

Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 38 August 2016

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



Pectoral Sandpiper on the Ouse Washes: photo by Ian Dawson

HEADLINES

CATTLE EGRET* Low Wash Nene Washes on the 18th-21st.

BLACK STORK* Kirtling one photographed sometime in the last week of July/first week of August and seen near Soham on the 5th.

SPOONBILL Paxton Pits on the 16th,

HONEY BUZZARD* Woodwalton Fen a flyover on the 4th.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER* Ouse Washes the bird present in late July remained until at least the 10th, Burwell fen on the 31st.

WRYNECK Eldernell on the 31st.

PIED FLYCATCHER Quy Fen a female type on the 24th.

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:

The first week of the month was warm, with a couple of windy days, but almost always dry and that was pretty much the pattern all month, not windy but mostly warm, sometimes hot, and predominantly dry with very occasional rain.

Wildfowl

Mute Swan Burwell Fen maximum 11 on the 6th and 14th.

Whooper Swan Ouse Washes RSPB 3 on the 10th - presumably injured birds that did not migrate.

Greylag Goose Fowlmere NR 70 on the 11th, Burwell Fen maximum 207 on the 14th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 34 on the 31st.

Canada Goose Trumpington Clay Farm 49 on the 11th, Burwell Fen maximum 64 on the 22nd, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 32 on the 31st.

Barnacle Goose Grafham Water on the 16th-17th, Paxton Pits on the 21st, 26th and 27th, Babraham 15 in a field alongside the A11 on the 22nd.

Egyptian Goose Paxton Pits 3 on the 8th, 4 on the 9th, 2 on the 13th.

Shelduck Burwell Fen maximum 7 on the 6th.

Wigeon Cam Washes on the 1st, Paxton Pits on the 8th and 9th, 2 on the 13th, 4 on the 16th, Grafham Water on the 16th, Burwell Fen 5 on the 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on the 28th.

Gadwall Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) maximum 12 on 14th, Burwell Fen maximum 30+ on the 15th.

Teal Paxton Pits 2 on the 8th, 6 on the 16th, Burwell Fen maximum 42 on the 22nd, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 128 on the 22nd and c 120 on 31st.

Mallard Trumpington Clay Farm 45 on the 17th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 120 on the 22nd and 31st, Burwell Fen maximum c178 on the 22nd.

Garganey Cam Washes on the 1st, Ouse Washes RSPB 5 on the 3rd, 9 on the 5th, 5 on the 7th, one on the 10th, Burwell Fen 2-6 present all month maximum 7 on the 22nd, Nene Washes 4 on the 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on the 28th, Eldernell on the 31st.

Shoveler Paxton Pits 2 on the 8th and 16th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 14 on the 22nd, Burwell Fen 16 on the 22nd.

Pochard Paxton Pits on the 9th, 7 on 16th, Grafham Water 2 on the 16th,

Tufted Duck Fowlmere NR a female plus a brood of 7 on several dates, Grafham Water 500+ on the 6th, Burwell Fen maximum 4 on the 6th, Trumpington Clay Farm 7 on the 11th, Whittlesford GP 21 on the 11th, Wicken Fen 4 on the 22nd, 2 on the 29th.



Tufted Duck female at Paxton Pits: photo by Phil Smith

Goldeneye Grafham Water 2 on the 16th.

The latest issue of British Birds gives details of rare breeding birds in the UK in 2014. Cambridgeshire scored highly for wildfowl; for example we are the top site in England and Wales for breeding Wigeon and Pintail, the top site in the whole of the UK for Garganey (19 possible pairs - next came Yorkshire with 18), Shoveler (296 possible pairs - next came Norfolk with 105), Pochard (150 possible pairs - next came Essex with 88). See conference details at the end of the bulletin

Gamebirds

Quail Yaxley one calling on the 2nd, 3 on the 4th.

Cormorants

Cormorant *reported from*: Burwell Fen maximum 11 on the 14th, Fowlmere NR, Trumpington Clay Farm, Whittlesford GP, and Wicken Fen (4).

