

# Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 15 September 2014

(The records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date)



Barred Warbler caught and ringed at Dunkirk photograph by Tony Martin.

## HEADLINES

**\*GREAT WHITE EGRET** Berry Fen (1-2 for most of the month) Wicken Fen-Burwell Fen (1-3 all month), Barleycraft (18<sup>th</sup>), Nene Washes (5 landed and flew off during management operations on 29<sup>th</sup> – the largest group so far recorded in the County).

**\*GLOSSY IBIS** Wicken Fen/Baker's Fen (present all month).

**SPOONBILL** Ouse Washes RSPB (7 on 13<sup>th</sup>), also a County record for the largest number.

**SPOTTED CRAKE** Ouse Washes (14<sup>th</sup>).

[\***Black Kite** one reported south of RAF Wittering on 20<sup>th</sup>].

**DOTTEREL** Ouse Fen (one with Golden Plovers on 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>)

\***PECTORAL SANDPIPER** Burwell Fen (6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>).

\***LONG-TAILED SKUA** Sutton Bridge (2 juveniles on 21<sup>st</sup>) *only 7 previous records the last one being in 2008.*

\***WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** Grafham Water (20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>), *23 previous records.*

\***BARRED WARBLER** (Dunkirk one trapped and ringed on 22<sup>nd</sup>).

## 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 an asterisk before the name of the species this indicates that it is necessary to send a description to the County Recorder before the record will be accepted.*

### **Wildfowl**

**Greylag Goose** Needingworth (c 2000 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (c80 on 20<sup>th</sup>).

**Canada Goose** Trumpington/Great Kneighton (70+ on 23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Barnacle Goose** Paxton Pits (on several dates).

**Brent Goose** Grafham Water (Dark-bellied on 13<sup>th</sup>).

**Egyptian Goose** Colne GP (36 on 11<sup>th</sup>), Berry Fen (pair + 4 young on 12<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Shelduck** Paxton Pits (juvenile on 20<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (2 on 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Wigeon** Ouse Washes (6 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Paxton Pits, Burwell Fen (maximum 47+ on 6<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (16 on 5<sup>th</sup>).

**Gadwall** Burwell Fen (c30 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (95 on 5<sup>th</sup>).

**Teal** Ouse Washes RSPB (500 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Paxton Pits (c600 on 4<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (40 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 466 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Berry Fen (200+ on 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Mallard** Wicken Fen (maximum 160 on 5<sup>th</sup>).

**Pintail** Burwell Fen (4 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (4 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 5 on 8<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (5 on 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Garganey** Paxton Pits (4<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 3 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Berry Fen (maximum 2 on several dates), Wicken Fen (maximum 2 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (21<sup>st</sup>), Grafham Water (22<sup>nd</sup>).



Garganey male (left) and female (right) at Berry Fen. Photograph: Simon Stirrup

**Shoveler** Burwell Fen (maximum c40 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (maximum 100 on 5<sup>th</sup>).

**Red-crested Pochard** Paxton Pits (maximum 6 on 15<sup>th</sup>).

**Pochard** Wicken Fen (3 on 29<sup>th</sup>).

**Tufted Duck** Burwell Fen (2 on 5<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (1979 on 7<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Scoter** Grafham Water (3 males and a female on 20<sup>th</sup>).

**Goldeneye** Paxton Pits (2 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Gamebirds***

**Grey Partridge** Haddenham (24 on 4<sup>th</sup>), Long Drove (9 on 4<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (15<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere (15 on 16<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (19<sup>th</sup>).

**Quail** Nene Washes (26<sup>th</sup>) – *the latest county date is October 31<sup>st</sup> in 1952!*

### ***Divers, shearwaters, gannet and cormorants***

**Cormorant** *reported from:* Wicken Fen (3 on 29<sup>th</sup>).



## ***Egrets and herons***

**Bittern** Fen Drayton Lakes (14<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (several dates).

**Little Egret** *reported from:* Berry Fen (maximum 20+ on 14<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 8 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Fidwell Fen (4 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 24+ on 22<sup>nd</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup>) Paxton Pits (maximum 11 on 17<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (maximum 20 on 15<sup>th</sup>).

**Grey Heron** Ouse Washes RSPB (10 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Fidwell Fen (8 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Berry Fen (17 on 22<sup>nd</sup>).

## ***Grebes***

**Little Grebe** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (maximum 9 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Fidwell Fen, Grafham Water (maximum 64 on 22<sup>nd</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 10 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (4 on 5<sup>th</sup>).

