



Cambridgeshire Bird Club

E-Bulletin 16 October 2014

(The records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date. Species for which a description is required are marked with an asterisk)

HEADLINES



Yellow-browed Warbler in Cambridge photo by Brendan Doe

LEACH'S PETREL* Grafham Water (one taken by a Herring Gull on 21st). About 25 previous records the last being in 2009.

GREAT WHITE EGRET* Cam Washes (2 on 2nd and 12th), Wicken Fen (2 into roost on 3rd – presumed the same as Cam Washes birds, several reports of 2 until 18th and a single thereafter until 22nd at the latest), Paxton Pits (10th and 15th), Fen Drayton Lakes (14th and 20th), Nene Washes (19th), Grafham Water (24th – 27th), Ouse Fen (2 on 25th and 28th).

GLOSSY IBIS* Wicken Fen/Baker's Fen (4th – 11th), Paxton Pits (14th), Ouse Washes/Chain Corner (16th), Earith (flyover toward the washes on 21st and again on 22nd), Ouse Fen (25th), Sutton Gault (25th), Whittlesey (30th).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER* Burwell Fen (1-2 from 12th - 19th).

GREY PHALAROPE* Grafham Water (15th – 17th).

LONG-TAILED SKUA* Paxton Pits-Grafham Water (14th – 15th) – only the ninth record for the county, the last one was in 2013.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER* Paxton Pits (7th), Murrow (14th), Fowlmere (a possible on 16th), Cambridge/Mount Pleasant (24th).

RICHARD'S PIPIT* Fordham (from 26th until the end of the month).

Other records

All records below refer to the month at the head of the E-bulletin and where no numbers are given the record relates to single birds.

Where there is a prefix 'reported from' this refers to sites where this species has been recorded in the reports on Cambirds and the Club's website.

Wildfowl

Mute Swan Burwell Fen (13 on 14th).

Whooper Swan Wicken Fen (7 flyovers on 8th), Nene Washes (9 recently arrived on 12th), Colne GP (4 on 12th), Ouse Washes/Chain Corner (2 on 16th), Nene Washes (10 on 19th), Ouse Washes (2 on 21st and 94 on the 25th then 100+ on 31st), Nene Washes/March Farmers (15 on 29th), Burwell Fen (5 on 30th).

Pink-footed Goose Blackbush (15 flyovers on 14th), Grafham Water (juvenile on 21st), Paxton Pits (single with Greylags on 25th).

Greylag Goose Wicken Fen (maximum 150+ on 2nd), Burwell Fen ('hundreds' on 10th), Paxton Pits (maximum 400 on 25th).

Canada Goose Burwell Fen (364 on 14th).

Brent Goose Grafham Water (10 on 14th).

Egyptian Goose Paxton Pits (maximum 3 on 7th), Fen Drayton Lakes (12 on 14th), Cam Washes (25th).

Wigeon Wicken Fen (150+ on 2nd), Burwell Fen (maximum c387 on 14th), Ouse Washes (200 on 2nd).

Gadwall Burwell Fen (maximum 131 on 14th), Wicken Fen (102 on 22nd).

Teal Wicken Fen (100+ on 10th), Burwell Fen (maximum c300 on 16th).

Pintail Cam Washes (maximum 3 on 2nd), Ouse Washes (maximum 5 on 31st), Paxton Pits (maximum 13 on 30th), Grafham Water (2 on 12th and 4 on 26th), Burwell Fen (maximum 14 on 16th), Wicken Fen (maximum 9 on 17th).

Garganey *late dates*: Ouse Washes (2 on 2nd), Fen Drayton Lakes (11th).

Shoveler Ouse Washes (45 on 2nd), Burwell Fen (maximum 117 on 14th), Wicken Fen (maximum 30 on 2nd).

Tufted Duck Burwell Fen (maximum 55 on 14th), Paxton Pits (c2,000 on 17th), Wicken Fen (maximum 11 on 22nd).

Scaup Stretham Farm reservoir (female on 25th), Grafham Water (a male on 26th – 29th).

Goldeneye Paxton Pits (a single on 4th and 3 on 18th), Grafham Water (8 on 12th and 20+ on 21st, 27 on 26th).

Gamebirds

Grey Partridge Burwell Fen (25 on 10th), Little Paxton (8 on 31st).

Cormorant, egrets and herons

Cormorant Wicken Fen (maximum 25+ on 24th), Burwell Fen (14th).