Shag Paxton Pits a juvenile on the 19th.

Egrets and herons

Bittern *reported from*: Wicken Fen.

Little Egret *reported from*: Burwell Fen (at the beginning of the month regularly 20-30 later 50-70 with a maximum of 86 on the 24th), Cam Washes (3), Farcet Fen (5), Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water (11+), Paxton Pits (6) and Wicken Fen (16).

Great White Egret Fen Drayton Lakes one throughout the month exceptionally 3 on the 18th, 2 on the 19th, Paxton Pits one throughout the month exceptionally 2 on the 22nd, Nene Washes on the 18th, Grafham Water on the 23rd-29th.

Grey Heron Burwell Fen maximum 17 on the 24th.

Grebes

Little Grebe *reported from*: Burwell Fen (12), Paxton Pits, Trumpington Clay Farm (6) and Wicken Fen (3).

Great Crested Grebe Fen Drayton Lakes 'large numbers including 50 in a single raft' on the 21st, Wicken Fen on the 22nd.

Red-necked Grebe* Grafham Water briefly on the 25th.

Black-necked Grebe Fen Drayton Lakes on the 12th-14th, then 2 on the 17th, Grafham Water on the 28th-29th.

Raptors

Red Kite Cam Washes a flyover on the 1st, Fowlmere NR seen many days, Paxton Pits on the 9th, 21st and 26th, Ouse Washes RSPB on the 10th.

Marsh Harrier *reported from:* Burwell Fen(2), Fowlmere NR 2 + 2 juveniles most days, Ouse Washes RSPB (2) and Wicken Fen (2).

Buzzard *reported from:* Burwell, Chippenham Fen (2), Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water (17), Paxton Pits (4), and Six Mile Bottom.

Osprey Huntingdon on the 3rd, Maxey GP a flyover on the 13th, Holme Fen a flyover on the 16th, Grafham Water on the 26th and on the 28th, 2 on the 29th, a flyover on the 31st, Haddenham on the 28th, Waterbeach on the 28th.

Rails and crane

Water Rail *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Chippenham Fen (one caught and ringed on 23rd), Fowlmere NR and Kingfishers Bridge.

Moorhen Burwell Fen maximum 22 on the 22nd.

Coot Burwell Fen maximum c200 on the 6th (c40 young) and 14th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) maximum 27 on the 14th, Grafham Water 500+ on the 16th.

Common Crane Burwell Fen 3 on the 5th, one on the 8th, Nene Washes 3 on the 11th, Ouse Washes RSPB 3 (2 adults and a juvenile) on the 21st.



Cranes, two adults and a juvenile at an undisclosed site: photo by Saimon Clark

Waders

Golden Plover Fowlmere NR one over on the 14th, Burwell Fen 8 on the 18th, 7 on the 22nd, 4 flying over on the 25th, Ouse Washes RSPB 100+ on the 22nd.

Grey Plover Burwell Fen a flyover on the 24th, one on the 29th.

Lapwing Fowlmere NR 149 on the 1st, c100 on the 15th, 121 on the 16th, Cam Washes c40 on the 5th, Burwell Fen around 60 from the 6th-14th then 280 on the 22nd, c200 on the 26th and 100 on the 31st, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 119 on the 30th.

Little Ringed Plover Ouse Washes RSPB on the 2nd, 6 on the 3rd, 3 on the 4th, Paxton Pits 2-4 on several dates from the 9th (maximum 6 on the 13th), Cam Washes 3 on the 27th, Burwell Fen see table.

Ringed Plover Ouse Washes RSPB 2 on the 2nd, Paxton Pits 1-4 all month from the 9th, Grafham Water 4 on the 23rd, Cam Washes 8 on the 27th, Burwell Fen see table.

Whimbrel Burwell Fen one briefly on the 3rd, Paxton Pits on the 26th.