**Great Crested Grebe** *reported from:* Fidwell Fen (2 - 3), Wicken Fen.

**Black-necked Grebe** Paxton Pits (single on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> then a single 7<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (22<sup>nd</sup>).

## ***Raptors***

**Red Kite** *reported from:* Grafham Water, Nene Washes, Paxton Pits.

**Marsh Harrier** *reported from:* Berry Fen (2), Burwell Fen (3), Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water, Haddenham, Milton, Monk's Wood, Nene Washes (maximum 12+ in a roost on 7<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Fen (2), Ouse Washes (12), Wicken Fen (2).

**Sparrowhawk** *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Colne GP (2), Cottenham, Grafham Water, Great Shelford, Paxton Pits (2), Trumpington, Wicken Fen.

**Buzzard** *reported from:* Berry Fen (3), Cherry Hinton (3), Fidwell Fen, Grafham Water (4), Haddenham (2), Haslingfield (2), Long Drove (6), Nene Washes (13+ on 7<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (3), Paxton Pits (6+), Snailwell (3), Sugeley Wood (9), Wicken Fen (2).

**Osprey** Burwell Fen (14<sup>th</sup>).

## ***Rails and crane***

**Water Rail** *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Grafham Water (3), Ouse Washes and Wicken Fen.

**Corncrake** Nene Washes (26<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Crane** Ouse Washes (2 on several dates), Nene Washes (4 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 4 flyovers on 27<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (2 flyovers on 10<sup>th</sup>), Nene Washes/Eldernell (4 on 28<sup>th</sup>).

## **Waders**

*With a number of sightings of some of the less common species at the same site over a period of days it is difficult to be clear whether these are the same bird or part of a movement through. Often sightings are separated by a number of days when an individual may have been present but not observed. In this section some assumptions (hopefully justified) have been made that reports refer to the same individual.*

**Avocet** Burwell Fen (15<sup>th</sup>).

**Golden Plover** Berry Fen (6 on 25<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (single 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 on 12<sup>th</sup>, then 21 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 35 on 26<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (c60 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Trumpington (154 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Haddenham (1500 + on 30<sup>th</sup> and another 25-30 at Long Drove).

**Grey Plover** Pymoor (28<sup>th</sup>).

**Lapwing** counts of 100+ Paxton Pits (maximum c500 on 1<sup>st</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 415 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Ouse Fen (c350 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 312 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Haddenham (c400 on 14<sup>th</sup> up to 1000+ by 26<sup>th</sup>), Long Drove (200 on 4<sup>th</sup> up to 1000+ by 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Little Ringed Plover** Paxton Pits (maximum 4 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Burwell Fen (1-2 from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>).

**Ringed Plover** Ouse Washes (2<sup>nd</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 22 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Fidwell Fen (3<sup>rd</sup>), Nene Washes (5 on 7<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 4 on 8<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 6 on 15<sup>th</sup>).

**Curlew** Grafham Water (2 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Paxton Pits (3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>), Burwell Fen (8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>).

**Black tailed Godwit** reported from: Fidwell Fen (3<sup>rd</sup>) Burwell Fen (maximum 3 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 4 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** Burwell Fen (25<sup>th</sup>).

**Knot** Ouse Washes (14<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (2 on 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Ruff** Burwell Fen (maximum 36 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Fidwell Fen (maximum 20 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Berry Fen (maximum 5 on 8<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 157+ on 9<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 6 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Fen (maximum 7+ on 14<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (singles on 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Dunlin** reported from: Burwell Fen (maximum 7 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 7 on 28<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 6 on 23<sup>rd</sup>) and Ouse Washes (maximum 1).

**Little Stint** Fidwell Fen (2<sup>nd</sup>), Ouse Washes (14<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (a juvenile on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (13<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 on 28<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Curlew Sandpiper** Burwell Fen (2 on 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, singles on 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (5 on 2<sup>nd</sup> down to a single on 3<sup>rd</sup> then 2 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 9<sup>th</sup>).

**Common Sandpiper** reported from: Burwell Fen (1-2 throughout the month), Grafham Water (2), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits (maximum 3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>),

**Green Sandpiper** *reported from:* Berry Fen, Burwell Fen (maximum 6 on 2nd), Cam Washes, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fidwell Fen (maximum 3 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Grafham Water (2), Needingworth, Ouse Fen (2) Ouse Washes (3), Paxton Pits.



