

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

BIRD CLUB

Bulletin No. 444



Opinions expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Club.

Welcome to the January / February 2016 Edition

RECENT BIRD REPORTS

January – February Headlines

GREEN-WINGED TEAL* Jan: Barleycraft on 3rd and 9th, Grafham Water on 3rd, Berry Fen on 24th.

GOSHAWK* Feb: Sutton Gault a male on 8th, Wicken Fen on 13th.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD* Feb: Thorney 22nd to end of the month.

FRANKLIN'S GULL* Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes at roost on 30th (*only the second record for the county, the last one being in 2006*).

AMERICAN HERRING GULL* Feb: Kings Dyke a 2 c.y. on a skip at the McCain Factory on 2nd. *If confirmed this will be the first record for the County.*

ICELAND GULL Jan: Witcham Gravel a 4 c.y. winter on 19th, a 3 c.y. on 21st; Cambridge Research Park on 23rd. Feb: Fen Drayton Lakes an adult on 1st, 25th and 28th, a 3 c.y. on 28th; Ouse Washes a 2 c.y. on 2nd and 7th; Landbeach a 2 c.y. on 10th and 13th; Grafham Water an adult on 26th and 27th.

KUMLIEN'S GULL* Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes a possible 2 c.y. on several dates, then an adult on 29th.

Feb: Fen Drayton Lakes a possible on 6th and 21st, Grafham Water a 2 c.y. on 26th.

GLAUCOUS GULL Jan: Grafham Water an adult on 1st, and a 1c.y. on 18th – 19th; Milton Tip/Cambridge Research Park a 4.c.y. (3rd winter) on several dates, a bird on 10th (no age given), a 2 c.y. (1st winter) on 21st and the same or another on 23rd, an adult on 25th; Tanholt GP a 2 c.y. on 17th; Witcham Gravel a 4 c.y. on 20th, then a 2 c.y. on 21st and a different 2 c.y. on 22nd, 2 x 2 c.y. on 23rd – presumed the same as the previous two records. Feb: Ouse Washes a 4 c.y. on several dates, a 2 c.y. on 1st and 27th and 28th, a pale 2 c.y. on 18th; Landbeach a 2 c.y. and a 4 c.y. on 10th – 13th; Fowlmere NR a 2 c.y. flyover on 16th; Grafham Water an adult on 26th; *c.y. refers to calendar year so a 2 c.y. is one of last year's young and could alternatively be described as a 'first winter'.*

DARTFORD WARBLER* Feb: Coates from 18th to end of the month. *This is only the 5th county record and the first since 2005.*

SERIN* Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes a female on 4th and later with a male until 16th (*six previous records, the last in 2010*).

Other records

The records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date. An asterisk after the name of the species indicates that it is necessary to send a description to the County Recorder before the record will be accepted. Some species are 'reported from' to give an indication of distribution. Some entries (particularly wildfowl) have maxima given when a number of counts have been received. Where no numbers are given the record relates to single birds.

Wildfowl

Bewick's Swan Jan: Littleport c50 on 17th in a mixed flock with Whoopers, WeBS counts Nene Washes 326 and Ouse Washes 258 on 18th. Feb: Ouse Washes c1500 on 4th, 206 on 22nd.

Whooper Swan Jan: Littleport 40 on 17th, Grafham Water 11 on 17th, WeBS counts Nene Washes 980 and Ouse Washes 7044 on 18th. Feb: Ouse Washes c7000 on 4th, Farcet Fen 8 on 17th, Tubney Fen 25 on 19th; *two birds that frequent the area of the Lodes around Wicken/Burwell and Tubney Fens are escapees from a local collection – see photograph in January's British Birds.*

Bean Goose* **Feb:** Kingfishers Bridge on 16th and 17th, Nene Washes Eldernell 5 'tundra' race on 25th.

Pink-footed Goose **Jan:** Fen Drayton Lakes 2 briefly on 2nd, Paxton Pits one with Greylags on 2nd, Littleport 2 with swans on 17th, Cam Washes a flyover on 17th. **Feb:** Parsons Drove 100 over on 2nd, Needingworth Lakes 8 over on 4th, Ouse Washes on 27th and 28th.

Greylag Goose **Jan:** 15 sites with counts of 100+ including Whittlesford GP 274 on 5th, Kingfishers Bridge 426 on 21st, Ouse Washes 351 on 18th. **Feb:** Cam Washes 360 on 7th, six other sites with counts of 100 – 200.

Canada Goose **Jan:** Clay Farm Trumpington 34 on 4th, Cam Washes Upware 225 on 3rd, Stanground Wash 91 on 23rd. **Feb:** Cam Washes 200 on 7th, Roswell Pits 78 on 21st.

Brent Goose **Jan:** Witcham Gravel on 1st and Ouse Washes on 18th.

Egyptian Goose **Jan:** Paxton Pits 2 on 1st and 4th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 6th, Elton 4 on 8th, Colne Fen 10 on 17th. **Feb:** Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 12th, near the Dog-in-a-Doublet 8 on 16th, Berry Fen 4 on 21st, Whittlesford near GP one in a field on 29th.

Shelduck **Jan:** Burwell Fen 6 on 10th, Paxton Pits 2 on 27th, Eldernell 15 on 28th. **Feb:** Burwell Fen 2 – 5 all month, Cam Washes Upware 3 on 3rd, Paxton Pits 2 on 7th, Cam Washes 15 on 14th, Grafham Water 19 on 21st, Ouse Washes 81 on 27th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) maximum 2 pairs on 27th.

Mandarin **Jan:** Sawston at a private site 31 on 4th (*the county record is 53 at Ferry Meadows CP in 1975*), Grafham Water 2 on 17th. **Feb:** Wimpole Park 4 on 10th, Eye Green NR 3 on 14th.