Curlew Burwell Fen on the 9th, Paxton Pits on the 17th, Eaton Ford a flyover on the 24th.

Black tailed Godwit Cam Washes 5 on the 1st, Ouse Washes RSPB 3 on the 2nd, 6 on the 3rd, one on the 10th, 3 on the 22nd, Cam Washes 6 on the 5th, one on the 27th, Paxton Pits 3 on the 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes 17 on the 13th, Burwell Fen see table.

Another success for the county with the 2014 Rare Breeding Birds Report, indicating that the population on the Nene Washes constituted about 90% of the national total (37 of 41-45), that said only two young fledged.

Turnstone Burwell Fen on the 1st, Maxey GP on the 14th, Dogsthorpe Tip on the 19th, Grafham Water on the 21st and 28th, Paxton Pits on the 24th and 28th.

Ruff Ouse Washes RSPB 26 on the 3rd, 27 on the 4th, 2 on the 10th, one on 21st, Cam Washes 4 on the 5th, 3 on the 27th, Paxton Pits on the 8th and 23rd, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 16th and 23rd, Grafham Water 2 on the 21st, one on the 24th, 2 on the 31st, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 5 on the 29th, 4 on the 30th and 6 on the 31st, Burwell Fen see table.

Sanderling Coveney (Ouse Washes mitigation project) on the 2nd and 3rd, Grafham Water on the 31st.

Dunlin Ouse Washes RSPB 11 on the 2nd and 3rd, one on the 10th and 21st, 3 on the 22nd, Paxton Pits on 9th, 3 on the 21st, one on the 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 14th, Grafham Water on the 21st and 23rd, Cam Washes on the 27th, Burwell Fen see table.



Dunlin and Sanderling at Grafham Water: photo by Ian Dawson.

Little Stint Cam Washes 4 on the 27th, Burwell Fen see table.

Curlew Sandpiper Grafham Water on the 23rd and 24th, Burwell Fen on the 26th.

Common Sandpiper Paxton Pits 2-3 all month, Witcham Gravel 4 on the 3rd, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 7th, 2 on the 12th-13th, one on the 14th, 2 on the 16th, Kingfisher Bridge on the 18th, 5 on the 28th, Grafham Water 3 on the 21st - 24th, 2 on the 31st, Cam Washes 2 on the 27th, Burwell Fen see table.

Green Sandpiper *reported from:* Cam Washes (2), Cottenham Long Drove (3), Maxey GP (2), Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water (7), Kingfishers Bridge (10+), Nene Washes (4), Ouse Washes RSPB (10), Paxton Pits (3), Wicken Fen (4), Burwell Fen see table.

Greenshank Ouse Washes RSPB on the 2nd, 4 on the 3rd, 5 on the 4th, one on 10th, 4 on the 21st, one on the 22nd, Fowlmere NR on the 10th, Fen Drayton Lakes 1-2 from the 12th, Paxton Pits 1-2 from the 13th maximum 3 on the 26th, Kingfishers Bridge on the 18th and 24th then 4 on the 28th, Nene Washes on the 18th, Wicken Fen 2 on the 22nd and 24th, 3 on the 29th, Cam Washes on the 27th, Burwell Fen see table.

Wood Sandpiper Burwell Fen on the 1st, 3 on the 22nd, Nene Washes on the 18th and 20th, Maxey Pits on the 25th.

Redshank Paxton Pits a flock of 52 on the 8th, one on the 13th, 2 on the 21st-22nd, 4 on the 23rd, one on the 24th, Burwell Fen 2 on 9th, 14th and 19th, 12 on the 22nd.

Snipe Ouse Washes RSPB 14 on the 2nd, 8 on the 21st, Fowlmere NR on the 13th-14th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 16th, one on the 23rd, Paxton Pits on the 19th, 4 on the 26th, 2 on the 28th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 10+ on the 29th, Burwell Fen see table.

Burwell Fen Wader Counts (from Brendan Doe, Mike Everett, Andy Hannaford, Richard Johnson, Martin O'Leary, Dave Palmer, Graeme Reed, Christoph Zöckler and the WeBS counters).

