

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB Bulletin No. 452



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

## Welcome to the May / June 2017 Edition

### RECENT BIRD REPORTS – *Headlines*

**HONEY BUZZARD\*** **June:** one found dead at an undisclosed site, on or around the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**CATTLE EGRET\*** **May:** Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1<sup>st</sup> and Eldernell on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**WHITE STORK\*** **May:** Hilton one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and other dates was considered to be an escaped bird.

**SPOONBILL** **May:** Berry Fen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, March Farmers on the 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

**BLACK-WINGED STILT\*** **May:** Ouse Washes on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and briefly on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 10<sup>th</sup>, Berry Fen on 11<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 2 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Witcham 2 flyovers on 13<sup>th</sup>. **June:**

*Ouse Washes a pair nested and the chicks left the nest; encouragingly they were still alive and growing at the end of the month. This is the first successful breeding in the county in a sequence of attempts going back to 1983; most have failed at the egg stage due to predation.*

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** **May:** Ouse Washes Witcham Gravel on the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Ouse Washes on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**ARCTIC SKUA\*** **June:** Thorney Toll one on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**GULL-BILLED TERN\*** **May:** Ouse Washes on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on the 15<sup>th</sup>; *assuming this record is accepted and also that it involves the same bird, it will be the first record for Cambridgeshire.*

**NIGHTJAR\*** **June:** Ouse Washes on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**WRYNECK** **May:** Witcham Gravel on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**RED-FOOTED FALCON\*** **May:** Fen Drayton Lakes a female from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen a male on 12<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Fowlmere NR a female on 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.

**SAVI'S WARBLER\*** **May:** Wicken Fen one singing on the 31<sup>st</sup>. **June:** Wicken Fen the bird from the 31<sup>st</sup> May was heard on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ***Other Reports***

Records in this bulletin are unchecked and may be revised at a later date. Asterisks indicate species for which it is necessary to send a description to the County Recorder for records to be accepted. The term 'reported from' gives an indication of distribution. Some species give maxima when a number of counts have been received. Where no numbers are given the record relates to a single bird. Occasionally the abbreviations M and F and 'max' are used.

Weather: May began with cool north-easterly winds, followed by a change to a westerly airstream which brought some rain and an inflow of migrants. In the middle of the month the rain gave way to a southerly hot and humid air stream and temperatures well into the 20s. June began with a typical early summer mixture of light showers and sunshine; the middle of the month then became unusually hot with temperatures in the 30s for five consecutive days, with Cambridgeshire being among the hottest spots in England. A gradual breakdown at the end of the third week led to some very heavy downpours and in some places a month's rain fell in a single day; this was followed by a more typical pattern of sunshine, cloud and showers.

## Wildfowl

**Mute Swan** **May:** Ouse Washes 165 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen maximum 45 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Eaton Ford 43 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 10 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** **May:** Ouse Washes 5 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 21<sup>st</sup>. **June:** Nene Washes on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**White-fronted Goose** **May:** Ouse Washes on the 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Greylag Goose** **May:** Kingfishers Bridge 140+ on 4<sup>th</sup> half being chicks, Burwell Fen maximum 72 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen max 35 on 21<sup>st</sup> (17 young). **June:** Littleport May Farm 17 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Whittlesford GP 40 + 8 young on 8<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 16 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm max 35 on 28<sup>th</sup> with a crèche of 15 young on 6<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP 216 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester GP 250+ on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** **May:** Kingfishers Bridge 170+ on the 6<sup>th</sup> including 90 chicks, Burwell Fen max 18 on 16<sup>th</sup> (bred), Chippenham Fen 11 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen max 20 on 26<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Ferry Meadows CP 37 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen max 10 (bred), Trumpington Clay Farm max 24 +3 young on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Barnacle Goose** **June:** Whittlesford GP 5 on the island on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Egyptian Goose** **May:** Ouse Washes 6 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 11 on 12<sup>th</sup> including 6 juveniles, Burwell Fen 2 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 all month. **June:** Paxton Pits 5 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Trumpington Clay Farm 3 on 28<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 all month.

**Shelduck** **May:** Ouse Washes 50+ on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 9 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen maximum 32 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Research Park 2 on 21<sup>st</sup>. **June:** Burwell Fen 2 on 21<sup>st</sup> (brood of 7) and 12+ with several broods on 25<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Mandarin** **May:** Berry Fen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Barton 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Linton one with ducklings on 11<sup>th</sup>, Wimpole Park 3 on 20<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Linton 5 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Eye Green LNR on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Grafham Water a drake on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Wigeon** **May:** Paxton Pits a male on the 1<sup>st</sup> and a pair on 11<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes c50 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a drake on 16<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Paxton Pits a drake on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Gadwall** **May:** Wicken Fen max 39 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 120+ (mostly males) on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen max 32 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Kingfishers Bridge 55+ on 25<sup>th</sup> including 8 chicks.

**Teal** **May:** Paxton Pits 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 pairs on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes c100 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 20+ on 1<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen 27 on 10<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Littleport May Farm 8+ all month.

**Mallard** **May:** Kingfishers Bridge 97 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen max 96 on 26<sup>th</sup> (39 young), Burwell Fen 53 on 29<sup>th</sup> (11 pairs). **June:** Fowlmere NR (at least 4 broods), Wicken Fen 77 on 14<sup>th</sup> (2 broods of 8), Burwell Fen 34 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Granta Park c70 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 450+ all month.