Wigeon **Jan:** Fen Drayton Lakes c3000 on 10th, WeBS counts Nene Washes 18300 and Ouse Washes 9853 on 18th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 202 on 23rd, Berry Fen 1000 on 30th. **Feb:** Cam Washes Upware c150 on 3rd, Eldernell 1250 on 9th, Needingworth GP 350 on 17th, Paxton Pits 276 on 21st, Ouse Washes WeBS count 12857 on 22nd.

Gadwall **Jan:** Fen Drayton Lakes 360 on 2nd, Berry Fen 149 on 25th, Burwell Fen c80 on 20th. **Feb:** Milton CP 71 on 3rd, Cam Washes Upware 5 on 3rd, Burwell Fen maximum 16 on 9th, Grafham Water 120 on 21st, Ouse Washes WeBS count 985 on 22nd.

Teal **Jan:** Pymoor 200 on 3rd, Paxton Pits c550 on 19th, Grafham Water 353 on 17th, Burwell Fen 323 on 24th, Eldernell 500 on 27th. **Feb:** Ferry Meadows CP 154 on 2nd, Eldernell 500 on 9th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) maximum 84 on 27th, Ouse Washes WeBS count 1230 on 22nd.

Mallard **Jan:** Woodwalton Fen 137 on 1st, WeBS counts Grafham Water 261 on 17th and Ouse Washes 1152 on 18th, Kingfishers Bridge 120 on 21st. **Feb:** Burwell Fen 33 – 59 all month, Kingfishers Bridge 64 on 7th, River Cam Baits Bite to Clayhithe 76 on 20th, Ouse Washes WeBS 1352 on 22nd.

Pintail **Jan:** Ouse Washes 270 on 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes maximum 30 on 23rd, Nene Washes WeBS count 211 on 18th. **Feb:** Burwell Fen 2 on 2nd, Paxton Pits 3 on 4th, Eldernell 250 on 9th, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on 13th, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on 21st, Ouse Washes WeBS count 892 on 22nd.

Shoveler **Jan:** Ouse Washes 400 on 3rd, Nene Washes WeBS count 121 on 18th, Burwell Fen 88 on 16th, Eldernell 500 on 27th. **Feb:** Fowlmere NR on 1st, Cam Washes Upware 17 on 3rd, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) maximum 35 on 7th, Eldernell 250 on 9th, Cam Washes 72 on 14th, Burwell Fen maximum 23 on 19th, Ouse Washes WeBS count 408 on 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 195 on 28th.

Red-crested Pochard **Jan:** Paxton Pits a pair on 4th, Needingworth on 16th. **Feb:** Needingworth GP 2 on 15th.

Pochard **Jan:** Fen Drayton Lakes 59 on 3rd, Bradley Fen 60 on 11th, Ouse Washes WeBS count 1526 on 18th, Paxton Pits 155 on 17th, Whittlesford GP 48 on 26th. **Feb:** Trumpington Clay Farm 2 on 15th, Ouse Washes 1839 on 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 80 on 28th, Ferry Meadows CP 14 on 29th.

Tufted Duck **Jan:** Kingfishers Bridge 57 on 16th, Grafham Water 126 on 17th, Ouse Washes WeBS count 689 on 18th. **Feb:** Burwell Fen maximum 17 on 19th, Colne Fen GP 113 on 21st, Ouse Washes WeBS count 936 on 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 110 on 28th, Whittlesford GP 26 on 29th.

Scaup **Jan:** Ouse Washes on 18th and Overcote Lane pit on 31st. **Feb:** Needingworth Lakes a drake on 11th, Ouse Washes a drake on 12th to 27th.

Goldeneye **Jan:** Grafham Water 120 on 17th, Fen Drayton Lakes 30+ on 28th. **Feb:** Grafham Water 60+ on 7th and 93 on 21st, Fen Drayton Lakes 35 on 28th, Paxton Pits 41 on 26th.

Smew Jan: Ouse Fen 4 (2 males and 2 females) on 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes a redhead on 1st – 10th, Paxton Pits 2 males on 2nd, Barleycraft GP 2 on 9th, Needingworth GP 11 on 10th, Burwell Fen a pair on 20th, Overcote Lane Pit 3 on 31st. **Feb:** Needingworth GP 9 – 14 (maximum 5 males and 9 redhead/females) all month, Ferry Meadows CP a female on 12th, Colne Fen GP 13 (one male) on 21st, Fen Drayton Lakes a redhead on 28th.

Goosander Jan: Grafham Water 6+ on 1st – 2nd, 11 on 17th, 20 on 29th and 24 on 30th, Maxey GP 9 (7 males and 2 females) on 17th, Fen Drayton Lakes a female on 17th and one on 30th, Ferry Meadows CP a pair on 20th, Woodwalton Fen on 23rd, Paxton Pits 8 on 31st. **Feb:** Grafham Water 14 on 7th and 16 on 18th, Maxey on 16th, Little Ouse on 23rd, Paxton Pits 8 on 18th and 2 on 27th.

Gamebirds

Grey Partridge Jan: Nine Wells 49 on 15th, Comberton 29 on 16th, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 35 on 18th. **Feb:** Burwell 2 on 13th, Wicken Fen 2 on 14th, Fowlmere 8 on 17th.

Divers, cormorants, egrets and herons and grebes

Great Northern Diver* Feb: Brampton an immature on a private site from 21st until 28th.

Cormorant Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes 58 into roost on 6th, Wicken Fen 38 on 17th, Grafham Water WeBS count 79 on 17th, Cambridge Research Park 28 on 30th. **Feb:** Ferry Meadows 25 on 12th, Barleycraft GP 26 on 12th, Ouse Washes WeBS count 54 on 22nd, Paxton Pits 30 on 25th.

Shag Jan: Witcham Gravel one in flight on 2nd, Mepal on 3rd.

Bittern Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes on several dates, Woodwalton Fen 3 on 19th, Drysides BP on 19th.

Feb: Fowlmere NR on 1st, Wicken Fen on 16th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 20th and 28th, Woodwalton Fen on 20th, Kingfishers Bridge on 26th.