Species in descending order: Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Dunlin, Little Stint, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Greenshank and Snipe.

	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
RP			2		6		7		15					14					15	15	30	32	35	35		20	25		5
LRP			1						3										6	2	3	3	1	4					
BtG							5				10	7	2	2		5	16			4	6	5	7	8		5	7		3
Ru			8	1	3		1		9				2	18		20	12		27	18	35	25	15	17		16	18		14
Dun			4	4	6		5					6		15		1				2	10	5	9	5		2	9		
LS									1		1											7	5	6			4		
CS			4		4				1				1	1		1				3	2	1	4	2		5	3		2
GS	1		7		4		1		8		3		7			10	6		9	9	17	16	12	14		10	10		12
Gsk	4		2		4		3		5		3		5	7		5	3		8	4	8	8	13	11		9	18		5
SNP			20				10						9	12			25			9	20		50	1		6			20

Terns and gulls

Black Tern Grafham Water 47 on the 19th, one on the 20th, a juvenile on the 23rd, then 3 on the 26th.

Sandwich Tern Grafham Water on the 16th then 2 flying over on the 25th and a single on the 27th.

Common Tern *reported from:* Burwell Fen (7), Cam Washes (3) and Grafham Water (75+ on 19th).

Black-headed Gull Burwell 61 in a recently ploughed field on the 3rd,

Mediterranean Gull Ouse Washes RSPB a juvenile on the 3rd and 4th, Grafham Water 2 juveniles on the 24th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull in ploughed fields: Burwell 48 on the 3rd, Fowlmere 54 on the 11th, 42 on the 17th.

Herring Gull Trumpington Clay Farm on the 11th.

Yellow-legged Gull Paxton Pits 2 on the 2nd, 9 adults on the 16th, 15+ on the 20th and 26th, Grafham Water 10+ on the 24th, 13 on the 26th,

Caspian Gull Cottenham Long Drove a juvenile on the 14th, Grafham Water on the 16th, 2 adults on the 26th, Paxton Pits 2 on the 16th, Dogsthorpe Tip pit on the 19th.

Doves, cuckoo, owls and kingfisher

Stock Dove Burwell Fen 11 on the 6th, Trumpington Clay Farm 2 on the 11th.

Turtle Dove *reported from:* Abbots Ripton (2), Fen Drayton Lakes, Etton Pits (3), Fowlmere NR (4) and Mepal.

Cuckoo Burwell Fen a young bird on the 3rd another (or the same) on the 7th,

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

Little Owl *reported from:* Wicken Fen.

Swift Burwell Fen several on the 9th, 4 on the 19th, Paxton Pits 3 on the 9th, one on the 28th - latest date so far.

Kingfisher *reported from:* Fowlmere NR (4), Paxton Pits (2), and Wicken Fen.

Falcons and parrots

Hobby Burwell Fen 1-2 on several dates and a juvenile on the 31st, Cam Washes on the 1st, Paxton Pits on the 9th, 5+ on the 17th, 9 on the 24th, Nene Washes 4 on the 11th, Etton Pits 'several' on the 14th, Kingfishers Bridge on the 18th, Ouse Washes RSPB on the 21st, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 23rd, Hilton on the 28th, Eldernell 3+ on the 31st.

Peregrine Fowlmere NR on the 11th, Etton Pits on the 14th, Paxton Pits on the 27th.

Corvids

Jackdaw/Rook Snailwell c120 feeding on recently ploughed field on the 3rd, Burwell c200 feeding in ploughed field on the 3rd, Chippenham Fen c850 emerging from the roost dawn on the 23rd.

Rook Fowlmere 134 on ploughed field on the 11th.

Carrion Crow Burwell Fen maximum 11 on the 14th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 26 on the 30th.

Tits

Marsh Tit *reported from:* Chippenham Fen.

Bearded Tit *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2) and Wicken Fen.

