

Cambridgeshire Bird Club



E-Bulletin 59 May 2018

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



Marsh Harrier at an undisclosed site : photo by Phil Smith.

HEADLINES

WHITE STORK* Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st, Eldernell possibly a different bird but carrying a ring so another escape on the 19th and 21st.

CATTLE EGRET* Ouse Washes on the 6th and 26th - 27th.

PURPLE HERON* Ouse Fen an adult on the 20th.

SPOONBILL Needingworth on the 20th, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on the 30th.

RED-NECKED GREBE* March Farmers on the 14th.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE March Farmers from 14th - 18th.

LITTLE CRAKE* Ouse Fen on the 23rd - heard at night. The third county record.

1. Near Barnwell on March 16th 1826.
 2. Chesterton in late March 1864.
- Both these records were of birds 'collected'

Little Crake was first recorded in 1791 in Sussex. Since then there have been around 100 records, many in East Anglia and on spring and autumn passage. Spring birds March-May.

HONEY BUZZARD* Wicken Fen a flyover on the 14th, New Shardlows Farm on the 25th.

BLACK KITE* Bar Hill GC a flyover on the 11th, Cambridge a flyover on the 20th

BLACK-WINGED STILT Eldernell on the 3rd - 4th then 7th - 8th, and again on 23rd - 26th, Ferry Meadows CP on the 18th. This bird seems to have wandered around having been also seen at Frampton Marsh in Lincolnshire and at Rutland Water. The identification was made by the same missing wing feather in all cases.

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 fine start to the month led to a record temperature over the Bank Holiday weekend and dry weather in the first ten days saw water levels fall on wetland sites. A day of heavy rain was followed by warm sunshine for much of the middle of the month until the end when a mixture of occasional days of rain with one or two thundery downpours in certain places were balanced by some warm sunshine.

A comment on migration: throughout the systematic list the main passage migrants, waders and terns, show a similar pattern with passage in two distinct phases. The first during the early days of the month, notably the 6th and 7th; after which northerly winds held up migrants until the second phase began on the 21st and continued until the end of the month.

Our cold wet winter should have had little bearing on arrivals from the south but clearly sub-Saharan summer migrants have also arrived untypically late with many observers reporting the lack of hirundines and Swifts and at some wetland sites Reed and Sedge Warblers.

Wildfowl

Mute Swan Cam Washes Upware 9 on the 11th, Great Fen Project 11 on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 15 on the 12th, Wicken Fen 13 on the 18th, Burwell Fen maximum 40 on the 26th, Littleport May Farm (bred).

Whooper Swan Nene Washes on the 6th and 18th, Ouse Washes on the 6th and 26th, Sutton North Fen on the 20th and 27th, *normally these summer birds are in some way injured and thus unable to make the return migration to Iceland.*

Greylag Goose Great Fen Project 18 on the 12th, Cam Washes Upware 37 adults with broods of 7,7, and 5 on the 11th, Burwell Fen maximum 43 on the 14th, Wicken Fen maximum 44 on the 18th including 3 broods, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 185 on the 24th, Littleport May Farm (bred).

Canada Goose Burwell Fen maximum 18 on the 1st, Great Fen Project 23 on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 173 on the 27th.

Pink-footed Goose Eldernell on the 7th - 8th.

Barnacle Goose Nene Washes 2 on the 31st.

Egyptian Goose *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Cam Washes Waterbeach (2), Eldernell (2), Kingfishers Bridge (6), Littleport May Farm (2), Nene Washes (2), Ouse Washes (2), Paxton Pits (2) and Stretham (2).

Shelduck *reported from:* Burwell Fen (13), Cam Washes Upware (2), Ferry Meadows CP (3), Kingfishers Bridge (9), Littleport May Farm (2), Paxton Pits (2) and Wicken Fen (2).

Wigeon Paxton Pits on the 7th Great Fen Project 2 on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge on the 12th, Ouse Washes 60 on the 13th, March Farmers 7 males still on the 31st.

Gadwall Burwell Fen maximum 58 on the 1st, Wicken Fen maximum 20 on the 4th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fen 3 on the 8th, Great Fen Project 5 on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 33 on the 27th.