Little Egret Jan: reported from Grafham Water (2), Needingworth (6), Paxton Pits (2), Trumpington Clay Farm (2), Eldernell (14), and Fen Drayton Lakes (6). **Feb:** reported from Aldreth Fen, Burwell Fen maximum 13 on 29th, Orton Brimbles, Rampton (3), Soham and Whittlesford GP.

Great White Egret Jan: Wicken Fen on 3rd, Yaxley Lode on 16th, 19th and 24th, likely the same bird at Great Fen on 23rd, Aldreth on 27th. **Feb:** Great Fen on several dates, Yaxley on 6th and 7th – presumed the same, Aldreth 19th and possibly the same bird at Rampton on 20th and 29th.

Little Grebe Jan: Whittlesford GP 3 on 5th, Cam Washes Waterbeach 4 on 10th, Maxey GP 25 on 15th, Colne Fen GP 25 on 17th, River Cam Baits Bite to Clayhithe 29 on 18th, Trumpington Clay Farm 6 on 18th. **Feb:** Fowlmere NR on 1st, Old West River Earith on 2nd, Trumpington Clay Farm 4 on 15th, River Cam Baits Bite to Clayhithe 23 on 20th, Ouse Washes 13 on 22nd, Paxton Pits on 27th.

Great Crested Grebe Jan: Whittlesford GP on 5th, Grafham Water WeBS count 103 on 17th, Drysides BP 12 on 25th. **Feb:** Drysides BP 16 on 16th, Whittlesford GP on 29th, Grafham Water 24 on 21st, Ferry Meadows CP 46 on 26th.

Slavonian Grebe* Jan/Feb: Fen Drayton Lakes on 17th to end of the month and then to 11th Feb.

Raptors

Red Kite Jan: Belsize Wood 77 on 9th, Paxton Pits 2 on 10th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 10th, Holme Fen 3 on 10th. **Feb:** St Ives on 1st, Stilton maximum 19 on 28th, St Ives 2 on 14th, Paxton Pits 2 on 14th and 27th, Ramsey Heights 3 on 20th, Colne Fen GP on 21st, Eldernell on 24th, Ouse Washes on 27th.

Marsh Harrier Jan: Woodwalton Fen 4 into roost on 1st and count of 8 on 23rd, Wicken Fen 3 on 6th and 10th, 4 on 20th, Ouse Fen 5 on 9th, Nene Washes Eldernell 5 on 27th, Burwell Fen on 20th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 21st and 29th. **Feb:** Sutton Gault on 2nd, Lt Wilbraham Fen 4 on 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 13th, Wicken Fen maximum 5 on 16th, Colne Fen GP on 21st, Burwell Fen 2 on 24th, Eldernell on 4 on 9th, Ouse Washes on 27th.

Hen Harrier Jan: Woodwalton Fen 2 males into roost on 1st and 12th, one on 23rd, Wicken Fen 3 on 6th, 2 males and a female on 8th, 3 males and a female on 10th, then 6 males and a female on 20th, Eldernell on 7th, and 16th, Holme Fen on 10th, Cam Washes Upware on 10th. **Feb:** Fowlmere NR on 1st, Woodwalton Fen 2 on 2nd, Wicken Fen roost maximum 4 males and 3 females on 1st.

Sparrowhawk Feb: Burwell Fen 4 hanging around waiting for the Starlings on 24th.

Buzzard Jan: reported from Burwell Fen, Great Shelford, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens (2), Melbourn, Newmarket racecourse (2), Pymoor (2) and Wicken Fen. **Feb:** reported from Chippenham Fen, Eldernell, Hinxton (2), Landbeach, Paxton Pits (6), Six Mile Bottom, Swaffham Bulbeck, Whittlesford.



Slavonian Grebe at Fen Drayton Lakes: photo Neil Bramwell

Rails and crane

Water Rail Jan: reported from Fen Drayton Lakes (3), Fowlmere NR (3), Lt Wilbraham Fen (6), Ouse Fen, Wicken Fen (2+) and Woodwalton Fen (6). **Feb:** reported from Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen (5) and Lt Wilbraham Fen (7).

Coot Jan: Trumpington Clay Farm 27 on 4th, Whittlesford GP 35 on 5th, Bradley Fen 132 on 11th, Burwell Fen 131 on 16th, Colne Fen GP 260 on 17th, and Ouse Washes WeBS count 1498 on 18th.

Feb: Needingworth GP 150 on 7th, Ouse Washes WeBS count 2484 on 22nd.

Common Crane Jan: Eldernell 2 on 7th and 6 on 18th, Nene Washes 16 on 21st, Manea 10 on 30th.

Feb: Burwell Fen/Wicken Fen 2 – 3 on several dates, Ouse Washes 3 on 7th, 7 on 27th, Eldernell 4 on 21st and 25th, Block Fen 3 flyovers on 28th.

Waders

Avocet Feb: Cam Washes 2 on 14th and 8 on 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on 16th, Grafham Water on 27th.

Oystercatcher Jan: Paxton Pits on 31st. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 1 – 3 all month from 4th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 12th and 5 on 25th, Colne Fen GP 2 on 21st, Ouse Washes 9 on 27th.

Ringed Plover Jan: Colne Fen GP on 17th. **Feb:** Fen Drayton Lakes on 13th, Ouse Washes 23 on 22nd.

Golden Plover Jan: Hauxton c200 on 15th, Nene Washes WeBS count 1280 on 18th, Fowlmere NR 600 on 21st, March Farmers 1500 on 23rd, Burwell Fen area c300 on 10th and c1500 on 31st. **Feb:** counts of 400+ at Trumpington c800 near M11 on 2nd, Lt Wilbraham Fen 600 on 2nd, Toft 400 on 4th, Eldernell 2500 on 9th, Croydon 400 on 16th, and Fowlmere near the reserve 1114 on 17th.

Grey Plover Jan: Roswell Pits on 2nd.