Hirundines, and warblers

Sand Martin Burwell Fen 30 on the 19th.

Swallow Paxton Pits 30 on the 16th.

House Martin Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) c30 on the 30th.



House Martins at Willingham: photo by Colin Brown

Cetti's Warbler *reported from:* Etton Pits, Fowlmere NR and Paxton Pits,

Willow Warbler Fen Drayton Lakes 'lots' on the 13th, also reported from a Cambridge garden suggesting a through movement.

Lesser Whitethroat Quy Fen 4+ on the 26th.

Grasshopper Warbler *reported from:* Chippenham Fen and Wicken Fen.

Sedge Warbler Wicken Fen 20 ringed compared with 48 in August 2015

Reed Warbler Wicken Fen 117 ringed compared with 212 in August 2015.

Reports from both Burwell Fen and Chippenham Fen of a migratory movement of warblers on the 24th.

Nuthatch, treecreeper, wren, starling and thrushes

Nuthatch Chippenham Fen a moulting adult retrapped on the 19th, Grafham Water on the 29th.

Starling Burwell Fen c220 on the 14th, c300 on the 26th, Wicken Fen c100 on the 30th and 31st.

Spotted Flycatcher *reported from:* Fowlmere NR (4), Quy Fen, Wicken Fen, Wimpole Hall and Witcham (3).

Starts and chats

Redstart Ferry Meadows CP on 24th and 25th, Witcham 2 on the 24th and 29th, a male on the 30th, Quy Fen on the 26th, Eldernell on the 28th and 3 on the 29th, 2 males on the 30th and 4 (sex not given) on the 31st.

Whinchat Burwell Fen on the 13th and 24th, Cottenham Long Drove on the 14th, Nene Washes on the 20th, Ouse Washes RSPB on the 21st, 2 on the 23rd, Byall Fen Coveney 4 on the 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP on the 24th and 25th.

Stonechat Cam Washes on the 1st, Burwell Fen 3 on the 14th, a male and 3 juveniles on the 15th, Ouse Washes RSPB a juvenile on the 21st.

Wheatear Fen Drayton Lakes on the 7th, Burwell Fen a female on the 22nd, Ouse Washes RSPB 4 on the 23rd, Byall Fen Coveney 6 on the 23rd.

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

Yellow Wagtail Burwell Fen 15+ on the 15th, c20 on the 18th, 6 on the 22nd, 10+ on the 26th, Ouse Washes RSPB on the 22nd, Wicken Fen 25 ringed at a roost on the 28th, Hilton 20+ flying over on the 28th.



Juvenile Yellow (left) and Pied Wagtail (right) at Grafham Water: photos by Phil Smith.

Grey Wagtail Paxton Pits on the 28th.

Tree Pipit Fowlmere NR on the 25th.

Finches and buntings

Goldfinch Wicken Fen 60+ on the 31st.

Crossbill Paxton Pits a flyover on the 26th.

Exotica

Zebra Finch Eaton Ford on the 23rd.

Contributors:

Gareth Arcott, Richard Astle, Louise Bacon, Peter Bircham, Will Bowell, Richard Broughton, Mike Burdekin, Howard Butler, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Terry Cooper, Martin Davis, Ian Dawson, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, Mike Everett, Andrew Gardener, Don Gardener, Ian Gordon, James Hanlon, Andy Hannaford, Ron Harold, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jon Heath, Michael Holdsworth,

David Hopkins, James Hutchinson, David and Sallie Jones, Richard Johnson, Charlie Kitchin, Vince Lea, Andrew Maddocks, Giles Merritt, Martin O’Leary, Dave Palmer, Richard Patient, Doug Radford, John Raven, Graeme Reed, Kathleen Rosewarne, Bill Simmonds, Clive Sinclair, Nigel Sprowell, Jonathan Taylor, Richard Thomas, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Hugh Venables, Luke Wake, David Walsh, Mark Ward, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, Jamie Wells, Kevin Wilson, Hugh Wright Barbara York and Christoph Zöckler.

