

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD REPORT

2018

CONTENTS



3	Foreword	
5	Chair's report	
6	List of indoor meetings 2018	
7	Review of the year 2018	
13	Introduction to the Systematic List (see inside back cover for index)	
17	Geese to Ruddy Duck	<i>Jonathan Heath</i>
37	Gamebirds to Cormorants	<i>Steve Cooper</i>
47	Raptors to Crane	<i>Louise Bacon</i>
53	Waders	<i>Richard Thomas</i>
69	Gulls to Cuckoo	<i>Peter Herkenrath</i>
80	Owls to Tits	<i>Peter Bircham</i>
90	Larks to Warblers	<i>Roger Buisson</i>
99	Crests to Accentors	<i>Louise Bacon</i>
109	Wagtails to Buntings	<i>Michael Holdsworth</i>
117	Appendix I	Presumed escapes – Category A and C species not on the Cambs List
117	Appendix II	Presumed escapes – Category D and E species (not on the official British List or yet to be recorded as wild birds in Britain)
120	Appendix III	Hybrids
121	Appendix IV	Category A, B and C species on the county list (including number of records/ individuals and year last recorded)
128	Earliest and latest dates of summer migrants (including earliest/latest ever)	
130	Latest and earliest dates of winter migrants (including latest/earliest ever)	
132	Guidelines for the submission of records	
134	List of records not proven or pending	
135	Falcated Duck new to Cambridgeshire	<i>Colin Kirtland</i>
136	Bonaparte's Gull, new to Cambridgeshire	<i>Richard Grimmett</i>
138	Little Crane, third for Cambridgeshire	<i>Richard Bradbury</i>
140	Bluethroat, a finders tale	<i>Mike Weedon</i>
142	Hawfinch arrival, winter 2017-18	<i>Louise Bacon</i>
144	Dunkirk: a domestic fenland rewilding journey	<i>Tony Martin</i>
147	Nest recording report	<i>Louise Bacon</i>

150	Cambridgeshire bird ringing report 2018
160	Highest ever counts up to and including 2018
166	Gazetteer
166	List of contributors

Michael Holdsworth

Front cover:	Goosander family by Richard Fowling, based on a photograph by Guy Belcher
Inside front cover:	Cambridgeshire Bird Club
Back cover:	map of county sites by Hugh Venables
Inside back cover:	index to the systematic list



Black Terns *Richard Fowling*

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD REPORT 2018

FOREWORD

Vince Lea

Once again, the order and status of some of the species in the Systematic List has changed, thanks to the British Ornithologists Union (BOU) and international developments in taxonomy. The changes start in wildfowl, where *Branta* geese now start the sequence, and among other things the two bean geese have been raised to species level, with Pink-footed Goose sandwiched between the two former subspecies. There are many other reshuffles as well, for example Waxwing and crests have more or less swapped places. Hopefully not quite such a shock as when falcons became parrots, but nonetheless another challenge to those of us with old familiar field guides and certain orders in mind. Whenever you got into birding will probably influence what order you think birds should be in, but the hard science of evolutionary DNA studies has a habit of shaking those familiar foundations from time to time, and seemingly more frequently in recent years! It is also thanks to the BOU that we have another new addition to the county list this year, but in this case the wheels have turned considerably more slowly: the 1988 Falcated Duck, which is featured in the Systematic List and an article by Colin Kirtland on p. 135.

Another county first was the Bonaparte's Gull found by Richard Grimmett, and this also receives an article at the back of the report. This continues a good run of county firsts in recent years. Acting as Art Editor, however, I had the enviable position of choosing our cover star, and could not resist celebrating the first recorded breeding of Goosanders in the county, a challenge which Richard Fowling rose to admirably. For me it is the changes in our regular birds and the way they reflect the changing environment around us that make birds such an interesting and informative subject for study. One change I would hope to see, and that hope is no-doubt shared by rarity fans and general birders alike, would be the establishment of a breeding Bluethroat population, something which seems to be a plausible possibility. A singing male this summer therefore deserved a write-up by the finder, Mike Weedon, in the back pages as well. The ever expanding natural habitat in the fens may one day host this species if similar habitats in the nearby continent are anything to go by. New fenland habitat was also the draw for a calling Little Crake, and this too required sensitive treatment at the time of its arrival. A report on this is also to be found in the back of the report, thanks to Richard Bradbury.

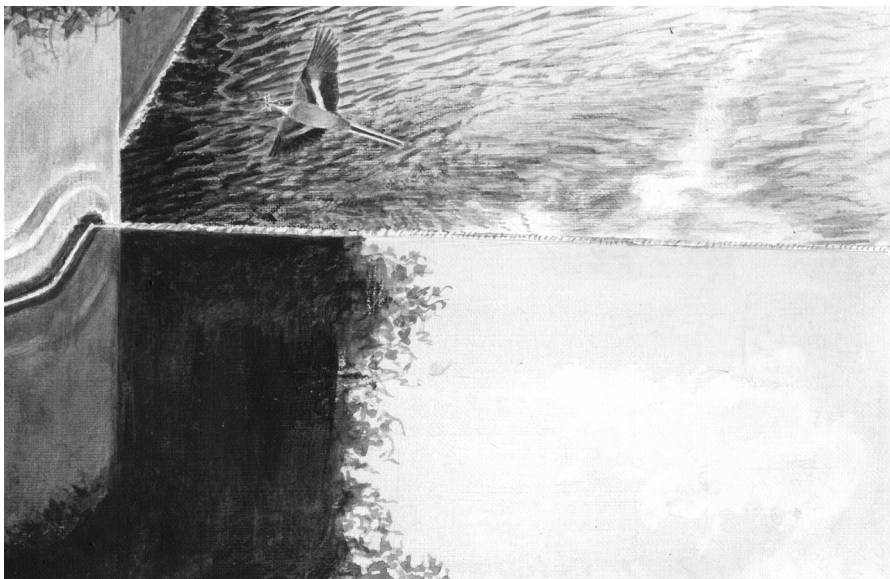
The Hawfinches that dominated the autumn of 2017 lingered in a few places in 2018 but seemingly slipped back whence they came in a far less obvious manner than their dramatic arrival. Such an unprecedented event seems unlikely to be repeated any time soon, so an article summarising the whole winter period seemed worthy of inclusion in the article section as well. Many thanks to Louise Bacon for compiling this from the records database. Our final special article is by Tony Martin, and is an account of how he created the perfect wetland at his home in the fens. Among the ornithological highlights this fantastic habitat has hosted are the county's first breeding Mediterranean Gulls, and the first (and still the only) Little Bunting, which turned up in his mist net one October day. And talking of ringing, Michael Holdsworth has once again provided us with a superb summary of the county ringing activities for the back pages.

Once again, we are indebted to the many people who have worked on this report; it is the sum of many parts. As ever, it all starts with you, the members and contributors of bird records from around the county, whether these records are submitted formally to the club, indirectly via BirdTrack (which the vast majority are), or are collated from sightings submitted to Peterbirder or Cambirds. The team collating these data are Tony Roberts who transcribes the sightings records from internet forums, Louise Bacon who compiles the records into the database and Howard Slatter who formats the database and rogues out duplicates. The Rarities Committee continue to scrutinise those deemed requiring descriptions, and many thanks go to them for ensuring these highlight species are as reliably reported as we can make them. Our section writers work on this data set to produce the first draft of the report, and following initial editorial and formatting the draft report is checked and enhanced by our team of proof-readers. Thanks to them all we have a worthy record of the 2018 bird scene for the county, something which will be invaluable to future students of the county avifauna.

Proof-readers: final checks were made by Roger Buisson, Mike Foley, Jon Heath, Richard Patient and Richard Thomas.

Artists: Ann Biggs, Chris Button, James Hanlon, Emma Hayward, Richard Fowling and Steph' Thorpe kindly provided the artwork which so enhances the report. In the absence of a formal Art Editor the Report Editor has compiled the artwork and can supply contact details if needed (Vince Lea, 01223 263962, vincelea@btinternet.com).

Photographers: David Ball, Neil Bramwell, Colin Brown, Steve Cooper, Roger Cresswell, Ian Dawson, Brendan Doe, Adrian George, James Hanlon, Ian Harris, Jonathan Heath, Richard Patient, Garth Peacock, Thomas Reed, Nigel Spowell, Simon Stirrup, Gary Thornton and Mike Weedon. Submissions to the photo pages of the CBC website continue to be of superb standard and Garth Peacock provides an excellent service in selecting this representative sample. Contacts for individual photographers are available from Garth if required (garth.peacock@btinternet.com).



Grey Wagtail *Richard Fowling*

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB CHAIR'S REPORT

Presented to the Annual General Meeting on March 8th 2019

Whilst I continue to enjoy the role of Chair, I also continue to be frustrated in the search for a successor. Surely someone can think of new directions for the club which they would like to instigate, and take the reigns of power!

Council activities

Chris Quy stood down as Webmaster at the end of 2018, after many years of sterling support for the club. The system he had in place required a working knowledge of HTML script, so we took this opportunity to convert the website to something more user-friendly, with many thanks to Katie Fuller who took this on as a short term contract for us at the end of the year, and has now handed over to Mike Foley as the 2019 webmaster. Several other council members are now enabled to amend their bits of the website as needed which reduces the workload for Mike. Chris Brown has also stood down as editor of the bi-monthly bulletin. Despite numerous appeals, no-one was willing to adopt this on a permanent basis, so after a couple of interim bulletins by Louise Bacon, this service has had to be dropped for now. The majority of members now receive the monthly eBulletin and arrangements will be made to ensure that those who have not embraced the digital era will continue to receive something by post to keep in touch with club activities, but without suitable volunteers to take this on it will have to be a minimal service. We thank both Chris's for all their help with the club. Robert Brown as our Research Officer has been battling health problems and has had to take something of a back seat this year, but other members of Council have continued in their varied and vital roles.

2017 Bird Report No.91

Despite ever increasing numbers of bird records, the processing time is being reduced thanks to the vast majority coming through digitally and Howard Slatter and Louise Bacon's processing system is getting slicker. Our team of writers, editors and proof-readers put in a trojan effort to bring it all together in good time for the report to be distributed at the Christmas social and the following week or so in December. It's always good to get the report out before the year of production is over. We give thanks to Richard Johnson who made this his last stint as art editor, conjuring up a wonderful Ben Green Hawfinch as an appropriate cover for his final issue.

Bulletins

Peter Bircham has continued to produce a speedy monthly bulletin, which is distributed solely by email, and as mentioned above, this is now the main source of news for members. In this modern age news is coming much faster and the eBulletin seems the most appropriate means of communication.

Photo pages on Website

Garth Peacock and Chris Quy kept the photo pages running and this proves to be one of the most popular parts of the club website. Following last year's AGM poll of attendees, we have reverted to asking the general membership to select photos of the month, but with revised criteria to encourage greater weighting of photographic merit in the decision making process. The quality continues to be outstanding!

Facebook and Twitter

Mark Peck passed the main role of maintaining our Twitter feed to Brendan Doe early in the year, while offering to cover any absences etc. Many thanks go to them both, as well as Kevin Harris for maintaining our Facebook page over the year.

Membership and Subscriptions

Membership remains strong at 333 in 2018 and Cliver Sinclair and Roger Swain are grateful that the majority are now paying the correct subscription by Standing Order.

Club meetings

Once again a very varied programme was arranged by Vicki Harley, featuring topics from the local conservation efforts by Jen Smart and the RSPB at the two 'washes' for our very own Black-tailed Godwits, to the extreme efforts made by Gary Prescott to set a new record for a Green Birding year list, undertaken in the harsh environment of Peru. The fact that he seemed totally unaware of the road surface's unsuitability when he set out to cross the Andes on a bicycle didn't seem to daunt him one bit! We had historical research, behavioural studies, international conservation work and updates on the vital Wetland Birds Survey which many of us take part in. One that struck me most was Mark Fellowes' study of individual choices in determining the birds that use our urban environment. I was particularly struck by the close correlation between the amount of food Red Kites need, the amount of food put out for them by the residents of Reading and the number of kites visiting the town!

Rare Breeding Birds

This important aspect of our conservation responsibility continues to be well respected, with reports of sensitive species correctly reported to the county recorder and site managers where appropriate.

Conference on Bird Migration

A fascinating day was held on Nov 3rd when we gathered once again at Cottenham Village College for our biennial conference, this time on the subject of bird migration. Particular thanks go to Louise Bacon for putting together a host of experts from local to international authorities on this subject. Talks ranged from the species-specific single studies to overviews of whole flyways and of course, the latest technologies and advances in knowledge made with them. It was particularly pleasing to hear how individuals can get involved with relatively cheap nocturnal sound recording equipment operated in their own garden; the technological realm does not have to be the preserve of well funded professionals. On the field trips the following day delegates were also shown examples of how the mass participation by citizen scientists has helped through regular bird ringing and we can all contribute by keeping an eye out for colour-ringed birds or checking any dead birds found.

Research Project

Many people took part in our Grey Wagtail survey, for which we send our thanks. Health permitting, Robert Brown hopes to get this data analysed in time for the 2019 survey season, when we may need some gap-filling, and all being well it will be reported in due course. Michael Holdsworth continued his work on Spotted Flycatchers and all are encouraged to seek out further pairs of these in the coming breeding season, and particularly to look for any colour ringed individuals.

Vince Lea, CBC Chair

LIST OF INDOOR MEETINGS 2018

January 12th	Kevin Hand	Saving Albania's vultures
February 9th	Rob Sheldon	Sociable Plover
March 9th	Jeremy Mynott	AGM. Birds in the ancient world: winged words
April 13th	Mark Fellowes	How our individual decisions collectively affect urban birds
May 11th	Liisa Hämäläinen	Social learning in Great Tits and Blue Tits
September 14th	Teresa Frost	Counting wintering waterbirds – the UK's Wetland Bird Survey
October 12th	Jen Smart	Life in a world full of predators : saving the UK's Black-tailed Godwits
November 9th	Gary Prescott	The adventures of a biking birder
December 8th		Christmas Social

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2018

Vince Lea

BREEDING RECORDS

As usual, gaining proof of breeding for our rarer dabbling ducks proved difficult and counts of territorial pairs were the main way of monitoring these species. By this measure, it seems many species did rather better than the previous year with 26 pairs of Garganey at 9 sites, 305 pairs of Shoveler at 12 sites, one pair of Wigeon and 11 summering males at 4 sites and 21 pairs of Teal at 6 sites. Pochard were marginally up on 2017 with 57 pairs at 8 sites but the surprise of the year was the first recorded breeding of Goosanders in the county, with broods in Little Shelford and Elton. In the context of colonisation from southern herons and waders of recent years the more northerly Goosander seems an unusual addition but this species has been breeding in the vicinity of Cambridgeshire for a few years; the 2007–11 atlas showed breeding in breckland and Northamptonshire, and the species has been increasing strongly both in abundance and distribution across Britain.

Grey Partridges were widespread in the breeding season, with 56 pairs on territories, but only 2 broods were noted; the majority must occur unseen on farmland in areas not visited by bird recorders. Four sites held Quail for a day or so, but there was no evidence of breeding. Our rarer grebes did not breed this year, with just a single summering Red-necked and no Black-necked showing any intent. Bitterns bounced back from last year's dip, with 27 boomers or confirmed breeders at 10 sites. Great White Egrets tantalised with the prospect of potential breeding, several summered and a juvenile was seen in June, but this could have come from outside the county. Little Egrets have continued to consolidate their place with 27 pairs at 4 sites, including a couple of new sites: this species can be remarkably unobtrusive in a heronry, and usually start nesting much later than the Grey Herons that they associate with, so can be missed if counts are only made early in the year.

Due to the habitats they occupy, we are confident that most of the breeding Marsh Harriers are reported, and the total of 19 sites is the second best on record, with 28 breeding females which is a fairly typical number from recent times. In contrast, Red Kites probably breed away from observers and the total of 7 confirmed pairs is almost certainly under-representative but nonetheless is a new record for confirmed pairs. Another 2 possible pairs were also reported. Confirmation of Water Rail success is always difficult, so well done to those who sent in details of young from 4 locations; another 11 sites had a further 24 possible breeding pairs. Two sites had calling Corncrakes, with 11 and 2 males, but once again no information on breeding success was obtained. Five Spotted Crakes were on territory at the Nene Washes, but no other sites held them for a significant duration. Cranes offer a height advantage making confirmation of their breeding attempts somewhat easier, but there were still 2 pairs which we could only claim as possible breeders, while 6 pairs were confirmed, adding another 6 Cranes to our county population, although one suffered a wing injury after fledging.

Three pairs of Stone-curlews was present in a broad undisclosed site, but details of outcomes were not supplied. There were 48 pairs of Oystercatchers, 22 pairs of Avocets and 327 pairs of Lapwings. For the second successive year no Ringed Plovers were recorded breeding, and Little Ringed Plovers declined to just 5 pairs. The headstarting programme for Black-tailed Godwits is slowly bearing fruit with colour-ringed chicks now returning to breed, but the total number of pairs has not yet shown an increase; 33 pairs at 2 sites is in fact a slight decline but their nesting attempts were badly affected by a cold wet spring causing quagmire conditions on the pilot project at the Ouse Washes. A big rise in roding Woodcock to a county total of 21 was largely due to an increase at Holme Fen with 10 birds there. Snipe and Redshank were largely confined to the two major washes with totals of 231 and 300 respectively.

A national seabird census was underway during 2018 and this included inland breeding gulls and terns, so extra effort was made to locate and count these sometimes under-recorded species. A substantial increase in Herring Gull numbers was particularly noticeable, reaching 33 pairs at 4 sites, with most being roof-top breeders. There were also 60 pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at 8 sites and 861 pairs of Black-headed Gulls at 10 sites. Paxton Pits held over half of the 103 pairs of Common Terns recorded at a total of 8 sites.

With 26 territories, Turtle Doves had a very slight increase on 2017 but whether this is a genuine increase or a reflection of more recording and reporting effort is hard to say. An increase in Cuckoo numbers seems to be a genuine increase with the species always being well-recorded and it is also showing a slight recovery on national monitoring data and very slight recovery in the East of England region. With 17 pairs at 12 sites, Barn Owl nesting is under-reported: ringing data suggests a much higher level of breeding but many ringers do not submit their records other than their statutory requirement to do so to the BTO. At least 2 pairs of Long-eared Owls bred at 2 locations. A single pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers was reported, at Bedford Purlieu. A possible dip in Kingfisher breeding pairs (from 12 down to 8) may have been related to the Beast from the East effect, or may be a symptom of statistical noise in this under-recorded species. Hobby remained fairly stable, with 13 pairs, and Peregrine stayed on 4 pairs.

Raven breeding continued to increase, with 7 pairs at 5 sites up by 2 pairs on the previous year. There were 41 pairs of Marsh Tits recorded at 11 sites, a slight dip on recent years; another likely victim of the Beast from the East. Likewise just 5 pairs of Bearded Tits were recorded from 5 sites, down from 13 pairs in 2017, and the Cetti's Warbler steady rate of increase was set back slightly to 163 territories, fewer than the previous two years whereas almost every previous year in recent times had seen an increase. A singing male Great Reed Warbler held territory at Fen Drayton Lakes for two weeks in June, somewhat similar behaviour to the previous record which was in 2016.

Twelve pairs of Spotted Flycatchers were recorded from 10 sites. A territorial White-spotted Bluethroat at the Great Fen Project was reminiscent of the previous record of this species from 2011–12 at Ouse Fen. Nightingales had a slightly better year than 2017 with 43 pairs at 7 locations, but still below the recent average. With 3 pairs (one confirmed successful breeding), Black Redstarts had their best year for a decade. Stonechats continued to cling on as county breeders, with single pairs at Coates and Burwell Fen. There was a slight decline in Tree Sparrow breeding pairs from 20 to 14, but they were at 4 locations compared to just 2 in 2017. Comprehensive counts of our widespread but scarce and declining farmland birds are hard to obtain, but 110 pairs of Yellow Wagtails at 32 sites and 151 Corn Bunting territories at 9 sites shows the relative importance of Cambridgeshire for these species which are becoming extinct in many counties outside of the East of England.

LIST OF RARITIES (20 or fewer records)

The county list now stands at 345 with the addition of Falcated Duck from 1988 which has been elevated from category D to category A of the British List and the promotion to species status of both subspecies of bean geese by the BOU in 2019 and one new species in 2018. Cambridgeshire records were as follows: Bonaparte's Gull (1st), Pallid Harrier (3rd), Little Crake (3rd), Great Reed Warbler (5th), American Wigeon (9th), Bluethroat (10th), Siberian Chiffchaff (12th & 13th) and Rose-coloured Starling (12th).

JANUARY

The first few days were a mixture of cold and not so cold with rain on and off such that some sites became excessively flooded and that pattern continued to the middle of the month, a gale overnight on the 17th/18th caused local damage followed a few days later by a moderate snowfall. In the final third, rain, another gale and a few days of relatively higher temperatures (15.1°C at Monks Wood on the 28th was the national highest temperature of the month) were followed by a return to cooler weather. Overall a mixture but wet.

A Rough-legged Buzzard around Thorney and the Lincolnshire border was probably the same bird seen in the last couple of years, likewise an overwintering Siberian Chiffchaff remained from 2017 at Stirtloe. The Hawfinch invasion of 2017 was still in evidence, with 18 still present at Wimpole Park on the 14th. There were 56 Bramblings at Littleport.

FEBRUARY

The first week or so was a continuation of the winter's pattern, days of cool, cold, wet and dull, a short spell of (relatively) milder weather in the middle of the month gave way to a very cold spell with easterly winds to end. Overall another rather dull and wet month with a real sting in its tail.

A new Siberian Chiffchaff was discovered at Melbourn on the 4th. An American Wigeon was picked out at the Nene Washes on the 11th and remained to the 25th. There was a Ring-necked Duck at the Ouse Washes from the 18th into March. The waterfowl theme continued with a Tundra Bean Goose at Colne Fen GP on the 18th and another 5 at Nene Washes on the 23rd. An immature female Goshawk at Redmere on the 25th was the first of two for the year.

MARCH

The month began with a severe weather event named 'the Beast from the East' which was followed swiftly by a confluence with Storm Emma and, as a consequence, sub-zero temperatures and snowfall on several days until the 4th when everything went into reverse and a mild spell followed, although water bodies took several more days to unfreeze. Mild conditions then prevailed until the third weekend when a mini beast reversed the pattern and another snowfall and freeze was followed by a reversal once again to milder (and wetter) weather to return. The rainfall/snowfall led to many water bodies being full to overflowing and some sites being less accessible than normal.

Not unexpectedly the harsh conditions of the Beast from the East took a toll on birds and many people reported unusual visitors to their gardens and in the cities, and sadly, many reports of corpses found. Examples included Snipe and Fieldfares coming into gardens, dead Lapwings and Golden Plovers in fields. A Red-throated Diver was at Ferry Meadows CP from the 3rd to the 12th, and another at Grafham Water was on the 19th while other 'seafowl' movements featured a Red-breasted Merganser on Burwell Lode on the 4th and a Shag at the Cambridge Research Park from the 9th to the 24th. On the 18th there were 7 Kittiwakes at Grafham Water, the highest count of the year. A very good first winter period for Scaup was topped with a high count of 5 at Fen Drayton Lakes on the 31st.

APRIL

The month began much as March ended with cool and wet conditions and easterly winds that prevailed until just after the middle when a long-awaited warmer spell arrived. The slow spring arrival suddenly gave way to a rush of migrants. After a few days of glorious weather over the Easter weekend, conditions reverted to unsettled, some rain and average temperatures with winds from every direction except south.

The second Goshawk of the year was another immature female, this time at the Nene Washes on the 7th. A Purple Heron was at Burwell Fen on the 11th to 14th, but the highlight of the year for those who saw it was the county's first Bonaparte's Gull, possibly first seen at Witcham Gravel on the 11th and

then at Fen Drayton Lakes on the 14th. There were also 6 records of Brent Geese in the same time period 11th to the 14th, while passerine passage was evident on the 14th and 15th, with movements of Fieldfares and Lesser Whitethroats in particular. After a blank 2017 it was good to have Pied Flycatcher back in the county, with one at Marsh Lane GP on the 23rd.

MAY

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.

Typically one of the peak months for migrants was relatively quiet in terms of headline species. There was a Cattle Egret at Coveney Byall Fen on the 6th and three records of Spoonbills – 2 birds at Fen Drayton Lakes on the 7th and 3 there on the 29th, while Barleycraft GP had one on the 20th. More significantly a Little Crake was sound-recorded at Ouse Fen from the 15th to the 21st, the third Cambridgeshire record after two in Victorian times, both 'collected'; this was the first for over a century and a half. There was also a Purple Heron at Ouse Fen on the 20th, seen to fly to Barleycraft to roost.

JUNE

The first ten days were warm and largely sunny with only a rare downpour and after that it was exceptionally dry, warm and usually sunny ending with high temperatures. England recorded the third driest June since 1910 with less than 10% of the average in parts.