Little Egret Paxton Pits (maximum 5 on 15th), Wicken Fen/Baker's Fen (maximum 12 on 10th), Cam Washes (12th), Fen Drayton Lakes (47 on 14th), Burwell Fen (2 on 16th), Grafham Water (11 on 21st).

Grey Heron Fen Drayton Lakes (7 on 14th).

Grebes

Little Grebe Cam Washes (10 on 2nd), Wicken Fen (maximum 4 on 17th).

Great Crested Grebe Wicken Fen (a single bird on several dates).

Black-necked Grebe Grafham Water (several dates from 12th).



Black-necked Grebe at Grafham Water. Photo by James Hanlon

Raptors (not including falcons)

Red Kite Ouse Washes (2nd), Grafham Water (2 on 5th).

Marsh Harrier *reported from:* Burwell Fen (4), Cam Washes, Grafham Water, Little Wilbraham Fen, Ouse Washes (6), Wicken Fen (4).

Hen Harrier *first reported:* Ouse Washes (juvenile on 7th), Burwell Fen (ringtail on 19th and several subsequent dates), Woodwalton Fen (adult male on 25th – 26th), Nene Washes/Eldernell (a ringtail on 31st).

Sparrowhawk Burwell Fen, Great Shelford, Ouse Washes (2), Tubney Fen, Wicken Fen, Willingham.

Buzzard *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Cambridge/Lime Kiln Hill (3 on 23rd), Cottenham (3), Grafham Water (12+ on 5th), Little Wilbraham Fen (5), Ouse Washes (maximum 8+), Paxton Pits, Swaffham Prior (2), Wicken Fen.

Rails and crane

Water Rail *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen,

Coot Wicken Fen

Common Crane Nene Washes (17 by the Chill Out Café on 29th then 20 on 30th and 31st)

Waders

Stone Curlew Cambridge/Eachard Road (flyover at 3am on 17th!)

Golden Plover Burwell Fen (maximum c1000 on 30th), Ouse Fen (maximum 3,000+ on 28th), Ouse Washes (maximum 2,500 on 25th), Paxton Pits (6 on 11th), Stretham Farm reservoir (500+ on 25th), Nene Washes (3,000 to 5,000 on 31st).



Golden Plover at Fen Drayton Lakes. Photo by Colin Brown

Grey Plover Ouse Washes (a juvenile on 2nd), Burwell Fen (2 on 10th – 12th), Ouse Washes (2 on 12th and a single on 27th), Paxton Pits (15 on 14th).

Lapwing Burwell Fen (maximum 1,000 on 18th), Ouse Washes (520 on 7th and c900 on 27th), Tubney Fen (400 flyovers on 16th), Wicken Fen (c300 on 17th).

Ringed Plover Ouse Washes (3 on 2nd), Burwell Fen (maximum 19 on 10th).

Black tailed Godwit Burwell Fen (3rd), Grafham Water (singles on several dates), Ouse Washes (3 on 15th, 9 on 25th and 6 on 31st), Paxton Pits (30th).

Ruff Burwell Fen (maximum 11 on 16th), Ouse Washes (maximum c250 on 15th), Ouse Fen (3 on 2nd), Paxton Pits (3rd – 4th), Grafham Water (4th).

Dunlin Burwell Fen (maximum 10 on 15th), Ouse Washes (maximum 5 on 15th), Grafham Water (maximum 3 on 4th), Paxton Pits (6 on 30th).

Little Stint Burwell Fen (2 on 3rd and 1-2 on 10th – 19th; good evidence that these were not always the same individuals, these included a colour-ringed bird from Norway where it was ringed on passage), Grafham Water (5th), Paxton Pits (9th).

Curlew Sandpiper Paxton Pits (7th).

Common Sandpiper Wicken Fen (5th), Grafham Water (5th and 12th).

Green Sandpiper Burwell Fen (singles on several dates), Ouse Washes (2nd), Paxton Pits (maximum 2 on several dates), Grafham Water (maximum 4 on several dates), Cam Washes (2 on 12th).

Greenshank Grafham Water (a single on 2nd and 2 on 12th).

Wood Sandpiper Burwell Fen (2nd – 3rd), Ouse Washes (juvenile on 2nd).

Redshank Burwell Fen (17 on 14th), Grafham Water (4 on 29th).

Jack Snipe Burwell Fen (3rd), Ouse Fen (3rd), Paxton Pits (14th and 30th), Wicken Fen (2 on 15th).