Lapwing Jan: highest counts at Needingworth GP 1000 on 9th, March Farmers 3000 on 23rd, Burwell Fen area c3000 on 31st. **Feb:** Burwell Fen c600 on 2nd, Eldernell 2500 on 9th, Needingworth GP 585 on 21st, Ouse Washes WeBS count 4957 on 22nd, and Somersham 500 on 24th.

Curlew Feb: Ouse Washes 9 on 7th, one on 27th.

Black-tailed Godwit Jan: Paxton Pits 9 on 1st, c70 on 12th, 2 on 23rd, Fen Drayton Lakes on 3rd, 30 on 6th, 8 on 8th, one on 10th and 180 on 17th, Nene Washes WeBS count 1150 on 18th, Ferry Meadows CP on 20th, March Farmers 11 on 23rd. **Feb:** Ouse Washes 3000 on 7th and 900+ on 27th, Nene Washes 26 on 24th.

Ruff Jan: Cam Washes Upware on 10th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 10th, Nene Washes 12 on 17th, March Farmers 14 on 23rd, Ouse Washes Earith 12 on 30th. **Feb:** Ouse Washes 45 on 27th, Cam Washes 2 on 14th, Nene Washes March Farmers 41 on 26th.

Dunlin Jan: Paxton Pits 6 on 4th, Needingworth 50 on 9th, Fen Drayton Lakes 4 on 17th, Nene Washes March Farmers 30 on 23rd, Ouse Washes Earith 40 on 30th. **Feb:** Ouse Washes 6 on 7th, 150+ on 27th, March Farmers 22 on 26th.

Green Sandpiper Jan: Paxton Pits 1 – 2 on several dates, Haddenham Aldreth Fen 2 on 2nd, Cam Washes 8 on 21st. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 3 on 7th, 5 on 21st, Cam Washes on 14th, North Bank SW 2 on 16th, Grafham Water on 21st, Ouse Washes 3 on 27th.

Greenshank Jan: Nene Washes on 17th – 23rd.

Redshank Jan: Cam Washes Upware 4 on 7th, Burwell Fen on 16th, Grafham Water 14 on 17th, Ouse Washes WeBS count 77 on 18th, March Farmers 113 on 23rd, Needingworth GP 46 on 27th, Ouse Washes Earith 30 on 30th. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 2 on 13th and 21st, Cam Washes on 3rd and 6 on 14th, Grafham Water 5 on 21st, Colne Fen GP 37 on 21st, Nene Washes 10 on 24th.

Woodcock Jan: reported from 14 sites, mostly singles but 2 at Ditton Park Wood, Madingley and Kings Dyke NR. **Feb:** singles reported from 5 sites and 2 at Knapwell on 9th.

Jack Snipe Jan: Stanground on 19th and Fowlmere NR on 28th. **Feb:** Willow Hall Lane Eye on 13th, Kings Dyke NR on 19th.

Snipe Jan: Colne Fen GP 31 on 17th, Burwell Fen 37 on 19th, Kings Dyke NR 17 on 19th, Paxton Pits 6 on 31st. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 6 on 4th, 9 on 14th, 16 on 26th, Fowlmere NR 13 on 17th and 121 on 26th, Kingfishers Bridge 43 on 17th, Colne Fen GP 30 on 21st, and Trumpington 25 on 27th.

Gulls

Kittiwake Jan: Ouse Washes 2 on 3rd, Grafham Water a flyover on 3rd.

Black-headed Gull Jan: Cambridge Research Park 1000 on 9th, Eldernell 1000 on 14th, Ouse Washes 5000 on 19th. **Feb:** Fen Drayton Lakes roost of 3000 on 4th, Burwell Fen 750 on 19th, Peterborough Millennium Bridge 500 on 21st.

Little Gull Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes one into roost on 2nd, Grafham Water 24 on 2nd, 2 on 3rd, Paxton Pits 6 on 5th and a single on 6th.

Mediterranean Gull Jan: Ferry Meadows CP adult on 2nd, and a 3 c.y. on 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 c.y. on 3rd, and one (not aged) on 24th. **Feb:** CEGB Reservoir 2 adults on 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes a 2 c.y. on 13th 21st and 28th, Grafham Water 2 adults on 15th and 19th, Farcet Fen 2 adults on 17th.

Common Gull Jan: Ouse Washes 3000 on 19th, Fen Drayton Lakes 450+ on 29th. **Feb:** Fowlmere NR 200 on 17th, Hinxton 190 on 18th, Aldreth Fen 30 on 25th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Jan: Ouse Washes 500 on 19th, Milton 1050+ on 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes 600+ on 29th. **Feb:** Fen Drayton Lakes roost of 1120 on 3rd, all other reports of 15 or fewer.

Herring Gull Jan: Cambridge Research Park 700 on 9th, Tanholt Pits 300 on 17th, Grafham Water 3000 on 29th. **Feb:** Fen Drayton Lakes roost of 2800 on 4th.

Yellow-legged Gull Jan: reported from Cambridge Research Park (6), Fen Drayton Lakes (4), Grafham Water (4), and Milton Tip (5). **Feb:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes (4), Grafham Water (3) and Landbeach (2).

Caspian Gull Jan: reported from Cambridge Research Park (3), Grafham Water (7), Fen Drayton Lakes (10), Milton Tip (c6). **Feb:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes (4), Grafham Water (3), Landbeach (6) and Ouse Washes.

Great Black-backed Gull **Jan:** Tanholt Pits 250 on 17th, Cambridge Research Park 180 on 21st.

Doves, owls and kingfisher

Stock Dove **Jan:** Fen Drayton Lakes 50 on 2nd, Eldernell 100 on 28th, Ouse Washes Earith 75 on 30th.
Feb: Fen Drayton Lakes 80 on 4th, Hinxtton 78 on 2nd, Farcet Fen 59 on 17th, Holme Fen 20+ on 20th.

