

# Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 23 June 2015

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



Quail at Orwell. Photo by James Hanlon

## HEADLINES

**HONEY BUZZARD\*** Wicken Fen a flyover on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ouse Washes a flyover on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** Cam Washes 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE\*** Ouse Washes on briefly 11<sup>th</sup>.

**RED-FOOTED FALCON\*** Fowlmere probably a 2<sup>nd</sup> c.y. female on 5<sup>th</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 after 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.

**Weather:** a classic mixture of sunshine and showers, cooler and warmer days and windy from time to time, not exactly 'flaming June' until the very end of the month.

### Wildfowl

**Mute Swan** Burwell Fen 6 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** Reach Lode presumed escape on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** Burwell Fen 2 + 4 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington/Clay Farm 9 – some immatures on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Egyptian Goose** Fen Drayton Lakes maximum 14 (adults and young) on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits on 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 27<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington/Clay Farm on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Shelduck** Fidwell Fen 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> and on 30<sup>th</sup> when with young, Paxton Pits 9 (a family) on 14<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 6 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Wigeon** Paxton Pits a drake still present on 27<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Gadwall** Fidwell Fen 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Isleham Washes 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Burwell Fen 8 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Teal** Grafham Water a pair with young on 1<sup>st</sup> – proven breeding records of this species remain rare in the county, Paxton Pits a drake on 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard** Burwell Fen 42 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail** Paxton Pits 4 including a drake on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Garganey** Paxton Pits a female on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Shoveler** Fidwell Fen on 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a pair on 12<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 22 on 16<sup>th</sup>

**Red-crested Pochard** Paxton Pits a female on 3<sup>rd</sup>, St Neots a female on 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a male on 15<sup>th</sup> then 2-3 (a female and 2 males) rest of the month.

**Pochard** Fidwell Fen 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20+ on 30<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes maximum 13 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits 7 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** Fidwell Fen 16 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Fowlmere NR 3 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 5 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington/Clay Farm 13 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Gamebirds

**Grey Partridge** Babraham 2+ 6 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Fidwell Fen adult with young on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Quail** Six Mile Bottom one calling on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Lode one calling on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Orwell maximum of 3 from 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Cormorants

**Cormorant** Burwell Fen 7 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Egrets and herons***

**Bittern** *reported from:* Wicken Fen (2).

**Little Egret** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (10), Cam Washes (6), Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Grafham Water, Paxton Pits (8), Soham and Wicken Fen (3).

**Great White Egret** Knapwell a flyover on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## ***Grebes***

**Little Grebe** Wicken Fen pair with young on 7<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington/Clay Farm an adult feeding young on 14<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 6 on 16<sup>th</sup>.



Little Grebe at Fowlmere NR. Photo by Gary Thornton.

**Great Crested Grebe** Wicken Fen on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fidwell Fen on 13<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 7 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **Raptors**

**Red Kite** Wicken Fen on 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 on 9<sup>th</sup> singles on several dates, Abbots Ripton on 15<sup>th</sup>, Harston on 17<sup>th</sup>, Waterbeach 2 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, St Ives on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cambridge/central on 25<sup>th</sup>, Sawston on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Harrier** *reported from:* Cam Washes, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

**Buzzard** *reported from:* Babraham, Chippenham Fen, Fordham, Fowlmere NR, Great Shelford, Hauxton, Huntingdon (2), Paxton Pits (2), Six Mile Bottom and Wicken Fen (3).

**Osprey** Ferry Meadows CP on several dates.

## **Rails and crane**

**Water Rail** *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes.

**Coot** Burwell Fen 52 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 20 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Crane** Ely a flyover on 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Waders**

**Avocet** Isleham Washes 8 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Burwell Fen on 16<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes on 12<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Oystercatcher** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (3), Fen Drayton Lakes (3), Grafham Water (2), Isleham Washes (2), Paxton Pits (3) and Wicken Fen.

**Lapwing** *reported from:* Cam Washes (15), Fen Drayton Lakes (15), Trumpington/Clay Farm (4), at Paxton Pits presumably post-breeding flocks of 50 on 9<sup>th</sup>, then 80 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 137 on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Ringed Plover** *reported from:* Fen Drayton Lakes and Paxton Pits (2).

**Ringed Plover** *reported from:* Cam Washes, Grafham Water, Paxton Pits (2) and Trumpington/Clay Farm

**Black-tailed Godwit** Burwell Fen on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** Paxton Pits 2 on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** Grafham Water 3 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 (? same) on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Dunlin** *reported from:* Paxton Pits (2).

**Common Sandpiper** Fidwell Fen on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Fowlmere NR (2), Grafham Water and Paxton Pits.



Green Sandpiper at Fowlmere NR. Photo by Garth Peacock.

**Spotted Redshank** Burwell Fen 12 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Redshank** *reported from:* Burwell Fen (6), Fen Drayton Lakes (5) and Paxton Pits (7).

**Woodcock** Wicken Fen up to 3 roding during the month.

**Snipe** Paxton Pits 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### ***Terns and gulls***

**Black Tern** Fen Drayton Lakes on 1<sup>st</sup>, Paxton Pits 5 on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Tern** *breeding records from:* Burwell Fen 3 + 3.

**Black-headed Gull** Burwell Fen 108 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** Grafham Water a 2<sup>nd</sup> c.y. on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Paxton Pits 21 chicks on 17<sup>th</sup> – the success of this species at this site is deemed to be responsible for the breeding failure of waders and also the loss of the Egyptian Goose family.