Woodcock Farcet Fen (16th).

Snipe Burwell Fen (maximum 54 on 3rd), Paxton Pits (maximum 14 on 18th), Fen Drayton Lakes (36 on 20th), Ouse Washes (5 on 21st).

Skuas, terns and gulls

Great Skua* Foul Anchor (11 coming inland on 13th), Grafham Water (2 on 14th).

Arctic Tern Grafham Water (12th and 15th – 16th, a first winter on 21st and 22nd).

Kittwake Foul Anchor (173 coming inland on 13th).

Black-headed Gull Heydon (105 on 12th), Ickleton (160 on 12th), Great Shelford (c180 on a recently ploughed field), Ouse Washes ('thousands' into roost on 31st).

Little Gull Foul Anchor (74 coming inland on 13th).

Mediterranean Gull Paxton Pits (4th), Grafham Water (an adult and a first-winter on 29th).

Common Gull Heydon (3 on 12th).

Lesser Black-backed Gull Heydon (750 on 12th), Ickleton (350 on 12th).

Herring Gull Heydon (4 on 12th), Burwell Fen (12 on 14th).

Yellow-legged Gull Paxton Pits (maximum 4 on 4th), Heydon (6 on 12th), Ickleton (3 on 12th), Burwell Fen (26th). Grafham Water (an example of a possible "Azorean gull" *L.m. atlantis* adult in the roost on 29th).

Caspian Gull Paxton Pits (9th), Heydon (1 cy on 12th).

Doves, owls, kingfisher and woodpeckers

Woodpigeon Blackbush (1170+ on 14th).

Barn Owl *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Cam Washes (2), Eltisley (where 16 young were reported to have been raised this summer according to a report in *Cambridge News*), Ouse Washes (2), Paxton Pits and Tubney Fen.

Little Owl *reported from:* Burwell Fen.

Tawny Owl Burwell Fen (27th).

Short-eared Owl Ouse Fen (several dates from 12th), Burwell Fen (2-3 on 27th and a single on 30th).

Kingfisher *reported from* Little Wilbraham Fen, Paxton Pits (2) and Wicken Fen.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Grafham Water (27th).

Falcons and parrots

Kestrel Ouse Washes (10+ on 2nd and 10 on 7th), Burwell Fen (c10 on 3rd and 7 on 18th).

Merlin Duxford Grange (female on 12th), Woodwalton Fen (adult male on 25th – 26th), Fen Drayton Lakes (28th), Burwell Fen (30th).

Hobby *late dates:* Cambridge/Milton Road (6th), Etton Pits (11th).

Peregrine Burwell Fen (3rd and 10th), Paxton Pits (7th and 16th), Woodwalton Fen (3 on 14th), Ouse Washes (15th), Cambridge/Museum of Technology (16th), Wicken Fen (17th), Paxton Pits (25th), Little Wilbraham Fen (26th), Ouse Fen (28th), Wicken Fen (2 on 30th).



Peregrine at Wicken Fen. Photo by Roger Cresswell

Ring-necked Parakeet Ouse Washes (maximum 5 on 2nd and 15th).

Corvids

Raven* Ferry Meadows CP (flyover on 30th)

Tits and larks

Coal Tit *reported from:* Paxton Pits.

Marsh Tit *reported from:* Ouse Washes (2 on 12th) and Paxton Pits.

Bearded Tit *reported from:* Burwell Fen (maximum 30 on 5th), Fen Drayton Lakes (5 on 20th), Ouse Fen and Wicken Fen (maximum 10).

Skylark Fowlmere (90 on 12th), Blackbush (185+ on 14th).

Hirundines and warblers

Swallow *late dates:* Paxton Pits (4 on 6th), Chittering (birds headed south on 6th), Fen Drayton Lakes (9th), Witcham Gravel (100+ on 11th), Paxton Pits (3 on 11th), Fen Drayton Lakes (3 on 20th).

House Martin *late dates:* Chittering (birds headed south on 6th), March (2 on 7th), Fen Drayton Lakes (8 on 9th), Witcham Gravel (20+ on 11th).

Cetti's Warbler *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes (maximum 5+ on 14th), Grafham Water, Paxton Pits, Soham and Wicken Fen (5).

Chiffchaff *late dates* Paxton Pits (7th), Fen Drayton Lakes (11th), Woodwalton Fen (3 on 14th), Paxton Pits (2 on 18th).

Blackcap *late dates:* Paxton Pits (11th), Wicken Fen (30th).