Teal Burwell Fen 2 on the 1st, Kingfishers Bridge on the 6th and 27th.

Mallard Great Fen Project 90 on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 27 on the 12th, Burwell Fen maximum 25 on the 14th.

Pintail Fen Drayton Lakes a male on the 2nd.

Garganey reported from: Burwell Fen, Grafham Water, Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Washes (4), Nene Washes (8), Paxton Pits (2) and Wicken Fen (2+ males).



Garganey at Wicken Fen: photo by Mathew Mellor.

Shoveler Burwell Fen maximum 23 on the 1st, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 9 on the 6th, Great Fen Project on the 12th, Wicken Fen 3 on the 18th, Littleport May Farm 4 all month.

Red-crested Pochard Paxton Pits a male on the 21st and 30th.

Pochard Wicken Fen 3 on the 4th, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 10 on the 6th, Paxton Pits on the 7th and 21st, 2 on the 27th, Earith 28 (26m and 2f) on the 24th, Burwell Fen 4 on the 26th.

Tufted Duck (*counts over 20*), Hobson's Park 25 on the 11th, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 30 on the 24th, Littleport May Farm 20+ all month.

Common Scoter Sutton North Fen on several dates all month, March Farmers 2 females on the 18th.

Goldeneye Fen Drayton Lakes a male on the 2nd and 21st.

Gamebirds

Red-legged Partridge Littleport May Farm 50 all month.

Grey Partridge Etton/Maxey GP on the 6th, Great Fen Project 2 on the 12th, 4 on the 18th, Littleport May Farm 30 all month.

Quail Cambridge on nocmig on the 8th,

Pheasant Littleport May Farm 100 all month.

Cormorants

Cormorant *reported from:* Burwell Fen (5), Great Fen Project (3), Kingfishers Bridge (10), Littleport May Farm (8).

Egrets and herons

Bittern reported from five sites- often more than one bird.

Little Egret *reported from:* Cam Washes Waterbeach (2), Great Fen Project, Fordham Wood, Kingfishers Bridge (2), Littleport May Farm (6), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen (6).

Great White Egret Eldernell on the 7th, March Farmers on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge on the 20th, Burwell Fen on the 21st - 22nd, Woodwalton Fen on the 27th.

Grey Heron Littleport May Farm 8+ all month.

Grebes

Little Grebe *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Fowlmere NR (bred), Great Fen Project (2), Hobson's Park (4), Kingfishers Bridge (4), Littleport May Farm (10), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen (4).

Great Crested Grebe *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Hobson's Park, Kingfishers Bridge (12), Littleport May Farm (2), Milton CP and Wicken Fen.

Raptors

Red Kite *reported from:* Cambridge, Chippenham Fen, Ely (2), Fen Drayton Lakes, Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport May Farm (2), Pampisford, Stilton-Conington 21,

Marsh Harrier *reported from:* Cam Washes Waterbeach, Chippenham Fen, Eldernell, Haddenham/Aldreth Fen, Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport May Farm (6), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits, Trumpington Meadows (a flyover),

At RSPB Ouse Fen a female with wing tags had been tagged near Norwich in June last year and had apparently spent the winter at Salcidos Marshes, SPAIN.



Marsh Harrier male at an undisclosed site : photo by David Ball

Hen Harrier Eastrea a male on the 3rd, Eldernell a ringtail on the 17th - *probably the last record for this winter.*

Buzzard *reported from:* Cam Washes Waterbeach, Chippenham Fen, Great Fen Project (6), Haddenham/Aldreth Fen, Kingfishers Bridge (5), Little Wilbraham Fen, Milton, Pampisford, Stow-cum-Quy and Wicken Fen.

Osprey Bainton GP on the 6th, Grafham Water on the 13th, Earith on the 26th.

Rails and crane

Water Rail *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Fowlmere NR, Kingfishers Bridge, Orton BP and Wicken Fen (2).

Moorhen Kingfishers Bridge 11 on the 6th.

Coot Great Fen Project 12 on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 31 on the 12th, Wicken Fen maximum 32 on the 18th including one brood.

Common Crane 2-4 birds reported from a number of sites, Wicken Fen 5 on the 5th.