**Pintail** **May:** Ouse Washes 8 on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Garganey** **May:** reported from Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Ouse Washes (5), Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen (9) and Woodwalton Fen. **June:** also reported from the Nene Washes.

**Shoveler** **May:** Ouse Washes c30 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Paxton Pits 5 drakes on 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 drakes on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 12 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen maximum 14 on 13<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Littleport May Farm 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits a drake on 4<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen (brood of 5), Wicken Fen 13 on 14<sup>th</sup> (brood of 10).

**Red-crested Pochard** **May:** Ouse Washes and Coveney Byall Fen a drake on the 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Pochard** **May:** Cambridge Research Park 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 14+ on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 11 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits a drake up to 11<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 40 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Paxton Pits 5 drakes on 4<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen 3 on 14<sup>th</sup> (bred), Littleport May Farm a female all month.

**Tufted Duck** **May:** reported from Burwell Fen (9), Fowlmere NR (2), Kingfishers Bridge (36+), Fen Drayton Lakes (33), Littleport May Farm (10+) and Wicken Fen (2 pairs). **June:** also at Colne Fen GP (30), Bradley Fen (28), Paxton Pits (brood of 6), Trumpington Clay Farm (15), and Whittlesford GP.

**Common Scoter** **June:** Grafham Water a female on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldeneye** **May:** Fen Drayton Lakes a drake occasionally from 1<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-breasted Merganser** **May:** Grafham Water a male on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Goosander** **June:** Trumpington Clay Farm on 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Gamebirds

**Grey Partridge** **May:** reported from Mepal, Nine Wells, Grafham Water, Quy Fen and Littleport May Farm 20+ all month. **June:** also at Abbotsley and Coveney Byall Fen.

**Quail** **May:** Fleam Dyke one calling on the 11<sup>th</sup> – *the first of the year*, Swaffham Prior on 31<sup>st</sup>. **June:** Swaffham Prior one calling on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Orwell one calling on 17<sup>th</sup>, Heydon 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Cormorants egrets herons and grebes

**Cormorant** **May:** reported from Burwell Fen (6), Paxton Pits (10 nests), and Fen Drayton Lakes (20). **June:** reported from Paxton Pits (60), Burwell Fen (2), Fowlmere NR, and Whittlesford GP (2).

**Bittern** **May:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes, Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Fen, Kings Dyke NR, and Wicken Fen. **June:** reported from Nene Washes, Kings Dyke NR, Burwell Fen and Wicken Fen.

**Little Egret** **May:** reported from Cambridge Research Park (2), Ouse Washes (max 40), Paxton Pits (5) and Wicken Fen (10). **June:** reported from Burwell Fen (34), Fowlmere NR (3), Littleport May Farm (2), Trumpington Clay Farm, Whittlesford GP and Wicken Fen (20+ on many dates).

**Great White Egret** **May:** Fen Drayton Lakes on the 10<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Ouse Washes on 11<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Grebe** **May:** reported from Burwell Fen (10), Cambridge West Lake (6), Kings Dyke NR (6), Littleport May Farm (15+), Colne Fen GP (7), and Wicken Fen (2 pairs). **June:** also at Fowlmere NR, Trumpington Clay Farm (3), Cambourne (bred), and Gt Eversden (bred).

**Great Crested Grebe** **May:** reported from Drysides BP (18), Fen Drayton Lakes (16), Grafham Water (c30), Burwell Fen (a pair), Littleport May Farm (4) and Wicken Fen. **June:** reported from Cambourne (2), Colne Fen GP (10), and Littleport May Farm (4).

**Red-necked Grebe** **May:** Bradley Fen on 1<sup>st</sup> and on **June** 30<sup>th</sup>.



*Red Kites at an undisclosed site: photo by Gary Thornton*

Raptors

**Red Kite** **May:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes, Littleport May Farm (3), Paxton Pits (3) and Wicken Fen. **June:** Norman Cross 36 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water 5 on 10<sup>th</sup>, and 1 – 2 at a range of sites including Fowlmere NR, Over, Cambridge, Cam Washes, Witcham, and Little Downham.

**Marsh Harrier** **May:** reported from Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Lt Wilbraham Fen, Nene Washes, Littleport May Farm (6), Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes and Wicken Fen (5). **June:** also at Fowlmere NR, and Wimpole.

**Sparrowhawk** **May:** reported from Great Shelford (displaying), Littleport May Farm (4), Paxton Pits (3), Hardwick Wood, Barton, Eaton Ford, Ferry Meadows CP and Wicken Fen. **June:** also at Comberton and Chesterton Cambridge.

**Buzzard May:** reported from Burwell Fen, Great Shelford (3), Grafham Water (10), Foxton (10), Littleport May Farm (6), Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits, Six Mile Bottom, Snailwell, Swaffham Prior and Wicken Fen. **June:** also at Chippenham Fen (2), Fowlmere NR (3), Little Shelford, Newton, Pampisford, Mepal, Witcham, and Swaffham Bulbeck.