Turtle Dove **Feb:** Aldreth the male ('ninja') that has overwintered before has been singing since early January. *Jenny Dunn (RSPB Turtle Dove researcher) was asked about these occurrences; the only explanation that she could offer was that there has been a trend in recent years for releasing Turtle Doves at Christmas.*

Barn Owl **Jan:** reported from Bottisham Lock, Cam Washes Waterbeach and Upware (2), Great Fen, Paxton Pits, Soham, Tubney Fen and Wicken Fen (2). **Feb:** reported from Coates, Fowlmere NR, Ouse Washes, Lode Fen, Stow-cum-Quy, and Wicken Fen (2).

Little Owl **Feb:** Great Staughton on 16th and 2 on 26th. *A simple entry on Cambirds inspired a glut of observations not all of which relate to this month but are worth recording; reported as breeding pairs in 2015: Farcet Fen up to 6 pairs, Tick Fen Chatteris 3 – 5 pairs, Nene Washes 7 pairs, Milton/Castor/Etton 5 pairs; also birds reported during last year's breeding season at Ferry Meadows CP, Stukeley Park and Witcham.*

Tawny Owl **Jan:** Woodwalton Fen 3 on 23rd. **Feb:** reported from Abbotsley, Burghley Park, Fowlmere NR, Chippenham Fen and Wicken Fen.

Short-eared Owl **Jan:** reported from Burwell Fen (7), Cambridge (west of Histon Rd), Cam Washes (2), Fen Drayton Lakes (2), Great Fen (7+)/Holme Fen (8), Needingworth, Nene Washes Eldernell (5) and all washes (10), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits, Tubney Fen, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) and Wilburton. **Feb:** reported from Burwell Fen, Eldernell (3), Fen Drayton Lakes, Great Fen (9+), Haddenham, Ouse Washes (2), Thorney (2), Yaxley (3).

Kingfisher **Jan:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes, Paxton Pits, and Wicken Fen (4), Toft, Woodwalton Fen, and River Cam (2). **Feb:** reported from Ferry Meadows CP (4), and Eldernell.

Falcons

Merlin **Jan:** Great Fen on 3rd and 23rd, Milton on 5th, Great Fen 2 on 8th, Nine Wells on 15th, Nene Washes on 17th, Wicken Fen on 20th and 27th, March Farmers a female on 23rd, Toft on 29th. **Feb:** Wicken Fen on 1st and 9th, Fowlmere a female on 16th, Haddenham North Fen on 26th, Great Fen on 7th, and Shepreth on 7th and 13th.

Peregrine **Jan:** Cambridge 2 on 1st and 19th, Wicken Fen singles on several dates and 2 on 8th, Cam Washes Upware on 7th, Nene Washes Eldernell on 16th, March Farmers an adult male on 23rd, Paxton Pits an immature on 23rd, March 2 on 24th, Great Shelford a likely male flyover on 27th, Willingham on 30th. **Feb:** Lt Wilbraham Fen 2 on 2nd, Coates on 8th, Cambridge Trumpington St on 10th, March Farmers 2 on 16th, Paxton Pits on 21st, Ouse Washes on 27th, West Wrattling on 28th.

Corvids

Magpie **Jan:** Lt Wilbraham Fen 15 on 16th, Kings Dyke NR 16 on 19th. **Feb:** Knapwell 16 on 9th, Cambridge Chesterton 16 on 29th.

Jackdaw **Jan:** Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) c60 on 2nd and c70 on 23rd. **Feb:** Farcet Fen 70+ on 17th, Burghley Park 185 on 18th, Foxton 200 on 20th.

Rook **Jan:** Milton Tip 350 on 1st, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) c40 on 2nd, Chrishall Grange 300 on 27th. **Feb:** Farcet Fen 230+ on 17th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) c200 on 14th.

Raven **Jan:** Castor Hanglands on 10th, Bainton on 17th, Burwell Fen on 22nd, Woodwalton Fen on 29th. **Feb:** Swaddywell Pit 2 on 7th, Eltisley 2 on weekend of 20 – 21st, Paxton Pits 2 on 26th.

Crests, tits and larks

Firecrest **Jan:** Brampton Mill from 3rd – 6th.

Marsh Tit **Jan:** reported from Chippenham Fen, Ditton Park Wood, Hayley Wood, Waresley, and Paxton Pits. **Feb:** reported from Chippenham Fen, Woodwalton Fen (3), Grafham Water, Bedford Purlieus, Wicken Fen (2).

Bearded Tit **Jan:** Ouse Fen on 9th, Fen Drayton Lakes 10th, Woodwalton Fen on 23rd, Burwell Fen 2 on 23rd. **Feb:** reported from Wicken Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Lt Wilbraham Fen, and Kings Dyke NR.

Warblers

Cetti's Warbler **Jan:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes (4), Nene Washes, Drysides BP (3), Ouse Fen (2) and Woodwalton Fen. **Feb:** reported from Little Ouse, Paxton Pits (2), and Wicken Fen (5).

Chiffchaff **Jan:** Milton CP 4 on 13th with a possible bird of the subspecies 'Siberian Chiffchaff', another possible Siberian Chiffchaff at Over on 28th, Wicken Fen one caught and ringed on 16th, Fen Drayton Lakes on 29th, Overcote Lane pit 9 on 31st. **Feb:** Needingworth SW 11 on 4th, Godmanchester SW 6 on 4th, Soham on 12th, Berry Fen 3 on 21st, Cambridge Lammas Land 2 on 26th.

Blackcap **Jan:** Cottenham a male on 4th, Ramsey a male and a female on 10th, Soham a female on 17th, Cambridge Chesterton 2 on 8th and 9th, Cambridge a female on 19th. **Feb:** further reports from Cambridge, Fulbourn, Hauxton and Hilton.

Nuthatch, starling and thrushes

Nuthatch **Feb:** Chippenham Fen a ringed pair retrapped on 10th, Hardwick Wood 5 on 19th.

