small, sedentary hole-nesting bird requiring large territories and confined largely to mature deciduous woodland in Britain. The species experienced a 71% decline in abundance between 1967 and 2009, and a 17% contraction in range between 1968 and 1991, particularly in northern Britain (Fuller, R.J. *et al.* (2005) British Birds 98 116–143). Extensive research was undertaken in Monks Wood and the surrounding smaller woods (Broughton *et al.* (2006) Ibis 146 744 – 752). Over 1100 ringing records were collected over 12 years using colour rings. This was combined with detailed mapping of breeding territories and non-breeding areas, including tree and shrub field surveys. Detailed high resolution 3D maps and models were constructed showing canopy heights, woodland structure and vegetation types using digital remote sensing techniques; LiDAR and hyperspectral scanners.

Using these models, it was possible to correlate the records of Marsh Tit occupancy at Monks Wood over time with woodland structure and species. This provided novel insights into the relationship between Marsh Tits and habitat. Marsh Tits require large breeding territories of 5 to 6 hectares made up of tall, closed stands of mature trees with multiple layers of trees and shrubs, though not dependent on any particular species. They also avoid areas with large numbers of young and immature trees. Using radio tracking to establish winter home ranges and habitat selection, the data showed that Marsh Tits require areas of over 40ha (including overlapping ranges) and have a significant preference for mature oaks; habitat selection varies significantly across the year. He also showed that Marsh Tit occupation is lower within 50 m of the woodland perimeter, where habitat structure is less favourable than in the woodland interior.

The research also shows that the dispersal distances of Marsh Tits are very short, less than 1km to the next wood, with most dispersal happening in June. Females travel further than the males, which avoid moving any distance during the breeding season. The fragmentation and reduction in size of suitable woodland habitat combined with the loss of hedgerows may further restrict the movement and dispersal of Marsh Tits resulting in poor settling success outside of the natal wood. Habitat fragmentation may, therefore, be a contributory factor in the decline of the Marsh Tit population in Britain. There are also higher numbers of males than females in the UK population unlike other study areas in Europe e.g. Bialowieza Forest in Poland, which has a 50:50 sex ratio. An area for further study is the possible impact of competition with Blue and Great Tits on Marsh Tit survival and breeding. Data shows a food niche overlap of 70%, with Blue Tit and Marsh Tit foraging in a similar way.



In conclusion Richard proposed that the following have an impact on the decline of Marsh Tits:

- Isolated and fragmented woodlands
- Loss of hedgerow corridors
- Competition for food from more dominant tit species
- Dispersal patterns and competition disproportionately affect females, which produce fewer young.

He recommended that maintaining networks between woodlands was an important conservation measure and that we should perhaps not be doing favours for Blue Tits and Great Tits in woodlands e.g. nest boxes! (ET)

### **Investigating Hawfinch declines** (Presented by Will Kirby, RSPB Centre for Conservation Science)

The Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, is an archetypal woodland specialist. Will asked the question 'should we be concerned about this species?' In Europe there has been a long-term increase of 343% and the population is stable. But in Britain the species is declining; currently 500-1000 breeding pairs compared with 3000-6500 in 2002. But the data may be poor as Hawfinches are too scarce to be monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey. Major losses have occurred in the east and southeast, with hotspots for breeding in Cumbria, NW Wales, Forest of Dean and Wye Valley, New Forest and also Kent because of its cherry orchards, though now declining there. However, the winter range has increased by 29%, perhaps due to European immigrants, or to UK dispersal.

In 2011 a workshop kick-started research looking at possible causes for the UK decline, focusing on two hypotheses:

- Increased nest failure by predation (squirrels, birds of prey)
  - Changes in woodland structure and composition
- Work has begun using Land Cover Map data and habitat mapping, recording variations pre- and post- 1980; this suggests that there has been an overall change in Hawfinch distribution, from a broad range of tree species to a preference for oak and hornbeam. The predation study uses nest cameras and has shown that Jays appear to be the main predator, with no evidence of squirrels (to date) and 2 records of goshawk.