**Yellow-legged Gull** Paxton Pits 2-5 all month from 3<sup>rd</sup>, Grafham Water a 3<sup>rd</sup> c.y. on 5<sup>th</sup> then 2 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Doves, Cuckoo, owls and kingfisher***

**Turtle Dove** *reported from:* Cambridge Research Park, Castor Hanglands, Comberton, Diddington, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fleam Dyke, Fowlmere NR (3), Great Abington, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

**Cuckoo** *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Isleham Washes, Little Wilbraham Fen, Paxton Pits (2), Reach Lode (3), Wicken Fen (3) and Woodwalton Fen (3+).

**Barn Owl** *reported from* Fowlmere NR, Wicken Fen (2).

**Little Owl** *reported from* Isleham Washes.

**Short-eared Owl** Swaffham Prior on 3<sup>rd</sup> – an unusual summer record.

**Kingfisher** *reported from:* Aldreth, Cambridge Research Park, Chippenham Fen, Teversham Fen (2) Trumpington/Clay Farm and Woodwalton Fen.

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

**Hobby** *reported from:* Boxworth, Burwell Fen, Cambridge/Harvey Goodwin Av, Paxton Pits.

**Peregrine** Fen Drayton on 7<sup>th</sup>, Huntingdon on 10<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on 10<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### ***Corvids***

**Carrion Crow** Cambridge/Parker's Piece up to 50 on several days in mid-month.

### ***Warblers***

**Cetti's Warbler** *reported from:* Cambridge Research Park, Grafham Water (2), Paxton Pits (2), Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *reported from:* Castor Hanglands.

### ***Spotted Flycatcher and Nightingale***

**Spotted Flycatcher** *reported from:* Foxton, Fulbourn Fen, Lode, Monks Wood, Waterbeach and Wennington Wood.

**Nightingale** *reported from:* Castor Hanglands (3), Fen Drayton Lakes, Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen.

### ***Wagtails***

**Grey Wagtail** Milton on 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Finches***

**Siskin** Paxton Pits on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Crossbill** Peterborough 2 flyovers on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## ***Exotica***

**Black Swan** Paxton Pits on several dates.



Grey Wagtail at Milton. Photo by Garth Peacock.

***Summary:*** a quiet month with not many records and very few headline species.

### ***Contributors:***

Richard Allison, Denise Anderson, Louise Bacon, Dan Barrell, Peter Bircham, Andy Bradley, Richard Broughton, Chris Brown, Mike Burdekin, Ian Burfield, Saimon Clark, Ben Craig, Martin Davis, Derek Guar, Andy Hannaford, Mark Hawkes, Michael Holdsworth, Mike and Ann Knowles, Richard Patient, Doug Radford, Rick Saunders, Claire Spottiswood, Isaac Swift, Jonathan Taylor, Richard Thomas, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Francis Tusa, Calum Urquhart, Iain Webb, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, David Wege, Jamie Wells, Peter Wells, Kevin Wilson, Mathew Wilson, Bartlow Wyllie

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

### **Brief news for June 2015**

Despite the absences of Group members because of holidays, there was reasonable activity during June. The month's ringing total was 305 – a further 146 birds were retraps; making a total of 451. Individual species totals were (ringed, followed by retraps):

Common Tern	3, 0	Whitethroat	2, 0
Stock Dove	4, 0	Garden Warbler	2, 3
Cuckoo	1, 0	Blackcap	38, 7
Barn Owl	3, 0,	Chiffchaff	25, 12
Green Woodpecker	1, 0	Willow Warbler	10, 0
Swallow	8, 0	Bearded Tit	4, 1
Wren	11, 11	Long-tailed Tit	8, 3
Dunnock	7, 6	Blue Tit	20, 9
Robin	46, 8	Great Tit	31, 13
Blackbird	4, 19	Tree Creeper	2, 0
Song Thrush	0, 2	Jay	4, 0
Cetti's Warbler	3, 7	Chaffinch	4, 2
Sedge Warbler	15, 11	Greenfinch	0, 1
Reed Warbler	31, 17	Goldfinch	17, 5
Lesser Whitethroat	1, 0	Bullfinch	6, 1
		Reed Bunting	0, 2

Old birds retrapped during the month were:

Blackbird XB9977 at 5 years 10 months,

Cetti's Warbler L093219 at 4 years 11 months and

Great Tit L504684 at 4 years 0 months .

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### ***Next meetings of the Club:***

Field Meeting: Friday 14th August, 7:00pm.

Woodwalton Fen: meet at the parking along Great Raveley Drain at the end of Chapel Road, Ramsey Heights.

Please contact Louise Bacon for further details and to book.

Indoor meeting: Friday 11th September, Cottenham Village College

Ornithology to Ethno-ornithology – a life journey *by* Andy Gosler

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**The Neotropical Bird Club summer meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> July reminder**



The Neotropical Bird Club will be holding a summer meeting in Cambridge and members of the CBC are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at St John's Church in Hills Road, a venue familiar to club members. Entrance is free, doors open at 10:30 for coffee & cakes and the meeting starts at 11:00. The full programme of talks can be found at:

<http://wordpress.neotropicalbirdclub.org/events>

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*Next E-bulletin due on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Copy for inclusion should be sent to the Bulletin Editor by August 5<sup>th</sup> please.*