Starling **Jan:** Wicken Fen roost of c10000 – 12000 on several dates, Fen Drayton Lakes a roost but no numbers given. **Feb:** roost reports from Fen Drayton Lakes 5000 – 8000, Wicken Fen 12000 – 15000 early in the month and later 30000 to 40000, Haddenham North Fen c2000 on wires on 25th.

Ring Ouzel **Jan:** Lode, the female reported in December was still around at the beginning of the month in a private garden.

Fieldfare **Jan:** counts 300+ at Eltisley 600 on 14th, Caldecote 400 on 20th, Melbourn 400+ on 23rd and c800 on 31st, Chrishall Grange 350 on 27th. **Feb:** counts of 300+ at Hilton on 5th, Foxton 315 on 7th, Holme Fen 352 on 23rd, Barton 510 on 27th.



Fieldfare at Fowlmere NR : photo by Lily Wilson (aged 9)

Song Thrush Jan: Nene Washes WeBS count 6 on 18th was an unusual record for that site, Knapwell Grange Farm 29 on 18th.

Redwing Jan: Croydon 220 on 24th, Burghley Park 60 on 15th and 20th. **Feb:** Wimpole Park 150 on 10th, Kingfishers Bridge 85 on 16th, Ferry Meadows CP 35 on 25th.

Mistle Thrush Jan: Burghley Park 11 on 8th.

Starts and chats

Black Redstart Jan: Hinxton on 18th. **Feb:** Upper Cambourne on 19th and to the end of the month.

Stonechat Jan: Haddenham/Aldreth Fen 3 on 2nd, Great Fen 3 on 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes a female on 15th and 17th, Wicken Fen on 16th, Grafham Water 2 on 17th, Ouse Washes 5 on 18th. **Feb:** Wicken Fen 2 on 13th and 19th, Coates 2 – 3 with the Dartford Warbler 18th to the end of the month, Cambourne on 19th, Holme Fen on 20th, Ouse Washes 6 on 22nd.

Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

Tree Sparrow Jan: Ouse Washes 12 on 3rd, 18 on 30th, Great Fen 6+ on 3rd, Farcet Fen 31 on 19th, Wicken Fen on 27th. **Feb:** Farcet Fen 42 on 17th, Ouse Washes 35 on 19th.

Grey Wagtail Jan: reported from Baits Bite Lock, Needingworth and Paxton Pits, Hilton, and Over. **Feb:** reported from North Bank SW (2) and singles at 11 sites.

Pied Wagtail Jan: Granta Park roost of 23, Roswell Pits 110 on 24th, Cambridge Regional College 74 on 17th. **Feb:** roosts at Addenbrookes Hospital 200 – 300, Whittlesford BP Garage 500 – 700.

Meadow Pipit Jan: Knapwell Grange Farm 136 on 18th. **Feb:** Paxton Pits 25 on 26th, Holme Fen 27 on 23rd.

Water Pipit Jan: Barleycraft GP on 9th, Ouse Washes on 18th. **Feb:** Ouse Washes 3 on 27th.

Finches and buntings

Brambling Jan: Ouse Washes 2 on 3rd, Cambridge on 22nd and 29th. **Feb:** Ferry Meadows CP 5 on 3rd – 5th, 3 on 7th, 2 on 11th, Hare Park 2 on 11th, one on 15th, Ouse Washes 3 on 19th, Elton 2 on 29th.

Greenfinch Jan: Fen Drayton Lakes 140+ to roost on 13th, Gt Abington 60 on 24th. **Feb:** Fen Drayton Lakes 75 on 13th.

Goldfinch Jan: Ouse Washes 112 on 18th, Burwell Fen 150 on 28th.

Siskin Jan: Paxton Pits 21 on 23rd, Milton CP 12 on 19th, Fen Drayton Lakes 15 on 19th and 29th, Chippenham Fen 11 caught and ringed on 19th. **Feb:** reported from Chippenham Fen (15), Fowlmere NR (70), Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water (30+), Great Fen New Decoy (5), Holme Fen (10+), Needingworth Lakes (25), Paxton Pits (29+), Soham (15), Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen (5+).

Linnet Jan: Haddenham/Aldreth Fen 90+ on 2nd, Landbeach 150 on 3rd. **Feb:** Ouse Washes c200 on 14th, Paxton Pits c30 on 15th, Great Fen 50+ on 20th, Haddenham North Fen 150 – 200 on 25th.

Lesser Redpoll Jan: Paxton Pits 8 on 2nd, 10 on 30th, Soham 35+ on 6th, Cambridge up to 7 on a garden feeder in late January, Burwell Fen 40 on 24th. **Feb:** Somersham 32 on 29th.

Yellowhammer Jan: Foxton 200 on 13th, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 380 on 18th. **Feb:** Grange Farm 723 on 9th, Hinxton 200 on 25th.

Reed Bunting Jan: Granta Park a roost of 63 on 13th, Burwell Fen c30 on 16th, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 58 on 18th. **Feb:** Paxton Pits c40 on 15th, Hinxton 300 on 25th.

Corn Bunting Jan: Manea 50+ on 3rd, Ouse Fen 8 on 9th, Foxton 200 on 12th and 140 on 18th, Great Fen 61 on 23rd. **Feb:** Lt Shelford 150 on 15th.

Exotica

Gouldian Finch Feb: Paxton Pits on 14th.

