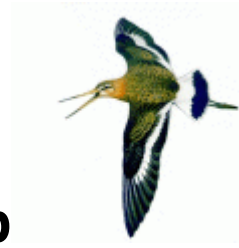


Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 13 July 2014

(The records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date; where there is an asterisk beside the name of the bird it indicates that this species requires a description to be sent to the County Recorder.)

HEADLINES



Black-winged Pratincole on the Ouse Washes photograph by Brendan Doe

***GREAT WHITE EGRET** Ouse Washes (2nd– 6th), Wicken Fen (9th, 16th and 22nd), March Farmers (11th), Burwell Fen (15th and 25th).

***GLOSSY IBIS** March Farmers/Nene Washes (2nd– 7th), Ouse Washes (9th – 13th), Berry Fen (19th – 30th).

SPOONBILL March Farmers/Nene Washes (2nd– 3rd, 15th).

SPOTTED CRAKE Berry Fen (one heard calling on 23rd - 24th).

***HONEY BUZZARD** Eaton Socon (a dark-phase bird flyover on 8th).

TEMMINCK'S STINT Ouse Washes (25th – 28th).

***BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE** Ouse Washes (19th to the end of the month). Only two previous records in the county and this is the first since 1982.

***SABINE'S GULL** Paxton Pits (a 2nd summer on 26th) – an extraordinary record for July with only 15 previous occurrences up to the end of 2012, almost all in autumn.

***GOLDEN ORIOLE** Shrubbs's Marina River Cam (one reported singing in a poplar plantation in 'early July'). If confirmed this would be the first record for two years.

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.

Wildfowl

Whooper Swan March Farmers (an injured bird on 20th).

Egyptian Goose Paxton Pits (all month maximum 3), Isleham Washes (19th), Berry Fen (2 with tiny goslings (22nd).

Shelduck Burwell Fen (20+ juveniles on 14th).

Wigeon Ouse Washes RSPB (3rd), Paxton Pits (13th).

Gadwall Paxton Pits (at least one pair bred).

Teal Ouse Washes RSPB (130 on 3rd), Paxton Pits (4 on 3rd one on 20th), Grafham Water (2 on 19th).

Pintail Paxton Pits (20th).

Garganey Ouse Washes RSPB (all month maximum 26 on 6th), Paxton Pits (3rd), Burwell Fen (maximum 2).

Shoveler Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 200 on 3rd), Paxton Pits (12 on 20th)

Red-crested Pochard Paxton Pits (maximum 3).

Pochard Paxton Pits (8 on 20th).

Tufted Duck Ouse Washes RSPB (5 on 13th), Paxton Pits (at least one pair bred, count of 347 on 20th).

Common Scoter Paxton Pits (2 on 12th – 13th).

Goldeneye Fen Drayton Lakes (22nd).

Gamebirds

Grey Partridge Burwell Fen (3 on 5th and a pair with a chick on 8th).

Quail *reported from:* Fowlmere, Heydon (2).

Egrets and herons

Bittern *reported from:* Ouse Washes.

Little Egret reported from: Berry Fen c20 on 10th), Burwell Fen (maximum 44 on 22nd), Grafham Water (maximum 16 on 19th), Isleham Washes (4 on 19th), March Farmers (large numbers most of the month peaked at 240 on 7th), Ouse Washes (large numbers peaked at 125 on 6th), Paxton Pits (maximum 7 on 20th).

Grey Heron Ouse Washes (12+ on 2nd up to 31 on 5th and 44 on 6th).

Raptors

Red Kite Heathfield (6th), Ouse Washes (27th).

Marsh Harrier reported from: Burwell Fen (2), Ouse Washes RSPB(4), Fowlmere NR (6th).

Sparrowhawk reported from: Burwell Fen, Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits.

Buzzard reported from: Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Grafham Water (3 broods noted on 26th), Haddenham, Paxton Pits (2), Ouse Washes.

Osprey Nene Washes (9th and 22nd), Glinton (11th).

Rails and crane

Water Rail reported from: Fowlmere NR, Chippenham Fen, Ouse Washes RSPB.

Corncrake Earith (one calling on 28th - 29th then 2 on 31st).

Common Crane March Farmers (3 on 2nd), Ouse Washes RSPB (2 on 12th and 28th – 30th), Burwell Fen (2 flyovers on 27th).

Waders

Avocet Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 6 on 6th).

Oystercatcher Ouse Washes RSPB (12th), Paxton Pits (maximum 6 on 4th), Burwell Fen (2 on 5th and 8th).