June proved a more interesting month for rarities than May, unusually. A Rose-coloured Starling at Hinxton Genome Campus from 5th to 6th was part of a national influx. The Great Fen Project had a singing male Bluethroat from the 9th to 20th and a 2nd cal-year female Montagu's Harrier on the 10th. A Great Reed Warbler at Fen Drayton Lakes from the 15th to the 30th, coming a couple of years after the 4th record and both being long-staying singing males, possibly hints at future colonisation. A second Black-winged Stilt of the year was a female at the Ouse Washes on the 17th; it did not, unfortunately, cross paths with the male that was first seen in April but wandered the county wetlands throughout spring, last seen at the Nene Washes on the 10th of June. An unseasonal Gannet was seen at Witcham on the 26th.



Great Reed Warbler Steph' Thorpe

JULY

July began as June ended, hot and very dry and continued until, finally in the last days of the month thunderstorms made a lot of noise but didn't drop much rain, although some exceptional hailstones (size of £1 coins) were recorded in parts. Cambridgeshire and Norfolk were singled out in the Met Office review of the month as especially dry.

July was more typically quiet bird-wise, with a Crossbill on the 12th at Grafham Water about the best – one of four records for the species this year.

AUGUST

The first week saw a continuation of the hot weather and drought conditions, with a large field fire near Cambridge a symptom of the desiccated countryside. An Atlantic front finally arrived in the second week and normal summer weather followed together with some thundery downpours and a mixture of sunny warm days and some cloudy with rain.

Hinxton Genome Campus came up with a Pied Flycatcher on the 6th. An impressive 43 Whimbrel went past Little Shelford on the 20th.

SEPTEMBER

Typical autumnal flavours from the beginning, cooler with a mixture of warm sunshine and some cloud and a little rain from time to time. Cambridge Botanic Gardens recorded the maximum UK September temperature of the year with 26.5°C on the 17th. The first gale of autumn overnight on the 20th led to several headline species arrival. Thereafter best summed up as autumnal variations although still dry and mild.

A Pied Flycatcher at Witcham on the 7th was the only notable passerine of the month. Grafham Water showed its seabird affinities throughout September, starting with a Shag on the 7th, an Arctic Skua on the 16th and a summer-plumaged adult Red-throated Diver on the 18th. A Pallid Harrier was at the Ouse Washes, first in Norfolk but in Cambridgeshire on the 17th and 18th. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Longstanton arrived on the 22nd and stayed till Oct 1st, while a second individual was at Ouse Fen on the 30th. There were 7 records of Spoonbill in the year, but the most impressive record was a count of 19 in flight at Stetchworth on the 22nd, easily breaking the county record count. Also on the 22nd there was a Manx Shearwater at Grafham Water and a Gannet at Ring's End, with another Gannet at Guyhirn on the 23rd and a Grey Phalarope at Grafham Water on the same date. The 23rd also saw a passage of Great Skuas with 3 at Grafham Water and 16 at Foul Anchor.

OCTOBER

The first week was similar to September with one day of breezy rain but mild. East Anglia escaped most of the effects of Storm Callum on the 12th but winds were strong. It remained much the same for most of the month, one or two days of rain, often breezy, but essentially mild until the final few days when a cold snap came in with northerly winds.

At Ouse Fen, 3 Woodlarks were recorded flying over on 3rd, a new county record. Great White Egrets were widely recorded during the year, but numbers built up steadily at Paxton Pits in the autumn where low water levels gave easy access to prey (Little Egret and Grey Heron also built up numbers there). The peak Great White Egret count was made on the 1st with 7 birds, two more than the previous county record. A second Manx Shearwater was at Grafham Water on the 9th. Two Gannets went over the Nene Washes on the 10th. Two different Yellow-browed Warblers were at Dunkirk on the 17th and 18th – we know they were different as both were caught and ringed. The fourth Pied Flycatcher of the year was at Hobson's Park on the 21st. Skua passage was notable at Foul Anchor in the northerly winds, with 40 Great, 2 Pomarine and one Arctic; there were also 5 Kittiwakes. A Great Grey Shrike was seen at Ellington on the 30th, and remained into November. After the previous

autumn Hawfinch influx, normality returned with just one record, a fly-over at Earith on the 31st. The month end saw a record count of 52 Cranes at the Ouse Washes on the 31st.

NOVEMBER

The month began remarkably mild, overnight on the 9th a heavy rainstorm crossed the county followed by another with more precipitation than for many months, more mild dry weather with above-average temperatures followed until the third week when an area of high pressure over northern Europe delivered an easterly wind and cold nights and days but only temporarily.

Two Rough-legged Buzzards frequented different parts of the Great Fen from the 3rd, with one falling victim to a road traffic collision on December 4th but the second bird remained into 2019. There was a Red-necked Grebe at Ferry Meadows CP from the 5th to 26th. Red-breasted Mergansers were at Grafham Water from the 18th to Dec 7th, and at Ferry Meadows CP from the 20th to the 25th. As well as the Rough-legged Buzzards, the extensive rewilding habitat at the Great Fen also attracted a Great Grey Shrike on the 20th. Two Velvet Scoter were at Grafham Water from the 23rd to the 26th, where there was also a Shag on the 26th. A Slavonian Grebe was at the unusual location of the River Cam and Burwell Lode from the 25th to Dec 17th.

DECEMBER

It was predominantly mild with some spells of wind and rain raising water levels still further. There was a blocking high over Scandinavia mid-month which brought a brief cold snap. It returned to mild and sometimes wet in the second half of the month.

The highest count of Bramblings in the second winter period was of 40 at Beechwoods LNR on the 10th. A Great Grey Shrike was at Barleycraft GP on 11th and 12th. There were 3 Tundra Bean Geese at the Ouse Washes on the 22nd, rising to 5 by the 24th. Waxwings were at March on the 26th (one) and Hampton on the 31st (two).

INTRODUCTION TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

NOMENCLATURE AND SEQUENCE

This report follows the revised British List published in 2018 [The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (9th edition). *Ibis* **160**: 190-240] plus subsequent updates. The index on the inside back cover serves as a guide to the sequence of species.

ENGLISH NAMES

The English vernacular name is given first, followed by the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) international English name where this differs, and the current scientific name. For further information see the BOU website at www.bou.org.uk.

Tundra Swan The nominate race, colloquially known as Whistling Swan, occurs in North America. The race occurring in Cambridgeshire is *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, **Bewick's Swan**.

Horned Lark The nominate race, colloquially known as Horned Lark, occurs in North America. The race occurring in Cambridgeshire is *Eremophila alpestris flava*, **Shore Lark**.

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

N/A indicates that record totals are not available, e.g. when escapees cannot easily be distinguished from wild individuals.

AON	Apparently Occupied Nest (used particularly for colonial species where detailed observation of each nest is not possible)	Pk	Park
		Res	Reservoir
		SW	Sewage Treatment Works
		NR	Nature Reserve (note that NR, NNR etc. have been omitted for most well-known reserves e.g. Wicken Fen)
BF	Sugar Beet Factory		
BP	Brick Pit		
CP	Country Park		
GC	Golf Course		
GP	Gravel Pit	Tip	Landfill Site
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee	CBR	Cambridgeshire Bird Report
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
BOURC	British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee		
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology	JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
CBC	Cambridgeshire Bird Club		
CBCRC	Cambridgeshire Bird Club Records Committee	RBBP	Rare Breeding Birds Panel
		WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
c.	about	m.o.	many observers
cf.	compare	per	(information) via
et al.	and others (observers)	photo	photographic evidence

Atlas *Cambridgeshire Bird Atlas 2007–2011*

Bircham (1989) *The Birds of Cambridgeshire*

BWP *The Birds of the Western Palearctic Vols 1–9 (1977–94)*

Clark (1996) *The Birds of Huntingdon and Peterborough*

Migration Atlas *The Migration Atlas: movements of the birds of Britain and Ireland (2002)*

Ageing by calendar-year	1st cal-year = a bird between its hatching date and Dec 31st of that year 2nd cal-year = a bird in the calendar-year after it hatched, etc.
Ageing by plumage	e.g. 1st-summer = a bird in first-summer plumage (N.B. this would be attained in its 2nd calendar-year), etc.

SUBHEADINGS

First winter period	Jan–Feb	Autumn	Aug–Nov
Spring	Mar–Jun	Second winter period	Nov–Dec
Summer or return	Jun–Aug		

TABLES

The tables showing monthly maxima at the main/selected sites are largely based on WeBS counts with higher counts inserted when available. Unless stated otherwise, counts in the text only refer to sites not covered in the tables.

0	Zero count – used in analysis tables
-	No information/count – used in monthly count tables
Ouse W (N & C)	The whole of the Ouse Washes (Norfolk and Cambs). Where a Norfolk count has not been made, this has been treated as 'No count'
Ouse W (C only)	Cambridgeshire section only of the Ouse Washes

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY (BBS)

A BTO survey performed on randomly selected 1-km squares on which two transects are walked during the breeding season. Up to 69 squares are covered each year in the county. Because of the comparatively small number of squares sampled the results only give a general indication of major changes in distribution and abundance. Averages for 1995/96 and 2017/18 have been compared in this Report.

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY (WeBS)

For some species international and/or national values for WeBS thresholds are included in the status summary; this is usually where these values are relevant to counts made within the county or provide added context to these counts. Data were supplied by WeBS, a joint scheme of the BTO, RSPB and JNCC in association with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully validated. Enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the BTO. Note that site names used by WeBS counts do not necessarily correspond to those used by the club.

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC) STATUS

The status summary indicates which species are in the **Green**, **Amber** or **Red list**. See Eaton *et al.* (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4 in *British Birds* **108**: 706–746.

SITE CLARIFICATION

See Gazetteer (<http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/where-to-watch-birds/gazetteer>) for Ordnance Survey Grid References of sites mentioned here.

Barleycraft GP This site name refers to the whole of Needingworth Quarry/Barleycraft GP on the Huntingdonshire side of the RSPB Reserve. The RSPB call the gravel pit Barleycroft, and use Ouse Fen to refer to both sides of the River Ouse.

Bury Fen (TL380755) is adjacent to Earith whereas **Berry Fen** (TL374740) is adjacent to Bluntisham.

Cam Washes This site includes all of the washlands extending from Swaffham Prior Fen to Dimmock's Cote.

Earith Washes This site refers to the washlands south of Earith [N.B. the Ouse Washes (Earith) begin immediately north of Earith].

Etton-Maxey Pits Previously known as MaxeyGP

Fen Drayton Lakes Previously known as Fen Drayton GP.

Hobson's Park is now the adopted name of the area of grassland and lakes on the Trumpington Clay farms development.

Nene Washes This site includes all of the washlands from Stanground to Ring's End. More specific references include Stanground, High Wash, Nene Washes Reserve (Low Wash), Eldernell (Wash, Pits and Decoy), March Farmers and Ring's End.

Ouse Fen This site name replaces Over Fen and Over GP. In this Report Ouse Fen only refers to the reserve east of the Great Ouse.

Ouse Washes This site includes all of the washlands from Earith to Denver Sluice (Norfolk). The Cambridgeshire section extends from Earith northwards to the Norfolk border. Counts for both the complete Washes and the Cambridgeshire section only are provided in the tables (see above). More specific references to the Cambridgeshire section include Earith, Chain Corner, Sutton Gault, Mepal, Fortrey's Hall, Welches Dam, Purls Bridge, Pymoor Bridge, Manea Fifties and The Gravel.

RECORDS, STATUS CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

N.B. all records in the systematic list are of single birds unless stated otherwise.

- (a) **Record totals** – These are provided for species with 100 or fewer records, e.g. c. 22(29) 2 represents 2 records in the current year which brings the species total to around 22 records of 29 individuals. A single observation of an individual/flock counts as one record. Further observations of the same individual/flock, even at different sites, have not been added to the total. However, determining whether a succession of sightings comprises the same or different individuals/flocks has led to some unavoidably arbitrary decisions.
- (b) **Record frequency** – Gives an indication of the number of years in which the species has been recorded during the preceding 10 years. Species recorded in 7–9 years are said to be 'almost annual' and species recorded in all 10 are 'annual'.
- (c) **Record averages** – e.g. average 8 records/year are calculated (for scarce, annual species) as a mean over the last 10 years.

Category	Frequency	Breeding pairs		Winter or passage	
Very rare		1–10	in total	1–10	in total
Rare	0–6 years	11+	in total	11+	in total
Scarce	7–10 years	0–10	per year	0–20	per year
Uncommon	all 10 years	11–100	per year	21–200	per year
Fairly common	all 10 years	101–1000	per year	201–2000	per year
Common	all 10 years	1001–3000	per year	2001–6000	per year
Very common	all 10 years	3001–9000	per year	6001–18000	per year
Abundant	all 10 years	9001+	per year	18000+	per year

Vagrant	A bird well outside its usual range.
Irruptive visitor	Periodic/irregular occurrence outside its normal range.
Passage migrant	Implies spring and autumn unless stated otherwise.
Resident	Implies breeding unless stated otherwise.
Migrant breeder	Also known as summer visitor.
Feral	A species originating from a domestic source.
Naturalised	A species introduced by man now breeding in the wild.

Aberrant plumages

Albino: pure white and pink eyes (N.B. 'semi albinos' do not exist).

Schizochromic: white patches contrasting with normal plumage.

Leucistic: absence of dark pigments. Normal patterns (e.g. head pattern) are visible but much paler than normal. Usually pale, creamy-brown all over.

Melanistic: uniformly darkish/blackish (rarer than the others).

Melanistic/schizochromic: black with white patches.

THE BRITISH LIST – CATEGORISATION OF SPECIES

Species categories follow the recommendations of the BOU (see *Ibis* **155**: 635–676).

Species in categories **A**, **B** and **C** are on the British List, while species in categories **D** and **E** are not. (N.B. Codes are no longer included in the species heading).

Category A: species recorded in a natural state from the beginning of 1950 onwards.

Category B: species recorded in a natural state up to, but not beyond, the end of 1949.

Category C: introduced species, now self-supporting, i.e. naturalised.

C1 Whole population derived from introductions, e.g. Little Owl.

C2 Some of population occurs in a natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose.

C3 Population re-established in areas where formerly bred, e.g. Red Kite.

C4 Feral/domesticated species become naturalised, e.g. Feral Pigeon.

C5 Possibly from naturalised populations abroad. e.g. Egyptian Goose.

C6 Population no longer self-supporting, e.g. Lady Amherst's Pheasant.

Category D: species not in A as there is no proof that they have occurred in a natural state.

Category E: releases or escapees yet to form self-supporting populations.

APPENDICES

- I Category A and C species not on the County List because all records are considered to refer to escapees.
- II Category D and E species.
- III Hybrids.
- IV Summary of species on the County List.

BRENT GOOSE (Brant Goose) *Branta bernicla*

Amber List. *Scarce annual winter visitor and passage migrant (8 records cf. an average of 7/year). All refer to the nominate dark-bellied race.*

First winter period/spring (6 records): a marked passage in mid-April, which included a single at Wisbech on Apr 11th, Coveney Byall Fen 12 and singles at Ferry Meadows CP and Wimpole Park on Apr 12th, Ferry Meadows CP 7 on Apr 13th and Kingfishers Bridge a single on Apr 14th.

Autumn/second winter period (2 records): Grafham Water a juvenile on Nov 17th and Ouse Washes (Fortrey's Hall) a single on Dec 30th.

CANADA GOOSE (Greater Canada Goose) *Branta canadensis*

Fairly common naturalised resident.

Total records: 1956. Sites: 95 breeding season/ 125 non-breeding.

Breeding (69 pairs/broods at 26 sites): Paxton Pits 14 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 12 broods, Nene Washes 8 pairs, Burwell Fen 3 broods, Grafham Water 3 broods, Cambridge (Backs) 2 broods, Cambridge Research Park 2 broods, Cambridge Science Park 2 broods, Cherry Hinton Pits 2 broods, Hobson's Park 2 broods, Kings Dyke NR 2 broods, Milton CP 2 broods, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 2 pairs and single pairs/broods at a further 13 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	55	56	28	13	10	50	85	50	100	8	-	-
Godmanchester GP	199	54	66	51	53	12	8	243	1	7	21	81
Grafham Water	5	14	8	1	22	112	100	119	175	30	77	3
Kingfishers Bridge	279	180	177	183	244	222	181	294	376	192	3	31
Ouse W (N & C)	197	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1269	1621
Ouse W (C only)	197	10	2	4	4	4	-	-	-	500	1093	1358

Peak counts of 75+ at other sites: Fish & Duck Marina 260 on Jan 7th, Sutton North Fen GP 151 on Sep 9th, Hobson's Park 140 on Aug 26th, Cam Washes 130 on Jan 13th, Paxton Pits 128 on Dec 9th, Berry Fen 123 on Oct 14th, Cambridge Research Park 115 on Aug 7th, Ferry Meadows CP 108 on Aug 21st, Granta Park 85 on Sep 3rd, Dernford Reservoir 80 on Aug 21st and Buckden GP 76 on Jan 20th.

BBS *Distribution (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) cf. 9% (17/18)*
Density (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) cf. 3 (17/18)

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis***Amber List.** *Scarce naturalised resident; wild birds are rare winter visitors.**Total records: 105. Sites: 7 breeding season/13 non-breeding.**Breeding: No breeding reports were received this year.**Peak monthly counts at key sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Granta Park	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	53	61
Sutton North Fen	-	23	-	-	19	29	31	31	28	15	27	-

Peak counts at other sites: Dernford Reservoir 3 on Apr 15th, Hobson's Park 3 on Feb 18th, Whittlesford GP 3 on Jun 30th, Ellington 2 on Mar 18th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 from Apr 28th to 29th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 from Sep 9th to Oct 14th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 2 on May 31st and singles at Burwell Fen on Jan 30th, Grafham Water from Jul 12th to Sep 5th and Wicken Fen on Dec 15th.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser***Amber List.** *Fairly common resident. Re-established native.**Total records: 2363. Sites: 97 breeding season/123 non-breeding.*

Breeding (132 pairs/broods at 22 sites): Nene Washes 23 pairs, Ouse Fen 18 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 15 broods, Paxton Pits 12 pairs, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 11 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes 9 pairs, Wicken Fen 8 broods, Shingay 7 broods, Cam Washes (Upware) 6 broods, Fowlmere NR 5 pairs, Burwell Fen 4 broods, Cambridge Research Park 2 broods, Hobson's Park 2 broods, Milton CP 2 broods and single pairs/broods at a further 8 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	1	200	3	57	23	115	93	342	5	4	280	61
Burwell Fen	82	125	138	49	43	41	90	21	15	7	230	150
Cambridge R Park	200	6	10	15	2	20	16	270	90	100	303	1
Colne Fen GP	128	370	9	18	459	388	570	454	114	-	252	81
Fen Drayton Lakes	50	131	99	39	48	600	815	300	327	4	59	191
Godmanchester GP	21	56	64	149	73	259	278	352	280	150	115	245
Kingfishers Bridge	353	467	224	121	207	124	124	474	660	904	760	411
Ouse Fen	109	239	141	75	24	58	1	18	1	1	3	2
Ouse W (N & C)	222	137	81	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	666	1137
Ouse W (C only)	89	85	24	54	10	10	8	-	-	10	414	719
Paxton Pits	60	10	55	20	45	12	1	50	447	402	4	112
Sutton North Fen	-	31	10	10	28	305	320	102	435	-	29	449

Peak counts of 100+ at other sites: Isleham Washes 524 on Sep 11th, Cam Washes (Upware) 330 on Jan 13th, Wicken Fen 274 on Nov 15th, Buckden GP 264 on Jan 20th, Fish & Duck Marina 250 on Nov 25th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 240 on Oct 10th, Block Fen GP 231 on Dec 9th, Barway 218 on Sep 10th, Burghley Park 215 on Nov 12th, Grafham Water 211 on Sep 9th, Etton-Maxey Pits 202 on Oct 12th, Brampton GP 200 on Nov 4th, Dernford Reservoir 175 on Aug 4th, Bainton GP 146 on Jan 20th, Berry Fen 140 on Jul 15th, Milton CP 140 on Dec 19th, Fowlmere NR 130 on Feb 4th,

Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 127 on Sep 18th, Milking Nook 100 on Jun 12th and Nine Wells 100 on Sep 25th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 26% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 3 (95/96) *cf.* 22 (17/18)

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Amber List. *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 3600.

Total records: 47. *Sites:* 23 non-breeding.

Latest on May 8th (Nene Washes) and *earliest* on Sep 22nd (Cam Washes).

Peak counts:

First winter period/spring: Barleycraft 4 on Feb 15th and Apr 23rd, Berry Fen 4 on Apr 28th, Coveney Byall Fen 4 on Jan 21st, Ouse Fen 4 on Apr 27th, Etton-Maxey Pits 3 on Mar 11th, Gamlingay 2 on May 4th and singles at Nene Washes (Eldernell) from Feb 23rd to 25th and May 7th to 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Mar 11th and Kingfishers Bridge from Feb 22nd to Mar 23rd.

Summer: Paxton Pits an apparent injured bird with Greylags from Jun 6th to 9th and Nene Washes (Eldernell) a single on Jul 5th.

Autumn/second winter period: Nene Washes (Low Wash) 33 over on Sep 29th, Cam Washes (Upware) 30 on Sep 22nd, Manea 27 on Dec 11th, Grafham Water 21 over on Sep 23rd, Foul Anchor 17 over on Oct 27th, Dimmock's Cote 13 over on Oct 7th, Kings Dyke NR 11 over on Nov 26th, Brampton GP 6 on Oct 8th and singles at Cambridge Research Park from Nov 28th to Dec 2nd, Kingfishers Bridge from Oct 14th to 28th and Dec 2nd to 6th, and Sutton North Fen on Nov 11th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: calling flocks were recorded sequentially at Cambridge (Lovell Road) and then Chesterton [Cambs] on both Sep 23rd and Oct 1st.

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser serrirostris*

Amber List. *Scarce winter visitor.*

First winter period (2 records): Colne Fen GP a single with Greylag and White-fronted Geese flock on Feb 18th (SLC) and Nene Washes (Eldernell) 5 on Feb 23rd (SPD).

Autumn/second winter period (2 records): Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) 3 on Dec 22nd (HJV), increasing to 5 on Dec 24th (ALC).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (Greater White-fronted Goose) *Anser albifrons*

Red List. *Scarce winter visitor. All refer to the nominate European race.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 24.

Total records: 40. *Sites:* 13 non-breeding.

Latest on Mar 11th (Etton-Maxey Pits) and *earliest* on Nov 19th (Nene Washes).

First winter period/spring: Fen Drayton Lakes 26 from Feb 2nd to 5th, Colne Fen GP 4 on Feb 18th, Ouse Washes (Fortrey's Hall) 22 on Feb 18th and 4 on Mar 4th, Ouse Washes (Earith) 4 on Feb 24th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 2 on Feb 24th, Cam Washes (Upware) a single on Feb 25th and Mar 6th, Wicken Fen a single from Mar 6th to 7th, Barleycraft GP 4 on Mar 10th and Etton-Maxey Pits 4 on Mar 11th.

Summer: an intriguing mid-summer record of 3 unringed, fully-winged birds at Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) from Jun 16th to 25th.

Autumn/second winter period: Nene Washes (Eldernell) 10 from Nov 19th to 20th, Burwell Fen a single on Nov 26th, Kingfishers Bridge 3 from Dec 2nd to 9th with 2 on 23rd, Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) 10 on Dec 9th increasing to 17 on 10th, 34 on 15th and 40 on 16th, Milton CP a single on Dec 19th and Ely BF 2 on Dec 29th.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Amber List. *Fairly common resident; large non-breeding population.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 320; threshold for national importance: 740.

Total records: 3360. *Sites*: 101 breeding season/ 155 non-breeding.

Breeding (103 pairs/broods at 31 sites): Nene Washes 33 pairs, Ouse Fen 10 pairs, Ouse Washes 9 pairs, Paxton Pits 7 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes 6 pairs, Ferry Meadows CP 5 pairs, Barleycraft GP 3 broods, Stanground Wash 3 broods, Cambridge Research Park 2 broods, Chippenham Fen 2 broods, Kingfishers Bridge 2 broods, River Cam (Baits Bite to Clayhithe) 2 broods and single pairs/broods at an additional 16 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	-	5	8	16	8	29	58	78	18	21	24	20
Fen Drayton Lakes	77	68	39	35	42	257	349	281	256	196	99	73
Ferry Meadows CP	60	34	59	46	67	100	86	93	51	-	38	-
Grafham Water	12	8	17	-	8	30	55	96	103	65	95	49
Nene Washes	74	87	118	135	100	62	53	3	-	20	78	71
Ouse Fen	14	59	45	24	7	24	12	16	5	17	25	21
Ouse W (N & C)	270	170	165	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	302	299
Ouse W (C only)	220	122	60	51	112	266	8	9	10	70	259	253
Paxton Pits	95	95	71	14	30	12	3	10	171	134	111	142

Peak counts of 40+ at other sites: Milking Nook 200 on Jun 12th, Stanground Wash 76 on Feb 6th, Drysides BP 74 on Feb 21st, Etton-Maxey Pits 74 on Jan 21st, Farcet Fen 57 on Nov 9th, Kingfishers Bridge 56 on Jan 7th, Fish & Duck Marina 51 on Jan 25th, Dog-in-a-Doublet 50 on Feb 24th, Peterborough 50 on Dec 8th, Burwell Fen 48 on Jun 3rd, Bainton GP 47 on Apr 15th, St Ives GP 47 on Dec 9th, Barway 45 on Jan 28th and Colne Fen GP 42 on Aug 19th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 29% (95/96) cf. 18% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 13 (95/96) cf. 5 (17/18)

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

Amber List. Local, fairly common winter visitor, some passage migrants. Chiefly on the main washes. WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 220; threshold for national importance: 70.