**Osprey May:** Peterborough on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wicken Fen on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Paxton Pits on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes a flyover on 9<sup>th</sup>, Brampton a flyover on 14<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 16<sup>th</sup>, and Littleport on 24<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Grafham Water on 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### Rails and crane

**Water Rail May:** widely reported from wetland sites: Nene Washes, Ouse Washes, Chippenham Fen, Burwell Fen, Lt Wilbraham Fen, Woodwalton Fen, Littleport May Farm (6+), Ferry Meadows CP and Wicken Fen. **June:** also Fowlmere NR (bred) and Kings Dyke NR.

**Corn Crane May:** Nene Washes on 6<sup>th</sup> - *the first report*, 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Nene Washes 10 on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Moorhen May:** Stanground Wash 15 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen maximum 7 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Farcet 15 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 3 broods on 28<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 40+ all month.

**Coot May:** Ouse Washes 100+ on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Burwell Fen 165 on 5<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Colne Fen GP 123 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 111 on 21<sup>st</sup> (6 young), Kingfishers Bridge 123 plus 6 broods on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Crane May:** Ouse Washes 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Nene Washes March Farmers max 10 on 4<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Ouse Washes 2 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, unsuccessful breeding at another site (predation).

#### Waders

**Avocet May:** Ouse Washes 12 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 23 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 16 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water on 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen on 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 10<sup>th</sup>; pairs / possible breeding reported at 4 sites. **June:** Ouse Washes max 30 on 16<sup>th</sup> (several pairs bred), Littleport May Farm 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> (nest predated), Wicken Fen 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Oystercatcher May:** reported from Burwell Fen (2) and Paxton Pits (4). **June:** reported from Cottenham Long Drove, Grafham Water, Littleport May Farm (4), and Paxton Pits.

**Grey Plover May:** Berry Fen 3 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, March Farmers 3 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>, one on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 14 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 16 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. **June:** March Farmers on 7<sup>th</sup>. *Passage began on April 9<sup>th</sup> and continued until May 17<sup>th</sup>, with the peak in the first few days of May.*

**Ringed Plover May:** Berry Fen 8+ on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes c10 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 28 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 on 7<sup>th</sup>, one on 21<sup>st</sup>, Paxton Pits on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 4 on 6<sup>th</sup>, March Farmers 19 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen one on 6<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 3 on 17<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Littleport May Farm 2 all month.

**Little Ringed Plover May:** reported from Berry Fen (3), Coveney Byall Fen (4), Kingfishers Bridge (3), Ouse Washes (2), and Paxton Pits (3). **June:** Fowlmere NR from 22<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 24<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 30<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 29<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 7 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing May:** reported from Ouse Washes (75+), Mepal Airfield (max 16), Burwell Fen (10), Cambridge Research Park, Paxton Pits (6) and Wicken Fen (20). **June:** Burwell Fen c200 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 125 on 29<sup>th</sup>, Witchford 72 on 14<sup>th</sup> and Wicken Fen (34 on 14<sup>th</sup>); small numbers at several other sites, of which 7 reported breeding attempts.

**Whimbrel May:** March Farmers on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes on 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 17<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR a flyover on 6<sup>th</sup>, Maxey GP 4 over on 9<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 4 on 15<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Grafham Water 2 on 17<sup>th</sup>. *Peak passage was 13 on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, but with a tail of ones and twos through to May 17<sup>th</sup>.*

**Curlew May:** March Farmers on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge and Linton on 29<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Fowlmere NR on 15<sup>th</sup> (*unusual to see records from the south of the County*) then fly-overs at Hemingford Grey, the Devil's Dyke and Chesterton Cambridge on 25<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 29<sup>th</sup> and Eaton Ford on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-tailed Godwit May:** Paxton Pits 6 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Berry Fen 4 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes 36 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen 18 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 6 on 9<sup>th</sup>. **June:** a possible return passage of *islandica* race birds: Burwell Fen on 25<sup>th</sup>, Mepal 17 over on 27<sup>th</sup>, Maxey GP 25 on 26<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **A Summary of wader passage in May**

Overall, wader passage was marginally earlier than in 2016 with the peak in numbers from May 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>, whereas in 2016 the peak was on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>GPI</b>	21	14		13	8	24	6	2		1	2	1		1			1
<b>RPI</b>	8	11			11	56	15				2			1		2	5
<b>Whim</b>	4	2			2	5	2		4	1					4		2
<b>Bar</b>	5	1		7		1	3										
<b>Ru</b>	10				7	10	3			2							
<b>Sand</b>	1		1		1	2	1		1					1			
<b>Dun</b>	17	16			14	24	9	7	2			1		2	3		1
<b>CS</b>	2			3	1	1	5	1	1	1		2				1	
<b>Gsk</b>	20	10		21	57	26	29	10	4	8	7	1	1	3	1		
<b>WS</b>	5	5	9	19	16	9	15	17	2	3					2		

From the top: Grey Plover, Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Sanderling, Dunlin, Common Sandpiper, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper.