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for August 2016

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 11 different days in August (4 of these being CES sessions). The month’s ringing total was 513, a further 75 birds were retraps, so the overall August “catch” was 588 birds (ringed shown first, followed by retraps).

Woodpigeon	1, 0	Sedge Warbler	20, 1
Kingfisher	1, 0	Grasshopper Warbler	2, 0
Great spot Woodpecker	1, 0	Reed Warbler	117, 6
Goldcrest	1, 0	Wren	33, 7
Sand Martin	21, 0	Treecreeper	3, 6
Swallow	75, 0	Blackbird	9, 0
Blue Tit	19, 15	Robin	21, 14
Great Tit	5, 5	Spotted Flycatcher	1, 0
Bearded Tit	1, 2	Yellow Wagtail	51, 0
Cetti’s Warbler	10, 3	Dunnock	4, 2
Long-tailed Tit	12, 4	House Sparrow	1, 0
Chiffchaff	33, 4	Greenfinch	4, 0
Willow Warbler	12, 1	Chaffinch	1, 0
Blackcap	36, 0	Goldfinch	1, 1
Garden Warbler	1, 0	Bullfinch	2, 1
Whitethroat	6, 0	Reed Bunting	6, 3
Lesser Whitethroat	2, 0		

Next indoor meeting:

Cambridgeshire Bird Club Conference

Rare Breeding Birds

Saturday 24th September 2016

0930-1700 at Cottenham Village College

Sunday 25th September 2016

Various nature 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 recording and conserving rare breeding birds in the UK with a focus on Cambridgeshire and East Anglia. On Saturday, there will be a programme of lectures and discussion, displays and stalls. On Sunday, there will be an opportunity to visit various reserves to hear how rare breeding birds are protected and monitored on site. More details and booking form on the Club's website.

Friday 14th October, Cottenham Village College

Twenty Places to Go Birding Before You Die by Keith Betton

Keith has bird watched in 98 countries (several times in many places), travelling over 2 million miles and seeing c7500 species of birds. In this talk he takes us to 20 of his favourite locations.

Keith Betton is a media trainer, PR consultant and writer - his first book *Behind the Binoculars* was published in 2015. He is a keen world birder having seen over 7500 species in nearly 100 countries. He has a particular passion for Africa, having been Chairman of the African Bird Club for the last seven years. In the UK he is heavily involved in bird monitoring in Hampshire, where he is County Recorder. He has been a Council Member of both the RSPB and BTO, and is currently Vice President of the latter.

Free to a good home

The Cambridgeshire Bird Club archive is held in the Cambridge Collection at the Central Library in Cambridge. It consists of one set of CBRs from 1928, Bulletins, historic Minutes of meetings, Club membership details over the decades, survey data and various other things. It also has "non-core" items such books, and out-of-county reports and magazines. The Library desperately needs more shelf space and has asked the Club to remove all non-core items. These will be removed this Thursday, 8th September and will then be available, for free, to anyone who expresses an interest - please contact me on mfpfoley@gmail.com as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made to pass on the material to the interested party. Mike Foley

A Naturalists Calendar, mentions bird historians.	Some as early as 17 th C
Birds of Wicken Fen	1967
Blomefield (Jenkyns) Birds of Cambs in The "Natural History of Cambs".	Some pages
Thorpe W H Recollections of Ornithologists and other naturalists	
Avon BR	1983 - 94
Beds Bird Atlas	
Beds Naturalist	1955 - 2000
"Ardea" J. Beds and Hunts Naturalists Trust	e.g. 1981 -82
Beds Bird Report	1981 - 2008
BTO Bird Study	1971 - 2009
Nature in Cambs	Some missing
Wildlife Trust Magazines	
West Midlands Bird Atlas	1966 - 68
Derby B R	1964 - 08
Dorset B R	1991 - 96
Birds of Durham	
Essex Birds	1950 - 05
Fair Isle Bird Obs Rep	1988 - 93
Hants B R	→1999
Herts B R	→1999
Herts Birds	1948 -04
Hunts Fauna and Flora Rep	
Isle of Man Obs Rep	
Isle of Wight Rep	
Kent B R	1952 - 93
Lancs B R	
Leics & Rutland B R	→2008
Lincs B R	→1991
London B R	→2005
London Naturalist	1972 - 05
Natural World	
Norfolk Birds and Mammals	1953 -07
NNT Newsletters	