Total records: 108. Sites: 23 non-breeding.

Latest on Mar 17th (Ouse Washes) and earliest on Oct 26th (Cam Washes).

Peak monthly counts at key sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	216	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	43
Ouse W (N & C)	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	5	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23

Peak counts at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Mepal 100 on Feb 28th, Redmere 52 on Jan 31st, Manea 20 on Feb 4th, Littleport 15 on Mar 12th, Coveney 10 on Feb 4th, Kingfishers Bridge 5 on Jan 17th, Holme 4 on Jan 12th, Prior's Fen GP 4 on Jan 25th, Burwell 3 on Jan 14th, Dog-in-a-Doublet 3 on Feb 10th, Grafham Water 3 from Jan 10th to 15th, with 2 remaining until 29th, Great Fen Project 2 on Jan 28th and Waterbeach 2 on Feb 4th.

Autumn/second winter period: Oxloade 10 on Dec 22nd, Grafham Water 5 on Nov 24th, Cam Washes (Upware) 4 over on Oct 26th, 27th and Nov 25th, Chittering 4 on Nov 26th, Thorney 2 on Nov 25th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Dec 23rd and Wicken Fen a single on Nov 25th.

A poor year with very low counts from the main washes. This is perhaps reflective of the steady national decline this species has experienced.



Bewick's Swan *Chris Button*

Bewick's Swan: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Nene Washes	703	642	305	1110	1362	676	1150	739	629	334	393	216
Ouse W (C only)	1647	2679	3458	1605	1287	834	258	112	417	1500	442	40

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Amber List. *Locally common winter visitor, some passage migrants. Chiefly on the main washes.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 270; threshold for national importance: 110.

Total records: 560. Sites: 57 non-breeding.

Latest on May 20th (Ouse Washes) and earliest on Sep 23rd (Cambridge Research Park).

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	1588	571	627	66	4	2	-	1	13	95	388	1334
Ouse W (N & C)	3640	4914	1125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1396	6097
Ouse W (C only)	3525	4290	900	143	4	1	1	-	-	41	1037	6034

Peak counts of 10+ at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Coveney Byall Fen 1330 on Jan 23rd, Prior's Fen 560 on Jan 25th, Manea 500 on Feb 24th, Coveney 480 on Feb 4th, Mepal 450 on Feb 20th, Little Downham 445 on Jan 28th, Pymoor 360 on Jan 24th, Witchford 300 on Feb 4th, Littleport (May Farm) 212 on Jan 31st, Coates 200 on Jan 6th, Bassenhally 120 on Mar 14th, Burwell 110 on Jan 14th, Redmere 83 on Feb 25th, Burwell Fen 58 on Feb 22nd, Knarr Fen 52 on Mar 25th, Waterbeach 50 on Feb 4th, Kings Dyke NR 32 on Feb 2nd, Etton-Maxey Pits 25 on Mar 21st, Dog-in-a-Doublet 20 on Feb 24th, March 20 on Feb 13th, Cam Washes (Upware) 12 on Feb 7th and Sutton North Fen 12 on Mar 25th.

Summer: 1-2 birds, considered to be injured, remained at the Nene and Ouse Washes through the summer. A single injured bird also remained at Sutton North Fen and was joined by a second bird on Jul 15th.

Autumn/second winter period: Manea 1000 on Nov 11th, Oxlode 1000 on Dec 22nd, Coveney Byall Fen 550 on Dec 30th, Prickwillow 500 on Dec 31st, Thorney 155 on Nov 25th, Cam Washes (Upware) 144 over on Nov 25th, Chittering 144 on Nov 26th, Witchford 138 on Dec 13th, Burwell Fen 135 to roost on Nov 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 134 to roost on Nov 4th, March 100 on Oct 29th, Mepal 100 on Dec 5th, Knarr Fen 48 on Nov 25th, Wicken Fen 44 on Dec 27th, Colne Fen GP 40 on Nov 4th, Swaffham Prior Fen 33 on Nov 3rd, Sutton North Fen 20 on Dec 13th, Grafham Water 18 on Nov 9th, Fish & Duck Marina 15 on Dec 16th, Ferry Meadows CP 12 on Oct 19th, Coates 11 on Nov 11th, Great Fen Project 10 on Nov 24th and Littleport 10 on Oct 27th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Chesterton [Cams] on Oct 18th and 19th.

Unlike the declining Bewick's Swan the wintering Whooper Swan population in the county remains stable. Dry conditions in the second winter period may have displaced birds from the main washes and caused the unusually high numbers recorded in the Cam valley.

Whooper Swan: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Nene Washes	216	450	462	767	551	747	1112	1322	1221	979	986	1588
Ouse W (C only)	1417	2993	5979	4238	3281	3587	1087	7443	2871	7044	4937	4290

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca**Scarce naturalised resident.**Total records: 687. Sites: 29 breeding season/49 non-breeding.*

Breeding (9 pairs/broods at 7 sites): Kingfishers Bridge 3 pairs (brood of one), Barleycraft GP one pair, Burwell Fen (brood of 2), Colne Fen GP (brood of 6), Godmanchester GP (brood of 4), Paxton Pits one pair and Somersham GP (brood of 5).

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	8	-	1	3	1	4	3	2	1	2	2	1
Colne Fen GP	2	2	-	3	-	-	16	7	19	-	8	3
Fen Drayton Lakes	6	5	3	6	5	8	19	17	22	15	7	2
Godmanchester GP	2	6	8	5	4	4	2	10	18	2	2	9
Kingfishers Bridge	5	9	9	10	7	6	4	8	12	10	4	7

Peak counts at other sites: Chippenham Fen 15 over on Jan 16th, Barway 12 on Sep 10th, Ouse Fen 12 on Oct 14th, Berry Fen 11 on Oct 12th, Fish & Duck Marina 10 on Sep 30th, Etton-Maxey Pits 7 on Aug 12th, Somersham GP 7 on Jun 19th, Sutton North Fen 7 on Jul 15th, Burghley Park 6 on Apr 16th, Burwell Fen 6 on Apr 13th, Ouse Washes 6 on Nov 17th and Dec 22nd, Bluntisham 5 on Jul 1st, Cam Washes (Upware) 5 on Nov 19th, Dec 2nd and 24th and 1-4 at a further 30 sites.

SHELDUCK (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna***Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant and local breeder.**Total records: 676. Sites: 41 breeding season/49 non-breeding.*

Breeding (62 pairs/broods at 8 sites): Nene Washes 50 pairs, Ouse Washes 4 pairs/2 broods, Kingfishers Bridge 2 pairs, Burwell Fen 2 pairs/one brood, Colne Fen GP one brood, Farcet Fen one brood, Grafham Water one brood and Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) one pair.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burwell Fen	27	20	46	42	13	9	14	-	-	-	1	2
Cam Washes	2	6	22	16	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grafham Water	4	3	7	2	2	2	7	3	-	-	1	2
Kingfishers Bridge	5	5	6	8	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nene Washes	13	74	76	63	40	50	1	-	2	4	-	5
Ouse W (N & C)	5	47	25	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Ouse W (C only)	2	40	21	14	10	11	13	-	1	-	-	1

Peak counts at other sites: Wicken Fen 12 on Apr 28th, Dog-in-a-Doublet 10 on Feb 24th, Coates 9 on Apr 3rd, Farcet Fen 9 on Jun 8th, Paxton Pits 9 on Apr 19th, Sutton North Fen 9 on Apr 15th, Colne Fen GP 8 on Mar 25th, Coveney Byall Fen 8 on May 18th, Barway (flooded fields) 4 on Aug 4th, Bodsey 4 over on Apr 15th, Devil's Dyke (Reach) 4 on May 5th, Dimmock's Cote 4 on Apr 14th and May 5th, Fen Drayton Lakes 4 on Mar 18th and May 20th, Fish & Duck Marina 4 on Apr 7th, Godmanchester GP 4 on Apr 10th, Kings Dyke NR 4 over on May 14th and 1-3 at a further 25 sites.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Chesterton [Cambs] on Apr 14th.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Uncommon naturalised resident and escapee.

Total records: 96. Sites: 15 breeding season/ 23 non-breeding.

Breeding (2 pairs/broods at 2 sites): confirmed breeding at Hauxton GP (brood of 5) and Hobson's Park (brood of 6), while 2 juveniles at Stanground Wash suggested breeding occurred nearby. Single pairs were recorded in the breeding season at Dernford Reservoir, Kingfishers Bridge and Little Shelford.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grafham Water	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	1	-	2
Wimpole Park	22	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Peak counts at other sites outside breeding season:

First winter period/spring: Grantchester Meadows 3 on Mar 21st, Southey Wood 3 on Apr 1st, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 2 on Mar 16th and Apr 6th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on May 19th, Little Shelford 2 from Mar 25th to Apr 14th, Sawston Hall 2 on Mar 22nd and singles at Eaton Socon from Feb 21st to Mar 27th, Eye Green from Jan 10th to May 31st, Ferry Meadows CP from Mar 23rd to Apr 16th, Linton on Mar 1st, Littleport (May Farm) on Feb 22nd and May 3rd, Stanground Wash on Mar 30th, Thorney on Feb 11th, Trumpington Meadows on Apr 9th and Woodwalton Fen from Apr 20th to 28th.

Autumn/second winter period: Dernford Reservoir 14 on Aug 12th, Trumpington Meadows 7 on Aug 7th, Hauxton 5 on Nov 30th and Dec 31st, Ferry Meadows CP 3 on Oct 4th, Stow-cum-Quy 3 on Aug 12th, Granta Park 2 on Oct 4th, Stanground Wash 2 on Aug 29th and a single at Nene Washes (Eldernell) on Jul 16th.



Mandarin Duck *Richard Fowling*

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula***Amber List.** *Uncommon migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records: 248. Sites: 14 breeding season/ 11 non-breeding.**Earliest on Mar 15th (Nene Washes) and latest on Oct 7th (Fish & Duck Marina).*

Breeding (26 pairs/broods at 9 sites): Ouse Washes 10 pairs/2 broods (17 young), Nene Washes 9 pairs/one brood (7 young) and single pairs at Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Cam Washes (Upware), Coveney Byall Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Kingfishers Bridge and Paxton Pits. Up to 3 males were seen displaying at Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) but no breeding outcome was noted.

Peak monthly counts at key sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burwell Fen	-	-	-	3	3	4	2	-	-	-	-	-
Fen Drayton Lakes				2	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
Kingfishers Bridge	-	-	2	2	2	1	1	4	2	-	-	-
Nene Washes	-	-	2	6	8	9	3	4	1	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	-	-	2	4	10	2	-	-	-	-	-
Wicken Fen	-	-	-	6	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Counts at other sites as follows:

Spring: Cam Washes (Upware) 2 on Apr 6th, Middle Fen 2 on Apr 16th, Paxton Pits 2 on Apr 15th, Tubney Fen 2 on Apr 17th and Woodwalton Fen 2 on Mar 28th.

Summer/autumn: Barway (flooded fields) 4 on Aug 15th, Berry Fen 2 on Jun 10th and 30th, Coveney Byall Fen 2 on Jun 30th, Paxton Pits 2 on Jun 2nd and singles at Longstanton Drainage Lagoon from Jul 29th to 30th and Sep 7th to 23rd, and Fish & Duck Marina on Oct 7th.

SHOVELER (Northern Shoveler) *Spatula clypeata***Amber List.** *Fairly common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 400; threshold for national importance: 180.

Total records: 1565. Sites: 27 breeding season/72 non-breeding.

Breeding (305 pairs/broods at 12 sites): Nene Washes 138 pairs, Ouse Washes 61 pairs, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 31 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes 29 pairs, Coveney Byall Fen 28 pairs, Berry Fen 4 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 4 pairs/one brood, Gault Hole 3 broods, Burwell Fen 2 pairs/one brood, Grafham Water 2 pairs, Littleport (May Farm) 2 pairs and Kings Dyke NR one brood.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burwell Fen	100	54	107	135	29	14	10	4	-	7	10	31
Fen Drayton Lakes	165	215	100	45	6	29	5	155	130	34	46	93
Grafham Water	14	71	160	-	2	4	-	41	144	197	182	152
Kingfishers Bridge	32	34	79	62	9	7	31	58	139	56	63	22
Nene Washes	258	281	639	156	20	138	40	77	-	14	38	170
Ouse W (N & C)	59	370	137	138	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	667
Ouse W (C only)	12	223	120	96	45	61	6	4	-	-	12	460
Paxton Pits	40	30	40	-	-	-	-	-	10	15	29	98

Peak counts of 20+ at other sites: Prior's Fen 280 on Jan 25th, Barleycraft GP 145 on Nov 11th, Barway (flooded fields) 100 on Sep 9th, Berry Fen 77 on Apr 7th, Wicken Fen 65 on Feb 18th, Godmanchester GP 52 on Apr 3rd, Ely BF 50 on Apr 12th, Cam Washes (Upware) 44 on Apr 14th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 42 on Nov 17th, Cambridge Research Park 40 on Nov 28th, Colne Fen GP 35 on Dec 16th, Bainton GP 32 on Nov 9th, Ferry Meadows CP 31 on Nov 28th, Hampton Lakes 29 on Mar 4th, Ouse Fen 29 on Oct 14th, Little Fen 24 on Apr 15th, Gault Hole 23 on Jun 26th, St Ives GP 21 on Apr 16th, Milking Nook 20 on Apr 17th and Milton CP 20 on Mar 4th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Chesterton [Cams] on Mar 30th and Apr 15th.

Shoveler: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Grafham Water	170	157	121	180	268	100	130	109	112	64	93	160
Nene Washes	432	384	272	330	79	50	239	496	287	537	418	639
Ouse W (C only)	338	846	1506	206	898	586	650	466	578	668	568	223

GADWALL *Mareca strepera*

Amber List. *Fairly common naturalised resident and common winter visitor; slowly increasing.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 600; threshold for national importance: 250.

Total records: 1853. *Sites:* 41 breeding season/85 non-breeding.

Breeding (246 pairs/broods at 15 sites): Nene Washes 109 pairs, Ouse Washes 82 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes 16 pairs, Coveney Byall Fen 10 pairs, Ouse Fen 9 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 6 broods, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 3 pairs, Paxton Pits 3 pairs, Grafham Water 2 pairs/one brood and single pairs/broods at Barway, Bradley Fen, Kings Dyke NR, Shropshire's Reservoir, Stanground Wash and Wicken Fen.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	30	35	20	6	1	1	10	83	60	146	215	252
Burwell Fen	21	42	80	40	63	120	82	-	-	3	26	28
Fen Drayton Lakes	576	132	42	40	5	41	16	422	602	212	226	202
Grafham Water	26	31	35	1	17	30	4	55	182	118	248	93
Kingfishers Bridge	36	26	23	30	33	59	64	79	26	18	70	106
Nene Washes	45	157	221	74	35	109	-	4	-	-	24	15
Ouse Fen	73	-	9	-	2	115	171	100	35	62	93	35
Ouse W (N & C)	33	487	229	198	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	274
Ouse W (C only)	8	428	206	93	26	82	10	-	15	3	5	188
Paxton Pits	264	168	67	10	7	5	1	30	123	113	148	222

Peak counts of 40+ at other sites: Wicken Fen 162 on Dec 13th, Barway (flooded fields) 154 on Aug 30th, Ely BF 150 on Oct 22nd, Bainton GP 126 on Jan 21st, Colne Fen GP 93 on Jan 21st, St Ives GP 89 on Dec 9th, Berry Fen 78 on Nov 11th, Ferry Meadows CP 70 on Oct 28th, Milton CP 67 on Jan 19th, Cottenham (Long Drove) 66 on Feb 3rd, Cam Washes (Upware) 63 on Apr 14th, Buckden GP 56 on Sep 9th, Burghley Park 48 on Dec 10th and Dog-in-a-Doublet 40 on Mar 25th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Cambridge (Lovell Road) on Apr 3rd and Chesterton [Cams] on Jan 11th and Nov 18th.

Gadwall: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Fen Drayton Lakes	553	387	442	348	350	456	369	345	229	646	264	576
Ouse W (C only)	180	702	1143	735	623	994	432	490	324	985	517	428
Paxton Pits	212	324	280	307	173	341	194	315	247	176	162	264

**Gadwall** Ann Biggs**FALCATED DUCK** *Mareca falcata**Very rare, irregular visitor. 1(1) 0*

1988: *Spring* (one record) Drake, Buckden GP, Apr 1st. (CAEK). This was accepted at the time in Category D, along with other records of the same bird in 1987 and 1988 in Northamptonshire and on the Ouse Washes at Welney. In 2018 this record was elevated to Category A, hence this can now be accepted to the full county list. See p135 for finding report.

WIGEON (Eurasian Wigeon) *Mareca penelope*

Amber List. *Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant; regularly summers/occasionally breeds.* WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 15000; threshold for national importance: 4400.

Total records: 1494. *Sites:* 9 breeding season/75 non-breeding.

Breeding (one pair/11 unpaired males at 4 sites): no confirmed breeding, which remains a rare event in the county (last confirmed 2016). Apparent unpaired males were noted during the breeding season at: Nene Washes (9), Berry Fen (one) and Kingfishers Bridge (one). Elsewhere a pair were present at Fen Drayton Lakes throughout the summer, though remained possible breeders only.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	400	400	215	50	-	1	-	1	3	72	178	384
Burwell Fen	690	260	1345	250	-	-	4	-	-	27	700	300
Cam Washes	500	444	257	100	-	-	-	-	-	2	100	250
Colne Fen GP	637	211	211	37	-	-	-	-	12	-	310	353
Fen Drayton Lakes	3000	916	500	138	2	3	8	14	151	486	343	285
Godmanchester GP	260	94	345	82	1	1	1	-	-	22	137	82
Nene Washes	15580	11414	9201	496	13	9	5	-	55	16	1378	6604
Ouse W (N & C)	11927	13142	13736	1314	-	-	-	-	-	-	5843	26682
Ouse W (C only)	4977	7906	8693	1170	21	8	-	-	1	200	4530	22305
Paxton Pits	665	736	493	6	1	-	-	4	71	55	111	415
Wicken Fen	392	120	950	100	-	-	-	-	2	57	520	540

Peak counts of 75+ at other sites: Bassenhally 1000 on Mar 14th, Berry Fen 422 on Nov 11th, Ouse Fen 380 on Mar 6th, Prior's Fen 280 on Jan 25th, Bainton GP 278 on Jan 21st, Kingfishers Bridge 251 on Jan 11th, Little Fen 220 on Feb 4th, Grafham Water 200 on Oct 25th, Ferry Meadows CP 180 on Oct 28th, Holme Fen 150 on Nov 14th, Farcet Fen 145 on Mar 2nd, St Ives GP 103 on Jan 21st, Barway (flooded fields) 100 on Sep 11th, CEGB Reservoir 100 on Feb 25th, Etton-Maxey Pits 82 on Feb 18th and Marsh Lane GP 76 on Feb 18th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: a notable passage of departing birds from Mar 21st to Apr 17th (Cambridge (Lovell Road) and Chesterton [Cambs]). Also recorded on return passage on Sep 15th, Oct 19th and Nov 25th (Chesterton [Cambs]).

Wigeon: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Fen Drayton Lakes	960	2222	2228	2131	3000	3001	2369	6575	3124	3021	2735	3000
Nene Washes	8180	10497	9096	22571	20460	3050	5923	11423	14200	15150	12929	15580
Ouse W (C only)	19056	15425	18417	13022	26780	24590	18995	28964	15632	25213	15776	10549
Paxton Pits	1084	1047	670	691	928	2462	819	1759	1672	500	949	736

AMERICAN WIGEON *Mareca americana*

Rare, irregular visitor. 9(9) 1

First winter period (one record): Nene Washes (March Farmers) a drake from Feb 11th to 25th (SLC).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Amber List. *Very common resident and winter visitor. Partially feral population and released birds/escapes.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 45000; threshold for national importance: 6800.

Total records: 4349. *Sites:* 155 breeding season/190 non-breeding.

Breeding (1017 pairs/broods at 38 sites): Nene Washes 569 pairs, Ouse Washes 251 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes 82 pairs, Berry Fen 22 pairs, Ouse Fen 14 pairs, Paxton Pits 11 pairs, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 10 pairs, Coveney Byall Fen 7 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 6 pairs/3 broods, Burwell Fen 4 broods, Cambridge Research Park 4 broods, Cambridge Science Park 3 broods, Isleham Washes 3 broods and 1-2 pairs/broods at an additional 25 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BBite – Owlstone	-	121	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	208	162	185
Colne Fen GP	48	67	45	32	12	45	71	310	383	-	15	354
Fen Drayton Lakes	215	116	89	51	71	134	323	240	165	156	111	106
Ferry Meadows CP	98	65	64	65	68	114	173	290	134	-	80	-
Grafham Water	185	91	46	-	14	40	100	954	719	714	697	743
Kingfishers Bridge	78	58	126	42	47	48	105	543	187	150	63	90
Nene Washes	1611	847	590	456	-	569	600	-	-	-	667	1118
Ouse Fen	130	49	20	38	7	92	40	119	2	136	104	125
Ouse W (N & C)	1840	2202	902	659	-	-	-	-	-	-	1064	4138
Ouse W (C only)	685	545	624	444	-	251	-	-	-	-	374	1658
Wicken Fen	117	48	24	20	10	23	126	54	160	40	111	101

BBite – Owlstone = River Cam (Baits Bite Lock to Owlstone Road)

Peak counts of 100+ at other sites: Littleport (May Farm) 747 on Jan 29th, Sutton North Fen 328 on Aug 19th, Barleycraft GP 205 on Aug 19th, Redmere 200 from Jan 1st to Feb 28th, Barway (flooded fields) 195 on Aug 17th, Cambridge Research Park 185 on Aug 12th, Farcet Fen 160 on Mar 2nd, Granta Park 160 on Nov 13th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 144 on Jul 29th, Burwell Fen 138 on Jun 18th, Tubney Fen 117 on Nov 4th, Paxton Pits 116 on Sep 10th, Milton CP 105 on Aug 28th and Holme Fen 100 on Nov 14th.

Mallard: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Fen Drayton Lakes	213	197	219	407	244	264	348	218	252	245	243	215
Grafham Water	526	371	391	711	632	716	570	341	522	323	525	446
Nene Washes	485	1164	851	1291	1024	869	439	484	982	1330	807	1611
Ouse W (C only)	1740	2158	2284	1903	1554	1351	1626	1883	1881	3223	2255	974
Wicken Fen	170	254	280	121	180	185	140	448	160	220	224	117

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 73% (95/96) *cf.* 56% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 65 (95/96) *cf.* 36 (17/18)

PINTAIL (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*

Amber List. *Fairly common, local winter visitor/passage migrant and rare breeder.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 600; threshold for national importance: 290.

Total records: 380. *Sites:* 2 breeding season/ 30 non-breeding.

Breeding: no breeding records were received. The last confirmed breeding in the county was in 2010.

Peak monthly counts at key sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grafham Water	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	4	14	21	5
Nene Washes	672	1047	800	80	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	30
Ouse W (N & C)	110	474	351	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	274
Ouse W (C only)	27	140	200	14	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	84

Peak counts at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Paxton Pits 16 on Jan 5th, Kingfishers Bridge 15 on Mar 25th, Fen Drayton Lakes 11 on Apr 15th, Cam Washes (Upware) 10 on Mar 25th, Farcet Fen 8 on Mar 2nd, Burwell Fen 6 on Mar 14th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 4 on Mar 26th, Milking Nook 4 on Jan 1st, Wicken Fen 4 on Mar 16th and 24th, Etton-Maxey Pits 3 on Mar 11th, Bassenhally 2 on Mar 14th, Drysides BP 2 on Jan 17th, Milton CP 2 on Mar 2nd and singles at Berry Fen from Mar 4th to 20th, Dog-in-a-Doublet on Mar 31st, Ferry Meadows CP from Mar 1st to 2nd, and Godmanchester GP on Jan 29th and Mar 13th.

Autumn/second winter period: Block Fen GP 5 over on Dec 9th, Burwell Fen 5 from Dec 10th to 20th, Paxton Pits 5 on Oct 5th, Fen Drayton Lakes 4 on Dec 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on Oct 21st, Barleycraft GP 3 from Oct 13th to 14th, Wicken Fen 3 on Nov 3rd and 28th, Barway (flooded fields) 2 from Sep 9th to 16th, Godmanchester GP 2 from Oct 9th to 10th and singles at Bainton GP on Sep 22nd, Cambridge Research Park on Aug 29th, Ferry Meadows CP on Sep 30th and Nov 22nd, Helpston on Sep 23rd, Kings Dyke NR from Sep 10th to Oct 16th and Nov 19th, Milton CP from Oct 23rd to Dec 12th, Ouse Fen on Nov 18th, Sutton North Fen on Aug 19th and Woodwalton Fen on Aug 6th.