Contributors: Richard Allison, Colin Addington, John Allcock, Richard Allison, Louise Bacon, Geoff Barlow, Andy Bayes, Peter Beesley, Guy Belcher, Peter Bircham, Alan Boddington, Mark Brandon, Colin Brett, Chris Brown, Colin Brown, Mike Burdekin, Will Burdett, Ian Burfield, Ellie Burke, Malcolm Busby, Howard Butler, James Cadbury, Pete and Anna Cook, Ade Cooper, Steve Cooper, Vic and Pauline Couzens, Robin Cox, Martin Davis, Ian Dawson, Brendan Doe, Steve Dudley, Dave Duff, Cathy Duff, Kevin Du Rose, Ian Ellis, Stuart Elsom, Mike Everett, Mike Foley, Steve Gann, Andrew Gardener, Don Gardener, Ed Gill, Simon Gillings, Richard Grimmett, Kevin Hand, James Hanlon, Andy Hannaford, Kevin

Harris, Mark Hawkes, David Heath, Jon Heath, Mark Hill, Michael Holdsworth, David Hopkins, Bob Humphrey, Richard Jackson, Richard Johnson, Colin Kirtland, Charlie Kitchin, Marcus Kohler, Vince Lea, Diana Leech, John Le Gassick, Jeremy Lindsell, Tony Lowe, Bob Mansfield, Owen and Monica Marks, Bruce Martin, Paul Mason, Hugh Mathews, Donal McCarthy, Rob McEwen, Duncan McNiven, Ollie Mears, John Meeds, Matt Mellor, Andy Merryweather, Graham Moates, Dick Newell, Daniel Osborne, Martin O'Leary, Dave Palmer, Richard Palmer, Gill Parish, Cathy Parker, Gavin Paterson, Richard Patient, Garth Peacock, Mark Peck, Rob Pople, Doug Radford, Gareth Rees, Tony Roberts, Norman Sills, Clive Sinclair, Bob Smith, Nigel Sprowell, A.J. Steele, Jim Stevenson, Simon Stirrup, Brian Stone, Jonathan Taylor, Paul Taylor, Richard Thomas, Chris Thorne and the Wicken Fen Group, Bob Titman, Andrew Tongue, Calum Urquhart, Hugh Venables, Luke Wake, Mark Ward, Robin Ward, Matt Webb, Mike Weedon, David Wege, Jamie Wells, John Wells, Peter Wells, Kevin Wilson, Mat Wilson, Ken Wolstencroft, Hugh Wright and Barbara York, Julian Young and Christoph Zöckler.

Farmland Bird Surveyors Needed

Improve your bird ID skills, learn about farmland bird ecology and farming and help the RSPB with high priority work! On Cambridgeshire Fen Farms from April to June, doing 4 early morning surveys during the breeding season

In recent decades populations of many bird species associated with farmland habitats have experienced worrying declines. The RSPB is working with partner organisations and the farming community to try to halt this decline.

The support from volunteer surveyors in recent years has led to a targeted approach centred on 27 areas within the UK based on farmland bird records collated over recent years. Within the Fens focus area we aim to monitor populations of the 10 most declining farmland birds. This will involve providing high quality bird surveys to farmers within the focus areas and will enable the advice our advisors subsequently deliver to be measured. This project allies the enthusiasm of RSPB volunteers with the willingness of farmers who are interested in doing more for the birds and nature on their farms.

Essential requirements include

- 1) Able to identify all common bird species and especially farmland birds by sight and sound and attend a training day on 3rd or 4th April.
- 2) Able to walk several kilometres over rough ground and to read large-scale maps.
- 3) Able to deal directly with farmers in a polite and friendly manner.
- 4) Able to organise own travel to and from farm and to keep data confidential.

Knowledge and experience of territory mapping using standard symbols, previous bird survey experience would be an advantage although training on survey methodology will be given.

RSPB will reimburse you for out of pocket travel expenses and provide you with training and ongoing support in your role. See the full RSPB advert on the club website.

Please contact: Katy Froud, Tel: 01603 697592 E-mail: katy.froud@rspb.org.uk

Wader Tales

Graham Appleton recently emailed us to say, "We are trying to provide feedback to people who have reported colour-ringed black-tailed godwits, not just when they see the birds but also when papers get published. Blogs are one way to do this so we have set up *WaderTales* to turn science into readable articles. The latest blog 'Godwits and Godwiteers' talks about the movements of BTG around East Anglia - with a special mention for the Fens, of course. It is already the most widely-read *WaderTales* blog but we are looking for ways to promote it." Check it out at <https://wadertales.wordpress.com/2016/02/01/godwits-and-godwiteers/>

Not only does this seem very appropriate to us, considering the club's emblem, but there is a wealth of other fascinating information on this blog with posts since September 2015 on a range of species and wader related topics. *Eds*

Cambridgeshire Bird Club Garden Bird Survey

To everybody that sent in results to the Cambridgeshire Bird Club Summer Garden Bird Survey 2015 I would like to extend a very big thank you. The survey was acknowledged to be quite a challenge as the trees leafed up and the many activities of the summer months gave observers less time to do the survey. However, the results have given a wonderful baseline for the birds of the gardens in Cambridgeshire in summer.

There were 33 results submitted, 21 rural gardens and 12 urban. The highest number of species seen in any one garden was from a rural garden (52), whilst from an urban garden it was 34. A few of the species were late winter visitors, Brambling, Fieldfare and Redwing still around at the beginning of March. There was one record of a Nuthatch visiting a garden, which stood out as being the only species on the given list for the winter not to be actually recorded in the 2014-15 winter survey.

Twenty one species that were not on the original given list were seen. These included: Tree Sparrow, Red-Legged Partridge, Yellow Wagtail, Cuckoo, Treecreeper, Fieldfare, Redwing, Buzzard, Garden Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Lesser Whitethroat, Pied Flycatcher, Red Kite, Turtle Dove, Marsh Tit, Sedge Warbler, Linnet, Black-headed Gull, Siskin, Brambling and Little Owl. Also a Racing Pigeon came down in one garden. This domestic species may have been a resting racing bird or may have been one that had left its loft more permanently; it is added for completeness just as the exotic escapes from collections are added to the club's records.

The survey results for both the winter 2014-15 and the summer 2015 are being placed in the county records. In particular I would like to thank Tony Roberts for inputting all of the data onto the bird club report forms, as the surveys have generated a very large number of records from across the county. A big thank you too, to all that are taking part in the Winter Garden Bird Survey 2015-2016. I look forward to seeing the results as they come in. If you would like to do this summer's survey all the details are on the Cambridgeshire Bird Club website.