Green Sandpiper at Grafham Water. Photograph by Garth Peacock

**Spotted Redshank** Grafham Water (4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (8<sup>th</sup>),

**Greenshank** *reported from:* Berry Fen (14<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (1-2 from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (10), Fidwell Fen (maximum 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 5 on several dates), Paxton Pits (3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (maximum 5 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>), Berry Fen (10<sup>th</sup>),

**Wood Sandpiper** Burwell Fen (15<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Redshank** Paxton Pits (23<sup>rd</sup>).



**Snipe** *reported from:* Berry Fen (maximum 50+ on 10<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (maximum 54 on 26<sup>th</sup>), Cam Washes (10 on 20<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (maximum 10+ on 3<sup>rd</sup>), Paxton Pits (maximum 8 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (2 on 15<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Skuas, terns and gulls***

**\*Arctic Skua** into Cambs from Sutton Bridge (3 pale-phase and 2 dark-phase on 21<sup>st</sup>).

**\*Great Skua** into Cambs from Sutton Bridge (11 on 21<sup>st</sup>).

*Traditionally skua sightings are from the extreme north of the county and involve birds moving in from the Wash, from Sutton Bridge and Foul Anchor being the best places to record these birds.*

**Common Tern** *late dates:* Cam Washes (20<sup>th</sup>)

**Mediterranean Gull** Paxton Pits (juvenile on 5<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Swaffham Bulbeck – Six Mile Bottom (460 in newly ploughed fields on 29<sup>th</sup>)

**Herring Gull** Grafham Water (250+ into roost on 15<sup>th</sup>).

**Yellow-legged Gull** Paxton Pits (maximum 5 on 12<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (25+ on 12<sup>th</sup>), Milton Tip (6<sup>th</sup>).

**Caspian Gull** Milton (6<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Doves, owls and Kingfisher***

**Turtle Dove** *reported from:* Paxton Pits (7<sup>th</sup>). *Late dates:* Grafham Water (22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Barn Owl** *reported from:* Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Fowlmere and Wicken Fen.

**Little Owl** Burwell Fen (15<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (15<sup>th</sup>)

**Tawny Owl** *reported from:* Berry Fen, Chippenham Fen, Little Paxton and Wicken Fen.

**Short-eared Owl** Nene Washes (2 on 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Swift** Ouse Washes (2 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (7<sup>th</sup>)

**Kingfisher** *reported from:* Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Cambridge Backs, Cam Washes, Ouse Washes (4+), Paxton Pits (4) and Wicken Fen.

**Wryneck** vague record in an 'undisclosed location in early September'.

### ***Falcons and parrots***

**Kestrel** *more than one at:* Burwell Fen (10+ on 26<sup>th</sup>), Chippenham Fen (2), Grafham Water (3), Haddenham (5), Ouse Washes (c10),

**Merlin** Burwell Fen (2<sup>nd</sup>) – first record of the 'winter' (and the same or another on 6<sup>th</sup>), Prior's Fen (28<sup>th</sup>).

**Hobby** *reported from:* Bar Hill GC (5 on 16<sup>th</sup>), Barleycraft, Berry Fen, Burwell Fen (4), Colne, Cottenham, Haddenham (2), Harston, Heathfield, Fen Drayton, Grafham Water (2), Little Paxton, Monk's Wood, Needingworth (2), Nene Washes (3), Ouse Washes (2), Paxton Pits, Swaffham Prior, Tubney Fen, Wicken Fen  
*Late dates:* Wicken Fen (26<sup>th</sup>).

**Peregrine** *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Grafham Water (1-2), Nene Washes, Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen.

**\*Ring-necked Parakeet** Ouse Washes RSPB (2-4 on several dates), Ramsey St Mary (10<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Crows, and tits***

**Raven** Peterborough/Lynch Wood (3 flyovers on 4<sup>th</sup>), Southoe (2 flyovers on 5<sup>th</sup>), Southey Wood (20<sup>th</sup>), Ferry Meadows CP (2 flyovers on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Coal Tit** *reported from:* Chippenham Fen, Great Shelford and Paxton Pits.

**Marsh Tit** *reported from:* Chippenham Fen, Grafham Water and Paxton Pits.

**Bearded Tit** *reported from:* Wicken Fen (several records of small parties maximum 13 on 10<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Hirundines, warblers and starling***

**Swallow** Ouse Washes (500 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Wicken Fen (c4000 to roost on 21<sup>st</sup>), *Late dates* Wicken Fen (6 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Cetti's Warbler** *reported from:* Cow Lane GP, Paxton Pits (3), Needingworth (2), Nene Washes (3), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen (14).

**Long-tailed Tit** Wicken Fen (party of 17 on 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Willow Warbler** *late date:* Barton (23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Blackcap** Wicken Fen (45 caught and ringed on 9<sup>th</sup>).