Pintail: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Nene Washes	1931	1267	1951	2400	1237	50	575	523	830	680	250	1047
Ouse W (C only)	1051	1195	1450	201	876	545	488	482	496	892	471	200

TEAL (Eurasian Teal) *Anas crecca*

Amber List. *Scarce breeder; very common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 5000; threshold for national importance: 2100.

Total records: 1719. *Sites:* 17 breeding season/89 non-breeding.

Breeding (21 pairs at 6 sites): no confirmed breeding, which was last confirmed in the county in 2016. Pairs/unpaired males were recorded in the breeding season at: Ouse Washes (16 pairs), Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water and Kingfishers Bridge.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burwell Fen	189	136	138	34	17	25	25	-	3	5	30	800
Fen Drayton Lakes	269	128	63	66	2	4	15	32	69	120	200	33
Grafham Water	126	52	54	1	2	7	11	96	363	527	661	603
Kingfishers Bridge	105	164	113	112	3	1	7	25	61	179	126	208
Nene Washes	4154	4258	1193	837	4	50	110	300	400	400	740	1035
Ouse W (N & C)	3298	1114	657	245	-	-	-	-	-	-	2752	9457
Ouse W (C only)	375	410	454	174	8	18	15	-	149	200	1620	6563
Wicken Fen	166	58	47	29	1	1	1	19	39	130	363	400

Peak counts of 75+ at other sites: Barway (flooded fields) 757 on Sep 22nd, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 337 on Sep 9th, Littleport (May Farm) 263 on Feb 15th, Cam Washes (Upware) 200 on Jan 1st, Colne Fen GP 180 on Nov 18th, Cambridge Research Park 170 on Jan 13th, Berry Fen 148 on Dec 9th, Ely BF 140 on Oct 22nd, Isleham Washes 140 on Sep 11th, Woodwalton Fen 120 on Feb 6th, Bainton GP 108 on Oct 13th, Ouse Fen 104 on Jan 21st and Aug 12th, Ramsey 100 on Feb 1st,

Ferry Meadows CP 98 on Jan 13th, Barleycraft GP 86 on Apr 15th, Etton-Maxey Pits 83 on Jan 20th and Paxton Pits 79 on Jan 21st.

Nocturnal sound recordings: passage of departing birds was recorded on several dates from Mar 8th to May 2nd, with birds on return passage noted from Aug 3rd to Nov 24th (Cambridge (Lovell Road) and Chesterton [Cams]).

Teal: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Fen Drayton Lakes	196	286	150	677	305	250	710	919	1142	1119	151	269
Grafham Water	414	181	150	414	200	384	335	379	610	368	796	126
Nene Washes	1677	2078	1851	9012	3916	2004	1350	1500	2219	3600	2900	4258
Ouse W (C only)	1572	2090	3642	972	3611	3316	2000	5180	7179	7816	1621	1519

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Scarce visitor of naturalised origin; has bred twice, last in 2013.

Total records: 59. *Sites:* 3 breeding season/9 non-breeding.

Breeding: Several birds were noted at Paxton Pits during the breeding season but no confirmed breeding was recorded.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	3
Grafham Water	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	-
Paxton Pits	2	-	7	7	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	2

Counts at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Holme Fen a pair on Mar 2nd, Etton-Maxey Pits a single on Mar 26th and Earith a male on Apr 25th.

Autumn/second winter period: Ferry Meadows CP singles on Aug 24th and Oct 28th, Ouse Fen a single on Sep 9th and Colne Fen GP a pair on Nov 4th with a single male on Dec 9th.

POCHARD (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*

Red List. *Uncommon breeder, common winter visitor and passage migrant.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 3000; threshold for national importance: 380.

Total records: 1201. *Sites:* 25 breeding season/41 non-breeding.

Breeding (57 pairs/broods at 8 sites): Ouse Fen 30 pairs, Nene Washes 12 pairs/one brood, Fen Drayton Lakes 6 pairs, Burwell Fen 3 broods, Kingfishers Bridge 2 broods, Kings Dyke NR 2 broods and single pairs at Dimmock's Cote and at Gault Hole (observed to mate).

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	1	3	2	9	1	7	1	1	71	37	76	56
Fen Drayton Lakes	56	60	15	6	10	6	43	64	23	40	36	58
Etton-Maxey Pits	61	74	17	-	-	-	-	15	14	2	17	25
Grafham Water	31	5	1	2	1	-	7	4	40	27	35	17
Nene Washes	1	18	9	10	12	31	9	-	1	1	-	-
Ouse Fen	8	42	11	42	6	45	12	54	9	19	21	4
Ouse W (N & C)	1819	1874	1077	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1128
Ouse W (C only)	1267	1180	687	30	32	1	-	-	-	1	1	960
Paxton Pits	3	20	11	-	2	-	-	1	60	115	40	79

Peak counts of 10+ at other sites: Cambridge Research Park 50 on Jan 6th, Northstowe 37 on Oct 5th, Kingfishers Bridge 35 on Jun 24th, Shropshire's Reservoir 26 on Feb 18th, Bainton GP 24 on Mar 18th, Burwell Fen 22 on Apr 6th, Drysides BP 18 on Aug 8th, Bradley Fen 17 on Sep 5th, Colne Fen GP 16 on Nov 18th, Kings Dyke NR 16 on Apr 16th, St Ives GP 15 on Sep 9th, Ferry Meadows CP 14 on Mar 7th, Whittlesford 14 on Jan 31st, Redmere 12 on Feb 2nd, Somersham GP 11 on Nov 11th and Godmanchester GP 10 on Dec 9th.

Pochard: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Fen Drayton Lakes	121	251	316	176	173	118	110	382	240	156	192	60
Grafham Water	48	84	78	526	217	69	21	62	50	43	25	31
Nene Washes	57	462	330	129	3	4	1072	1067	11	65	9	18
Ouse W (C only)	2289	1846	1316	1522	1305	233	2099	850	1570	1839	826	1267
Paxton Pits	164	313	370	311	187	397	151	231	151	155	138	38

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Rare, irregular visitor. c21(21) 1

First winter period/spring (one record): Ouse Washes (Chain Corner) a drake from Feb 18th to Mar 31st (SLC).

Nearctic ducks: distribution of records per decade (excluding returning individuals).

	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	00-09	10-18
Blue-winged Teal	0	1	2	3	0	0	4
American Wigeon	1	0	0	1	3	2	2
Green-winged Teal	0	1	1	2	4	8	5
Ring-necked Duck	0	1	4	2	3	5	6
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Surf Scoter	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula***Green List.** *Fairly common breeder, common winter visitor and passage migrant.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 12000; threshold for national importance: 1100.

*Total records: 2252. Sites: 54 breeding season/92 non-breeding.**Breeding* (253 pairs/broods at 23 sites): Fen Drayton Lakes 101 pairs/2 broods, Nene Washes 98 pairs, Ouse Washes 13 pairs/2 broods, Paxton Pits 10 pairs/3 broods, Cambridge Research Park 4 broods, Kingfishers Bridge 4 broods, Dernford Reservoir 3 broods, Cottenham (Long Drove) 2 broods, Grafham Water 2 broods, Hobson's Park 2 broods, Ouse Fen 2 pairs and single broods at an additional 12 sites.*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colne Fen GP	43	62	87	83	-	54	63	152	114	-	63	74
Fen Drayton Lakes	276	429	402	294	10	101	259	570	449	335	563	527
Ferry Meadows CP	93	110	111	15	2	3	4	12	32	79	170	70
Godmanchester GP	52	79	87	33	18	19	100	115	141	126	104	112
Grafham Water	800	110	139	-	5	50	744	475	1237	1617	1313	1683
Nene Washes	32	30	25	288	50	98	-	-	-	3	8	15
Ouse W (N & C)	639	1049	742	502	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	176
Ouse W (C only)	537	804	484	385	56	13	19	-	-	-	-	160
Paxton Pits	229	391	346	56	59	20	10	20	165	208	326	261
St Ives GP	129	104	57	41	-	-	4	-	131	31	38	215

Peak counts of 50+ at other sites: Bainton GP 170 on Dec 8th, Berry Fen 129 on Apr 15th, Block Fen GP 119 on Dec 9th, Marsh Lane GP 104 on Feb 18th, Drysides BP 96 on Aug 8th, Barleycraft GP 95 on Dec 9th, Bradley Fen 90 on Jul 22nd, Ouse Fen 90 on Feb 18th, Buckden GP 82 on Dec 9th, Milton CP 75 on Jan 19th, Roswell Pits 75 on Nov 25th, Milking Nook 67 on Apr 17th, Etton-Maxey Pits 59 on Feb 18th, Burghley Park 57 on Jan 22nd, Redmere 54 on Jan 23rd, Littleport (May Farm) 50 on May 30th and Tanholt GP 50 on Sep 26th.**Tufted Duck:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Fen Drayton Lakes	454	473	505	759	492	878	643	601	730	1141	816	429
Grafham Water	521	1458	1591	2242	1815	1645	1421	1937	2031	729	1497	1584
Nene Washes	375	103	247	213	80	851	1095	1152	51	250	41	32
Ouse W (C only)	1525	2523	2409	1249	1247	619	3911	1619	2545	936	1530	804

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 12% (95/96) cf. 6% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 5 (95/96) cf. 2 (17/18)

SCAUP (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila*

Red List. *Scarce annual passage migrant and winter visitor* (22 records cf. an average of 13/year).

Latest on May 13th (Nene Washes) and *earliest* on Sep 22nd (Grafham Water).

Another very good year, with the number of records well above average and spread widely across the county.

First winter period/spring (15 records): Milking Nook a single on Jan 1st, Grafham Water a female from Jan 7th to 21st, a pair from Jan 25th to Feb 14th, 3 on Jan 30th and 3 females from Mar 4th to 19th, with a single female remaining until Apr 13th, Ouse Washes a female on Jan 7th, 2 on Feb 18th with one remaining until 25th, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on Jan 16th, Paxton Pits a drake on Jan 16th, Godmanchester GP a single on Jan 29th and Mar 7th, St Ives GP a drake from Feb 3rd to 4th and again on Feb 23rd and Mar 18th, Milton CP a female from Feb 21st to Mar 25th, which briefly moved to Cambridge Research Park on Mar 24th, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on Mar 31st and Nene Washes (Eldernell) 2 on May 13th.

Autumn/second winter period (7 records): Grafham Water a juvenile from Sep 22nd to 28th joined by a second bird on 28th, a female from Oct 29th to Nov 4th and a first-winter drake from Nov 24th to Dec 12th joined by a second bird from Dec 15th to 31st, and Ferry Meadows CP a first-winter female from Nov 25th remained into 2019.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Red List. *Rare winter visitor and passage migrant.* 52(82) 1

Autumn/second winter period (one record): Grafham Water 2 female types from Nov 23rd to 26th, photo (RMP).



Velvet Scoter James Hanlon

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Red List. *Scarce annual passage migrant; occasional in winter* (25 records cf. an average of 13/year).

A remarkable spring passage; a phenomenon which was recorded across many south and central counties.

First winter period/spring (21 records including Nocturnal Sound Records): Beeby's Pit 4 on Mar 25th, CEGB Reservoir a drake on Mar 25th, Ely BF 3 on Mar 25th, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on Mar 25th, 13

on Mar 31st and 2 on Apr 8th, Grafham Water 20 on Mar 25th, 6 on Apr 8th, 24 from Apr 9th to 10th and 14 on Apr 14th, Paxton Pits 2 on Apr 8th, River Cam (Ditton Meadows) a single on Apr 14th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 5 on Apr 14th and 2 on May 18th and Sutton North Fen a drake from Apr 15th to May 27th.

Summer (5 records including nocturnal sound records): Grafham Water a single on Jun 23rd and 9 on Jul 31st, Dernford Reservoir a single on Jul 12th and Godmanchester GP a single on Aug 12th.

Autumn/second winter period (9 records including nocturnal sound records): Colne Fen GP 4 on Oct 6th, Grafham Water 4 on Oct 6th, 2 on Oct 30th with one remaining until Nov 12th, 2 females from Nov 20th to Dec 9th which were joined by 2 males on Nov 26th, and 5 on Dec 10th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: nocturnal migration in spring was also substantial, with multiple groups recorded over single locations on several nights. Cambridge (Lovell Road)/Chesterton [Cambs] on Mar 22nd, 2 groups on Mar 28th, Apr 7th, 4 groups on Apr 14th, Apr 17th and May 6th, Chesterton [Cambs] on Aug 30th, Sep 25th, Sep 29th and Oct 7th.

Selected seaducks: distribution of records per decade.

	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	00-09	10-18
Eider	1	1	2	7	6	0	0
Velvet Scoter	1	6	13	13	2	5	6
Long-tailed Duck	2	2	9	10	2	7	3

GOLDENEYE (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula*

Amber List. *Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant; occasionally summers.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 200.

Total records: 368. *Sites*: 18 non-breeding.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bainton GP	7	12	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	20
Fen Drayton Lakes	19	37	65	39	1	1	-	-	-	3	9	27
Grafham Water	157	209	154	17	-	-	3	3	1	16	110	109
Ouse W (N & C)	-	11	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	3	9	10	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8
Paxton Pits	27	25	25	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	44
St Ives GP	7	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10

Peak counts at other sites: Etton-Maxey Pits 6 on Feb 19th, Buckden GP 5 on Feb 18th, Ferry Meadows CP 5 on Nov 21st, Barleycraft GP 4 on Feb 9th, Godmanchester GP 4 on Feb 18th, Great Fen Project (Tower Farm) 3 on Feb 6th, Holme Fen 2 on Mar 5th and singles at Brampton GP on Nov 13th, Cambridge Research Park on Nov 4th, Eye Green GP on Dec 4th, Northstowe on Jan 1st and from Nov 23rd to Dec 27th, and Ouse Fen on Jan 21st and Feb 15th.

Goldeneye: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Fen Drayton Lakes	90	114	94	112	105	72	71	57	58	73	92	65
Grafham Water	57	140	96	89	220	133	214	206	109	160	148	209
Paxton Pits	138	137	103	117	108	63	100	101	150	87	75	27

SMEW *Mergellus albellus***Amber List.** *Uncommon, annual winter visitor.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 2.

Total records: 154. *Sites:* 11 non-breeding.*Latest* on Apr 15th (Colne Fen GP) and *earliest* on Nov 25th (Barleycraft GP/Godmanchester GP/Paxton Pits).*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	3	12	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
Fen Drayton Lakes	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ouse Fen	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Paxton Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
St Ives GP	9	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-

Peak counts at other sites: Bainton GP 2 on Mar 23rd, Godmanchester GP 2 on Nov 25th, Colne Fen GP a redhead from Feb 18th to Apr 15th, Grafham Water a single on Jan 1st, Etton-Maxey Pits a redhead on Feb 19th and Ouse Washes a redhead on Mar 29th.**Smew:** peak counts at key sites September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Barleycraft GP	11	12	15	29	34	21	18	19	21	14	14	12
Fen Drayton Lakes	7	6	14	16	15	4	7	5	4	8	5	3
Paxton Pits	8	13	6	20	23	15	11	7	2	4	-	-

GOOSANDER (Common Merganser) *Mergus merganser***Green List.** *Uncommon winter visitor; occasionally summers and bred 2018.**Total records:* 180. *Sites:* 2 breeding season/29 non-breeding.*Breeding* (2 broods at 2 sites): Elton Lock a female hatched 2 young with one successfully fledging, and Little Shelford (River Cam) a female hatched 10 young with 9 successfully fledging. The group of 9 fledged juveniles was subsequently seen at Dernford Reservoir and Fen Drayton Lakes (see table). These records represent the first confirmed breeding in the county.*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghley Park	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fen Drayton Lakes	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	9	-	6	1	-
Etton-Maxey Pits	7	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14
Ferry Meadows CP	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	11
Grafham Water	14	14	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Paxton Pits	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3

First winter period/spring: Bainton GP 7 on Jan 21st, Buckden (village pond) 6 from Mar 16th to 17th, Great Shelford 3 on Mar 5th, St Ives GP 3 on Jan 14th, Drysides BP 2 on Feb 28th, Nene Washes 2 on Apr 29th, Wisbech St Mary 2 on Jan 30th and singles at Burwell Fen on Feb 5th, Dog-in-a-Doublet on Mar 4th, Milking Nook on Jan 1st, Offord D'Arcy from Feb 6th to 10th and Ouse Washes (Fortrey's Hall) on Mar 25th.

Autumn/second winter period: Dernford Reservoir 9 from Aug 16th to 18th, Castor 2 on Dec 9th and single at Barleycraft GP on Nov 30th, Chesterton [Cams] on Dec 9th, Godmanchester GP from Nov 25th to Dec 23rd, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon on Sep 30th, Northstowe from Oct 4th to 8th, Ouse Fen on Nov 30th and Pidley (Rookery Waters) on Dec 6th.

Goosander: peak counts at key sites from September to March (2006/07–2017/18)

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Etton-Maxey Pits	15	22	6	11	24	1	28	19	22	8	21	17
Grafham Water	16	12	11	20	21	13	30	17	25	24	15	14
Paxton Pits	12	7	3	2	17	17	10	12	15	15	13	4

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Green List. *Scarce, almost annual winter visitor and passage migrant (3 records cf. an average of 2/year).*

First winter period (one record): Burwell Fen a drake on Burwell Lode on Mar 4th (KWil).

Autumn/second winter period (2 records): Grafham Water a female from Nov 18th to Dec 7th (RMP) and Ferry Meadows CP a female from Nov 20th to 25th (DTG).

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce and declining naturalised resident. Subject to an official national eradication programme.

Spring/Summer (one record): a female at Nene Washes on Apr 13th (GFW), which was subsequently seen at nearby Bradley Fen from May 15th to Aug 8th (GFW).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Very common naturalised resident with widespread releases of thousands of feral birds for shooting.

Total records: 632. *Sites*: 84 breeding season/83 non-breeding.

Breeding (16 pairs at 4 sites): Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 6 pairs, Paxton Pits 6 pairs, Cherry Hinton East Pit 2 pairs and Kingfishers Bridge 2 pairs. During the breeding season records were received from an additional 80 sites, all of which lacked any confirmation of territorial behaviour or breeding. No records of any broods were reported perhaps reflecting a poor breeding season.

Counts/coveys (peaks of 20+): many records relate to areas where releases occur. Little Wilbraham Fen 'hundreds' on Oct 20th, Devil's Dyke 143 on Oct 13th, Fen Drayton Lakes 55 on Nov 4th, Littleport (May Farm) 50 on Jan 31st, Barway (Hailey Farm) 40 on Oct 21st, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 39 on Jan 22nd, Kingfishers Bridge 33 on Nov 30th and Great Wilbraham Common 24 on Dec 16th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 86% (95/96) cf. 65% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 43 (95/96) cf. 26 (17/18)

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Red List. *Scarce resident; population much declined and fairly local (some releases).*

Total records: 293. Sites: 44 breeding season/49 non-breeding.

Breeding (58 pairs/broods at 30 sites): Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 9 pairs, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 7 pairs, Foxton 6 pairs, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 4 pairs, Devil's Dyke 4 pairs, Great Fen Project 3 pairs, Shepreth L-Moor 2 pairs and single pairs/broods at an additional 23 sites. Confirmed breeding is very under recorded as only 2 sites, Grafham Water and Heydon, recorded broods of 10 and 11 respectively.

Grey Partridge: *Peak monthly counts at selected site:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nine Wells	25	19	22	13	15	4	-	11	18	32	48	22

Counts/coveys at other sites (peaks of 15+): Littleport (May Farm) 70 on Jan 31st, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 46 on Dec 8th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 29 on Oct 28th, Devil's Dyke 27 on Aug 22nd, Heydon 24 on Feb 7th, Kingfishers Bridge 24 on Jan 23rd, Foxton 20 on Aug 13th and Great Fen Project 18 on Nov 8th.

BBS *Distribution (% squares occupied): 29% (95/96) cf. 22% (17/18)*
Density (individuals/10 squares): 5 (95/96) cf. 7 (17/18)



Grey Partridge Ann Biggs

QUAIL (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix*

Amber List. *Scarce summer visitor in variable numbers; breeding rarely confirmed (5 individuals cf. an average of 18/year).*

Total records: 5. Sites: 5 breeding season.

Earliest on May 8th (Chesterton [Cambs]) and latest on Jul 6th (Knapwell Grange Farm).

Spring/summer: a very poor year for this species as only recorded Kingfishers Bridge on May 19th-20th (JMos), Fulbourn on May 20th (NGei), Brampton Racecourse on Jun 8th-12th (MLH) and Knapwell (Grange Farm) on Jul 6th (DG).

Nocturnal sound recordings: Chesterton [Cambs] on May 8th (SGi).

PHEASANT (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common naturalised resident with over a million reared birds released in the county on shooting estates.

Total records: 2070. Sites: 145 breeding season/129 non-breeding.

Breeding (46 pairs/broods at 11 sites): breeding data incomplete. Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 13 pairs, Paxton Pits 10 pairs, R.Cam (Baits Bite – Clayhithe) 8 pairs, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 4 pairs, Great Wilbraham Common 4 pairs and 1-2 pairs/broods at an additional 6 sites. Present during the breeding season at an additional 134 sites, but these records did not include any breeding data.

Counts/coveys (peaks of 20+): most records relate to areas where releases occur, Littleport (May Farm) 100 on Feb 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 95 on Oct 25th, Tetworth Hall Estate 67 on Sep 25th, Sawston Hall 60 on Mar 31st, Barrington 50 on Oct 2nd, Barway (Hainey Farm) 50 on Oct 21st, Redmere 50 on Feb 28th, 31st, Fish & Duck Marina 43 on Sep 30th, Devil's Dyke 37 on Oct 17th, Wisbech St Mary 26 on Mar 30th, Stanground Wash 22 on Dec 31st, Cottenham (Long Drove) 20 on Oct 13th, Grafham Water 20 on Nov 20th, Little Wilbraham Fen 20 on Dec 26th and Stuntney 20 on Oct 27th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 96% (95/96) *cf.* 91% (17/18)

Density (individuals/10 squares): 80 (95/96) *cf.* 41 (17/18)

Release numbers: 1,280,095 Pheasants are reared in Cambridgeshire according to the supplementary table of the paper **Abundance, biomass and energy use of native and alien breeding birds in Britain** Blackburn, T.M. & Gaston, K.J. *Biol Invasions* (2018) 20: 3563. doi.org/10.1007/s10530-018-1795-z. Additional Pheasants may be imported from Europe so the number released in the county could be higher. Cambridgeshire was third in the list of counties with the most reared Pheasants – behind Yorkshire and Devon.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Amber List. *Scarce, almost annual passage migrant/winter visitor.*

Latest Mar 19th and *earliest* on Sep 18th (both Grafham Water).

First winter (2 records): singles at Ferry Meadows CP on Mar 3rd to 12th, photo (DTG) and Grafham Water on Mar 19th, photo (JSh, IC).

Second winter (2 records): singles at Grafham Water, an adult in summer plumage on Sep 18th, photo (MLH) and Nov 25th, photo (CDA).

Surprisingly after a good number of records in recent years, there were no submitted records of Great Northern Diver in the county for 2018, while four Red-throated Divers comes after a dearth of records for this species – the previous records being two in 2014.

Divers: total number of records (1950–2018)

	1950s	60s	70s	80s	90s	00s	2010–18
Red-throated Diver	9	16	24	30	10	8	10
Black-throated Diver	3	3	7	11	11	6	1
Great Northern Diver	1	5	10	14	15	19	13

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

Rare storm-blown visitor. 45(45) 2

Autumn (2 records): singles at Grafham Water on Sept 22nd, photo (MLH, RMP) and Oct 9th (CDA).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Green List. *Fairly common resident, breeding mainly on lakes.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 160.

Total records: 1609. *Sites:* 57 breeding season / 95 non-breeding.

Breeding (44 pairs/broods at 18 sites): Ouse Fen 11 pairs, Nene Washes 6 pairs, Colne Fen GP 5 broods, Hauxton Pits 3 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 3 broods, Barway (flooded fields) 2 broods, Fowlmere NR 2 pairs, Grafham Water 2 broods, and single pairs/broods at an additional 10 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	11	8	7	2	2	5	16	25	48	40	31	25
Bradley Fen	3	7	13	3	2	5	3	14	11	7	5	3
Colne Fen GP	13	23	19	6	5	11	19	62	71	-	18	12
Grafham Water	1	10	7	-	-	-	14	30	29	33	-	16
Kingfishers Bridge	4	6	10	10	-	6	26	16	13	6	6	8
Etton- Maxey Pits	29	23	18	21	-	-	14	48	-	32	26	25
Ouse Fen	-	3	5	5	-	8	-	11	-	4	2	1
Ouse W (N & C)	7	19	29	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	6	16	25	5	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	8

Peak counts of 10+ at other sites: Fen Drayton Lakes 23 on Oct 14th, Earith Washes 20 on Feb 25th, Paxton Pits 20 on Dec 9th, Burwell Fen 19 on Apr 15th, Barway (flooded fields) 17 on Sep 13th, Nene Washes 16 on Aug 24th, Wicken Fen 16 on Mar 22nd, Burghley Park 12 on Jan 22nd and Littleport (May Farm) 10 on Jan 31st.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Red List. *Scarce annual visitor, mainly in winter* (1 record cf. an average of 3/year); *nested in 1988 (and probably in 2002).*

Breeding (one possible): a prospecting bird finally returned for it's third year at an undisclosed site on Jun 22nd to Jul 11th, but it's displays and calling again failed to attract a mate (GFW).