Rebecca Buisson

Annual Report - help needed

We are seeking a new Production Editor for the Annual Report. After five years in the role, Ali Cooper is standing down. She has worked intensely hard on attaining the high standard that we have seen in recent editions, and has helped move the production process forward in a professional way. The templates and systems she has developed, and her offer to go through the process, should make transition to a new post holder relatively smooth. The Report is produced with InDesign, and we are really looking for someone with experience in this software. Please contact Vince Lea to discuss.

Indoor meetings

Friday 8th April, Cottenham Village College, 7.30 for 8 pm

Bewick's Swans in Northwest Europe: Addressing a population decline by Eileen Rees

Eileen's talk will focus on WWT research on the declining Bewick's Swan population and will also outline WWT's involvement in Bewick's Swan research, beginning with initial observations made by Sir Peter Scott. Eileen has worked on wildfowl research and conservation projects at WWT for over 30 years, since joining the organisation in the late 1970s to continue the long-term study of Bewick's Swans wintering at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire. During this time she has been active in promoting international research programmes along migratory flyways, including a collaborative study of the Icelandic Whooper Swan population, and the Anglo-Russian study of Bewick's Swan

breeding biology. She is Chair of the IUCN-SSC/Wetlands International Swan Specialist Group, and also of the Bewick's Swan Expert Group responsible for implementation of the AEWA (African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement) Bewick's Swan Action Plan. Recent studies include tracking swan migration in relation to wind farm development and, with WWT partners and international colleagues, determining the reasons for the Bewick's Swan population decline. Her "Bewick's Swan" book was published as a Poyser Monograph in 2006.

Friday 13th May, Cottenham Village College 7.30 for 8 pm

A Very Fine Swan Indeed: Art, science and the unfeathered bird by Katrina Von Grouw

The book, *The Unfeathered Bird*, originally intended as a manual for bird artists, has been 25 years in the making. Only much later did it blossom into something far more ambitious. A world away from textbooks and diagrams, this is a work equally intended for scientists and artists, indeed anyone with an appreciation of birds or an interest in their adaptations and behaviour. It includes illustrations of 200 species, all made from actual specimens, many in lifelike positions. Virtually all the complete skeletons were prepared and reconstructed at home from specimens donated from zoos, wildlife hospitals and conservation charities. Join Katrina as she explains her aims and inspirations, shares her insights about birds beneath their feathers, and relates how her home was turned upside down as more and more specimens joined the queue. Katrina van Grouw is a graduate of the Royal College of Art. Her formal education was in Printmaking and Natural History Illustration, but she's also a dedicated ornithologist, a former Natural History Museum curator, a qualified bird ringer, and an experienced preparator of natural history specimens.

Outdoor Meetings

Nene Washes Friday 27th May at 7.00 pm

This is an excellent site for breeding waders and ducks, black-tailed godwits, snipe, lapwings and redshanks, and shovelers, gadwalls and garganeys; there will be opportunities to listen for corncrakes and spotted crakes for those wishing to stay late. Booking is essential as numbers may be limited and the meeting point may change; provisionally it is at the gate on the Low Wash drove TL279991; turn off the B1040 at TL273985 100m north of the Little Bridge and park at gate. Please contact Vicki Harley to book.

Friday 8th July - Ely Beet pits

No need to book, but meeting time and location tbc. The Ely wildspace birders, including Duncan Poyser, will lead a guided walk around the Ely pits complex, and may, weather permitting, arrange a bird ringing demo. Optional adjournment to The Fountain Inn after the walk will result in a birdy quiz and other socialising.

Friday 12th August - Paxton Pits north

Places limited, please book with Louise Bacon. Meeting place and arrangements will be supplied to those booked on the trip.

Photo of the Year 2015

Congratulations once again to Garth Peacock, who took top place with his shot of Spotted Flycatchers. Check out the website to see his winning entry and the excellent runners-up shots.

New Members

We welcome Tony & Ann Gales of Henham Essex, Ken Button of West Wellow Hampshire, Annika Bratt of Cambridge, and Ian Dawson of St Neots.

Club Contacts

Chair: Vince Lea Tel: 01223 263962 chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

Secretary: Michael Holdsworth Tel: 01223 476643 secretary@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

Treasurer: Roger Swain swainrog@aol.com

Annual Report Editor: Vince Lea (acting) chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

County Recorder: Louise Bacon Tel: 01223 263962 recorder@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

Meetings Secretary: Vicki Harley Tel: 01954 250340 vicki.harley@care4free.net

Research Officer: Rob Pople research@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

Bulletin Editors: Peter Bircham (e-Bulletin) Chris Brown (paper editions)

cbcbulletin@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk or write to CB at 200 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1NE.

Membership Secretary: Clive Sinclair Tel : 01223 263509 membership@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

Website: Chris Quy webmaster@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

Other Council Members: Ali Cooper, Mike Foley

The Cambridgeshire Bird Club exists to promote the conservation of birds and their habitats in the county, identify areas of conservation value, and advance the education of the public in the study of birds.
www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk

The editors would welcome contributions to the E-Bulletin and print edition, on topics such as identification problems, behaviour, summaries of club talks, and book reviews. Contact us at cbcbulletin@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk, and use this address to let us know if you would like to receive your bulletin in e-mail format rather than paper.

Bird Records, sightings and news

If you have seen a scarce or local bird, please submit the news to the '[What's about](#)' page on the Club website via [Pete and Paul](#) who maintain an up-to-date selection of recent highlights. You can also report interesting sightings on the [Cambirds](#) email group (not run by the Club, but we access the records).

Full lists of your records should continue to be submitted monthly, either via BirdTrack by the end of the month in question, or to **Louise Bacon** the County Recorder, preferably using the [spreadsheet](#) available on the Records section of the website, **by the 5th of the following month**. There is no need to duplicate records across both channels.

GOOD BIRDING!