**Bar-tailed Godwit May:** Eaton Ford a flyover on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 1<sup>st</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 1<sup>st</sup>, one on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 flew over on 4<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes a flyover on 4<sup>th</sup>, March Farmers on 6<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 3 over on 7<sup>th</sup>. *Light passage peaked with 5 – 6 on April 30<sup>th</sup> and was over by May 7<sup>th</sup>.*

**Turnstone May:** Ouse Washes on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, March Farmers 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Berry Fen on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 8<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 18<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Knot May:** Fen Drayton Lakes on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruff May:** Ouse Washes 12 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 6 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen 4 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 9 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Wicken Fen on 20<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 22<sup>nd</sup>. *Passage peaked on April 21<sup>st</sup> (48), 22<sup>nd</sup> (52), 24<sup>th</sup> (58), and 28<sup>th</sup> (30), with only small numbers in May.*

**Sanderling May:** Berry Fen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Maxey GP on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ouse Washes on 5<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, March Farmers on 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen on 8<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 3 on 12<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Paxton Pits on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin May:** Berry Fen 3 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 9 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 23 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 13 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 17 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen on 6<sup>th</sup>, March Farmers 4 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen 2 on 6<sup>th</sup> and one on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR on 12<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper May:** singles or 2s reported from 10 sites throughout the month, max Fen Drayton Lakes (3). **June:** Littleport May Farm on 11<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes on 12<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper May:** reported from Fowlmere NR and Littleport May Farm. **June:** reported from Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen, Drysides BP, Kings Dyke NR, Etton GP, and Bradley Fen, mostly singles between 12<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, then Burwell Fen (7 on 30<sup>th</sup>).

**Spotted Redshank May:** Ouse Washes on the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenshank** March Farmers 4 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes 10+ on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 35 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 5 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 over on 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Fen on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, one on 7<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen 17 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm on 6<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 4 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Maxey GP on 9<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Wicken Fen on 31<sup>st</sup>. *Passage peaked from April 28<sup>th</sup> (15) to May 5<sup>th</sup> (57).*

**Wood Sandpiper May:** Ouse Washes 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen 9 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 14 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11+ on 5<sup>th</sup>, 7+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, 11 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 17 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 3 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR a flyover on 6<sup>th</sup> then on 9<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>. *Passage began on April 30<sup>th</sup> and continued until May 15<sup>th</sup>, with the peak period being May 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, and just one late report on 25<sup>th</sup>. Either side of those dates, just 1 – 5 birds reported.*

**Redshank May:** reported from Ouse Washes (10), Kingfishers Bridge (14+), Etton GP (2), Burwell Fen (2), Coveney Byall Fen (6), Littleport May Farm (6), Paxton Pits (4) and Wicken Fen (11). **June:** at similar sites plus Ouse Washes (4 juveniles) and Paxton Pits (42 plus 2 young).

**Woodcock May:** Littleport May Farm 4 all month. **June:** reported from Chippenham Fen (3 roding), and Wicken Fen (one roding), Woodwalton Fen (one roding), and Littleport May Farm (4).

**Snipe May:** reported from Coveney Byall Fen (6), Fowlmere NR (4), Littleport May Farm (10+), Ouse Washes (10+), Nene Washes (8), Paxton Pits and Wicken Fen. **June:** reported from Cottenham Long Drove, Littleport May Farm (10+), and Wicken Fen (3 drumming).

#### Terns and gulls

**Little Tern May:** Peterborough one in flight towards Fletton BP on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Tern May:** Ferry Meadows CP 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 on 12<sup>th</sup>, one on 27<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes c20 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 8 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 5<sup>th</sup>, Shropshire's reservoir Stretham on 4<sup>th</sup>, Fletton Lake 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Grafham Water 3 on 27<sup>th</sup>. *Passage began on April 18<sup>th</sup> and peaked on April 30<sup>th</sup> when 73 birds were reported. In May smaller numbers continued to pass through until the 27<sup>th</sup>.*

**Common Tern May:** reported from Ferry Meadows CP (51), Paxton Pits (75), Fen Drayton Lakes (60), Kings Dyke NR (22), and Grafham Water (28). **June:** reported from Paxton Pits (32), Fen Drayton Lakes (30+), Littleport May Farm (6, but nest predated) and Trumpington Clay Farm (2).

**Arctic Tern May:** Fletton Lake 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes on 12 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Shropshire's reservoir Stretham on 4<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits on 8<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 5 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

*As with Black Tern, Arctic Tern passage peaked around the final few days of April having begun on the 15<sup>th</sup> e.g. 24<sup>th</sup> (103), 25<sup>th</sup> (40), 27<sup>th</sup> (96); from 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May numbers were much smaller.*

**Black-headed Gull May:** Fen Drayton Lakes 500 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Paxton Pits 250 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month. **June:** also reported from Burwell Fen (14) and Trumpington Clay Farm (14).

**Little Gull May:** Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull May:** Ferry Meadows CP on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 on 6<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Gull May:** Paxton Pits 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water 14 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 6 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**June:** Littleport May Farm 5 – 6 all month.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull May:** Kingfishers Bridge 9 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 30 on 6<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Fowlmere NR 6 on 7<sup>th</sup>, Chippenham Fen 5 over on 13<sup>th</sup>, Godmanchester GP c10 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Witchford 99 on 16<sup>th</sup>, Bradley Fen 120 on 30<sup>th</sup>, Drysides BP 40 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Herring Gull May:** Fowlmere NR a flyover on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 5 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Nene Washes 6 on 19<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 3 – 4 all month. **June:** Witchford 12 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull May:** Foxton on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Paxton Pits 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ouse Washes on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Paxton Pits 3 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Cottenham Long Drove 4 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Grafham Water 5 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Caspian Gull May:** Coveney Byall Fen on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Black-backed Gull May:** Kingfishers Bridge 6 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Nene Washes on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ouse Washes on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen 4 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Grafham Water on 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Doves, cuckoo, owls and kingfisher

**Stock Dove May:** Fen Drayton Lakes 26 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 30+ all month. **June:** Witchford 25 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Colne Fen GP 24 on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Collared Dove June:** Stanground Wash 34 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Littleport May Farm 50 – 60 all month.