Autumn/second winter (one record): a very confiding bird at Ferry Meadows CP on Nov 5th to 26th, photo (MWe, DG, PT).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Green List. *Fairly common resident; some immigration in cold winters.*

Total records: 1769. *Sites:* 72 breeding season/71 non-breeding.

Breeding (121 pairs/broods at 24 sites): Nene Washes 43 pairs, Paxton Pits 20 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes 12 pairs, Ouse Fen 9 pairs, Bainton GP 4 broods, Cambridge Research Park 4 broods, Milton CP 4 broods, Bradley Fen 3 broods, Colne Fen GP 3 broods, Dryside BP 3 broods, Barleycraft GP 2 broods, Kingfishers Bridge 2 broods, and single pairs/broods at an additional 12 sites. Breeding is often protracted late into the season as small young can be noted in September.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	1	2	6	6	5	7	9	9	6	4	1	1
Bradley Fen	-	1	2	4	3	6	8	8	11	4	-	-
Colne Fen GP	-	1	3	6	4	13	23	33	26	-	17	12
Drysidles BP	8	14	8	12	7	8	16	18	16	7	-	-
Fen Drayton Lakes	9	6	10	53	26	64	54	124	80	55	50	32
Ferry Meadows CP	12	25	36	18	19	17	8	22	30	35	17	-
Godmanchester GP	6	6	8	8	4	15	13	25	27	24	42	26
Grafham Water	156	113	57	-	20	-	60	263	354	482	399	437
Ouse W (N & C)	-	13	13	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	4	11	12	37	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	5	9	12	5	7	10	-	8	33	27	22	5

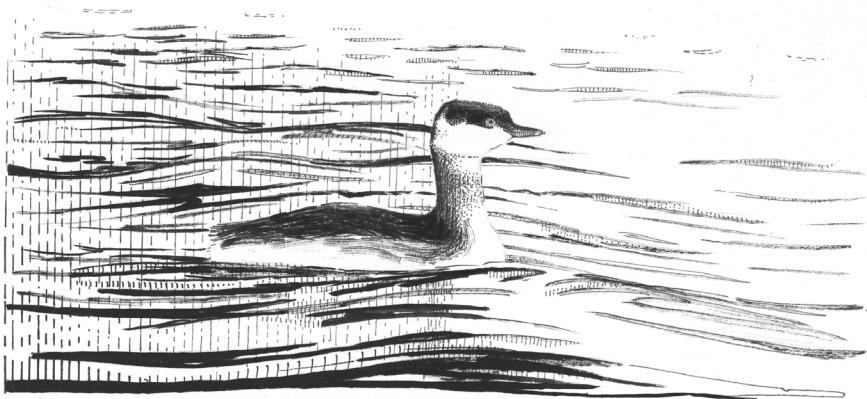
Peak counts of 20+ at other sites: Nene Washes 43 on Jun 30th, Shropshire's Reservoir 33 on May 21st, Orton Waterville 30 on Aug 28th and St Ives GP 24 on Sep 9th.

SLAVONIAN GREBE (Horned Grebe) *Podiceps auritus*

Red List. *Scarce, almost annual, visitor, mainly in winter; summered once (3 records cf. an average of 2/year).*

First winter/spring (2 records): Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 14th photo (per Recorder), Grafham Water 2 on Apr 1st with a single on Apr 2nd, photo (RMP).

Autumn/second winter (one record): an unusual record of a bird present on the River Cam at Upware from Nov 25th to Dec 17th often to be found further upstream and on Burwell Lode later during its stay, photo (RoRo).



Slavonian Grebe *Richard Fowling*

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Amber List. *Scarce annual visitor, mainly passage/summer (7 records cf. an average of 10/year); occasionally breeds, perhaps increasingly.*

First winter/spring (3 records): Grafham Water on Mar 26th to 27th, Ouse Washes 2 on Apr 21st with one remaining on 22nd and Nene Washes (March Farmers) on May 14th to 18th.

Autumn/second winter (4 records): Paxton Pits on Aug 9th, Ferry Meadow CP on Oct 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Oct 28th to Nov 3rd and Grafham Water on Nov 13th.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare vagrant from southern Europe, escapees from captivity also occur. 17(18) 0

All periods: all records presumed to relate to two colour ringed escaped birds. Bird A blue ring above knee on both legs Stretham from Apr 9th to 10th passing over Stuntney on Apr 17th, and Bird B (small red ring on left leg) Ouse Washes on Apr 20th, Ely on Apr 23rd and Fen Drayton Lakes/Berry Fen/Ouse Fen to May 1st. Thereafter Bird B frequented the Kings Dyke/Nene Washes area throughout the rest of the year to Dec 11th. The last record for the year was one over Fen Drayton Lakes on Dec 17th, also believed to be this individual. The ring on Bird B was very hard to see against the pink legs and many observers were convinced they had seen an unringed bird.

SPOONBILL (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*

Amber List. *Scarce but increasing annual visitor (7 records cf. an average of 5/year).*

Spring (4 records): Ouse Fen on Apr 30th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on May 7th and 3 on May 29th, Barleycraft GP on May 20th.

Autumn (3 records): Nene Washes a juvenile on Jul 6th to 24th, Cottenham (Long Drove) over south on Aug 28th and an outstanding record of 19 WNW over Stetchworth Ley in 'v' formation on Sep 22nd, this becomes a new county record (CGB) (c.f. prev record 7 Ouse Washes Sep 2014).

BITTERN (Eurasian Bittern) *Botaurus stellaris*

Amber List. *Uncommon resident and winter visitor. Increasing numbers breeding since 2007, after a gap of 69 years.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 6.

Total records: 333. *Sites:* 23 breeding season/22 non-breeding.

Breeding (27 confirmed or probable breeding at 10 sites): confirmed breeding at Ouse Fen 2, Kingfishers Bridge and Kings Dyke NR. Booming birds at Nene Washes 7, Ouse Fen 5, Ouse Washes 3, Wicken Fen 2, Woodwalton Fen 2 and singles at Dogsthorpe Star Pit, Fen Drayton Lakes, Kings Dyke NR extension and Orton BP.

Late in the breeding season, wandering birds were recorded from a few other sites.

Non-breeding (20 sites): Burwell Fen, Cambridge Research Park, Cam Washes, Dogsthorpe Star Pit, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Great Fen Project area, Helpston, Holme Fen, Kingfishers Bridge, Kings Dyke NR, Nene Washes (Eldernell, Low Wash and March Farmers), Orton BP, Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes, Stanground Gullet, Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Cambridge on Mar 26th and Jul 26th and Chesterton [Cams] Nov 17th.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

Rare visitor from Europe. 30(43) 9

Spring (one record): Coveney Byall Fen a summer plumaged bird on May 6th noted at Ouse Washes to Jun 1st, photo (SLC).

Summer/Autumn (8 records): Nene Washes on Jun 9th joined by a second on Jun 11th and 1-2 seen to Aug 15th, photo (per County Recorder), Fen Drayton Lakes, a single was noted on Sep 16th to 17th increasing to 5 birds (matching the previous county record, see below) on Sep 18th and 6 on the 19th. This flock could be seen at Fen Drayton Lakes or nearby Mare Fen to Oct 21st. A seventh bird joined the flock at Mare Fen on Oct 22nd and a peak of 8 there on Oct 24th to 29th set the new county record (cf. 5 at Ouse Washes in May 1992), photo (RT el al). Thereafter the flock dispersed and those considered to be part of this group of 8 were mainly seen at the Ouse Washes where up to 6 frequented the Earith area to Nov 22nd (m.o.) and also at Milton (Rectory Farm) a record of 4 birds on Nov 25th photo (JHe, DMH) and Grafham Water a single over on Dec 2nd photo (RMP). A single at Ferry Meadows on Oct 16th moved around there and the Nene Washes from Oct 24th to Dec 2nd was considered to be from the Lincolnshire influx rather than part of the Mare Fen flock.



Cattle Egrets *Chris Button*

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

Rare migrant, mostly in spring. 44(44) 3

Spring (2 records): Burwell Fen a 2nd cal-year on Apr 11th to 14th, photo (per County Recorder), Ouse Fen on May 20th an adult perched briefly at dusk before flying noisily to Barleycraft GP to roost, photo (RT).

Autumn (one record): Nene Washes a juvenile on Sep 29th (RMP).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Green List. *Fairly common resident and passage migrant, mainly in the autumn.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 610.

Total records: 2541. *Sites:* 95 breeding season/133 non-breeding.

Breeding: 67 AON at 8 sites. Table plus single nest at Wimpole Park.

Occupied nest counts at regular sites (2007–2018):

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Berry Fen	6	7	6	7	8	10	9	15	14	17	16	14
Burwell	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bury Farm	11	11	3	4	10	13	10	12	15	13	1	ex
Cam Washes (Up.)	4	4	4	1	-	4	2	1	1	-	-	-
Cambridge	3	-	5	7	6	11	10	13	12	8	12	12
Cambridge R Pk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10
Eldernell/Lords Holt	8	7	-	14	-	-	-	-	14	19	15	22
Fortrey's Hall	39	15	15	15	28	28	-	-	ex	-	-	-
Goosetree Farm	24	-	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Hemingford Park	23	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Kingfishers Bridge	1	-	5	5	5	5	5	2	ex	-	-	-
Milton Park	15	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxloade	9	-	-	10	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	10	10	10	10	-	5	5	6	-	6	4	4
Quy	8	-	-	4	2	-	-	1	-	2	-	2
River Lane GP	7	-	15	16	14	14	14	14	-	-	-	-
St. Ives GP	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-
Wicken Fen	7	6	3	3	1	-	5	5	2	4	7	2

ex = extinct colony

N.B. Historic data have been extensively revised courtesy of data from the BTO heronry census. Counts not received for a number of sites including Ouse Washes.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	1	1	1	2	3	-	-	9	6	4	5	3
Berry Fen	-	-	-	10	-	6	4	3	2	1	1	1
Fen Drayton Lakes	8	6	6	4	13	6	17	9	18	15	16	23
Godmanchester GP	2	-	1	3	2	3	4	7	4	4	10	10
Grafham Water	5	7	1	-	2	1	8	7	10	12	6	8
Nene Washes	23	13	25	9	8	59	106	3	-	4	13	9
Ouse Fen	4	1	3	2	2	1	3	4	-	4	4	4
Ouse W (N & C)	11	19	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	11
Ouse W (C only)	2	9	5	5	24	16	11	1	2	4	6	7
Paxton Pits	3	10	3	2	7	5	6	9	12	15	5	4

Peak counts of 10+ at other sites: Burwell Fen 39 on Jul 4th, Etton-Maxey Pits 16 on Nov 11th, Wicken Fen 14 on Jul 19th, Ferry Meadows CP 10 on Apr 17th and Kingfishers Bridge 10 on Jul 12th.

GREAT WHITE EGRET (Great Egret) *Ardea alba*

Scarce, increasing visitor from the Continent, and potential future breeder.

Total records: 451. Sites: 18 breeding season/26 non-breeding.

Recorded in every month of the year. How many individuals are present at any one time is now impossible to determine.

First winter period/spring: Portholme on Jan 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 3rd, Nene Washes on Jan 14th, Bar Hill on Jan 15th and Kingfishers Bridge from Jan 17th to 18th. More protracted stays at Redmere from Jan 16th to Feb 26th and Nene Washes from Feb 18th to 26th. Wandering individuals at Earith on Mar 10th, Ouse Fen on Mar 18th, Kingfishers Bridge on Mar 21st and 24th to 25th, Earith from Mar 24th to 25th, Swaffham Bulbeck on Mar 27th, Chatteris on Apr 7th, Houghton on Apr 10th, 2 at Ferry Meadows CP on Apr 15th, Ouse Washes from Apr 16th and Little Paxton on Apr 23rd.

Summer: 2-3 birds were again present during the breeding season on the Ouse and Nene Washes but no breeding was confirmed, however a flock of 6 birds on the Ouse Washes on Jun 17th interestingly included a juvenile bird.

Autumn: post-breeding saw good numbers in the county, particularly at Paxton Pits where low water levels attracted up to 4 birds in September and up to 7 birds from Oct 1st, a new county record (IKD) (cf. 5 at Nene Washes in Sep 2014) and elsewhere peak counts at Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on Sep 29th, Godmanchester GP 3 on Nov 11th, Nene Washes 3 on Jul 9th and singles at 12 other sites.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Green List. *Fairly common, and increasing, resident. Breeding confirmed from 2004 to 2007 and again from 2010.*

Total records: 1534. Sites: 71 breeding season/111 non-breeding.

Breeding (27 pairs at 4 sites): Nene Washes 20 pairs, Cambridge Research Park 3 pairs, Wicken Fen 3 pairs and a single pair at Fordham Wood. No breeding data from Ouse Washes.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	1	1	1	1	1	11	3	21	2	1	1	1
Burwell Fen	8	4	9	7	9	40	81	-	2	-	1	1
Fen Drayton Lakes	3	4	4	7	4	7	15	13	28	25	42	12
Godmanchester GP	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	33	6
Grafham Water	2	2	1	1	2	5	14	12	7	4	1	1
Kingfishers Bridge	2	5	3	6	3	3	47	26	8	6	5	3
Nene Washes	12	37	8	16	19	136	172	4	-	-	2	2
Ouse W (N & C)	1	4	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Ouse W (C only)	1	2	2	3	12	35	35	-	-	1	-	3
Paxton Pits	1	-	4	6	1	2	4	8	18	18	1	7
Wicken Fen	12	6	10	10	10	13	45	3	2	5	-	2

Peak counts of 10+ at other sites: Barway (flooded fields) 29 on Aug 6th, Earith 25 on Jun 16th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 23 on Jul 18th, Little Shelford 15 on Mar 13th and Cambridge 11 on Apr 1st.

GANNET (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus*

Amber List. *Scarce, almost annual, visitor, mainly storm-driven in autumn* (4 records cf. an average of 4/year).

Summer (one record): a very unseasonal record of one flying east at Witcham on Jun 26th (DHop).

Autumn/second winter period (3 records): all records were juveniles. Ring's End on Sep 22nd (MWe), Guyhirn on Sep 23rd (WB) and 2 over Nene Washes (Eldernell) on Oct 10th (ARF).

SHAG (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Red List. *Scarce annual visitor, mainly storm-driven immatures in winter; occasionally in spring/autumn* (3 records cf. an average of 3/year).

First winter period (one record): Cambridge Research Park an immature on Mar 9th to 24th (JAH).

Second winter period (2 records): Grafham Water a juvenile on Sep 7th (RMP) and Nov 26th (DFi).

CORMORANT (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Green List. *Fairly common resident breeder; greatly increased migrant and winter visitor.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 350.

Total records: 2635. Sites: 90 breeding season/133 non-breeding.

Breeding (173 AON at 4 sites): see table below.

Occupied nest counts (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Barleycraft GP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	10	18
Fen Drayton Lakes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Holme Fen	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	19	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	81	98	92	44	85	48	26	21	-	65	60	70
Paxton Pits	161	80	140	125	70	75	75	80	-	-	40	50
Nene Washes	0	0	16	25	23	28	33	36	35	40	37	35
Total	242	178	248	194	178	151	150	156	42	112	147	173

Peak monthly counts at selected sites (including roost sites):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	8	50	5	11	2	23	28	30	66	35	94	15
Drysides BP	6	17	13	2	2	-	31	39	45	37	33	4
Fen Drayton Lakes	17	23	47	18	9	11	15	46	163	170	154	70
Ferry Meadows CP	31	31	21	10	3	6	12	23	35	55	70	33
Godmanchester GP	11	14	8	7	6	3	2	12	7	27	153	73
Grafham Water	140	27	27	-	10	-	82	117	178	111	246	327
Kingfishers Bridge	17	19	14	11	10	10	12	19	26	20	22	15
Ouse W (N & C)	-	43	56	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	31
Ouse W (C only)	25	18	19	35	12	-	-	-	-	6	5	25
Paxton Pits	23	62	24	60	36	40	30	35	95	113	53	38

Peak counts of 25+ at other sites: Nene Washes 58 on Mar 21st, Wicken Fen 43 on Sep 14th, Cambridge Research Park 30 on Nov 24th, St Ives GP 30 on Dec 9th and Colne Fen GP 29 on Dec 16th.

OSPREY (Western Osprey) *Pandion haliaetus***Amber List.** *Uncommon but increasing passage migrant; has summered.**Total records: 31. Sites: 8 spring/11 autumn.**Earliest on Mar 19th (Grafham Water) and latest on 23rd Sep (Ely and Duxford).**Spring (11 records): Grafham Water Mar 19th, 23rd, May 13th, Jun 6th, Ouse Washes Mar 26th, Ferry Meadows CP Apr 4th, Marsh Lane GP Apr 9th, Sawston Apr 12th, Eltisley April 19th, Earith May 26th and Farcet Fen Jun 8th.**Autumn (20 records): Grafham Water Jul 17th, Aug 6th, Aug 30th, 2 on Aug 31st, Sep 1st, 8th (ad), 9th (juv), 15th (2 ad) and 21st, Ferry Meadows CP Jul 20th, Hemingford/Houghton Aug 22nd, Sutton Gault Aug 22nd, Marholm Aug 28th, Crown Lakes CP Sep 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes Sep 9th, Paxton Pits Sep 9th, 14th, Kingfishers Bridge/Barway Sep 16th, Duxford Sep 23rd and Ely Sep 23rd.***SPARROWHAWK (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)** *Accipiter nisus***Green List.** *Fairly common resident. Some passage migrants and winter visitors.**Total records: 940. Sites: 93 breeding season/145 non-breeding.**Breeding (9 confirmed pairs and 9 possible pairs/sites): confirmed breeding at Barnwell LNR, Cambridge Science Park, Chippenham Fen, Devil's Dyke, Ferry Meadows CP, Kingfishers Bridge, Logan's Meadow LNR, Mepal and Stanground. Possible breeding, as determined by display or other territorial activity from Paxton Pits 2, Chesterton [Cams], Eaton Ford, Fowlmere, Grafham Water, Kings Dyke NR, Ouse Fen, Swavesey and Wimpole Basin. It is likely that breeding also occurred at many of the other sites where recorded during the year, but few records were submitted with any comment on behaviour to help establish this.*

BBS *Distribution (% squares occupied): 10% (95/96) cf. 6% (17/18)*
Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) cf. 1 (17/18)

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis***Amber List.** *Scarce, almost annual, passage migrant and former migratory breeder (nested irregularly, last confirmed in 1995).**You wait six years then two come along at once: the first accepted records since 2012, although many possible sightings have been submitted, the difficulty of identification and the possibility of escaped falconers birds have restricted the chances of getting records accepted. These two were accompanied by photographic evidence.**First winter (one record): an immature female at Redmere Feb 25th, photo (SMu, NLau, SLau).**Spring (one record): an immature female Nene Washes (March Farmers) Apr 7th, photo (MWe).***MARSH HARRIER (Western Marsh Harrier)** *Circus aeruginosus***Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant and breeder; scarcer but increasing in winter.**Total records: 1299. Sites: 62 breeding season/75 non-breeding.**Breeding (11 confirmed pairs and 17 possible pairs): confirmed breeding at Ouse Fen 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 2, Eldernell, Fen Drayton Lakes (unsuccessful), Fowlmere NR (unsuccessful), Kingfishers Bridge, Kings Dyke NR and Wimpole Basin. Possible pairs at Nene Washes 6, Ouse Fen an additional 3, Burwell Fen, Chippenham Fen, Ely BF, Littleport (May Farm), Rampton, Redmere, Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.*

Marsh Harrier: Totals of breeding sites and paired females (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Breeding sites	9	12	18	14	9	8	11	15	20	16	15	17
Paired females	17	21	28	26	26	27	31	30	29	32	26	28

Winter (peak counts of 7+): Nene Washes 10 on Mar 21st, Wicken Fen 8 on Jan 30th, Woodwalton Fen 8 on Nov 13th, Ouse Washes 7 on Nov 25th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Red List. *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant; has summered.*

Total records: 118. *Sites:* 25 non-breeding.

Latest on May 27th (Little Wilbraham Fen) and *earliest* Sep 16th (Colne).

First winter period/spring (74 records at 13 sites): numbers to roosts at Woodwalton Fen and Wicken Fen continue to reflect the decline in the UK population. At Wicken Fen, the count was usually of 2 or 3 birds; however 8 birds noted on Jan 20th and 5 on Feb 15th. No roost was reported from Woodwalton Fen in this period. Three were at the Nene Washes on May 14th, but apart from these, all other records were of single birds; Bottisham, Burwell Fen, Cam Washes, Comberton, Cottenham, Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water, Linton, Little Paxton, Littleport (May Farm) and Tubney Fen.

Autumn/second winter period (44 records at 15 sites): the roost at Wicken was again only 2 birds. Only singles were recorded at Barton (Lark Rise Farm), Burwell Fen, Cam Washes, Colne, Cottenham (Long Drove), Coveney Byall Fen, Croxton, Earith, Kingfishers Bridge, Little Wilbraham Fen, Nene Washes, Newton [South Cambs], Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes and Woodwalton Fen.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

Very rare vagrant from European Russia and central Asia, with an expanding European population now breeding in Finland. 3(3) 1

Autumn (one record): Ouse Washes (Fourballs Farm) Sep 17th-18th (JPT). Accepted by BBRC, assumed to be the same bird seen first at Welney in Norfolk.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Amber List. *Scarce, almost annual, passage migrant and former migratory breeder (nested irregularly, last confirmed in 1995).*

Summer (one record): Great Fen Project, 2nd cal-year female Jun 10th, photo (SLC).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Green List. *Uncommon but increasing resident, bred since 2004. Mainly descendants of released birds.*

Total records: 999. *Sites:* 126 breeding season/163 non-breeding.

Breeding (7 confirmed pairs and 2 possible pairs): seven confirmed pairs, a record number, all from the western half of the county. At 2 other sites, display, or territorial pairs observed. This species is very elusive during the breeding season and there are also sites where multiple sightings reported; these could well represent further breeding pairs for which we have no confirmation.

Peak counts of 10+: the feeding site on private land somewhere near Sawtry/Norman Cross area (next to A1M) continued to provide many of the records in the annual dataset, and the peak count was of 60 on Nov 24th. A sighting of 33 in the distance from the western edge of Woodwalton Fen on Nov 3rd was almost certainly birds at this feeding area. A roost has developed on the southern county boundary, with 12- 20 seen regularly around Heydon during the second winter period.

Red Kite: confirmed and suspected breeding records (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Confirmed pairs	3	5	6	6	4	1	6	5	5	1	1	7
Suspected pairs	5	2	2	5	1	4	2	2	1	6	4	2
Breeding total	8	7	8	11	5	5	8	7	6	7	5	9

An aberrant individual was observed on several occasions through spring and summer 2018 with very dark plumage, and was reported as Black Kite initially by several observers.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor. 70(77) 2

First winter (one record): one around Wryde Croft wind farm, between Thorney and the Lincolnshire border, Jan 4th to Feb 17th. Believed same as 2016 and 2017.

Second winter (2 records): one bird around the Tower Farm/Whittlesey Mere/Yaxley Lode area of the Great Fen Project Nov 3rd to 2019, and a second bird further to the south around Holme Fen NNR and the Holme-Ramsey B660, photos (RMP) Nov 3rd to Dec 4th. The second bird was found as a road casualty on Dec 4th, confirmed by the RSPB Species Protection Unit, who examined the corpse as a precaution against any other reason for death.

BUZZARD (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo*

Green List. *Fairly common resident (has bred since 1999) and uncommon passage migrant.*

Total records: 2534. *Sites:* 187 breeding season/250 non-breeding.

Breeding (13 confirmed pairs and 11 possible pairs): confirmed pairs at Barton, Barway, Cambridge (Madingley Road P&R and south city), Chippenham Fen, Ditton Park Wood, Fen Drayton Lakes, Ferry Meadows CP, Fowlmere, Great Wilbraham Common, Kingfishers Bridge, Kings Dyke NR and Ickleton Grange. Possible breeding pairs reported from Nene Washes 2, Bodsey, Devil's Dyke, Eaton Ford, Hinxton Genome Campus, Ouse Fen, Sawston, West Wrattling, Wimpole Basin and Wimpole Park. Confirmed and possible breeders were more scattered across the county than in some years. Villages and small copses in farmland were as likely to hold pairs as were woods, and away from the larger reserves visited by many birders, and this total is likely well below the true figure of breeding pairs.