Waders

Avocet Kingfishers Bridge 2 on the 6th and 20th, Ouse Washes on the 13th, Nene Washes 2 on the 26th - 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 27th, Littleport May Farm 8 all month.

Oystercatcher *reported from:* Burwell Fen, Cambridge (3 flyovers), Cambridge Research Park, Eldernell (11), Fowlmere NR (2), Grafham Water, Great Fen Project (4), Kingfishers Bridge (4), Littleport May Farm (bred), Ouse Washes (2) and Paxton Pits (2 bred).

Grey Plover Paxton Pits on the 22nd, Ouse Washes Earith on the 24th, Nene Washes on the 25th, 2 - 3 from the 27th to the 30th, Witcham Gravel on the 26th.

Lapwing (*counts 20 plus*) Great Fen Project 30 on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 24 on the 12th.

Little Ringed Plover *reported from:* Burwell Fen (2), Fen Drayton Lakes, Kingfishers Bridge (2), Littleport May Farm (3), Paxton Pits (2), Sutton North Fen and Woodwalton Fen (6).

Ringed Plover Ferry Meadows CP on the 7th, Grafham Water 2 on the 10th, Paxton Pits a flyover on the 21st another on the 27th, a single on the 28th - 30th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 21st, 2 on the 27th, Burwell Fen on the 24th, Earith 11 on the 24th, Eldernell on the 26th, Kingfishers Bridge on the 27th, Ouse Washes 25 on the 27th, Nene Washes 5 on the 27th, 19 on the 29th, Woodwalton Fen 26 on the 27th then 50 on the 28th, Littleport May Farm 19 on the 29th 12 on the 31st.

Whimbrel Eldernell a flyover on the 3rd, one on the 4th and the 25th, March Farmers on the 14th, Paxton Pits on the 17th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 25th.

Curlew Great Fen Project on the 12th, **March Farmers 2** on the 14th, **Woodwalton Fen** on the 28th,

Black tailed Godwit Fen Drayton Lakes c20 on the 1st, **Eldernell** on the 3rd,

Bar-tailed Godwit Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st and 2nd, **Paxton Pits 2** on the 1st, one on the 2nd, **Earith** on the 25th,

Turnstone Paxton Pits 2 on the 7th and 27th, **Grafham Water** on the 10th - 11th, **Fen Drayton Lakes 4** on the 25th, one on the 26th, 2 on the 27th, **Colne Fen 2** on the 26th, **Nene Washes** on the 27th and 2 on the 28th - 30th, **Woodwalton Fen** on the 28th,

Knot Ouse Washes on the 27th.

Ruff Paxton Pits 7 on the 1st, **Kingfishers Bridge 2** on the 20th, **Paxton Pits a flyover** on the 27th.

Sanderling Paxton Pits on the 21st - *first of the year*, another on the 27th, **Grafham Water 4** on the 22nd, one on the 24th, 2 on the 25th, 9 on the 27th, **Fen Drayton Lakes 3** on the 25th, 2 on the 27th, **Ouse Washes** on the 25th, **Nene Washes 7** on the 26th, **Brampton 4** on the 27th, **Coveney Byall Fen** on the 27th, **Maxey GP 6** on the 27th.

Dunlin Paxton Pits 4 on the 1st, 22 on the 2nd, 2 on the 7th, 2 on the 25th, 3 on the 27th, 2 on the 28th - 30th, **Fen Drayton Lakes** on the 2nd, 2 on the 21st, **Grafham Water** on the 10th, **Kingfishers Bridge 2** on the 12th, **Earith** on the 24th, **Nene Washes 2** on the 27th and 3 on the 28th, **Woodwalton Fen** on the 28th,

Common Sandpiper *reported from:* **Berry Fen**, **Earith**, **Fen Drayton Lakes (2)**, **Ferry Meadows CP**, **Fowlmere NR**, **Grafham Water (3)**, **Kingfishers Bridge**, **Littleport May Farm**, **Nene Washes** and **Paxton Pits (3)**.

Green Sandpiper *reported from:* **Great Fen Project**, **Littleport May Farm (6)** and **Paxton Pits**.

Spotted Redshank **Eldernell** on the 25th.