**Turtle Dove May:** reported from 20 sites, of which 7 reported calling / purring; sites included Cam Washes, Gt Wilbraham Common, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Orton BP, Maxey GP, Paxton Pits and Witcam. **June:** further reports from 7 of these sites and from 10 new locations including Fleam Dyke, Godmanchester, Haddenham, Heydon, Needingworth Lakes, and St Ives.

**Cuckoo May:** reported from Chippenham Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes (4), Fowlmere NR, Great Fen, Knapwell Grange Farm, Littleport May Farm (3), Little Wilbraham Fen, March Farmers (4), Maxey GP, Ouse Washes, Orton BP, Paxton Pits (6), Woodwalton Fen (4), Wicken Fen (3) and Fen Drayton

Lake (an 'hepatic' on the 29<sup>th</sup>). **June:** reported from Burwell Fen, Clayhithe, Duxford Grange, Littleport May Farm (3), Ouse Washes (3+), Paxton Pits (2), Wicken Fen (5+ including an 'hepatic').  
**Barn Owl May:** reported from Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Coveney Byall Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Littleport May Farm (6), Little Wilbraham Fen, Turves, Stow cum Quy and Six Mile Bottom. **June:** also at Fowlmere NR, Caxton, Warboys, Cambridge Clarendon Road, and Wicken Fen.  
**Little Owl May:** Bottisham Fen on the 28<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm (4). **June:** reported from West Cambridge (bred), Kingfishers Bridge (bred), Ramsey St Mary's, and Chatteris.  
**Tawny Owl May:** reported from 10 sites including Buff Wood, Ditton Park Wood, Bedford Purlieu, and Cambridge Jesus Green. **June:** reported from a further 5 sites including Wimpole (bred).  
**Long-eared Owl May:** Lt Wilbraham Fen on 27<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Brampton Wood on 15<sup>th</sup>.  
**Short-eared Owl May:** Foxton on 1<sup>st</sup>, Nene Washes on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cottenham on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Witcham on 13<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 all month. **June:** Nene Washes on 1<sup>st</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 all month.  
**Swift May:** Fen Drayton Lakes 20+ on the 1<sup>st</sup>, reported widely on 5<sup>th</sup> for example 36 at Burwell Fen, Ouse Washes 100+ on 6<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 300+ on 8<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes 400 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP c150 on 20<sup>th</sup>. **June:** no large counts, Fowlmere NR 20 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 20 all month.  
**Kingfisher May:** reported from Fowlmere NR (bred), Littleport May Farm (6), Paxton Pits (2), Hinxton, and Wicken Fen. **June:** also at Kingfishers Bridge (3), River Cam Byron's Pool (2) and Toft.

#### Falcons and parrots

**Kestrel May:** Cam Washes 3 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 3 on 10<sup>th</sup>. **June:** breeding reports from Bourn, Longstowe, and Littleport May Farm (8+ all month).  
**Hobby May:** reported from Chippenham Fen (1+), Barleycraft GP, Cambridge Research Park, Cam Washes, Fen Drayton Lakes (5+), Fowlmere NR, Great Fen, March Farmers, Ouse Fen (10), Ouse Washes (2 – 3) and Wicken Fen (10). *Exceptionally 23 reported in the area of Paxton Pits/Buckden Marina on the 20<sup>th</sup>; this was not quite the county record which is 25 at Wicken Fen in May 2008.* **June:** also at Ditton Park Wood, Offord, Orton Goldhay and Paxton Pits (5+).  
**Peregrine May:** reported from 7 sites, from Castor Mill down to Cambridge, including one pair nesting on a pylon. **June:** reports from 6 sites with 2 pairs feeding chicks.  
**Ring-necked Parakeet June:** Peterborough on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Corvids

**Magpie May:** Cambridge Coldhams Common c20 on 24<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 20+ all month. **June:** groups of 10+ at Nine Wells, Witchford, Kings Dyke NR and Littleport May Farm.  
**Jay May:** Bedford Purlieu 5 on 10<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Kingfishers Bridge 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
**Jackdaw May:** Burwell Fen 26 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Fen Drayton Lakes c40 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Paxton Pits 58 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm (200+). **June:** Chippenham Fen a roost of c500 Jackdaws and Rooks on 13<sup>th</sup>.  
**Rook May:** Littleport May Farm (200+). **June:** Saxon Street 100 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere NR 100 on 24<sup>th</sup>.  
**Carrion Crow May:** Cambridge Coldhams Common 30+ on the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
**Raven May:** Fen Drayton on 7<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm on 21<sup>st</sup>. **June:** Hatley St George 3 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### Tits and larks