Golden Plover Paxton Pits (8th), Ouse Washes (9th and 27th), Burwell Fen (2 on 14th).

Lapwing Ouse Washes RSPB, Paxton Pits (50 on 5th, 72 on 7th, 206 on 8th, c350 on 20th, 500+ on 27th), Burwell Fen (80+ on 14th, 321 on 22nd and 150 on 25th).



Lapwing at Pymore, photograph by Garth Peacock.

Little Ringed Plover Paxton Pits (all month max 4), Burwell Fen (1-3 all month maximum 9 on 30th), Ouse Washes (1-5 from 6th to 18th, maximum 8 on 25th), Berry Fen (3 on 10th), Heydon Grange GC (12th).

Ringed Plover Ouse Washes (6th), Paxton Pits (2 on 16th, one on 19th and 2 on 26th and 5 on 30th), Burwell Fen (22nd).

Whimbrel Ouse Washes (4 flyovers on 12th), Burwell Fen (flyover on 22nd), Over (14 flyovers on 27th), Colne (27th).

Curlew March Farmers (2nd), Grafham Water flyover on 3rd), Paxton Pits (3rd and 10th), Foxton (flyover on 6th), Colne (flyover on 17th).

Black tailed Godwit March Farmers (maximum 70 on 3rd), Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 69 on 16th), Paxton Pits (maximum 8 on 26th), Burwell Fen (from 8th, maximum c55 on 15th), Isleham Washes (10 on 19th).

Turnstone Paxton Pits (2 on 23rd, one on 28th and 2 on 31st).

Ruff Ouse Washes RSPB (small numbers at the beginning of the month reached a maximum 92 on 30th), March Farmers (from 6 on 6th numbers built up to a maximum of 23 on 22nd), Burwell Fen (15th and 3 on 22nd – 25th up to 10 by 30th), Isleham Washes (19th), Paxton Pits (31st).

Sanderling Paxton Pits (22nd, 27th and 31st).

Dunlin Ouse Washes RSPB (maximum 12 on 9th), Paxton Pits (maximum 7 on 30th), March Farmers (11 on 11th), Burwell Fen (from 22nd maximum 11 on 30th).

Common Sandpiper Paxton Pits (from 4th maximum 19+ on 22nd), Burwell Fen (from 5th, maximum 6+ on 30th), March Farmers (6th, 2 on 15th), Foul Anchor (2 on 13th), Maxey Pits (16th), Grafham Water (2 on 19th), Ouse Washes RSPB (2 on 19th), Isleham Washes (2 on 19th).

Green Sandpiper Ouse Washes (2 near Earith on 3rd, RSPB regularly reported maximum 8 on 12th), Paxton Pits (2-3 all month), Burwell Fen (reported all month with a maximum of c13 on 8th), Berry Fen (maximum 8 on 10th), Maxey Pits (10 on 16th), Grafham Water (2 on 19th), Isleham Washes (4 on 19th).

Spotted Redshank March Farmers (3rd, 11th and 20th), Ouse Washes (6th – 30th).

Greenshank March Farmers (1-4 from 3rd to 22nd), Ouse Washes RSPB (regularly reported from 3rd, maximum 10+ on 9th), Paxton Pits (from 2nd maximum 2 on 16th – 26th), Wicken Fen (6th, 9th), Berry Fen (2 on 10th), Burwell Fen (2 on 14th, 3 on 15th and 22nd singles on 27th and 30th), Maxey Pits (2 on 16th), Isleham Washes (19th).

Wood Sandpiper March Farmers (2 on 6th, one on 19th), Ouse Washes (1-3 from 7th to 27th), Berry Fen (2 over on 10th), Burwell Fen (30th).

Redshank *reported from:* Burwell Fen (maximum 13 on 15th), Ouse Washes RSPB, Paxton Pits (1-4 all month), Isleham Washes (3 on 19th).

Woodcock Wicken Fen (2 roding on 2nd).

Snipe Ouse Washes RSPB (2 on 12th, 6 on 26th and 51 on 30th), Burwell Fen (1-20 all month maximum 45 on 30th), Isleham Washes (4 on 19th), Paxton Pits (3 on 26th).

Terns and gulls

Common Tern Grafham Water (20 on 19th), Burwell Fen (7 on 22nd).

Black-headed Gull Paxton Pits (c100 pairs bred, 276 on 10th and c500 on 30th).

Mediterranean Gull Paxton Pits (adult on 13th), Burwell Fen (a juvenile on 22nd) Grafham Water (a juvenile on 26th).

Common Gull Paxton Pits (maximum 12 on 10th), Grafham Water (19th).