Reed Warbler *late dates:* Wicken Fen (1st).

Waxwing, starling and thrushes

Waxwing Burwell Fen (26th).

Starling Fen Drayton Lakes (roost of up to 8,000 around the 11th), Tubney Fen (roost of 20,000 on 15th).

Ring Ouzel Nene Washes/Ring's End (14th), Melbourn (15th), Farcet Fen (16th), Cambridge/Huntingdon Road (20th), Mepal (22nd).

Blackbird several reports of movements on 7th, Farcet Fen (32 on 16th).

Fieldfare Haddenham (a few on 11th), Burwell Fen (5 on 16th), Farcet Fen (5 on 16th), Tubney Fen (4 on 16th), Wicken Fen (45 on 16th), Ferry Meadows CP (150 on 30th), Wicken Fen (c60 on 31st).

Song Thrush several reports of movements on 7th, 26 flyovers counted over Cambridge on 15th.

Redwing Soham (12 flyovers on 10th), a considerable movement recorded on 13th across the county, and on the 14th - Blackbush 1730+, Duxford 150+, Farcet Fen 845, Grafham Water 600, Witcham 'several hundred' and on 15th 422 counted over Cambridge. In the following days several reports of flocks of 100+.

Mistle Thrush Witcham (movement of small parties up to 40 birds on 7th).

Starts and chats

Redstart Eldernell (28th).

Whinchat Burwell Fen (2nd), Ouse Washes (2nd).

Stonechat Ouse Washes (6 on 2nd, 2 on 7th, 4 on 25th, single on 31st), Burwell Fen (1-2 on several dates), Ouse Fen (2 on 3rd and a surprising 25 on 12th – doesn't beat the 48 on the Nene Washes in December 2007), Paxton Pits (1-2 on several dates), Nene Washes (12 on 12th), Eynesbury (2 on 12th), Wicken Fen (maximum 4 on 15th), Cam Washes (25th), Grafham Water (28th), Ferry Meadows CP (30th).

Wheatear Burwell Fen (15th), Paxton Pits (18th and 20th), Nene Washes (19th).

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

Tree Sparrow Witcham (flyover on 17th), Needingworth (8 on 28th), Wicken Fen (2 ringed on 29th).

Grey Wagtail *reported from:* Cambridge (2 flyovers on 15th), Cam Washes, Farcet Fen, Grafham Water (2), Paxton Pits (4 on 6th), Wisbech (2).

Pied Wagtail Farcet Fen (85+ on 14th).

'White Wagtail' Farcet Fen (2 on 14th).

Meadow Pipit Blackbush (210+ on 14th), Tubney Fen (30 on 16th).

Rock Pipit Paxton Pits (1-2 from 3rd - 20th), Grafham Water (2-3 on 12th and 15th).

Water Pipit Ouse Washes (15th), Paxton Pits (18th and 27th), Sutton Gault (25th).

Finches and buntings

Brambling Grafham Water (2 on 14th), Witcham Gravel (6 on 14th), Woodwalton Fen (3 on 14th), Cambridge (6 flyovers on 15th) reports from Grafham Water on 15th, Farcet Fen (16th)

all suggest an inward movement. Wicken Fen (25th), Beechwoods LNR (3+ on 27th), Newmarket (9+ alongside the July Course on 27th).

Goldfinch Ouse Fen (140 on 2nd), Tubney Fen (45 on 16th).

Siskin Grafham Water (5th and 2 on 14th), Paxton Pits (flyover on 10th), Fen Drayton Lakes (4 on 20th).

Lesser Redpoll Wicken Fen (a 'control' caught on 29th), Ferry Meadows CP (15 on 30th).

Hawfinch Grafham Water (15th).

Snow Bunting* Fordham (29th – end of the month) This species is an almost annual visitor but in very small numbers.



Snow Bunting at Fordham-Chippenham. Photo by Kieran Allinson

Reed Bunting Needingworth (100 on 28th).

Exotica

Snow Goose The long-term escape/feral bird with Greylags reported in the Upware/Burwell Fen/Wicken Fen area.

Reeve's Pheasant Little Wilbraham Fen (26th).

Black-winged Stilt The 'escaped' bird was reported in the usual sites.