**Coal Tit May:** 7 reports, maximum Ditton Park Wood 6 on 10<sup>th</sup>.  
**Marsh Tit May:** reported from Paxton Pits, Ditton Park Wood (bred), Buff Wood, Woodwalton Fen.  
**Bearded Tit May:** reported from Ouse Fen, Kingfishers Bridge, Lt Wilbraham Fen, and Wicken Fen.  
**Skylark May:** Nine Wells 46 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Fowlmere 24 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Yaxley Lode 31 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 40+ all month. **June:** Witchford 18 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Coploe Hill 14 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Hirundines and Warblers

**Sand Martin May:** Ferry Meadows CP 80 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 70+ on 16<sup>th</sup>, 30+ at Fen Drayton Lakes, Tanholt GP and Colne Fen GP. **June:** Kings Dyke NR 30+ roosting on 9<sup>th</sup>.  
**Swallow May:** Foxton SW 150 on 1<sup>st</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 250 on 8<sup>th</sup>, Coveney Byall Fen 66 on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**House Martin** **May:** reports from 13 sites, maxima at Foxton SW 150 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP 130 on 9<sup>th</sup> and Paxton Pits 60 on 8<sup>th</sup>. **June:** St Neots 50 nest building on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Cetti's Warbler** **May:** reported from Cambridge Research Park (2), Cam Washes, Fen Drayton Lakes (6), Little Wilbraham Fen (2), March Farmers, Ouse Fen, and Orton BP (5). **June:** also at Littleport May Farm (4), Paxton Pits (3), St Neots (several), Wicken Fen (20), Block Fen GP (3), Kingfishers Bridge (4), Grafham Water and Drysides BP (4).

**Garden Warbler** **May:** Fen Drayton Lakes c20 singers on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Ditton Park Wood 10 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Holme Fen 8 on 10<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Barleycraft GP 10 singing on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Lesser Whitethroat** **May:** reported from 16 sites, Mepal Airfield 5 on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Whitethroat** **May:** Fen Drayton Lakes 21 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 11 singing on 10<sup>th</sup>, and 9 sites reported more than 5 territories.

**Grasshopper Warbler** **May:** reported from Cam Washes, Chippenham Fen (9), Fen Drayton Lakes (3 – 4), Fowlmere NR, Little Wilbraham Fen, Ouse Fen (3), Tubney Fen and Witcham (2). **June:** also at Littleport May Farm (4), St Neots, Woodwalton Fen (3) and Wicken Fen (4).

**Reed Warbler** **May:** Lt Wilbraham Fen 22 singing on 9<sup>th</sup>, Cam Washes 21 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Burwell Fen 18 on 29<sup>th</sup>, and several other sites reporting 10 – 20 birds.

#### Nuthatch, starling and thrushes

**Nuthatch** **June:** Witchford on the 11<sup>th</sup> – *unusual in fenland*.

**Starling** **May:** Littleport May Farm 100+ all month. **June:** Burwell Fen c115 on 21<sup>st</sup>, Fowlmere NR a roost of 100 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ring Ouzel** **May:** Paxton Pits 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, Knapwell RSPB Grange Farm on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cambridge Research Park on 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, Maxey GP a female on 8<sup>th</sup> and one on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Fieldfare** **May:** Foxton, March Farmers and Witcham (2) all on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge on 6<sup>th</sup>, and the last at Witcham on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Flycatcher** **May:** Fowlmere NR on the 10<sup>th</sup> – *the first report*, Gt Wilbraham and Ouse Fen on 13<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 14<sup>th</sup>, and then regular reports; *see Project Update on page 10*.

**Nightingale** **May:** reported from Castor Hanglands (5), Sutton, Grafham Water, Woodwalton Fen, Barleycraft GP, Swaffham Prior (Devil's Dyke), and Wicken Fen (2). **June:** also at Paxton Pits (2).

#### Starts and chats

**Black Redstart** **May:** Ouse Washes a female by the pumping station on the 7<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Fordham area (bred), Cambridge a male on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Whinchat** **May:** Paxton Pits on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Wicken Fen 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> and one on 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Meadows CP on 7<sup>th</sup>, Comberton Westfield Farm on 10<sup>th</sup>, Knapwell Grange Farm on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Stonechat** **May:** Coates (bred), Littleport May Farm 2 – 3 all month. **June:** Burwell Fen 2 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Wheatear** **May:** Paxton Pits 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Barrington on 4<sup>th</sup>, Wicken Fen on 6<sup>th</sup>, Peterborough Fitzwilliam Bridge on 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Knapwell Grange Farm on 18<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes on 21<sup>st</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 – 3 until 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Sparrows, wagtails and pipits

**House Sparrow** **May:** Littleport May Farm 25+ all month.

**Tree Sparrow** **May & June:** Littleport Redmere Farm up to 100 and Ouse Washes 4 throughout.

**Yellow Wagtail** **May:** Foxton SW maximum 10 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Cam Washes 8 on 13<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 20+ all month. **June:** Abbotsley 7 on 19<sup>th</sup> (bred).

**Blue-headed Wagtail** **May:** Eltisley a male on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Ouse Washes another on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail** **May:** reported from Fowlmere NR, Paxton Pits, and Lode / Anglesey Abbey (2 pairs). **June:** reported from Fowlmere NR (2) and Granta Park (bred).