Greenshank **Eldernell** on the 4th and 3 on the 6th, one on the 7th and 25th, **Fen Drayton Lakes** on the 6th and 25th, 3 on the 26th, 5 on the 27th, 2 on the 28th, **Paxton Pits** on the 6th, **Fowlmere NR a flyover** on the 7th, **March Farmers** on the 12th and 14th, 7 on the 27th, 4 on the 28th, and 2 on the 30th, **Burwell Fen** on the 24th, **Ouse Washes 6** on the 25th, **Paxton Pits 2** on the 27th, **Littleport May Farm** on the 28th.

Wood Sandpiper Ouse Washes on the 4th, Nene Washes 2 on the 6th, a single on the 28th, Fowlmere NR 4 on the 7th, Earith 3 on the 24th, Maxey GP on the 26th,

Redshank *reported from:* Earith (4), Fen Drayton Lakes, Great Fen Project, Kingfishers Bridge (11), Littleport May Farm (4), Maxey GP (5), Ouse Washes (with young on the 19th), Paxton Pits (7) and Woodwalton Fen (12).

Woodcock Woodwalton Fen 2 on the 9th, Chippenham Fen 2 on the 23rd, Littleport May Farm 6-8 all month.

Snipe *reported from:* Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport May Farm (20), Ouse Washes and Paxton Pits.

Terns and gulls

Little Tern Eldernell 2 on the 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 25th, Grafham Water on the 25th.

Black Tern Fen Drayton Lakes on the 6th, 9 on the 21st, 9 on the 25th, 2 on the 26th, Ouse Fen 7 briefly on the 6th, Ouse Washes 3 on the 6th, one on the 7th, 6 on the 13th, Grafham Water on the 6th, 6 on the 14th, 22 on the 21st, 10 on the 25th, 2 on the 27th, Paxton Pits 4 on the 6th, 10 on the 21st, 3 on the 24th, one on the 25th and 27th, Roswell Pits on the 24th, Burwell Fen 4 on the 21st, Ferry Meadows CP on the 25th, Orton BP on the 26th.



Black Tern at Grafham Water : photo by Phil Smith

Common Tern *reported from:* Burwell Fen (3), Cambridge Research Park (2), Cam Washes Waterbeach (4), Fowlmere NR (2), Great Fen Project (6), Hobson's Park (3), Kingfishers Bridge (18), Littleport May Farm (2), Ouse Fen (4), Reach Lode (2),

Arctic Tern Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 2nd, up to 90 in three groups on the 26th, Ferry Meadows CP 5+ on the 2nd, Grafham Water c70 on the 2nd, 'a few' on the 3rd, Paxton Pits 2 on the 2nd, one on the 28th, Eldernell 7 on the 3rd, March Farmers 2 on the 6th, and 14th, Ouse Washes on the 6th, 3 on the 7th,

Black-headed Gull Hobson's Park 23 on the 11th, Kingfishers Bridge maximum 77 on the 24th, Littleport May Farm 200+ all month.

Little Gull Ouse Washes on the 6th - 7th, Eldernell 2 on the 7th.

Mediterranean Gull Littleport May Farm 4 on the 3rd, Ferry Meadows CP an adult on the 8th.

Common Gull *reported from:* Ferry Meadows CP.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Great Fen Project 4 on the 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 5 on the 12th, Chippenham Fen 21 flying NE in groups on the 23rd.

Herring Gull Hobson's Park 2 still resident on the 11th.

Doves, cuckoo, owls and Kingfisher

Stock Dove Kingfishers Bridge maximum 13 on the 12th, Littleport May Farm 50 all month.

Woodpigeon Littleport May Farm 1000 all month.

Collared Dove Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

Turtle Dove *reported from:* Cambridge Research Park, Croydon, Bainton GP (2), Eldernell, Fowlmere (3-4), Longstanton, March, Maxey GP (2), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits, Wilbraham Common, Yaxley.

Cuckoo *reported from:* Bradley Fen, Cambridge, Cambridge Research Park, Cam Washes Waterbeach, Clayhithe, Croydon, Eldernell, Great Fen Project (5), Haddenham/Aldreth Fen, Hemingford Grey, Kingfishers Bridge (3), Little Wilbraham Fen, Litlington, Littleport May Farm (4),

March Farmers (2), Needingworth, Ouse Washes (2-3), Paxton Pits, Swaffham Prior Fen, Wicken Fen (3 - 2 males and a female), Woodwalton Fen.