Contributors:

Colin Addington, Karen Allinson, Richard Allison, Dave Anderson, Geoff Barlow, Andy Bayes, Louise Bacon, Ann Beeby, Peter Bircham, Chris Brown, Colin Brown, Mike Burdekin, Ian Burfield, Saimon Clark David Collins, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Roger Cresswell, Mike Crosby, Martin Davis, Ian Dickerson, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, Mark Eaton, Stuart Elsom, Mike Everett, Mike Foley, Richard Grimmett, James Hanlon, Andy Hannaford, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jonathan Heath, Graham Hirons, Michael Holdsworth, David Hollin, David Hopkins, John Hoppett, Carl Howard, Richard Jackson, Richard Johnson, Colin Kirtland, Charlie Kitchen, Peter Loudon, Tony Lowe, Robert Mansfield, Monica and Owen Marks, Bruce Martin, Paul Mason, Matt Mellor, Barry O'Dowd, Dave Palmer, Richard Palmer, Richard Patient, Mark Peck, Paul Pulham, Gareth Rees, Mathew Rodgers, John Sherwood, Jonathan Taylor, Richard Thomas, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Andrew Tongue, Mark Ward, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, David Wege, Jamie Wells, Kevin Wilson, per David Withrington, Barbara York, and Christophe Zockler.

Editor's note: *it would be helpful if contributors to both the website and Cambirds were to keep to site names in general use. The latest trend seems to be to call what has heretofore been known as Burwell Fen the old name of 'Adventurers' Fen'. This can cause confusion because the National Trust who own this whole area have, for as long as I can remember, called the area of their land on the Burwell side of Wicken Lode (comprising the Mere and also the reedbed) Adventurers' Fen. The OS map may show Burwell Fen as Adventurers' Fen but it shows several parcels of land in the Fens as Adventurers' Fen which only adds to the confusion. So there is good reason to keep to Burwell Fen as the name. The bird club has a gazeteer (on the Club's website under the sub-heading 'Top Bird Sites'). It is a comprehensive collection of the names we use, with linked grid references, and synonyms which are/have been in use. Any additions should be sent to the County Recorder, Louise Bacon.*

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for October 2014

There was ringing activity at the Fen on 13 different days in October. October's ringing total was 558, and a further 212 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total of birds handled in the month was 770. The first figure below is the ringing total; the second is retraps.

Individual species totals were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Redwing	11, 0
Green Woodpecker	2, 1	Robin	10, 8
Great spotted Woodpecker	1, 2	Stonechat	2, 0
Kestrel	1, 0	Dunnock	9, 6
Goldcrest	28, 4	House Sparrow	21, 3
Blue Tit	62, 76	Tree Sparrow	2, 0
Great Tit	34, 63	Meadow Pipit	22, 4
Skylark	3, 0	Chaffinch	12, 1
Cetti's Warbler	2, 0	Bullfinch	7, 0
Long-tailed Tit	32, 15	Greenfinch	25, 3
Chiffchaff	8, 0	Linnet	10, 0
Blackcap	26, 0	Lesser Redpoll	0, 1
Treecreeper	0, 2	Goldfinch	39, 1
Wren	15, 16	Yellowhammer	1, 0
Blackbird	9, 4	Reed Bunting	57, 1
Song Thrush	6, 1		

Robin T941908 ringed 28.7.2007, retrapped 12.10.2014 at 7y 3m, was close to the WF record.

Next indoor meetings:

Friday 14th November, St Johns Hall, Cambridge



Georgia is one of the most mysterious, unique and scenic countries in the Western Palearctic and contains some of its most sought after and rarely seen birds. From incomparable mountain birding in the Greater Caucasus to one of the largest raptor migration spectacles in the World, Georgia is a land that every European birder should visit at least once.

Friday 12th December, St Johns Hall, Cambridge



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.

FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you to all our members for your valued support throughout the year. Annual subscriptions for 2015 fall due on 1 January 2015. These remain unchanged from 2014:

Full	£17
Senior/Concessionary	£12
Student	£8

If you do not have a current standing order in place, please ensure that you send a cheque payable to Cambridgeshire Bird Club as soon as possible to me:

Roger Swain
CBC Treasurer
4, Bakers Field
Dry Drayton
Cambs
CB23 8EG

If you already pay by standing order, please check that it has been changed to the above amount. If it needs changing, or you wish to start paying by standing order, please complete the standing order section of the membership form included in this Bulletin, or download it from the CBC website at (<http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/joinus.html>) and forward it to me at the above address.

Roger Swain, Treasurer

Next E-bulletin due on December 12th. - any contributions need to be with me by the 10th at the latest. PB.