**Garden Warbler** Over (6<sup>th</sup>) – latest date.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *late date* Paxton Pits (27<sup>th</sup>).

**Sedge Warbler** *late dates:* Paxton Pits (2 on 8<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (9<sup>th</sup>).

**Starling** Diddington (c300 on 2<sup>nd</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (c6000 on 30<sup>th</sup>).



Starlings at Burwell Fen. Photograph by James Hanlon.



## ***Thrushes and Spotted Flycatcher***

**Fieldfare** *first arrival:* Stretham (flyover on 26<sup>th</sup>)

**Mistle Thrush** Paxton Pits (3 on 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *reported from:* Grafham Water, Over and Wicken Fen.

## ***Starts and chats***

*As with the waders it is difficult to differentiate between individuals hanging around at a site or a passage of single birds over time. I have tried to put them into date order so some sites are mentioned more than once.*

*Patterns emerge: Whinchats all month, Stonechats a clear arrival/passage from 25<sup>th</sup>, Wheatear in two periods.*

**Redstart** Witcham (male on 1<sup>st</sup>), Over (6<sup>th</sup>), Bare Fen (6<sup>th</sup>), Murrow (6<sup>th</sup>), Fen Drayton Lakes (9<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (19<sup>th</sup>).

**Whinchat** Grafham Water (2<sup>nd</sup>), Burwell Fen (2<sup>nd</sup>), Paxton Pits (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>), Over (2 on 6<sup>th</sup>), Ferry Meadows CP (7<sup>th</sup>), Nene Washes (4 on 7<sup>th</sup>), Crane Hill (2 on 9<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (3 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>, a single on 12<sup>th</sup> and 6 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Berry Fen (3 on 10<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (13<sup>th</sup>), Cambourne (2 on 14<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere (16<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes RSPB (4 on 16<sup>th</sup>), Sugeley Wood (4 on 16<sup>th</sup>), Barleycraft (3 on 18<sup>th</sup>), Berry Fen (3 on 18<sup>th</sup> and a single on 19<sup>th</sup>), Yelling (23<sup>rd</sup>), Soham (23<sup>rd</sup>), Burwell Fen (24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (28<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (2 on 28<sup>th</sup>), Witcham Gravel (28<sup>th</sup>).

**Stonechat** Burwell Fen (singles on several dates, maximum 3 on 26<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Fen (14<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (2 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>), Nene Washes (6 on 27<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>), Ouse Washes (2 on 28<sup>th</sup>), Witcham Gravel (6 on 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Wheatear** Grafham Water (2<sup>nd</sup>), Paxton Pits (3<sup>rd</sup>), Ouse Washes (6<sup>th</sup>), Nene Washes (3 on 7<sup>th</sup>), Tubney Fen (10<sup>th</sup>), Paxton Pits (1-2 on 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>), Burwell Fen (single(s) 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>), Colne GP (18<sup>th</sup>), Nene Washes (27<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (2 on 27<sup>th</sup>), Prior's Fen (28<sup>th</sup>).

## ***Sparrows, wagtails and pipits***

**Tree Sparrow** Ouse Washes RSPB (4 on 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Yellow Wagtail** Fowlmere/Manor Farm (100+ on 1st), Paxton Pits (c20 on 3rd), Grafham Water (20+ on 2nd), Nene Washes (80 on 7<sup>th</sup>).

**Grey Wagtail** *reported from:* Berry Fen, Colne GP, Grafham Water, Needingworth (2), Ouse Washes RSPB (2), Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen (flyover).

**Pied Wagtail** Colne GP (40+ on 14<sup>th</sup>), Cambridge Addenbrooke's Hospital (roost of 50-70 on 25<sup>th</sup>).

'White Wagtail' Colne GP (7 on 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Tree Pipit** Southoe (flyover on 5<sup>th</sup>).

**Meadow Pipit** Paxton Pits (22 flyovers on 5<sup>th</sup>), Fowlmere (221 on 16<sup>th</sup>), Sugeley Wood (c 20 flyovers on 16<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (40+ on 27<sup>th</sup>). *Large numbers ringed at Burwell Fen see below.*

**Rock Pipit** Ouse Fen (14<sup>th</sup>), Grafham Water (20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>), Paxton Pits (22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>).

## ***Finches and buntings***

**Greenfinch** Wicken Fen (50 juveniles ringed on 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Goldfinch** Ouse Washes (40 on 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Siskin** Monk's Wood (c25 on 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Linnet** Haddenham (2 parties of c50 on 4<sup>th</sup>).