Barn Owl *reported from:* Fowlmere NR, Great Fen Project, Kingfishers Bridge (2), Littleport May Farm (8) and Wicken Fen.

Little Owl *reported from:* Ferry Meadows CP, Fulbourn New Shardlows Farm, Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport May Farm (4).

Tawny Owl *reported from:* Chippenham Fen (2), Littleport May Farm (2) and Wicken Fen,

Long-eared Owl reported on the 6th at an undisclosed site.

Short-eared Owl Burwell Fen on the 8th, Aldreth on the 18th.

Swift widely reported across the county on the 8th, *large counts:* Wicken Fen c20 on the 10th, St. Ives 20 on the 18th, Eldernell 180+ on the 24th, Ferry Meadows CP 50+ on the 24th and 60 on the 25th.

Kingfisher *reported from:* Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport May Farm (6), Milton CP, Ouse Washes and Wicken Fen (8).

Falcons and parrots

Kestrel Littleport May Farm 20 all month.

Merlin Ferry Meadows CP on the 4th.

Hobby Paxton Pits on the 1st, 2 on the 2nd, 14 on the 9th, 3 on the 25th, Nene Washes on the 2nd and 3rd, 7 on the 6th, 2 on the 24th, 3 on the 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1st and 26th, Histon-Oakington on the 1st, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on the 6th and 12th, Ouse Washes on the 6th, 7+ on the 13th, Paxton Pits 5 on the 6th, 8 on the 7th, Wicken Fen 2 on the 7th, 4 on the 10th, 7 on the 14th and 18th, Burwell Fen 7 on the 8th, 3 on the 21st, Little Wilbraham Fen 2 on the 8th, New Shardelows Farm 2 on the 8th, Ouse Fen c5 on the 10th, Cambridge Research Park on the 14th, Cottenham on the 18th, Fowlmere NR 2 on the 20th, Ferry Meadows CP on the 21st, Orton BP 8 on the 26th, Wilbraham Common on the 30th, Littleport May Farm 2 all month.

Peregrine Littleport May Farm a male on the 3rd, Wicken Fen 2 on the 5th, Eldernell on the 7th.

Corvids

Magpie Littleport May Farm 30+ all month.

On the 22nd one observer reported a Magpie that had caught a Swift, presumably by waiting at the nest-hole entrance.

Jackdaw Littleport May Farm c100 all month.

Rook Littleport May Farm c500 all month.

Carrion Crow Great Fen Project 34 on the 12th, Burwell Fen 15 on the 14th, Littleport May Farm c100 all month.

Raven Bradley Fen on the 5th, Paxton Pits a flyover on the 7th, Littleport May Farm on the 31st.

Tits and larks

Bearded Tit *reported from:* Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Fen and Wicken Fen.

Skylark Great Fen Project 88 on the 12th, Littleport May Farm 40 all month.

Hirundines and warblers

Swallow Milton 40+ on the 16th.

Cetti's Warbler *reported from:* Bradley Fen, Fowlmere NR (3), Great Fen Project, Kingfishers Bridge (2), Little Wilbraham Fen, Nene Washes (2), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits (2).

Chiffchaff Fowlmere NR 14 singing on the 19th.

Willow Warbler Fowlmere NR 5 singing on the 19th.

Blackcap Fowlmere NR 18 singing on the 19th.

Whitethroat Trumpington Meadows 13 on the 1st, Great Fen Project 21 on the 12th.

Grasshopper Warbler *reported from:* Bradley Fen, Cambridge Research Park, Chippenham Fen, Farcet Fen, Little Wilbraham Fen, Orton BP and Wicken Fen (5+).

Sedge Warbler Great Fen Project 19 on the 12th.



Common Whitethroat at Fen Drayton Lakes : photo by James Hanlon.

Reed Warbler Fowlmere NR 54 on the 7th, Great Fen Project 67 on the 12th.

Nuthatch, treecreeper, wren, starling and thrushes

Nuthatch *reported from:* Chippenham Fen and Littleport May Farm.

Starling Wicken Fen 80 on the 31st, Littleport May Farm 100 all month.