**White Wagtail** **May:** Grafham Water on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Witcham on 13<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 2 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Meadow Pipit** **May:** Wicken Fen 2 pairs on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 100+ all month. **June:** Wicken Fen 5 on 14<sup>th</sup>, Mepal Airfield 4 singing on 1<sup>st</sup>, Devil's Dyke 7 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Pipit** **June:** Burwell Fen 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>.



### Finches and buntings

**Linnets** **May:** Foxton c30 on 4<sup>th</sup>, Nine Wells 40 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month.

**Crossbill** **June:** Cambridge a flyover on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldfinch** **May:** Littleport May Farm 80+ all month. **June:** Stanground Wash 36 on 12<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 21 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Siskin** **May:** Foxton and Great Abington singles on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Bullfinch** **May:** Ditton Park Wood 6 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Corn Bunting** **May:** Small groups (<10) at Nine Wells, Elsworth, Lt Eversden, Duxford, Mepal, Sutton and Coveney Byall Fen, Littleport May Farm 50+ all month. **June:** also at Foxton, Coploe Hill, Wimpole, Longstowe, Burwell Fen and Trumpington 12 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellowhammer** **May:** few reports, but Nine Wells 9 on 10<sup>th</sup>, Mepal 6 on 21<sup>st</sup>, and Linton 6 on 29<sup>th</sup>. **June:** also at Devil's Dyke (Swaffham Prior) 6 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Reed Bunting** **May:** Yaxley Lode 44 on 20<sup>th</sup>. **June:** Littleport May Farm 100+ all month.

### Exotica

**Swan Goose** **May:** Cambridge Research Park a pair on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

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**Keeping up the list:** at the end of May (according to the e-bulletin records) the county species total for 2017 was 193. New species added were Quail, Temminck's Stint, Little Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Wryneck, Red-footed Falcon, and Savi's Warbler. By the end of June the county species total had risen to 197. The new species were Arctic Skua, Nightjar and Crossbill, plus (added from May) Spotted Flycatcher.

### **Editor's Note on the recent reports**

The Recent Reports section draws on the information collected by Peter Bircham for the e-bulletin, as well as data via the County Recorder from the BTO Birdtrack system. Usually woodland birds are very little reported, and this two month period is no exception. We do indeed live in the least wooded county in England, but have there really been only 7 sightings of Nuthatch and 6 of Treecreeper in the last 8 weeks? And are most of the ancient woods in the west of the county completely devoid of reportable birds including woodpeckers and warblers? With so few reports, any that I do including seem merely anecdotal.

So whereas the reports section captures all the visitor highlights, and pretty accurately migration movements and high counts of wintering birds, it is not telling us much about some of our residents. The same goes for species such as Yellowhammer, Song and Mistle Thrush all of which are Red listed.

I know from experience that recording woodland birds is tricky; ears can be more useful than eyes, birds like nuthatches are quite mobile, and none of the woodland specialists stand around in easily counted flocks; 'counts' are often estimates. I wonder if patch reports in a more narrative form

would be a better way of exchanging information on woodland birds, in these pages. So if there are any woodland watchers out there who can offer short items to rectify the imbalance, please get in touch.

**Chris Brown**

### ***Spotted Flycatcher project update***

As I write this (1 July) the earliest pairs to arrive are already feeding noisy week-old fledglings in the canopy, while late-arrivals, or birds which took a while to find a mate, are just starting to lay. We've so far identified about 50 pairs, and found 33 nests. We've also already been able to confirm five successfully fledged broods where we hadn't found the nest; the remaining pairs are *probables* and *possibles*.

As usual, 100% of these pairs are in 'garden' habitats, which include churchyards, farms and parkland. Flycatchers seem now to have entirely withdrawn from the wider countryside; we have recorded no pairs on agricultural land or in woodland. This may be an artefact of recording, since these habitats are largely ignored by birders in favour of wetlands; but there are still many traditional sites in woodland, often well-watched BCNWT reserves, with no birds again this year. The received wisdom is that garden breeders are three times more productive than countryside pairs, which continue to suffer from habitat degradation, massively depleted invertebrate biomass and heavy predation.

Again as usual, the success rate of our garden birds has been very encouraging. We've had more nests lost to the weather (floods in gutters, creepers blown down) than to predation, which is almost invariably by Jays. Of about five losses so far only a couple have looked like characteristic corvid predation – undamaged nest, contents missing (mammals tend to wreck the nest). And of course, these are resilient birds which will almost invariably start a replacement nest within a few days.

It is early days for results of the geolocator project. However, we have re-sighted nine out of nineteen tagged project birds; and six out of nineteen untagged survival controls. We've caught and ringed twelve new adults at our sites, replacing last year's birds that probably didn't survive to return. Catching the tagged birds to retrieve their devices is proving something of a fieldwork challenge - we have just three in the bag so far.