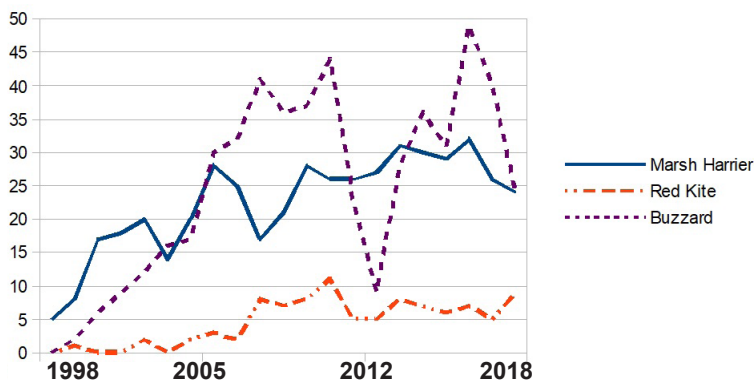
Buzzard: breeding details (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Confirmed pairs	21	19	23	30	12	5	15	30	16	23	13	13
Suspected pairs	20	16	14	14	11	4	13	6	15	26	27	11
Total pairs	41	36	37	44	23	9	28	36	31	49	40	24

Peak counts of 10+: Nene Washes 22 on Feb 17th, Hobson's Park 21 on Mar 25th, Sawston 14 on Mar 31st, Great Fen project 14 on Jun 10th, Weston Colville 12 on Feb 6th, Wryde Croft 10 on Feb 23rd, Cambridge Research Park 10 on Aug 17th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 0% (95/96) cf. 66% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) cf. 11 (17/18)

Raptor Recovery: The chart below shows the steady increase in the breeding raptor population over the past 20 years, with total (i.e. possible, probable and confirmed) numbers of Marsh Harrier, Buzzard and Red Kite plotted over time.



WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Green List. *Uncommon, much declined, resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 560. Sites: 32 breeding season/56 non-breeding.

Breeding (4 confirmed pairs at 4 sites and 24 possible pairs at 11 sites): confirmed breeding at Burwell Fen, Grafham Water, Kings Dyke NR and Wimpole Basin. Elsewhere, territories/pairs as follows: Nene Washes 14 (Low Wash 4, Eldernell 3, March Farmers 4, Eldernell Pits 3 territories) and singles Chippenham Fen, Colne Fen GP, Ely BF, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowmere NR, Kingfishers Bridge, Little Wilbraham Fen, Ouse Fen, Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen. This species was removed from the national Rare Breeding Bird Panel list from 2018.

Peak counts of 5+ out of breeding season: Woodwalton Fen 10 on Mar 28th, Ferry Meadows CP 5 on Mar 3rd and Kingfishers Bridge 5 on Dec 23rd.

CORNCRAKE (Corn Crane) *Crex crex*

Red List. *Uncommon re-introduced breeding species and rare passage migrant.*

Earliest on Apr 25th (Dog-in-a-Doublet) and *latest* on Jul 25th (undisclosed site).

Breeding season (2 sites): at the Nene Washes there were only 11 singing males, with no confirmed breeding. As in 2017, there was no August round-up of young to assess success rate. Two males singing at an undisclosed site during the summer.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva*

Very rare vagrant from Europe 3(3) 1

Spring (one record): a female was heard and recorded calling at Ouse Fen, during an evening survey for other species. Present from May 15th to 21st, sound recording (RBB, RT, RGr, JLin). The first record since 1864! See article on page 138.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

Amber List. *Scarce annual summer visitor/passage migrant; breeding has been confirmed in past years.*

Earliest on Apr 15th and *latest* on Jun 6th (both Nene Washes).

Breeding season (2 sites): another very poor year with 5 singing males at the Nene Washes. A bird was heard calling at Kingfishers Bridge on Apr 18th.

MOORHEN (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

Green List. *Common resident and probable autumn immigrant.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 3200.

Total records: 3623 *Sites:* 125 breeding season/149 non-breeding.

Breeding (105 pairs/broods at 32 sites): Paxton Pits 27, Kingfishers Bridge 13, Nene Washes 8, Cambridge Research Park 7, Hauxton GP 7, Grafham Water 5, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 3, Fen Drayton Lakes 3, Hinxtton Genome Campus 3, Milton CP 3, Ouse Washes 3, Fish & Duck Marina 2, River Cam 2 and single pairs/broods at an additional 19 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Buckden GP	6	7	-	8	26	-	6	17	6	2	6	11
Cambridge Res Pk	16	21	8	6	2	6	11	12	16	-	-	-
Cam Washes	11	21	7	7	3	-	-	6	-	-	3	6
Fen Drayton Lakes	5	10	10	5	3	8	6	29	17	36	11	11
Ferry Meadows CP	20	147	12	7	5	2	12	50	11	4	15	2
Godmanchester GP	10	16	12	8	5	7	4	8	8	15	9	13
Grafham Water	5	11	10	-	1	5	12	49	39	26	11	13
Hobson's Park	17	25	17	14	6	2	-	-	20	6	8	8
Kingfishers Bridge	15	15	24	24	11	13	22	24	21	17	12	20
Nene Washes	12	28	23	4	3	-	-	1	-	1	13	14
Paxton Pits	5	12	10	5	4	5	4	10	43	38	18	24
Stanground	25	26	24	28	11	8	8	10	11	12	13	19

Peak counts of 30+ at other sites: Milking Nook 50 on Jun 12th, River Cam (Owlstone Road to Baits Bite Lock) 34 on Dec 15th, Pidley 33 on Aug 9th

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 39% (95/96) cf. 27% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 6 (95/96) cf. 5 (17/18)

COOT (Eurasian Coot) *Fulica atra*

Green List. *Very common resident and winter visitor on open water.*

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 1800.

Total records: 2930. Sites: 94 breeding season/115 non-breeding.

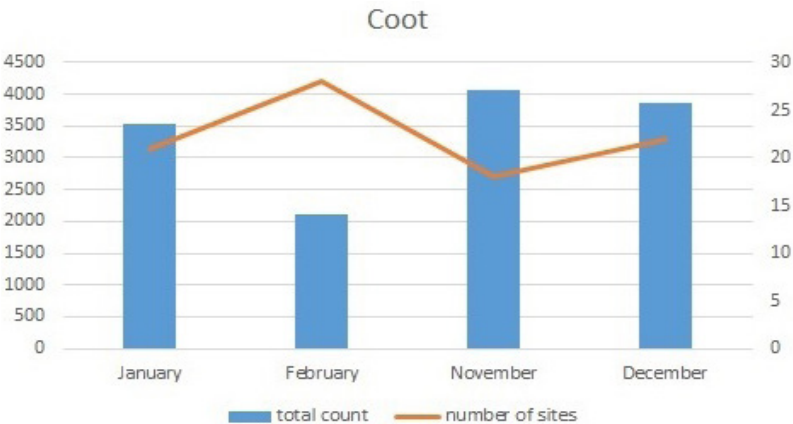
Breeding (326 pairs/broods at 28 sites): Nene Washes 191, Ouse Washes 42, Fen Drayton Lakes 16, Burwell Fen 10, Cambridge Research Park 10, Kingfishers Bridge 9, Milton CP 8, Wicken Fen (Bakers Fen) 4, Kings Dyke NR 4, Barway 3, Colne Fen GP 3, Ouse Fen 3, Barton 2, Bradley Fen 2, Grafham Water 2, Hobson's Park 2, Reach Lode 2 and single pairs/broods at an additional 10 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	-	50	26	20	7	60	129	226	122	99	162	189
Burghley Park	37	33	65	54	17	-	-	-	-	69	65	42
Burwell Fen	76	136	173	114	91	191	155	38	43	8	19	37
Colne Fen GP	57	55	33	12	15	94	306	316	517	-	93	96
Etton-Maxey Pits	124	74	53	35	5	44	64	66	74	87	96	105
Fen Drayton Lakes	1067	243	226	102	26	338	1223	1390	1688	970	1224	818
Ferry Meadows CP	64	38	21	23	-	18	15	87	89	-	96	-
Godmanchester GP	61	53	45	13	13	13	105	110	155	117	165	87
Grafham Water	500	57	11	-	2	5	370	1058	1904	1043	1501	1031
Kingfishers Bridge	103	107	98	55	38	86	292	228	69	28	17	44
Nene Washes	23	69	439	398	12	-	-	56	-	2	7	10
Ouse Fen	164	165	45	44	19	80	91	186	78	32	15	-
Ouse W (N & C)	1268	1618	1404	1039	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	135
Ouse W (C only)	914	1285	895	707	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	66
Paxton Pits	50	69	44	6	6	-	10	3	253	165	234	63

Peak counts of 200+ at other sites: St Ives GP 443 on Dec 9th, Bainton GP 326 on Dec 9th, Block Fen GP 269 on Dec 9th, Barway Flooded fields 240 on Sep 9th.

The graph below shows the number of coot present in total across major wetland sites during the core winter WeBS count months.



CRANE (Common Crane) *Grus grus*

Amber List *Scarce resident and migrant (may have bred up to the 17th century, and has since 2010).*

Total records: 391. Sites: 27 breeding season/21 non-breeding.

Breeding (6 confirmed pairs at 3 sites and possibles at a further 2 sites): at site A, 4 pairs nested, 2 successfully rearing 2 young each, the others not being successful. At Site B, one pair fledged 2 young, one of which sustained a wing injury post-fledging. At Site C, a pair laid eggs but these were lost part-way through incubation, cause not supplied. At sites D and E pairs were seen, occasionally displaying and behaving territorially. No evidence of successful breeding was recorded. This is the largest number of breeding pairs, and the largest number of young fledged since breeding commenced.

Peak monthly counts from Nene Washes:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	22	24	21	22	20	6	15	22	24	19	43	48

First winter period: many records came from the two major washes, Nene and Ouse, and the wintering flock tended to move around based on food resources and water levels, and the number of birds in the flock decreased as the local birds return to their East Anglian territories in March. The increasing number of immature birds from the English breeding population has become resident in the Nene Washes area year-round.

Spring: a few records came from other sites, usually of flocks passing overhead high, and are believed to relate to birds migrating to other areas e.g. northern England, Scotland or Scandinavia, not the local population. Notably Ferry Meadows CP 11 over on Apr 5th, heading into Northamptonshire and Earith 11 high overhead on May 10th.

Second winter period: the non-breeding flock continues to grow, and may in the future cause conflict with farmers who currently leave their maize stubble available for feeding, if viewing and photography become an issue. The flock moves around maize stubble in the arable landscape between the Ouse and Nene Washes and roosts at one or other washes, water-levels depending. A new county record flock of 52 was recorded at the Ouse Washes on Oct 31st (NSi) (*c.f.* the previous record count of 34 at the Ouse Washes in Dec 2016).

STONE-CURLEW (Eurasian Stone-curlew) *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Amber List. *Scarce passage migrant and a much-declined rare breeder (bred up to 1993, in 1999, and sporadically from 2007 to 2017).*

Breeding: three pairs bred in south-east Cambridgeshire at a traditional site.

Spring (3 records including nocturnal sound records): heard at Oakington (RDal), evening, Apr 10th. This could be the same bird as on the Cambridge sound recordings.

Nocturnal sound recording: the same bird logged over Cambridge Apr 10th (JHe) and Chesterton [Cams] on Apr 10th (SGi) at 21:52 and 21:53.

2017: a pair bred in south-east Cambridgeshire at a traditional site.

OYSTERCATCHER (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*

Amber List. *Uncommon passage migrant, scarce winter visitor and local breeder.*

Total records: 726. Sites: 12 breeding season/74 non-breeding.

Breeding (48 pairs/broods at 12 sites): Ouse Washes 14 pairs, Eldernell 13 pairs, Paxton Pits 6 pairs, at least 3 young, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 pairs, no young, Kingfishers Bridge 3 pairs, Coveney Byall Fen 2 pairs, Ouse Fen 2 pairs, both predated and single pairs/broods at an additional 5 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colne Fen GP	-	1	4	2	2	8	5	1	-	-	-	-
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	3	4	6	4	6	2	-	1	-	-	-
Godmanchester GP	1	5	6	6	3	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	1	4	4	1	6	5	1	-	-	-
Nene Washes	-	2	14	18	11	26	4	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	4	15	8	7	28	2	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	5	4	4	5	6	-	1	-	-	-	-

Peak counts of 5+ at additional sites as follows:

Spring (4 sites): Fortrey's Hall 10 on Mar 25th, Milking Nook 8 on Apr 17th, Kingfishers Bridge 7 on Apr 7th, Cam Washes 5 on Apr 7th and Apr 28th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: all from Cambridge, five dates in spring, Mar 29th to May 4th, then 14 dates from Jul 21st until Nov 24th.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

Rare but increasing passage migrant and occasional breeder 26(42) 2

Spring (2 records): a male seen at the Nene Washes on Apr 26th (IDil) was presumed to be the same wandering individual reported there until May 9th (m.o.), then at the Ouse Washes on May 12th (KC-Y), at Ferry Meadows CP (MW) on May 18th then back at the Nene Washes until Jun 10th (m.o.). A female Ouse Washes Jun 17th to 19th (BGD, KC-Y).

AVOCET (Pied Avocet) *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Amber List. *Uncommon passage migrant and migratory breeder. First bred 1998, then from 2001 onwards.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 75.

Total records: 151. Sites: 10 breeding season/20 non-breeding.

Earliest on Feb 25th (Kingfishers Bridge) and latest on Oct 1st (Grafham Water)

Breeding (22 pairs at 7 sites): Ouse Washes (pilot project) 8 pairs of which 2 pairs raised total 4 young, Littleport (May Farm) 4 pairs, Ouse Washes 4 pairs, 6 young, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 3 pairs fledged 11 young, and single pairs Colne Fen GP (at least one chick but failed to fledge), Kingfishers Bridge and Longstanton. Birds were noted at both Isleham and Dunkirk early in the spring but left both sites without attempting to breed.

Avocet: approximate breeding totals (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Pairs	3	29	23	39	50	38	35	30	31	25	32	35	22
Young	0	3	34	29	27	8	0	25	7	7	2	17	21
Sites	2	5	7	4	5	7	2	6	4	5	3	6	7

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	4	4	2	2	-	3	-	1	-	-
Isleham Washes	-	-	57	41	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse Washes (C)	-	-	1	18	14	38	34	-	-	-	-	-

Peak counts at an additional 15 sites: Nene Washes 46 on Jul 17th, Littleport (May Farm) 8 in May, Fish & Duck Marina 6 on Apr 29th, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Apr 29th, Cam Washes 5 on Mar 25th, Burwell Fen 4 on Apr 19th and Jul 13th, Colne Fen GP 3 on Mar 30th, Longstanton 3 on May 6th, Barleycraft GP 2 on Apr 1st, Coveney Byall Fen 2 in Apr and on May 20th, Paxton Pits 2 on Apr 20th, Sutton North Fen 2 on May 6th, Wicken Fen 2 on Apr 17th, singles Godmanchester GP on Mar 12th and Ouse Fen on May 6th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: 2 over Cambridge on Apr 13th.

LAPWING (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*

Red List. *Fairly common but decreased resident; very common winter visitor/passage migrant.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 20000; threshold for national importance: 6200.

Total records: 1663. *Sites:* 95 breeding season/103 non-breeding.

Breeding (327 pairs/broods at 25 sites): Nene Washes 126 pairs, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 110 pairs, Ouse Washes 23 pairs, Coveney Byall Fen 16 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes 8 pairs, Ouse Fen 8 pairs, 3 fledged young, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 4 pairs, Etton-Maxey Pits 4 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 3 pairs, at least one chick fledged, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 3 pairs, Tetworth Hall Estate 3 pairs, Barway 2 pairs, Ferry Meadows CP 2 pairs, 2 young fledged, Isleham Washes 2 pairs, Kings Dyke NR 2 pairs, Littleport (May Farm) 2 pairs and single pairs at a further 9 sites.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	300	500	42	5	4	16	130	350	100	50	241	53
Nene Washes	8000	12719	1358	87	100	252	181	600	900	4000	5000	8000
Ouse Fen	245	235	50	1	2	19	233	316	1	85	509	28
Ouse W (N & C)	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	11264	12717
Ouse W (C only)	2000	3257	200	20	20	220	232	-	61	4500	8815	8767
Wicken Fen	287	250	130	10	4	21	50	13	38	10	200	250

Peak counts of 200+ at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Burwell Fen 1000 on Jan 30th, Haddenham 1000 on Feb 18th, Redmere 1000 on Feb 28th, Fish & Duck Marina 806 on Mar 10th, Barleycraft GP 800 on Feb 4th, Moonshine Gap 800 on Feb 25th, Ferry Meadows 633 on Feb 28th, Littleport (May Farm) 505 on Feb 15th, Isleham Washes 500 on Jan 12th, Coveney Byall Fen 425 on Jan 24th, Fortrey's Hall 400 on Feb 18th, Tubney Fen 400 on Jan 16th, Kingfishers Bridge 365 on Feb 22nd, Roswell Pits 250 on Jan 27th, Sutton [Cams] 250 on Jan 28th, Earith 200 on Feb 22nd, Oxloade 200 on Jan 14th and Ramsey 200 on Feb 1st.

Return/summer: Kingfishers Bridge 544 on Aug 2nd, Colne Fen GP 465 on Jul 15th, Fowlmere NR 210 on Aug 6th, Burwell Fen 200 on Jul 21st and Paxton Pits 200 on Aug 4th.

Autumn/second winter: Holme Fen 2000 on Oct 20th, Great Fen Project 1500 on Nov 17th and Dec 6th, Haddenham 1500 on Nov 4th, Berry Fen 1300 on Nov 11th, Sutton Gault 1000 on Dec 22nd, Kingfishers Bridge 903 on Oct 21st, Burwell Fen 600 on Nov 24th, Earith 600 on Nov 8th, Barway 450 on Sep 21st, Wryde Croft 440 on Oct 31st, Warboys 400 on Nov 8th, Farcet Fen 330 on Nov 8th, Tubney Feb 268 on Nov 4th, Rings End 250 on Dec 22nd, Darlows Farm 243 on Nov 10th, Paxton Pits 233 on Nov 11th and Coveney Byall Fen 200 on Oct 10th.

Breeding totals (pairs/territorial individuals): Ouse Washes (including adjacent RSPB Pilot Project) and Nene Washes (2007–2018).

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Ouse Washes	156	221	221	181	118	-	1	1	149	188	168	133
Nene Washes	279	280	314	246	165	115	25	237	297	163	185	126
Total	435	501	535	427	283	115	26	238	446	351	353	259

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 27% (95/96) cf. 28% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 20 (95/96) cf. 9 (17/18)

GOLDEN PLOVER (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*

Green List. *Very common winter visitor and passage migrant.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 4000.

Total records: 413. *Sites:* 80 non-breeding.

Latest on Apr 15th (Fen Drayton Lakes) and *earliest* on Jul 2nd (Nene Washes).

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	200	150	600	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Nene Washes	5001	8177	700	50	-	-	2	26	1000	1900	7000	2250
Ouse W (C only)	500	1270	18	-	-	-	-	-	7	125	1500	5000

Peak counts of 500+ at additional sites as follows:

First winter: Trumpington Meadows 1600 on Jan 16th, Ely BF 1000 on Feb 1st, Marholm 1000 on Feb 23rd, Bassenhally 700 on Mar 11th, Impington 600 on Feb 12th and Coates 500 on Mar 9th.

Second winter: Earith 4000 on Nov 10th, Haddenham 2500 on Nov 8th, Trumpington Meadows 630 on Oct 2nd, Holme Fen 535 on Oct 24th, Little Wilbraham Fen 500 on Nov 2nd and Roswell Pits 500 on Dec 31st.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola***Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant, occasional in winter.*

Like 2017, spring passage dominated with few autumn records.

Earliest on Jan 26th (Grafham Water) and *latest* on Nov 10th (Earith).*Spring* (13 records): Grafham Water on Jan 26th, Ouse Washes on Mar 2nd, Ouse Fen on Mar 17th, Nene Washes on Mar 24th, May 15th and 25th, 2 on May 26th, 4 on May 27th, 5 on May 28th and 6 on May 30th, Sutton Gault on Mar 31st, Paxton Pits on May 22nd and Coveney Byall Fen on May 26th.*Autumn* (2 records): Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 2 heading south on Jun 30th and Earith single on Nov 10th.**RINGED PLOVER (Common Ringed Plover)** *Charadrius hiaticula***Red List.** *Scarce migratory breeder (recent sharp decline) and fairly common passage migrant (involving both hiaticula and tundrae races); very occasional in winter.**Total records: 224. Sites: 26 non-breeding.**Earliest* on Feb 20th (Ouse Washes) and *latest* on Nov 12th (Grafham Water)*Breeding:* for the second year running there was no confirmed breeding in the county: records during the late spring/early summer are all presumed to refer to passage migrants.*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	1	1	7	-	2	1	1	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	1	-	4	-	6	10	3	4	1	1
Nene Washes	-	-	-	-	19	15	1	20	27	11	-	-
Ouse Washes	-	1	-	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	-	1	7	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-

Table: counts combine *hiaticula* and *tundrae*.*Peak counts at additional sites as follows:**Spring:* there was a marked spring passage in late May. Woodwalton Fen 50 on May 28th, Darlows Farm 43 on May 27th, Littleport (May Farm) 19 on May 29th, Earith Washes 11 on May 24th, Berry Fen 2 on May 26th, Brampton 2 on May 26th, and singles at Etton-Maxey Pits on Apr 27th, Hobson's Park on Feb 23rd to 25th, Kingfishers Bridge on Mar 25th, Teversham Fen on Mar 24th and Wicken Fen on May 24th.*Autumn:* Barway 6 on Sep 23rd, Cottenham (Long Drove) 3 on Oct 17th, Dernford Reservoir 2 on Aug 5th, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on Sep 12th to 13th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Sep 23rd, Longstanton 2 on Sep 26th, and singles Burwell Fen on Jul 9th, 13th to 14th, 19th, and Wicken Fen on Aug 2nd and 15th.*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Cambridge Aug 13th, 20th, 23rd (2), 28th, Sep 3rd (2), 5th, Oct 5th, 10th and Chesterton [Cams] Sep 24th.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius***Green List.** *Uncommon migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records: 144. Sites: 25 spring/8 autumn.**Earliest on Mar 18th (Grafham Water) and latest on Sep 30th (Longstanton)*

Breeding (6 pairs/broods at 6 sites): a very poor year for breeding records, continuing the downward trend for this species in the county. Confirmed at 3 sites: Kingfishers Bridge on Jun 24th, pair with 1 juvenile, settled for 15 mins then flew south, with another adult showing aggression to them, then on Jul 1st an adult with juvenile present. Broods at Dernford Reservoir and Nene Washes, but the small young did not survive. Displaying birds at 3 other sites: Colne Fen GP (2 males displaying), Godmanchester/Brampton in pools within the A14 construction zone and Paxton Pits.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Peak counts at additional sites as follows:

Spring: Brampton 5 on May 26th, Dernford Reservoir 4 on Jun 12th, Colne Fen GP 3 on May 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on Jun 24th, Littleport (May Farm) 3 on May 3rd, Sutton North Fen 3 on Apr 15th, Teversham Fen 3 on Apr 16th, Burwell Fen 2 on May 22nd, Cam Washes 2 on May 7th, Etton-Maxey Pits 2 on Mar 26th, Apr 20th, May 9th, Grafham Water 2 on May 4th, Hobson's Park 2 on May 3rd, Pidley (Rookery Waters) 2 on Jun 15th, and singles Bradley Fen on Apr 18th, Coveney Byall Fen on May 26th, Eddington on Apr 7th, Ferry Meadows CP on Apr 6th to 7th, Godmanchester on May 5th, Nene Washes on Jun 5th, 19th and 21st, Woodwalton Fen on Apr 28th.

Autumn: Nene Washes 14 on Jul 31st, Burwell Fen 9 on Jul 14th, Longstanton 8 on Jul 15th to 19th, Grafham Water 4 on Jul 30th, Ouse Fen 4 on Aug 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Jul 1st to Sep 2nd, Wicken Fen single on Aug 12th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Chesterton [Cambs] 5 individuals on Jul 24th and Cambridge on Aug 16th and 20th.

Comparison of Ringed Plover and Little Ringed Plover: breeding pairs (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Ringed Plover	3	3	5	8	4	2	4	4	2	1	0	0
Little R'd Plover	13	16	21	12	17	8	12	15	4	7	10	5

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus***Red List.** *Uncommon passage migrant.**Total records: 41. Sites: 10 spring/11 autumn.**Earliest on Apr 7th (Berry Fen) and latest on Sep 26th (Ouse Washes)*

A remarkable flock of 43 birds over Little Shelford on Aug 20th (GBel) must have been quite a spectacle (cf. highest county total of 60–80 birds in August 1840).

Peak counts as follows:

Spring (total of 32 records including sound recordings): Nene Washes 7 on Apr 25th, Burwell Fen 2 on Apr 27th, Ouse Washes 2 on May 20th, and singles Berry Fen on Apr 7th, Chippenham Fen on Apr 20th, Fen Drayton Lakes on May 25th, Grafham Water on Apr 18th, Kingfishers Bridge on May 1st, Paxton Pits on Apr 20th and Woodwalton Fen on Apr 20th.