Redwing Abington Pigotts an extraordinary record of 2 singing on the 26th!

Mistle Thrush *reported from:* Kingfishers Bridge (3) and Littleport May Farm (4).

Spotted Flycatcher *reported from:* Fowlmere NR, Hinxton, Little Paxton, Oxloade and Wimpole Park.

Nightingale *reported from:* Castor Hanglands (17), Marsh Lane GP (11), Paxton Pits (3+) and Wicken Fen.

Starts and chats

Whinchat Burwell Fen on the 2nd, Blackbush on the 3rd.

Stonechat Littleport May Farm on the 31st.

Wheatear Fowlmere 25 on the 1st, 7 on the 3rd, 6 on the 5th, 7 on the 6th, Foxton 7 on the 1st, 4 on the 3rd, Melbourn 3 on the 1st, Trumpington Meadows NR on the 1st, Littleport May Farm 1 on the 1st, 3 on the 2nd and 2 on the 5th, Burwell Fen 2 on the 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes on the 2nd, Paxton Pits 5 on the 2nd, Stanground 7 on the 2nd, Tubney Fen 2 on the 2nd, Waterbeach Fen 5 'Greenland' on the 3rd, Blackbush 7 on the 3rd, Farcet Fen 4 on the 3rd, Eldernell on the 3rd - 4th and 7th, Wicken Fen 6 on the 4th, Great Fen Project on the 12th, Cam Washes Waterbeach 2 on the 4th, Ouse Washes on the 6th, Paxton Pits on the 6th and a female on the 9th, a late bird on the Nene Washes on the 28th.

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

House Sparrow Littleport May Farm 50 all month.

Tree Sparrow Great Fen Project on the 12th, Redmere 30 all month.

Yellow Wagtail Eldernell 23 on the 7th, Littleport May Farm 20 all month.

Grey Wagtail *reported from:* Anglesey Abbey (bred), Littleport May Farm and Paxton Pits.

Pied Wagtail Littleport May Farm 50 all month.

Tree Pipit Cambridge (nocmig flyover) on the 6th.

Meadow Pipit Great Fen Project 22 on the 12th, Littleport May Farm 100 all month.

Water Pipit Eldernell on the 3rd and 6th.

Finches and buntings

Chaffinch Littleport May Farm 100 all month.

Greenfinch Littleport May Farm 50 all month.

Goldfinch Littleport May Farm 50 all month.

Linnet Littleport May Farm 200 all month.

Corn Bunting Littleport May Farm 100 all month.



Corn Bunting at Foxton : photo by Mathew Mellor.

Reed Bunting Great Fen Project 68 on the 12th, Littleport May Farm 200 all month.

Exotica

Black Swan Ouse Washes 2 as previously reported.

Peafowl Cambridge Research Park one heard on the 14th.

Hybrids

Greylag/Canada Goose Grafham Water on the 9th.

Contributors:

Colin Addington, Martin Amos, Louise Bacon, Helen Bailey, Geoff Barlow, Peter Beckenham, Peter Bircham, Mark Brandon, Alan Bull, Ed Bullmore, Mike Burdekin, Ian Burfield, Howard Butler, Josh Carter, Mike Clydesdale, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Martin Davis, Ian Dawson, Ian and Sheila Dickerson, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, David Fisher, David Fotherby, Andrew Gardner, Don Gardener, Steve Gann, Ed Gill, Ian Gordon, Bob Grice, Richard Grimmett, David Ellis, Mike Everett, James Hanlon, Andy Hannaford, Dean Harlow, Kevin Harris, Jason Hatch, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jon Heath, Graham Hiron, James Hitchcock, Phil Hobson, Michael Holdsworth, David Hollin, David Hopkins, Peter Houzgo, Sarah Howlett, Robert Humphrey, Colin Kirtland, Charlie Kitchin, Nick Langley, Jim Lawrence, John Lindsell, Chris Lines, Nick Littlewood, Tony Lowe, Guy Manners, Bruce Martin, Owen and Monica Marks, David McCarthy, Ian Moore, Steve Mumford, Dave Odell, Martin O'Leary, John Paice, Richard Patient, Duncan Poyser, Doug Radford, John Raven, Tim Rea, Graeme Reed, John Roote, Ian Seamark, Martin Shadbolt, Stuart Short, Phil Smith, Dave Spencer, Henry Stanier, Simon Stirrup, Andy Symes, Jonathan Taylor, Kevin Taylor, Richard Thomas, The Wicken Fen Group, Hugh Venables, Mark Ward, Iain Webb, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, David Wege, Jamie Wells, John Wells, Kevin Wilson, David Withrington, Kevin Wolstencroft, Patrick Woods, Hugh Wright, Barbara York and Christoph Zöckler.