## ***Exotica***

**Ross's Goose** Burwell Fen (usual bird from the Wicken-Upware area associating with Greylags on several dates).

**Black-winged Stilt** Berry Fen – the escaped bird continued to be reported.

## ***Contributors:***

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## ***WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP***

### ***Brief news for September 2014***

There was ringing activity at the Fen on 18 different days in September.

The first figure below is the ringing total; the second is the retraps.

Individual species totals were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Blackcap	132, 6
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 1	Chiffchaff	20, 3
Sand Martin	8, 0	Goldcrest	7, 0
Swallow	379, 2	Long-tailed Tit	8, 6
Meadow Pipit	317, 0	Blue Tit	58, 14
Yellow Wagtail	2, 0	Great Tit	44, 40
Wren	6, 5	Tree Creeper	0, 2
Duncock	17, 2	House Sparrow	19, 0
Robin	20, 8	Chaffinch	8, 2
Blackbird	13, 3	Greenfinch	73, 0
Song Thrush	1, 0	Goldfinch	11, 0
Reed Warbler	10, 1	Linnet	17, 0

Lesser Whitethroat	3, 0	Bullfinch	10, 1
Whitethroat	2, 0	Reed Bunting	108, 2
Garden Warbler	1, 0		

Old birds retrapped in the month were:

Great Tit V834348 at 5 years 11 months,  
Robin X077999 at 5 years 1 month,  
Blackcap L504895 at 3 years 2 months and  
Chaffinch L506919 at 3 years 1 month.

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### *Future meetings*

Friday 14th November, St Johns Hall, Cambridge



Birdwatching in the Caucasus by Paul French

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.

Paul French started life working short term contracts around the length and breadth of Britain, including two years as assistant warden at Fair Isle Bird Observatory, three seasons on Shetland working for the RSPB studying seabirds and breeding waders, and a winter in deepest Cornwall producing an atlas of the county's Barn Owls. After a further six years working for the RSPB as a warden and then habitat restoration advisor, he branched out and became a freelance ornithologist. Travel has always been a big part of Paul's life, and he has birded extensively in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and East Asia. Paul is now a leader for Sunbird and serves on the British Birds Rarities Committee. A position that call for almost as much diplomacy as identification knowledge!

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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.

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## *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 Cambridgeshire Bird Club Winter Garden Bird Survey 2014-2015.

We ask that you note the bird species feeding or foraging in your garden.

Please then, each week, mark off the species on the list available to download here: [List of Species](#) (an [Excel version](#) is also available)

At the end of April, send it in to: [gardenbirds@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:gardenbirds@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

Next summer you will be able to discover which species of birds make most use of gardens in the county during the winter months, find out whether new species are coming into gardens and whether the old regular species are making less use of the facilities.

Methodology:

The survey will commence on **Sunday 5th October 2014 and run until Saturday 7th March 2015.**

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<sup>1</sup>.

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 website either as a [pdf](#) for you to print and keep by the window or an [Excel spreadsheet](#) to save and fill in.

The species included in the list are those noted for use of gardens as experienced by the Bedfordshire club survey. Species not at present 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](mailto: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. Firstly 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.

If you wish to take part but miss several weeks please do start from the date that you are able and send in any data that you have collected. The data gathered will still be of interest and noted although this will not be used in the statistical data.

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](mailto:Cambsgardenbirds@gmail.com)

We hope that you enjoy surveying your garden and will continue to send in your results for future years to come

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### ***WILDLIFE ARTWATCH (This is not a CBC event)***

Exhibition at St Mary's Church, Buckden, PE19 5TL  
on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October.

Prominent members of the Society of Wildlife Artists will be displaying paintings and sculpture, all of which will be available to purchase.

The artists are: Peter Partington, Robert Greenhalf, Brin Edwards, John Davis, Richard Allen, Bruce Pearson and Dafila Scott. All these artists are from East Anglia.

The exhibition is open on Saturday from 10.30am to 5pm and on Sunday from 1pm to 5pm. Tea and home-made cakes are available on both days.

On Saturday evening at 7.00pm there is a special WILDLIFE ARTWATCH evening entitled The Birds and the Butterflies. Renowned artist Peter Partington will demonstrate how to draw birds (as recently seen live on BBC TV's Springwatch Unsprung) and expert Nick Greatorex-Davies will give an illustrated talk on British Butterflies.

Tickets are £8 and include a complimentary glass of wine. Box Office 01480-431037.  
Profits will go to St Mary's Church, Paxton Pits Nature Reserve in Cambridgeshire and The Bob Scott Memorial Appeal for Trans-Saharan Birds.

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