Lesser Black-backed Gull Fowlmere (120 on 6th), Burwell Fen (29 on 8th), Paxton Pits (240 on 10th), Heydon (250 on 12th), Grafham Water (4,124 on 19th).

Yellow-legged Gull *reported from:* Fowlmere (2), Grafham Water (maximum 104 on 19th), Paxton Pits (maximum 24 on 26th).

Great Black-backed Gull Grafham Water (15 on 19th).

Doves, cuckoo, owls and kingfisher

Turtle Dove *reported from:* Chrishall, Fowlmere NR (maximum 4 birds), Heydon, Little Staughton (2), March, Ouse Washes (4 on 3rd).



Turtle Dove photograph by Garth Peacock.

Cuckoo Wicken Fen 3 calling on 2nd, Fowlmere NR (6th), Paxton Pits (2 on 26th).

Barn Owl *reported from:* Fowlmere NR (bred), Heydon, Ouse Washes (2), Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen (2).

Little Owl *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Paxton Pits, Stow-cum-Quy (2), Wicken Fen.

Tawny Owl Fowlmere NR (pair bred), Paxton Pits (pair bred).

Swift *large gatherings:* Whittlesey (160+ on 15th), Burwell Fen (c200 on 15th), Eaton Ford (100+ on 27th)

Kingfisher *reported from:* Chippenham Fen, Ouse Washes (2), Paxton Pits (2).

Falcons and parrots

Hobby *reported from:* Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Fowlmere NR, Ouse Washes RSPB, Paxton Pits, Stow-cum-Quy.

Peregrine *reported from:* Cambridge, March Farmers, Ouse Washes RSPB, Fowlmere NR.

***Ring-necked Parakeet** Ouse Washes (regularly reported, presumably the breeding pair plus young; maximum 5 on 13th).

Tits

Marsh Tit Ditton Park Wood (3 on 14th).

Bearded Tit *reported from:* Wicken Fen (30 ringed in July).

Hirundines, and warblers

Sand Martin Paxton Pits (c200 on 10th), Burwell Fen (30 on 15th).

Cetti's Warbler Wicken Fen (8 ringed in July).

Nuthatch, starling and thrushes

Nuthatch Ditton Park Wood (5 on 14th), Grafham Water (family party on 26th).

Starling Fen Drayton Lakes (roost of 'several hundred' on 22nd).

Mistle Thrush Heydon Grange GC (22 on 6th and 29 on 12th), Fowlmere (83 in a pre-roost gathering on 11th).

Spotted Flycatcher *reported from:* Babraham (bred), near Fulbourn (bred).

Nightingale Paxton Pits (one calling on 3rd).

Starts and chats

Redstart Wicken Fen (21st).

Wheatear Nene Washes/Eldernell (22nd), Wicken Fen (22nd).

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

Yellow Wagtail Ouse Washes (26 on 30th)

Grey Wagtail *reported from:* Grafham Water (juvenile on 26th).

Finches and buntings

Goldfinch Diddington (flock of c 100 on 30th).

Exotica

Black-winged Stilt Berry Fen (the escaped bird was seen on several dates).

Budgerigar Wicken Fen (one reported on 14th).

Contributors:

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WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP **Brief news for July 2014**

There was mist-netting activity at the Fen on 9 different days in July. The month's ringing total was 511 – a further 94 birds were retraps; making a total of 605 birds. Individual species totals were (ringed, followed by retraps):

Common Tern	3, 0	Whitethroat	1, 0
Stock Dove	3, 0	Garden Warbler	1, 0
Woodpigeon	1, 0	Blackcap	18, 2
Great spotted Woodpecker	2, 0	Chiffchaff	36, 5
Sand Martin	12, 1	Willow Warbler	10, 0
Swallow	149, 0	Bearded Tit	30, 8
Pied Wagtail	3, 0	Long-tailed Tit	2, 1
Wren	25, 9	Blue Tit	16, 11
Dunnock	8, 2	Great Tit	10, 6
Robin	14, 6	Tree Creeper	6, 3
Blackbird	7, 2	Carrion Crow	1, 0
Song Thrush	2, 1	Greenfinch	1, 0
Cetti's Warbler	8, 1	Bullfinch	14, 5
Sedge Warbler	27, 5	Yellowhammer	3, 0
Reed Warbler	85, 23	Reed Bunting	13, 2
Lesser Whitethroat	0, 1		

Old birds retrapped in July were:

Bullfinch X875337 at 4 years 6 months,
Reed Warbler L093100 at 4 years 0 months and
Sedge Warbler L505226 at 3 years 2 months.