Next indoor meetings:

There are no indoor meetings during the summer. The next meeting is in September.

News and Comment:

Late arrivals or not at all

Many observers have commented on particular arrival related events (or non-events) this spring, a poor wader passage being one, shortage of Sedge Warblers being another and the late arrival of Swifts and Spotted Flycatchers. On the Brecks the Stone Curlews appear to be having a poor year.

Egg collecting

The nineteenth century craze for egg collecting seems not to have died out entirely in the twenty-first century despite being outlawed for some time - does that add to the thrill? Broadland police apprehended a suspicious person and a search of his home revealed a large collection of rare birds eggs. A further incident reported was the raiding of a Stone Curlew's nest on Cavenham Heath a site close to our county. If you think that the concern for confidentiality by the Club's officials is perhaps too draconian then think again. Sadly, these people are still active on our doorstep.

Breeding birds

Don't forget to keep records of breeding birds that fall into the bracket of less common; things like Teal, Pochard, woodpeckers, Kestrels, Sparrowhawks, Buzzards, Oystercatchers etc. Always useful for the Club's database but particularly when, as in the case of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker for instance, a species declines.

Research projects

On the same theme the Club's research focus this year means that it is interested in all records of Grey Wagtail breeding, Sand Martins too. Michael Holdsworth is continuing the project on Spotted Flycatchers (with the BTO) and welcomes all and any reports of breeding pairs. More details of all these projects can be found on the website

James Hanlon's noc mig

For me, a quieter month in Cambourne than in April but the following were of note:

Little grebe (2nd)

Common sand (2nd & 24th)

Oystercatcher (26th)

Tufted duck (22nd-23rd)

Little ringed plover (23rd-24th)

Annual meeting of OSME at Thetford

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of The Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia (OSME). The Society's annual Summer Meeting (this year's theme: Bird conservation in the OSME region) will be held Saturday 30 June at BTO Headquarters, Thetford from 10.00 to 5.15. Non-members welcome, no attendance charge. Talks range from 'Dangers of a journey south: illegal bird slaughter in Cyprus' to 'Conservation in the Iraq Marshes' and 'Birds and Birdwatching in Iran'. Optional dinner at the Mulberry in Thetford. Contact Sajidah Ahmad at:

secretary@osme.org for further details or visit <https://www.osme.org/content/osme-summer-meeting-and-40th-agm>

The Cambridge High Point Swift Survey

Swift populations nationally are monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey, and BirdTrack also gives an indication of what is happening to Swifts over larger regions. The idea of this survey is to see whether there is an efficient way of monitoring population trends at a more local level.

It is also an objective to engage students and staff of Cambridge University in an environmental project, timed to suit the students, taking a small amount of effort and repeatable every year.

We have chosen 5 high points (4 multi-storey car parks and the Castle Mound) to estimate the abundance of Swifts in a sample of Cambridge airspace.

Multiple scans with binoculars of up to 180° will be performed from each of 9 vantage points, counting the Swifts encountered against the sky in each scan.

The students will doubtless have challenges recognising Swifts, using binoculars - even having binoculars, so I am hoping for help.

If anybody has any spare time and/or spare binoculars between 12:00 and 14:00 on Monday 11th and/or Thursday 14th June - please get in touch.

There will be briefing presentations in the Manatee room at the David Attenborough Building at 12:00 on both Monday and Thursday.

If on any other day this week or the next 2 weeks you feel inclined to perform such a survey yourself, then please get in touch for briefing info. It would take less than an hour of your time.

Thanks

Dick Newell

actionforswifts.blogspot.com

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Next issue will be a little later on July 12th, any contributions to me by the 6th please.