Autumn (total 28 records including sound recordings): Little Shelford 43 on Aug 20th, Brampton GP 12 on Jul 30th, Kings Dyke NR 10 on Jul 28th, Grafham Water 9 on Jul 29th, Wyton 2 on Jul 15th, and singles Eaton Ford on Jul 10th, Kingfishers Bridge on Jul 8th, Nene Washes on Jul 4th and 15th, Ouse Fen on Aug 1st, Ouse Washes on Sep 26th and Trumpington Meadows on Jul 27th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Cambridge on May 7th and over Cambridge and Chesterton [Cambs] on 12 dates between Jul 17th and Aug 28th.

CURLEW (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata***Red List.** *Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.**Total records: 59. Sites: 16 spring/14 autumn.**Peak counts as follows:*

First winter/spring (16 records including sound recordings): Swavesey 5 on Apr 14th, Ouse Washes 4 on Jun 16th, Nene Washes 3 on Mar 19th and 21st, Paxton Pits 3 on Apr 8th, Darlows Farm 2 on May 29th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on Apr 14th, Sutton Gault 2 on Mar 17th, Woodwalton Fen 2 on Apr 19th and singles Barleycraft GP on Feb 22nd, Dullingham Ley on Apr 26th, Etton-Maxey Pits on Mar 5th, Ferry Meadows CP on Apr 6th, Great Fen project on May 12th and Kingfishers Bridge on Mar 4th and 11th.

Autumn/second winter period (17 records including sound recordings): Ferry Meadows CP 12 on Sep 7th, Nene Washes 6 on Sep 2nd, Foul Anchor 2 on Sep 11th, Grafham Water 2 on Sep 3rd, Hemmingford Grey 2 on Sep 3rd, Ouse Washes 2 on Sep 7th to 10th, Paxton Pits 2 on Oct 7th, and singles Burwell Fen on Jul 11th, Devil's Dyke on Nov 4th, Earith on Jul 25th, Farcet Fen on Nov 8th and Fen Drayton Lakes on Jul 26th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Chesterton [Cambs] on Apr 14th, Sep 7th, Oct 3rd, Oct 17th and Nov 16th and Cambridge on Nov 18th.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica***Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in the spring (late April/early May), occasionally in winter.**Total records: 15. Sites: 9 spring.**Earliest on Jan 11th (Grafham Water) and latest N/A*

Spring (15 records): Grafham Water 4 on Jan 11th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 30th, 3 on Apr 30th to May 1st, 3 on May 5th, Berry Fen on Mar 4th, Apr 22nd, Nene Washes on Mar 19th and 21st, 3 on

Apr 27th, Cam Washes on Apr 16th, Ouse Washes on Apr 22nd, 5 on Apr 29th, Coveney Byall Fen on Apr 28th, Paxton Pits 2 on May 1st and Earith Washes on May 25th.

No autumn passage was recorded.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Red List. *Very local, uncommon breeder (nominate limosa); fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor (mainly islandica).*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 610; threshold for national importance: 430.

Total records: 470. Sites: 2 breeding season/35 non-breeding.

Breeding (33 pairs/broods at 2 sites): Nene Washes 31 pairs raised 14 young and Ouse Washes (Pilot project) 2 pairs raised 4 young.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	32	-	100	1500	20	23	5	-	-	1	-	-
Nene Washes	2400	3124	1400	900	8	62	62	82	34	40	-	500
Ouse W (N & C)	645	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1022	-
Ouse W (C only)	0	80	2300	100	12	48	48	-	1	-	0	80

Peak counts of 10+ at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Sutton Gault 1810 on Mar 4th, Berry Fen 1000 on Apr 7th and 11th, Earith Washes 360 on Mar 19th, Burwell Fen 203 on Jun 29th, Fortrey's Hall 200 on Mar 4th, Portholme Meadows 66 on Jan 1st, Bassenhally 60 on Mar 14th, Paxton Pits 28 on Apr 27th, Kings Dyke NR 14 on Apr 9th and Wyton Airfield 11 on Mar 25th.

Return/autumn/second winter period: Burwell Fen 50 on Jul 8th, Barway 37 on Aug 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 18 on Aug 19th and Wicken Fen 13 on Jul 22nd.

Black-tailed Godwit: peak counts 2007–2018

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Peak counts	2300	5000	3530	3500	2100	3921	3000	1700	3500	4000	2410	3124

Breeding totals (pairs/territorial individuals): Ouse Washes and Nene Washes (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Nene Washes	41	40	42	44	43	41	41	37	46	42	35	31
Ouse Washes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total	41	40	42	44	43	42	41	37	46	42	37	33

Nocturnal sound recordings: Cambridge on Aug 8th and Sep 23rd.

TURNSTONE (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres***Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant; occasional in winter.**Earliest* on May 9th (Ouse Washes) and *latest* on Aug 29th (Fen Drayton Lakes).

Spring (12 records): Ouse Washes on May 9th, Grafham Water on May 11th to 13th and Jun 17th, Nene Washes on May 18th, 26th to 27th, 2 on May 28th and 3 on Jun 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes 4 on May 25th, 2 on May 27th, Berry Fen on May 25th, Colne Fen GP 2 on May 26th and Darlows Farm on May 30th.

Autumn (6 records): Grafham Water 3 on Jul 30th, singles on Jul 31st, Aug 6th, 2 on Aug 7th, 5 on Aug 8th and Fen Drayton Lakes 4 on Aug 29th.

KNOT (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus***Amber List.** *Scarce annual visitor, mainly passage migrant* (6 records cf. average of 12/year).*Earliest* on Mar 18th (Paxton Pits) and *latest* on Sep 3rd (Grafham Water).

A poor year for this species – both on spring and autumn passage. The extended stay of one bird on autumn passage is however notable.

Spring (3 records): Paxton Pits on Mar 18th, Ouse Fen on Apr 15th and Ouse Washes on May 27th.

Autumn (3 records): Nene Washes on Jun 28th and Jul 17th and Grafham Water from Aug 25th to Sep 3rd.

RUFF *Calidris pugnax***Red List.** *Fairly common passage migrant/local winter visitor. Breeding last confirmed in 1991.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 8.

Total records: 258. *Sites:* 19 spring/11 autumn.*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	168	114	119	94	1	1	30	84	89	55	21	160
Ouse W (N & C)	37	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Ouse W (C only)	0	14	12	10	2	-	9	-	1	1	12	-

Other peak counts as follows:

First winter period/spring: Earith Washes 43 on Mar 19th, Berry Fen 40 on Apr 1st, Burwell Fen 17 on Feb 21st, Coveney Byall Fen 16 on Apr 15th, Kingfishers Bridge 14 on Feb 4th, Paxton Pits 7 on May 1st, Cam Washes 6 on Jan 28th, Grafham Water 4 on May 25th, Bassenhally 2 on Mar 14th, Wicken Fen 2 on Jan 13th, and singles at Barleycraft GP on Jan 19th, Ferry Meadows CP on Feb 28th and Waterbeach on Mar 2nd.

Autumn/second winter period: Barway 40 on Sep 21st, Kingfishers Bridge 24 on Sep 23rd, Burwell Fen 19 on Jul 9th, Wicken Fen 7 on Jul 22nd and Aug 5th, Barleycraft GP 5 on Jul 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on Jul 1st, Ouse Fen 5 on Aug 12th, Grafham Water 3 on Sep 1st and Hobson's Park single on Sep 18th.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Amber List. *Scarce annual passage migrant; occasional autumn influxes but scarce in spring (7 records cf. average of 10/year).*

In common with several other waders, a below average year for this species, with a blank spring. Indeed, spring wader passage throughout the county was very poor in 2018.

Autumn (7 records): Nene Washes 4 on Jul 29th, 2 on Sep 8th, singles on Sep 11th and 16th and Grafham Water 2 on Aug 6th, singles on Sep 6th and 10th to 11th.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Scarce, annual, passage migrant, usually singly (one record cf. average of 4/year).

Like 2017, an extremely poor year with just a single record reported.

Autumn: a single on the flooded fields at Barway on Sep 18th to 19th (BGD *et al.*).

Temminck's Stint: approximate annual totals for spring/autumn (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Spring	4	-	8	4	7	6	4	2	2	2	1	2	-
Autumn	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Amber List. *Uncommon annual visitor; passage migrant mainly in spring.*

A fairly typical number of sightings, with a good run of autumn records at Grafham Water of note.

Spring (18 records): Grafham Water on Apr 3rd to 4th and 25th, 4 on May 22nd, on May 24th, 2 on May 25th, 9 on May 27th, 3 on Jun 6th, on Jun 15th, Paxton Pits on May 21st and 27th, Coveney Byall Fen on May 25th, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on May 25th, 2 on May 27th, Ouse Washes on May 25th, Brampton 4 on May 26th to 27th, Nene Washes 7 on May 26th and 2 on May 27th and Darlows Farm 3 on May 27th.

Autumn (12 records): Grafham Water on Jul 19th to 20th, 2 on Jul 30th, Aug 7th, 4 on Aug 8th with 3 remaining on Aug 9th, Aug 11th, 20th to 21st and 27th, Sep 9th and 17th, Nov 23rd to 25th, Nene Washes on Jul 29th and Dernford Reservoir on Aug 13th.

Sanderling: approximate annual totals (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Records	48	49	45	26	23	35	36	28	30	29	56	24	30
Sites	9	6	6	7	3	5	8	8	7	3	6	8	9

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Amber List. *Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Both C. a. alpina and C. a. schinzii are regular on passage; C. a. arctica is a rare visitor.*

Total records: 305. Sites: 27 first winter period-spring/16 autumn-second winter.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	1	-	5	10	2	-	1	-	1	2	2	1
Grafham Water	-	-	1	-	3	-	3	25	8	5	34	21
Nene Washes	141	104	146	4	6	3	17	48	22	12	60	-
Ouse W (N & C)	87	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	61	94	28	10	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	120
Paxton Pits	-	-	4	1	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Peak counts at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Sutton [Cambs] 30 on Jan 28th, Darlows Farm 6 on May 30th, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Mar 11th, Helpston 5 on Mar 2nd, Etton-Maxey Pits 3 on Apr 28th, Hinxton 3 on Jan 22nd, Milton CP 3 on Mar 1st, Ditton Meadows 2 on Mar 1st, Oxloade 2 on Jan 14th, and singles Baits Bite Lock on Mar 1st, Barton on Mar 2nd, Burwell Fen on Apr 21st, Earith Washes on May 24th, Eaton Ford on May 25th, Ferry Meadows CP on Mar 25th, May 12th, 24th, Godmanchester GP on Mar 18th, Hobson's Park on Mar 15th and 23rd, Isleham Washes on Mar 9th, Melbourn on Mar 4th and Woodwalton Fen on May 28th.

Return/autumn/second winter period: Burwell Fen 15 on Dec 13th, Barway 8 on Sep 16th, Longstanton 3 on Aug 9th, Wicken Fen 3 on Aug 18th, Dernford Reservoir 2 on Nov 18th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Aug 5th, Oct 14th and 28th, Mare Fen 2 on Sep 23rd, and singles Bradley Fen on Aug 8th, Ferry Meadows CP on Nov 13th, Fowlmere NR on Jul 5th, 18th, Aug 9th and Hinxton on Jul 16th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Cambridge and Chesterton on a total of 17 nights between Jul 17th and Nov 17th, including dozens of calls on the night of Nov 16th/17th.

Casualty: a partly eaten dead bird was found at Devil's Dyke on Mar 20th

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Green List. *Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in the autumn; has wintered.*

Autumn (8 records): Soham 5 on Sep 8th, Nene Washes 2 on Aug 8th and 2 on Sep 24th, singles on Sep 27th, Oct 7th and 15th and Grafham Water on Sep 8th and Nov 19th.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Scarce annual visitor from North America/Siberia. c. 84(90) 2

A below average year although at least one record of a widely watched individual was not submitted to the county recorder.

Autumn (2 records): Longstanton, a juvenile on the development drainage lagoons on Sep 22nd to Oct 1st (BGD), Ouse Fen Sep 30th (RT).

Pectoral Sandpiper: approximate annual totals (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Records	5	3	1	3	4	2	5	7	3	1	4	1	2
Sites	4	2	1	2	2	1	3	6	2	1	4	1	2

WOODCOCK (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola*

Red List. *Scarce resident, fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 137. *Sites:* 3 breeding season/53 non-breeding.

Breeding (21 roding birds at 3 sites): Chippenham Fen 10 on May 6th, Holme Fen 10 throughout breeding season and Woodwalton Fen single on Apr 28th.

Peak counts as follows:

First winter period/spring: Littleport (May Farm) 20 in Jan and Feb, Little Wilbraham Fen 10 on May 3rd, Abbots Ripton 9 on Feb 18th, Kings Dyke NR 6 on Mar 2nd, Buff Wood 5 on Mar 26th, Woodwalton Fen 5 on Apr 14th, Bedford Purlieu 4 on Jan 26th, Ditton Park Wood 4 on Mar 8th, Clopton 3 on Mar 17th, Ferry Meadows CP 3 on Jan 13th, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on Feb 11th, Wicken Fen 3 on Jan 13th, Cambridge Research Park 2 on Feb 17th, Hardwick Wood 2 on Mar 16th, Soham 2 on Jan 6th, Wyton Airfield 2 on Jan 20th and singles at a further 29 sites.

Autumn/second winter period: Ditton Park Wood 4 on Dec 11th, Barnwell East LNR 2 on Nov 17th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Dec 9th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on Oct 31st and Dec 6th, Somersham GP 2 on Dec 23rd, Woodwalton Fen 2 on Nov 3rd and 13th and singles at a further 13 sites.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Green List. *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 71. *Sites:* 22 first winter-spring/8 autumn-second winter.

Latest on May 3rd (Nene Washes) and *earliest* on Oct 7th (Paxton Pits).

Peak counts as follows:

First winter period/spring: undisclosed site 7 on Mar 15th, Dogsthorpe Star Pit 4 on Feb 16th, Etton-Maxey Pits 3 on Feb 23rd, Nene Washes 3 on Apr 16th, Wicken Fen 3 on Mar 21st to 22nd, Hobson's Park 2 on Jan 28th and singles at a further 16 sites.

Autumn/second winter period: Ouse Washes 6 on Oct 29th, Berry Fen 2 on Oct 28th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on Dec 10th and 19th and singles at a further 5 sites.

SNIPE (Common Snipe) *Gallinago gallinago*

Amber List. *Uncommon local breeder; common winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 867. *Sites:* 6 breeding season/99 non-breeding.

Breeding (231 drumming/chipping birds): Ouse Washes 99, Nene Washes 64, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 38, Coveney Byall Fen 16, Kingfishers Bridge 12 and Chippenham Fen 2.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	-	1	6	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	3
Fen Drayton Lakes	17	15	14	4	-	-	8	10	4	6	6	1
Isleham Washes	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	17	-
Nene Washes	2	13	86	8	3	10	50	120	250	6	9	1
Ouse Fen	18	4	15	4	-	-	-	2	1	5	4	1
Ouse W (N & C)	12	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ouse W (C only)	0	4	60	6	6	13	1	1	8	15	0	2
Paxton Pits	-	1	10	5	1	-	-	4	2	3	-	-
Wicken Fen	13	4	18	3	8	1	4	4	3	4	3	2

Peak counts of 10+ at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Littleport (May Farm) 100 in Jan and Feb, Tetworth Hall Estate 58 on Feb 23rd, Hobson's Park 49 on Mar 13th, Cambourne 35 on Mar 15th, Cam Washes 25 on Apr 1st, Etton-Maxey Pits 23 on Mar 11th, Ferry Meadows CP 23 on Feb 28th, Kneesworth 22 on Feb 4th, Cottenham 20 on Mar 2nd to 3rd, Mepal Airfield 20 on Mar 31st, Kingfishers Bridge 19 on Jan 21st, Ouse Fen 18 on Jan 21st, Little Wilbraham Fen 17 on Feb 28th, Darlows Farm 16 on Jan 28th, Chesterton [Cams] 15 on Mar 1st, Buckden 14 on Mar 3rd, Dogsthorpe Star Pit 14 on Feb 16th, Waterbeach 14 on Mar 2nd, Kings Dyke NR 13 on Feb 24th, Cambridge 12 on Mar 1st, Cambridge Research Park 12 on Mar 24th, Coe Fen 12 on Mar 3rd, Helpston 12 on Mar 2nd, Chippenham Fen 10 on Jan 19th, Colne Fen GP 10 on Mar 25th and Kings Dyke NR 10 on Feb 19th.

Autumn/second winter period: Barway 171 on Sep 14th, Hobson's Park 37 on Dec 30th, Kings Dyke NR 28 on Dec 27th, Kingfishers Bridge 23 on Sep 6th, Fish & Duck Marina 14 on Sep 30th, Burwell Fen 10 on Nov 18th, Darlows Farm 10 on Nov 10th and Etton-Maxey Pits 10 on Sep 9th.

Breeding totals (pairs/territorial individuals): Ouse Washes and Nene Washes (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Nene Washes	144	177	230	109	109	83	121	106	73	92	61	64
Ouse Washes	148	135	125	157	59	3	1	-	72	102	112	137
Total	292	312	355	266	168	86	122	106	145	194	173	201

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 2% (95/96) *cf.* 0% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (17/18)

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in the autumn 54(58–73) 1

Autumn: a single at Grafham Water on Sep 22nd to 23rd photo (MLH), a typical date and location for this species.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Amber List. *Fairly common passage migrant, occasionally overwinters.*

Total records: 232. Sites: 22 first winter period-spring/32 autumn-second winter.

Earliest on Apr 14th (Chesterton) and latest on Dec 29th (Grafham Water).

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	3	3	1	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	-	1	4	-	19	11	10	1	1	1

Other peak counts as follows:

Spring: Earith Washes 3 on Apr 27th, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on May 25th, Littleport (May Farm) 3 on May 28th to 31st, Paxton Pits 3 on May 25th and singles at a further 14 sites.

Autumn: Nene Washes 8 on Jul 30th and Aug 29th, Dernford Reservoir 7 on Aug 1st, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Sep 10th, Paxton Pits 6 on Aug 4th, Brampton GP 5 on Jul 30th, Barleycraft GP 3 on Sep 9th, Colne Fen GP 3 on Jul 15th, Eddington 3 on Jul 29th, Longstanton 3 on Jul 30th, Middle Fen 3 on Aug 18th, Ouse Washes 3 on Nov 9th, Burwell Fen 2 on Jul 16th, Coveney Byall Fen 2 on Aug 25th, Earith 2 on Aug 5th, Etton-Maxey Pits 2 on Jul 25th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on Aug 28th, Maxey Cut 2 on Aug 12th and singles at a further 11 sites.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Chesterton [Cams] on Apr 14th, Cambridge on Apr 25th and either one or both of these locations on nine nights between Jul 10th and Sep 22nd and Eaton Ford on May 12th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Amber List. *Fairly common passage migrant, mainly in autumn; regularly winters.*

Total records: 561. Sites: 28 first winter period-spring/43 autumn-second winter.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cam Washes	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	3	2	-	1	-
Grafham Water	1	-	2	1	-	-	6	15	3	3	2	2
Kingfishers Bridge	1	2	2	3	-	2	10	10	12	2	1	1
Ouse Fen	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	2
Ouse W (C only)	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	-	1
Paxton Pits	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	3	8	10	5	8
Wicken Fen	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	7	2	2	-	-

Other peak counts as follows:

First winter period/spring: Littleport (May Farm) 6 on May 28th to 31st, Burwell Fen 5 on Apr 17th, Etton-Maxey Pits 3 on Mar 21st, Haddenham & Aldreth Fens 3 on Feb 18th, Nene Washes 3 on Mar 21st, Barleycraft GP 2 on Jun 17th, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on Apr 15th, Waterbeach 2 on Mar 2nd and singles at a further 12 sites.

Return/autumn/second winter period: Barway 22 on Sep 22nd, Burwell Fen 19 on Jul 17th, Nene Washes 14 on Aug 1st, Barleycraft GP 11 on Jul 15th, Longstanton 8 on Jul 18th, Earith 6 on Sep 8th, Colne Fen GP 5 on Aug 12th, Maxey Cut 5 on Aug 12th, Etton-Maxey Pits 4 on Jul 25th, Cambridge

Research Park 3 on Sep 8th, Coveney Byall Fen 3 on Aug 25th, Woodwalton Fen 3 on Nov 14th, Bradley Fen 2 on Sep 25th, Earith Washes 2 on Aug 22nd, Fowlmere NR 2 on Aug 12th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on Jul 24th, Mepal Fen 2 on Sep 18th and singles at a further 17 sites.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Chesterton on Apr 14th and there and/or Cambridge on 7 nights between Jul 5th and Sep 18th.

REDSHANK (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*

Amber List. *Fairly common, but local and declined breeder, passage migrant/winter visitor.*

Total records: 602. *Sites:* 9 breeding season/49 non-breeding.

Breeding (300 pairs at 9 sites): Ouse Washes 104 pairs, Nene Washes 83 pairs, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 69 pairs, Ouse Fen 17 pairs (at least 8 young fledged), Coveney Byall Fen 14 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 7 pairs, Paxton Pits 4 pairs and single pairs at Burwell Fen and Fen Drayton Lakes (no young).

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	2	-	-	2	1	2	1		1	-	2	3
Fen Drayton Lakes	2	-	5	3	5	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	10	8	7	6	-	-	1	3	26	4	13	14
Nene Washes	110	200	114	60	6	166	15	8	2	1	30	24
Ouse W (N & C)	-	24	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Ouse W (C only)	21	10	34	45	20	346	55	-	-	2	18	24
Paxton Pits	-	-	3	5	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wicken Fen	-	-	-	2	2	4	1	-	1	-	-	1

Peak counts of 10+ at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Berry Fen 32 on Jun 17th, Kingfishers Bridge 18 on Apr 5th, Darlows Farm 14 on May 30th, Etton-Maxey Pits 12 on Apr 15th, Burwell Fen 11 on Jun 29th.

Return/autumn/second winter period: Barway 12 on Sep 22nd.

Breeding totals (pairs/territorial individuals): Ouse Washes and Nene Washes (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Nene Washes	187	195	220	180	155	152	127	157	184	167	138	83
Ouse Washes	233	216	185	149	136	-	1	-	152	166	136	173
Total	3420	411	405	329	291	152	128	157	336	333	274	256

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 3% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (17/18)

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola***Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant.**Earliest* on Apr 22nd (Kingfishers Bridge) and *latest* on Sep 25th (Barway).

Spring (12 records): Kingfishers Bridge on Apr 22nd and 26th, Littleport (May Farm) 2 on May 3rd, single on May 6th, Ouse Washes on May 4th and 9th, Nene Washes 2 on May 6th, single on May 28th, Fowlmere NR on May 7th, Wicken Fen on May 8th, Earith Washes 3 on May 24th (presumed same at Ouse Fen 3 on May 24th) and Etton-Maxey Pits on May 26th.

Autumn (25 records): Fen Drayton Lakes on Jul 5th and Aug 21st, Burwell Fen on Jul 8th, 2 on Jul 9th, Nene Washes on Jul 11th and 28th to 29th, Aug 25th, Sep 11th, 16th and 21st, 3 on Jul 30th and 3 on Aug 1st, 2 from Aug 15th to 16th, Aug 21st to 23rd, Kingfishers Bridge on Jul 15th and Aug 12th, Wicken Fen on Aug 2nd, 5th and 7th to 8th, Barway on Aug 26th, Sep 16th, 18th to 19th, 21st to 23rd and 25th and Eaton Ford on Aug 28th.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus***Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant; occasionally winters.**Earliest* on Mar 17th (Kingfishers Bridge) and *latest* on Oct 14th (Nene Washes).

Spring (10 records): Kingfishers Bridge on Mar 17th to 18th, Little Wilbraham Fen on Mar 25th, Paxton Pits on Apr 19th, Ouse Washes 2 on Apr 27th, single from Apr 28th to 29th, Nene Washes from Apr 28th to 29th, May 4th and 25th, Earith on Apr 29th and Wicken Fen 2 from May 7th to 8th.

Autumn (11 records): Nene Washes singles on Aug 8th, 12th, 16th, 3 on Aug 22nd, singles on Aug 23rd, 29th and Oct 14th, Barway flooded fields on Sep 16th, 18th to 19th and 22nd and Grafham Water on Sep 26th.

GREENSHANK (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia***Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn; occasionally winters.**Total records:* 204. *Sites:* 13 spring/16 autumn.

In common with other passage wader species, generally a very poor year, particularly the dismal spring passage.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	2	-	-	-
Nene Washes	-	-	-	1	8	-	4	2	11	6	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Wicken Fen	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-

Other peak counts as follows:

Spring: Berry Fen 6 on May 25th, Burwell Fen 2 on Jun 29th and singles at a further 6 sites.

Autumn: Burwell Fen 5 on Jul 9th, Barway 4 on Aug 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on Aug 24th to 30th and Sep 9th, Dernford Reservoir 3 on Aug 5th and singles at a further 5 sites.

Nocturnal sound recording: Chesterton [Cams] on Sep 27th.

KITTIWAKE (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla*

Red List. *Scarce passage migrant, also storm-driven* (6 records *cf.* an average of 7/year).