Next indoor meeting:



Friday 12th September, Cottenham Village College

Facing Extinction: the World's Rarest Birds and the Race to Save Them by Paul Donald

Dr Paul Donald is Principal Conservation Scientist in the RSPB's international research team and is the Editor-in-Chief of the international ornithological journal *Ibis*. Among his many research interests is the conservation ecology of critically endangered species, and he is the lead author of a recent book on the subject. In this talk he will discuss the causes of rarity in birds and will outline the measures that are being used to prevent their extinction.

Cambridgeshire Bird Atlas 2007-20011 - last chance

We are down to our last few copies for sale, so now is the time to get your copy of this wonderful publication.

The atlas can be purchased from Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0902038273>

or from the NHBS:

http://www.nhbs.com/bkfno_207682.html

Or please send a cheque, made payable to the *Cambridgeshire Bird Club*, for £17.00 (£15.00 + £2.00 p&p, UK only) to

Cambridgeshire Bird Club
4(a) Cavendish Avenue
CAMBRIDGE CB1 7US



Cambridgeshire Bird Club Conference

WOODLAND BIRDS: HABITATS, SPECIES AND CONSERVATION

Saturday 27th September 2014 0930–1700 at Cottenham Village College
Sunday 28th September 2014 Woodland reserves

The conference, organised by Cambridgeshire Bird Club in collaboration with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), will provide an opportunity for everyone to learn more about woodland birds in the UK and conservation of their habitats. On Saturday, there will be a programme of lectures (each followed by time for discussion), displays and stalls. On Sunday there will be an opportunity to visit woodland reserves to hear about their management for wildlife with particular attention to birds.

Saturday 27th September

The programme will present overviews of woodland habitats, present several species studies and look at topical issues in conservation.

Woodland as a habitat for birds: what makes a good wood? *Rob Fuller (BTO)*

Woodland birds at a landscape-scale: consequences of habitat history, extent and distribution
Shelley Hinsley (CEH)

Why are UK Wood Warbler populations declining? *Paul Bellamy (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science)*

What's driving the Marsh Tit decline? Studies in Cambridgeshire and beyond *Richard Broughton (CEH)*

Investigating Hawfinch declines *Will Kirby (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science)*

Long-term studies of woodpeckers and their food *Ken Smith*

The conservation implications of ash dieback: any hope for a phoenix? *Keith Kirby (University of Oxford)*

Heartwood – a forest in the making: how wildlife is responding *Linda Smith*

Tickets must be booked in advance: £25.00 per person (includes coffee, lunch and tea)

For further details or enquiries check the Club's website (www.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk) or contact Vicki Harley (Tel.: 01954 250340; email: vicki.harlev@care4free.net).

EVERYONE WELCOME: TURN OVER FOR BOOKING FORMS

Cambridgeshire Bird Club Winter Garden Bird Survey.

If you have a garden in this area and you like to watch the birds in your garden, we would like to invite you to take part in the first Cambridgeshire Bird Club Winter Garden Bird Survey 2014-2015.

We ask that you note the bird species feeding or foraging in your garden from:
5th October 2014 – 7th March 2015

Please then, each week, mark off the species on the list available from the Cambridgeshire Bird Club website:
www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

At the end of April, send it in to: gardenbirds@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

Instructions

The survey recording week will run from each Sunday to the following Saturday.

The survey is for those people whose gardens are in the area recorded by the bird club.

We ask that you mark off with an X on the survey form the bird species feeding or foraging in your garden for each week given – the numbers of each species are not needed, just that you have seen it feeding or foraging. The form is available as a download from the Cambridgeshire Bird Club website either as a pdf for you to print and keep by the window or an Excel spreadsheet to save and fill in.

Species not listed may come to use the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough gardens during the time surveyed. Please do add into the open boxes any other bird species that use your garden for feeding or foraging.

Please only mark for birds actively using your garden. The birds must come into your garden and to be feeding or searching for food.

A species just flying over your garden does not count. However sights such as a hovering Kestrel looking into your garden for food does count.

At the end of the final week, (after Saturday 7th March 2015), please return your results to:

Email address: gardenbirds@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

or by post to: 15 School Lane, Toft Cambridge, CB23 2RE

by 30th April 2015.

When it comes to analysing the results it would help to know two facts about your garden. First is your garden rural or urban, and secondly do you regularly provide food for the birds or not. Please could you mark these on the form.

Should you require any further information please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions page on the website or email myself, Rebecca Buisson at: Cambsgardenbirds@gmail.com.

Next E-bulletin due on September 10th.