**Michael Holdsworth**

### ***Book review***

Vince Lea writes: "For the 'Skills' section of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, Josh Carter has chosen to improve his birdwatching skills. As a self-taught teenager he came to us with an already impressive set of birdwatching abilities, so it has been challenging to find ways to build on this, with an introduction to bird survey techniques, enhancing his recording standards, nest recording and ringing. He has also been given a new publication to review. Mark Ward may be a familiar name to many members, being on our Rarities Committee and is of course, editor of the RSPB's Nature's Home magazine. Mark's new book is available from NHBS at:

<http://www.nhbs.com/title/209747/wildlife-on-your-doorstep>

#### ***Wildlife on Your Doorstep by Mark Ward***

176 pages, 150 colour photos. New Holland Publishers.

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It is concise, beautifully laid out and genuinely inspiring.

One of the main strong points, I thought, was the photography. Almost every page in the book has at least one photograph, and they are all of very high quality. I admire that the author has not only the vast knowledge of the world of wildlife but also the ability to take or obtain such great photos.

The book is very informative and teaches a lot of information quickly, but the vocabulary is relatively simple and the pages clearly laid out, so this is a book that anyone can keep up with.

I also like the 'Diary entries' which inform the reader of his experiences and particular triumphs in

the author's wildlife-watching career. There are also lists of tips to help you find certain species of bird, which saves a lot of ruffling through ID books to find the right habitat and best time of year to see, for example, all 5 species of owl. It's brilliant!

The book has expanded my wildlife knowledge from just birds to moths, butterflies, dragonflies, fungi, trees and so much more, including more about birds.

I felt that the author was talking to me as an audience, which is a change from an ID book. For example, rather than saying "Arctic Terns sometimes travel inland in spring" it would say "The Arctic Tern's northbound migration will bring it through *your* patch in spring" and it feels more like the author is trying to help you than simply a page of information.

Before I read this book I generally blamed my garden for the general lack of wildlife. However, I now know that there is always something you can do to improve the wildlife in your garden - increase variety on feeders, plant more under-storey, put up bird boxes...

The thing that ultimately makes birdwatching in your garden more fun than visiting a nature reserve is that you feel part of conservation. If you travel to a National Nature Reserve 40 miles away, you might see plenty of new birds to add to your list, but you're not really benefitting the birds unless you donate to the reserve. But as it rightly says in the book, your garden is like a nature reserve of which you are the warden, and you feel like you're making an effort for the future of wildlife.

***Reviewed by Josh Carter***

### ***Colour ringed Black-tailed Godwits***

If you see a colour ringed Black-tailed Godwit please send the details (date, time, location and colour combination) to [www.projectgodwit.org.uk](http://www.projectgodwit.org.uk) where more information can also be found. All birds ringed under this project have two colour rings above the knee on each leg; the lower right colour is lime green with a black letter 'E'. If you provide an email address the project will send you information about the bird you have seen.

### ***Field Meetings***

**Friday August 11<sup>th</sup> Cavenham Heath.** Time t.b.c. but **booking is essential**. Site Manager for Natural England, Mike Taylor, will lead a walk around the heath, hopefully with a chance to see the post-breeding Stone Curlew aggregation which often occurs in August.

***Please book for this event with Louise Bacon, [cbcrecorder@gmail.com](mailto:cbcrecorder@gmail.com)***

### ***Indoor meetings***

**Friday 8th September, Cottenham Village College, 7.30 for 8.00pm**

**Research on the Pied Flycatcher by Malcolm Burgess**

Malcolm Burgess works in the Conservation Science department of the RSPB, currently with a focus on understanding declines in some of our woodland birds. His work on Pied Flycatcher (and also Wood Warbler, Hawfinch and Willow Tit) is giving us a greater understanding of the problems on the breeding sites, and how management strategies might help stem the decline.

**Friday 13th October, Cottenham Village College, 7.30 for 8.00pm**

**Giving Wildlife the Edge on Fenland drains by Cliff Carson**

After managing the RSPB and The Wildlife Trust Ouse Washes Reserves from 1975 for 30 years, Cliff Carson moved to join the Middle Level Commissioners in 2005. In his role as Environmental Officer for this large Fenland drainage authority, he works to enhance the rivers and drains of the Middle Level system for biodiversity.

His particular interest is in adapting or creating man-made structures to provide sites for wildlife. Over the last decade otters have benefited from a network of 80 holts constructed in the otherwise bare banks of fenland drains. Kingfishers have been provided with secure nest sites behind holes

drilled for them through steel piles and brick headwalls at 90 pumping station and bridge sites. Water voles and pollinating insects benefit from soft engineering coir roll revetments, pre-established with native riparian plants. Over 90 barn owl boxes and 100 bat boxes installed in Drainage Board Districts now offer breeding sites to both species.

As a close second to practical conservation projects, Cliff enjoys photographing wildlife and communicating the importance of its conservation.

**Friday 10th November, St Johns Hall, Cambridge, 7.30 for 8.00pm**

**Cuckoos: an African perspective by Claire Spottiswoode**

Claire joined the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, in 2002 as a PhD student (supervised by Professor Nick Davies), coming from the University of Cape Town in her home country of South Africa. She has stayed on ever since supported by a series of research fellowships from Sidney Sussex College, The Royal Society, and currently the BBSRC, and is a Senior Research Fellow at Magdalene College. From mid-2016 she has been splitting her time between the Department of Zoology and the [FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology](#) in Cape Town.

**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](http://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](mailto: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.

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#### **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 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month**. There is no need to duplicate records across both channels.

**GOOD BIRDING!**