NNT Reports	1966 - 71
Northants NHS	1963 - 91
Northumbria	→1998
Northumbria NHS Rep	→2004
Fair Isles	2001 - 09
Northumberland Red Data Book	Fauna
Notts B R	1958 - 97
Oxon B R	1952 -05
Scilly Isles	Some
Somerset B R	1957 - 94
Suffolk B R	1961 - 07
Suffolk N History	1975 - 98
Suffolk Orn Group	1985 - 01
Suffolk, "The Harrier"	→2006
Surrey B R	1979 - 88
Sussex B R	1962 89
Wildfowl Trust	→ Vol 42
Wilts Hobby	1987 - 92

From the internet.....

Ouse Fen takes big step towards creating UK's largest purpose built reedbed

A recent handover of land has set an RSPB reserve on the way to becoming the UK's largest created reedbed, thanks to a groundbreaking 30-year partnership project between the RSPB and construction materials company Hanson.



Hanson has handed over a further 96 hectares of land to the RSPB, transforming a sand and gravel extraction site into a wildlife-rich wetland. This is part of an ambitious project to create a 700 hectare nature reserve at Ouse Fen in Cambridgeshire through restoration of quarried land to wildlife habitat. It is the largest planned nature conservation restoration scheme of its kind in Europe.

The new nature reserve is already providing a lifeline for Bitterns, with 9 'booming' males present at Ouse Fen in 2015 - twice as many as expected. The new land will double the size of Ouse Fen, making it cover 218 hectares, which is larger than 200 football pitches, and will provide a much larger area for bitterns and other scarce species such as Marsh Harriers, Otters and Water Voles to thrive.

Once complete, the site will incorporate eastern England's largest reedbed, recreating some of the extremely rare habitat which has almost been lost in Britain over the last 400 years. The site has the potential to be of international importance for reedbed wildlife, supporting some of the largest populations of Bitterns, Bearded Tits and Marsh Harriers in the UK.



Bitterns have benefited from the new reserve (© Jon Evans)

Great for people and wildlife

There are benefits for people too. Bringing nature back to an area presents an excellent opportunity for local communities to get closer to the natural environment and the wildlife on their doorstep. People can explore the nature reserve using the many available footpaths which can encourage green tourism and leisure pursuits and in turn can help the local economy.

Dave Hoccom, RSPB Area Manager, said: 'It's fantastic to see the reserve double in size as a result of this handover. The Hanson RSPB Wetland Project demonstrates how giving nature a home can be achieved through innovative partnerships.'

'The reserve has been so successful that last year, expectations for one of its star species, the Bittern, were exceeded ahead of time, with double the numbers expected being recorded. This is a phenomenal achievement in only 15 years. This land transfer will help to ensure that scarce species like bitterns will continue to thrive at RSPB Ouse Fen into the future.'



Bearded Tit (© Steve Ashton)

David Weeks, Hanson UK Communications manager, said: 'The Needingworth project is a fantastic example of progress through partnership - not just with the RSPB but with many other national, regional and local organisations, most notably Cambridgeshire County Council.

'We recognise that quarrying, like farming, forestry and other rural activities, can have an impact on the countryside. But this project shows that we can make a very positive contribution to the UK's landscape, its wildlife, its habitats and its biodiversity.'

Over the next 15 years, Hanson will continue to donate small parcels of land as sand and gravel extraction is completed, which the RSPB will manage and develop for nature conservation, until the 700 hectare nature reserve is complete.