Major studies are taking place in the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean. Results so far show that nests sites are located on average at 16m above ground level (range 4-26m). Radio-tagging of females took place in 2013 and 2014 to locate nests, in addition to 200 birds ringed in the Forest of Dean. This allowed 10 nests in 2013 and 18 in 2014 to be studied, with the first confirmed record of double brooding in the UK. Radio-tagged birds were shown to disperse widely and up to 17km in a day with regular daily movements of several kilometres. Radio tracking also gave insights into feeding preferences: April/May - Wych Elm seeds; May - Beech flowers and Oak buds; June onwards - Wild Cherry.

In conclusion, Will proposed that:

- Hawfinches persist in landscapes with high deciduous woodland cover
- the wider landscape is likely to be important
- individual trees and species may be temporarily important
- nest failure rates are comparable to other species
- the nesting season is longer than expected

His aim is to continue radio tracking in the Wye Valley area and possibly Kent if funding allows and to increase the number of nest cameras. Looking to the future, he would like to see a nationwide monitoring programme over the next decade, a study of Hawfinch food resources, and a review of existing mark and re-capture data. (ET)



*Hawfinch by Richard Johnson*

**The Field visits: New Woodlands and Deer**

“I came over from Norfolk because of my interest in managing woodlands for wildlife. The consensus view is that increasing woodland cover is desirable and beneficial for wildlife and Linda Smith gave an excellent talk about Heartwood, a new wood being established in Hertfordshire, where the success of planting, natural regeneration, and tree seeding can be compared.

At Monks Wood we visited two areas where woodland establishment has been achieved by natural regeneration. One began in the 1960s on a barley field and is now well-grown woodland. A second area dates from the early 1990s and is still in the scrub stage. I believe these examples of successful natural establishment of woodland question the wisdom of spending money and effort on tree planting to establish new woods, and suggest that resources may be better deployed in other ways.” (RA)

Sugley Wood, a 'new' woodland on the eastern edge of Gamlingay Wood offered a similar story. The area was purchased in 2002 by the Wildlife Trust as a long-term project to extend and link nearby woodlands. Natural regeneration is a slow process with much of the land still looking like rough grassland or scrubland; cuttings from the nearby Gamlingay Wood rides had been spread on the new area and had successfully transferred some of the plant species. It was here that one member of our party spotted a group of 7 stonechats, a bird not previously on the Warden's reserve list. (JB)

Deer management was another focus at of the Monks Wood visit. It has been found that reducing the density of Muntjac to less than one per 3 hectares has allowed the regrowth of the shrub layer in mature woodland. Fencing against deer was much debated and Monks Wood showed a successful but counter intuitive strategy – a three-sided fenced enclosure on the edge of the wood. Fencing the back and sides of an area deters deer from moving in from the adjacent woodland to browse; the fourth side is open to a ride with regular disturbance by visitors to the wood - a deterrent in itself. (MQ / RA)

## Anything for a Lark

Following his article in the last bulletin, Ivor Biggalist now reveals the birds which were seen or heard on his epic journey:

"Birds" has been interpreted widely, so genus and species are both allowed, as are both old and scientific names. The ones heard are of course homophones. Ivor claims a total of 164. He admits that until he embarked on his world tour he had no idea that there were species like o-o and ou, both found in Hawaii, or that the humming birds had so many jewel-like names, although these are of course very appropriate. Those of you who are well travelled or have a particular interest in world birds probably found most of them. However if you counted great auk or huia you are automatically disqualified; Ivor couldn't have seen those as they are both extinct! (As Ivor's decision is final, no correspondence on this or other points of contention will be published – *Ed*). The list in order of occurrence is:

morning bird, basa (h), firewood gatherer, vanga, emu, crane, darter, knot, hen, mesite, comet, rush bird, parrot, parrotlet, catbird, dove, ani, verdin, tit, tesia, antbird, francolin, ruby, sitella, lovebird, eagle, mandarin, ostrich, oilbird, willet, tern, manakin, rail, limpkin, phoebe, ou, tody, hern, erne, redstart, rifleman, coquette, serin, chickadee, minivet, cock, skylark, lark, moorchat (h), gull, shag, murre, petrel, rosella, hornero, swift, swiftlet, merle, loon, egret, old squaw, hadada, go-away bird, mango, gallito, mousebird, hardhead, kinglet, shama, woodchat (h), iora, broadbill, kea, courser, accentor, alethe, apalis, merlin, iranica, Caspian tern (h), giant ibis, ibis, bishop, Canada warbler, guan, amazon, barbet, pintado, jabiru, whiteface, gerygone, redhead, screamer, bentbill, blackeye, kite, wallcreeper (h), junco, Sandwich tern (h), steamer duck, duck, cotinga, greenlet, tinamou, red throat, bananaquit, butcher bird, potoo, watercock, sharpbill, babax, inca, incana, fairy, bunting, wren, brilliant, sapphire, emerald, topaz, canvasback, pica, stint, house martin (h), martin, thornbill, hylia, tarrock, longclaw, rhea, waxbill, umbrella bird, torrent duck, snowcap, plains wanderer, swan, cahow, owl, kagu, cliffchat, ne-ne, o-o, brent, dipper, jacky winter, hillstart, pardalote, piha, goose, jacamar, log runner, coronet, condor, pettychaps, miner (h), twinspace, avocet, avocetbill, poorwill, puffbird, asity, chuck- will's- widow, mourner, sterna(h).

## Forthcoming meetings

**13th February, St Johns Hall, Cambridge. 7.30 for 8pm**

**Tales of the Unexpected - new insights from tracking our Afro-Palaeartic migrants**

*by Chris Hewson.*

Populations of many Afro-Palaeartic migrants are currently in steep decline. Chris Hewson is a Senior Research Ecologist at the British Trust for Ornithology; he will talk about the BTO's tracking programme and will describe how its results are beginning to explain why these birds might be declining.

**Friday 13th March, St Johns Hall, Cambridge. 7.30 for 8pm**

**Annual General Meeting** *followed by*

**Guyana – South America's hidden gem** *by Chris Collins*

This small South American country is rarely visited by birdwatchers, but in its tropical forests there are hundreds of species including antbirds, toucans, macaws and the majestic Harpy Eagle, whilst out on the savannahs, it is possible to find Giant Anteaters and the highly endangered Sun Parakeet. Chris Collins is a freelance ornithologist and for the last 10 years he has been working on a wide range of bird and wildlife projects around the world. Most of his work involves guiding groups of birders and wildlife enthusiasts to areas as diverse as the Russian Far East, Antarctica, South America and Pacific Ocean.

## CBC Summer Garden Bird Survey.

Many people have said that they are enjoying the winter 2014 survey, so the decision has been made to continue the work with a summer survey. If you took part in the winter survey, thank you so much, and I hope that you will feel able to take part in the summer survey. The method used will be the same.

If you have not taken part before, we ask that you note the bird species feeding or foraging in your garden from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015. Each week, mark off the species on the form available from the Cambridgeshire Bird Club website: [www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)  
At the end of October, send the form in to: [gardenbirds@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:gardenbirds@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)  
Next winter you will be able to discover which species of birds make most use of gardens during the summer months, whether new species are coming into gardens and whether the old regular species are making less use of the facilities.

*Rebecca Buisson*

## New members

We welcome the following new members – Annika Bratt of Cambridge, Geoffrey Hawthorn of Cambridge, Duncan Mackay and Sarah Mardon of Dullingham and Jenny Thomas of Cambridge.

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

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

### Bird Records, sightings and news

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

Full lists of your records should continue to be submitted monthly to **Louise Bacon** the County Recorder, preferably using the [spreadsheet](#) available on the Records section of the website, **by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month.**

# GOOD BIRDING!