First winter period/spring (5 records): Grafham Water on Jan 31st and 7 (6 adults, 1 1st cal-year) on Mar 18th, Chesterton [Cams] an adult on Mar 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes on Mar 16th and Barleycraft GP on Mar 25th.

Autumn/second winter period (one record): Foul Anchor 5 on Oct 27th.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Very rare vagrant from North America. 1(1) 1

Spring (one record): Fen Drayton Lakes on Apr 14th photo (RGr *et al.*). Accepted by BBRC. New for county. See article on p136.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Amber List. *Common but very local breeder; abundant passage migrant/winter visitor.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 22000.

Total records: 3852. *Sites:* 110 breeding season/233 non-breeding.

Breeding (861 pairs at 10 sites): Barleycraft GP 461, Paxton Pits 182, Fen Drayton Lakes 119, Nene Washes 61 (all failed as flood waters dropped), Kingfishers Bridge 13, Isleham Washes 12, Littleport (May Farm) 10, singles at Kings Dyke NR and Ouse Washes and an unknown number at Etton-Maxey Pits. At Dunkirk, birds turned up at the regular breeding site but then left without breeding.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bradley Fen	16	600	200	1	12	26	60	200	200	150	-	-
Ferry Meadows CP	405	262	500	700	7	5	53	200	500	1250	290	2500
Kingfishers Bridge	120	223	525	213	77	46	110	114	347	470	650	57
Ouse Washes (C only)	5000	1	50	100	60	20	474	4	30	50	4000	200
Paxton Pits	3500	130	234	180	76	360	10	20	200	50	295	170
Wicken Fen	250	1400	550	75	5	9	65	1	6	6	250	1150

Peak counts of 200+ at other sites as follows:

First winter/spring: Grafham Water 6000 on Jan 2nd, CEGB Reservoir 4500 roosting on Feb 25th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 3000 roosting on Feb 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 1500 on Apr 15th, Barleycraft GP 1275 on Apr 15th, Etton-Maxey Pits 356 on Feb 18th, River Cam (Baits Bite to Owlstone Road) 330 on Mar 18th, Milton CP 300 on Feb 27th and 28th, Cam Washes (Upware) 250 on Mar 25th, Cambridge 250 on Jan 19th, Barton 200 on Feb 25th, Cambridge Research Park 200 on Jan 19th, Eldernell 200 on Apr 19th, Littleport (May Farm) 200 in Jan and Feb, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 200 on Jan 14th and Apr 19th and Portholme 200 on Jan 1st.

Summer: Nene Washes (March Farmers) 1300 on Jun 21st, Grafham Water 1000 on Jul 22nd, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 980 on Jul 28th, Barway Flooded Fields 450 on Aug 30th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 450 roosting on Aug 28th and Hobson's Park 420 on Jul 15th.

Second winter: Etton-Maxey Pits 1659 on Sep 9th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 820 on Sep 11th, Little Wilbraham Fen 440 on Dec 28th, Cam Washes 400 on Nov 16th and 19th, Barway Flooded Fields 350 on Sep 4th, Devil's Dyke 301 on Oct 21st, Burghley Park 300 on Nov 12th, Grafham Water 260 on Nov 25th, River Cam (Baits Bite to Owlstone Road) 260 on Dec 15th, Dernford Reservoir 250

roosting on Oct 2nd, Block Fen GP 202 on Dec 9th, Burwell Fen 200 on Dec 27th and 29th, Drysides BP 200 on Oct 31st, Fowlmere 200 on Nov 9th and 21st, Foxton 200 on Dec 23rd, Shepreth L-Moor 200 on Dec 24th and Stuntney 200 on Oct 27th.

Aberrant individual: Grafham Water a leucistic bird on Mar 18th.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Green List. *Uncommon passage migrant, rarer in winter. Has summered, and bred in 1975.*

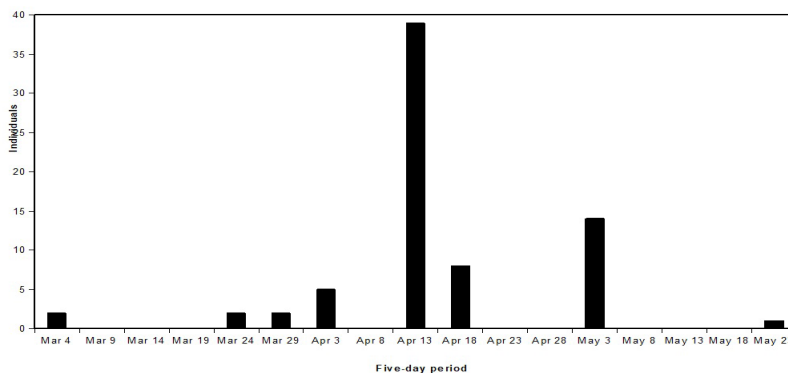
Total records: 39. Sites: 11 spring/one summer/3 autumn.

Spring: passage commenced with two forerunners on Mar 4th and 8th, with the main passage from Mar 24th to May 7th, peaking on Apr 14th and 15th, with a late bird on May 24th (see Figure). Peak counts were Burwell Fen and Fen Drayton Lakes 12 each on Apr 15th, Burwell Fen and Wicken Fen 6 each on Apr 14th and Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Apr 15th (possibly all referring to the same 12 individuals).

Summer/return: Nene Washes (Eldernell) on Jun 25th.

Autumn/second winter period: Grafham Water on Sep 8th, Ferry Meadows CP on Sep 13th and Dernford Reservoir on Nov 28th.

Figure: Little Gull in spring 2018. Values are totals from all sites for the 5-day period from the date given. For each site the maximum count during each period was used.



MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Amber List. *Uncommon, annual passage migrant and winter visitor. Bred in 2007 and from 2014 to 2016.*

Total records: 43. Sites: 11 first winter-spring/11 autumn-second winter.

Breeding: no information received.

First winter period (4 sites): Dernford Reservoir on Jan 6th, Ouse Washes on Jan 14th, Grafham Water on Feb 3rd, 6th and 14th and Melbourn on Feb 26th.

Spring (9 sites): Fortrey's Hall Mar 4th and 17th, Ouse Washes on Mar 18th and Apr 29th, Grafham Water on Mar 16th, Paxton Pits on Apr 7th, 2 on 15th and a single on Apr 29th, Ferry Meadows CP on Apr 8th and May 8th, Earith on Apr 20th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on Apr 22nd, Barleycraft GP on Apr 30th and May 5th and Littleport (May Farm) 4 on May 3rd.

Autumn (11 sites): Fen Drayton Lakes on Jul 18th, Cambridge on Jul 19th, Grafham Water on Jul 23rd and 25th, Aug 31st, Sep 5th and Oct 16th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) on Jul 26th, Colne Fen GP on Aug 21st, Stanground Wash on Aug 21st, Bradley Fen on Aug 24th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon on Aug 25th and 27th and Sep 11th and 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP on Sep 23rd and Oct 17th, 26th and 27th, Dernford Reservoir on Oct 2nd and Farcet Fen on Oct 25th and 31st.

Winter (one site): Farcet Fen on Nov 4th and 15th.

COMMON GULL (Mew Gull) *Larus canus*

Amber List. *Common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce in early summer.*

Total records: 1012. *Sites:* 132 non-breeding.

First winter period/spring (peak counts of 30+): Ouse Washes (Pymoor) 3000 on Jan 28th, Grafham Water 1000 roosting on Apr 2nd, Melbourn 450 on Mar 9th, Portholme 350 on Apr 9th, CEBB Reservoir 300 on Jan 7th, Devil's Dyke 200 on Mar 16th, Wicken Fen 110 on Jan 30th, Ferry Meadows CP 103 on Jan 13th, Burwell Fen 70 on Mar 11th, Stirtloe SW 60 on Jan 12th, Swavesey 50 on Mar 13th, Kingfishers Bridge 45 on Jan 17th and Cam Washes 40 on Mar 25th.

Late spring/early summer: in May recorded at 6 sites with a maximum of 2 at Ouse Washes and Wisbech St Mary, in June at 7 sites with a maximum of 4 at Ferry Meadows CP and in July at 14 sites with a maximum of 30 at Grafham Water.

Autumn/second winter period (peak counts of 30+): Grafham Water 135 on Dec 22nd, Cam Washes 120 on Nov 16th and 19th, Godmanchester GP 53 on Dec 9th, Paxton Pits 42 on Nov 11th and Ferry Meadows CP 30 on Dec 24th.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Amber List. *Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce in summer.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 760.

Total records: 308. *Sites:* 66 non-breeding.

First winter period/spring (peak counts of 20+): Cottenham (Long Drove) 600 on Jan 6th, Cambridge Research Park 250 on Jan 6th, Waterbeach 180 on Jan 3rd, Kingfishers Bridge 70 on Jan 14th, Grafham Water 60 on Jan 2nd, Fortrey's Hall 26 on Feb 18th and Nene Washes (March Farmers) 20 on Feb 22nd.

Summer: Grafham Water on Jun 1st, 3 on Jul 4th, one on 8th, 4 on 12th, one on 23rd, 5 on 25th, 7 on Aug 8th and one on 11th and 22nd, Wisbech St Mary 6 on Jun 3rd, one on 15th, Jul 3rd and 4th, 3 on 5th, one on 14th, 16th and 18th and Aug 1st, Nene Washes (March Farmers) on Jun 11th and 13th and Jul 10th, Ouse Washes on Jun 16th, Burwell Fen on Jun 21st and 18 on Jun 29th, Cottenham (Long Drove) on Jun 29th, 11 on Aug 12th, 20 on 14th and 12 on 17th, Witchford (Long Drove) on Jul 1st, Wyton Airfield on Jul 6th, Nene Washes on Jul 14th, Buckden GP 3 on Jul 15th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Jul 17th and Aug 28th, Devil's Dyke on Aug 3rd and Ely BF 4 on Aug 25th.

Autumn/second winter period (peak counts of 20+): Cottenham (Long Drove) 364 on Dec 31st, Kingfishers Bridge 95 on Dec 23rd, Cambridge Research Park 55 on Dec 31st and Grafham Water 20 on Sep 23rd.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*

Amber List. *Scarce, annual winter visitor and passage migrant (8 records cf. average of 7/year).*

Latest on Apr 15th (Ouse Washes) and earliest n/a.

Eight records in first winter/spring is in line with previous years, but as every year there is some uncertainty about allocating records to individual birds. No record from autumn/second winter. While numbers of Iceland Gull were slightly above the recent-year average, there was, for the first time since 2006, no record of Glaucous Gull.

First winter period/spring (8 records):

A – Cottenham (Long Drove) a 3rd cal-year on Jan 5th and 20th and Mar 2nd, presumed same Waterbeach on Jan 6th, 7th and 21st, Cambridge Research Park on Jan 12th and 20th, Kingfishers Bridge on Jan 14th, Fortrey's Hall on Feb 18th and Witcham Gravel on Mar 28th.

B – Waterbeach a 2nd cal-year on Jan 6th.

C – Grafham Water a 2nd cal-year on Feb 4th, presumed same Cottenham (Long Drove) on Feb 10th and Cambridge Research Park on Feb 16th.

D – Grafham Water a 2nd cal-year on Feb 14th (different to bird C).

E – Witcham Gravel a 2nd cal-year on Mar 28th and Apr 4th, presumed same Grafham Water on Apr 1st and Ouse Washes (The Gravel) on Apr 15th.

F – Nene Washes (March Farmers) a 2nd cal-year on Feb 11th.

G – Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) an adult on Apr 1st and presumed same Witcham Gravel on Apr 6th.

H – Ouse Washes (Oxloade) a 4th cal-year on Mar 24th.

The following records of unaged birds are likely to refer to birds listed above: Cottenham (Long Drove) on Jan 12th, Waterbeach on Jan 12th, 20th and Feb 16th, Ouse Washes (Pymoor) on Jan 14th, Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) on Jan 14th, Mar 28th, Apr 7th, 10th, 11th and 12th and Kings Dyke NR on Feb 16th.

Iceland Gull (including Kumlien's Gull) and Glaucous Gull: annual record totals (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Iceland Gull	5	4	12	6	1	6	16	9	8	7	5	9	8
Kumlien's Gull	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Glaucous Gull	0	3	8	7	2	5	8	13	8	6	5	7	0
Totals	5	8	22	13	3	11	24	23	16	13	10	16	8

HERRING GULL (European Herring Gull) *Larus argentatus*

Red List. *Very common winter visitor and passage migrant. Scarce breeder since 2005.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for international importance: 10200; threshold for national importance: 7300.

Total records: 1186. Sites: 41 breeding season/115 non-breeding.

Breeding (33+ pairs at 4 sites): Wisbech (West Parade) 25 on rooftops, Peterborough (Fengate) 6 with 10 fledglings on rooftops and singles Godmanchester GP and Kings Dyke NR. The figures for rooftop breeders are a most welcome addition to our knowledge of this species. They are hard to count accurately and the figure for Wisbech is a conservative estimate.

First winter period/spring (peak counts of 50+): Cottenham (Long Drove) 1400 on Jan 12th, Cambridge Research Park 500 on Jan 27th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 400 on Feb 11th, Ouse Washes (Pymoor) 300 on Jan 28th, CEEB Reservoir 200 on Jan 7th, Grafham Water 200 on Jan 2nd, Fortrey's Hall 160 on Feb 18th, Bradley Fen 120 on Feb 7th, Kingfishers Bridge 65 on Jan 7th and Milton CP 50 on Feb 28th.

Late spring/summer (peak counts of 20+): Bradley Fen 150 on Jul 11th.

Autumn/second winter period (peak counts of 50+): Cottenham (Long Drove) 1200 on Dec 31st, Cambridge Research Park 300 on Dec 28th, Devil's Dyke 268 on Nov 4th, Northstowe 100 on Oct 9th, Cam Washes (Upware) 50 on Dec 9th and Ferry Meadows CP 50 on Dec 30th.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Amber List. *Uncommon visitor, mainly winter. First identified in Cambridgeshire in 1997.*

Total records: 209. Sites: 23 non-breeding.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cottenham (Long Drove)	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
Grafham Water	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	1	1

Peak counts at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Milton CP 2 on Feb 28th, Milton Tip 2 on Jan 12th and Mar 18th, Paxton Pits 2 on Jan 5th and singles at Burwell Fen on Apr 15th, 16th and 19th and May 18th, Cambridge Research Park on Jan 6th, 13th and 19th and Feb 3rd, Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 3rd and May 7th, Kingfishers Bridge on Jan 7th, Ouse Washes on Mar 17th and Apr 19th and Waterbeach on Jan 6th, 19th and 21st and Feb 3rd.

Summer: Tanholt GP 2 on Aug 17th and singles at Burwell Fen on Jul 4th, Foxton on Aug 29th and Kings Dyke NR on Aug 4th.

Autumn/second winter period: Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 3 on Sep 16th, Tanholt GP 3 on Oct 11th, Northstowe 2 on Oct 8th, 9th, Nov 7th and Dec 27th, Paxton Pits 2 on Oct 6th and singles at Cambridge Research Park on Nov 3rd, Dec 8th and 29th, Dernford Reservoir on Nov 5th and 24th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Dec 9th and 22nd, Heydon on Nov 5th, Ouse Washes on Dec 9th and 16th and Waterbeach on Dec 8th and 29th.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Amber List. *Uncommon visitor, mainly summer and autumn. First identified in Cambridgeshire in 1987.*

WeBS (2017/18) threshold for national importance: 11.

Total records: 254. Sites: 29 non-breeding.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cambridge Res Park	4	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	1
Cottenham (Long Dr)	3	-	-	-	-	-	7	12	6	1	-	1
Grafham Water	2	3	-	2	1	1	12	27	3	5	3	1

Peak counts at other sites as follows:

First winter period/spring: Milton Tip 4 on Mar 18th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on Jan 3rd, Ouse Washes 2 on May 26th and singles at a further 7 sites.

Summer: Tanholt GP 12 on Aug 16th, Foxton 8 on Aug 30th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 5 on Aug 4th, Dernford Reservoir 4 on Aug 4th, Heydon 4 on Aug 4th and singles at a further 6 sites.

Autumn/second winter period: Devil's Dyke 29 on Oct 24th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 17 on Sep 11th, Dernford Reservoir 6 on Oct 2nd and Nov 5th, Heydon 6 on Nov 5th, Northstowe 5 on Oct 8th and 13th, Hobson's Park 3 on Nov 11th and singles at a further 7 sites.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Amber List. *Very common passage migrant; increased summer/winter visitor. Uncommon breeder since 1996.*

Total records: 1822. Sites: 172.

Breeding (60 pairs at 8 sites): Paxton Pits 27, Godmanchester GP 20 (raising 60 juveniles), Huntingdon 4 (on rooftops), Kings Dyke NR 4, Barleycraft GP 2 (failed) and singles at Earith GP (3 fledged young), Peterborough (Halfords Fengate) and St Neots. Rooftop breeders seem to be under-recorded. They are hard to count accurately and the figures for Godmanchester GP and Huntingdon are conservative estimates.

Peak counts of 100+:

First winter period/spring: Milton Tip 370 on Mar 18th, Ouse Washes (Pymoor) 300 on Jan 28th, Godmanchester GP 181 on May 20th, Littleport (May Farm) 142 on Feb 23rd, Burrough Green 138 on Apr 1st, Redmere 131 on Feb 2nd and Cottenham (Long Drove) 130 on Jan 12th.

Summer: Dernford Reservoir 924 on Aug 30th, Cottenham (Long Drove) 300 on Aug 18th, Heydon 285 on Aug 4th, Godmanchester GP 198 on Jul 15th, Gamlingay 151 on Aug 14th, Bradley Fen 150 on Jul 22nd, Devil's Dyke 139 on Aug 25th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 130 on Aug 28th, Alwalton 100 on Jul 5th and Hauxton 100 on Aug 15th.

Autumn/second winter period: Heydon 1287 on Sep 24th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoon 1200 on Sep 11th, Little Wilbraham Fen 720 on Sep 6th, Dernford Reservoir 580 on Oct 2nd, Northstowe 500 on Oct 9th, Devil's Dyke 263 on Oct 1st, Cottenham (Long Drove) 200 on Oct 29th, Fowlmere NR 200 on Sep 12th, Foxton 200 on Sep 23rd and Fowlmere 128 on Nov 9th.

Behaviour: Fen Drayton Lakes taking a Black-headed Gull chick from a breeding raft on Apr 16th.

Breeding gulls and terns: total counts of breeding/territorial pairs (2007–2018)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Black-headed Gull	530	300	535	534	533	950	1126	2930	1448	2089	2197	861
Mediterranean Gull	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0
Lesser B-b Gull	15	21	49	41	18	18	5	38	27	32	79	60
Herring Gull	11	2	2	8	1	10	2	0	0	2	3	33
Yellow-legged Gull	1	0	0	1*	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Tern	56	103	118	79	34	102	68	99	121	85	114	103

*Mixed pairs. For all species some site totals are either uncertain or unknown so the figures are probably underestimates. The variation in numbers of Common Terns might be due to under-reporting in many years.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Amber List. *Scarce annual passage migrant* (25 records *cf.* an average of 9/year).

Earliest on Apr 3rd (Grafham Water) and *latest* on Sep 23rd (Chesterton [Cams] and Grafham Water).

A very good year in spring and autumn, supported once again by nocturnal sound records in autumn.

Spring (13 records): Grafham Water 3 east on Apr 3rd, one on Apr 5th and 10th and 2 on 16th, Ferry Meadows CP 2 east on Apr 6th, Paxton Pits on Apr 7th and 8th (counted as one record) and 10th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Apr 11th, Ouse Washes southwest on Apr 17th, 2 each on 19th, 22nd and 26th and Earith 4 north on Apr 19th.

Autumn (12 records including nocturnal sound records): Grafham Water 3 on Jul 12th, one on Sep 8th, 5 on 18th and one on 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP on Jul 20th and Fen Drayton Lakes on Sep 11th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: Cambridge (Lovell Road) on Aug 25th, 2 on Sep 13th and 2 on 22nd and Chesterton [Cams] 2 on Sep 4th and singles on 22nd and 23rd.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Amber List. *Scarce annual passage migrant, mainly in spring* (6 records *cf.* an average of 4 records/year).

Spring (6 records): Nene Washes (March Farmers) on Apr 4th, Ferry Meadows CP on Apr 18th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Apr 28th and May 25th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 2 on May 7th and Grafham Water on May 25th.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Amber List. *Fairly common migratory breeder and fairly common passage migrant.*

Total records: 1022. *Sites:* 96 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 4th (Ferry Meadows CP, Grafham Water) and *latest* on Oct 5th (Ferry Meadows CP).

Breeding (103 confirmed pairs at 8 sites): Paxton Pits 61, Fen Drayton Lakes 30, Kingfishers Bridge 6, Colne Fen GP 2 (4 fledged juveniles) and singles at Burwell Fen, Earith GP (2 fledged young), Littleport (May Farm) and Nene Washes (Eldernell). As with every year, counts of nests/pairs are lacking or inadequate from a number of sites.

Peak counts of 10+ at non-breeding sites (including sites with very small breeding numbers):

Spring: Grafham Water 67 on Apr 28th, Ferry Meadows CP 42 on Apr 15th and 22nd, Barleycraft GP 25 on Jun 17th, Chain Corner 20 on Apr 29th, Kings Dyke NR 19 on May 11th, Cam Washes (Upware) 14 on May 7th, Etton-Maxey Pits 14 on May 4th, Burwell Fen 13 on Apr 25th, Buckden GP 11 on Jun 17th and Godmanchester GP 10 on Jun 23rd.

Autumn: Ouse Fen 52 on Jul 15th, Grafham Water 50 on Aug 1st, Ferry Meadows CP 42 on Aug 14th, Barleycraft GP 28 on Jul 15th, Godmanchester GP 17 on Aug 12th, Etton-Maxey Pits 12 on Jul 13th and Hobson's Park 11 on Jul 8th.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Amber List. *Uncommon passage migrant, with largest parties in the spring.*

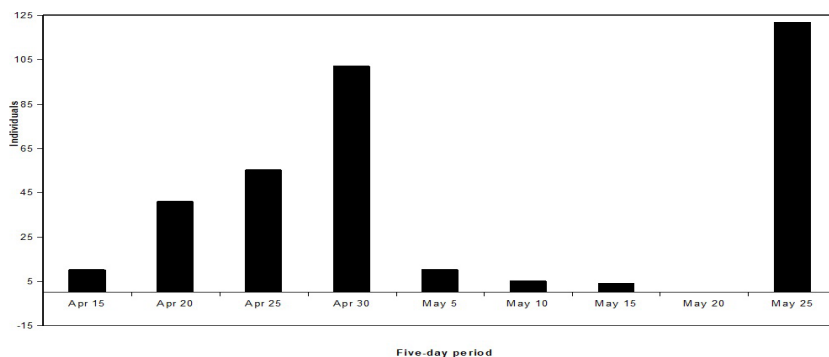
Total records: 257. Sites: 19 spring/3 autumn.

Earliest on Apr 15th (Ouse Washes) and latest on Sep 23rd (Grafham Water).

Spring (peak counts of 10+): Fen Drayton Lakes 90 on May 26th, Grafham Water 70 on May 2nd, Earith 30 on May 25th and Ferry Meadows CP 10 on May 2nd (see also Figure).

Autumn: Grafham Water 40 on Sep 22nd, 2 on Aug 9th and singles on 16th and Sep 20th, 21st and 23rd and singles at Nene Washes (March Farmers) on Aug 1st and Dernford Reservoir on Sep 3rd.

Figure: Arctic Tern in spring 2018. Values are totals from all sites for the 5-day period from the date given. For each site the maximum count during each period was used.



BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Green List. *Fairly common passage migrant, occasionally in large numbers; nested regularly in 19th century (and three times in 20th century).*

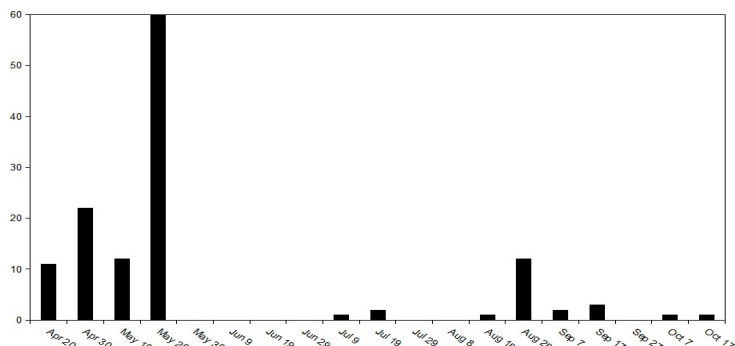
Total records: 101. Sites: 16 spring/3 autumn.

Earliest on Apr 20th (Nene Washes (March Farmers), Grafham Water, Paxton Pits) and latest on Oct 17th (Fen Drayton Lakes).

Spring: passage commenced with 6 at Nene Washes (March Farmers), 4 at Paxton Pits and a single at Grafham Water all on Apr 20th. It peaked on May 21st to 25th and ceased on May 28th (see Figure). Highest numbers were 22 at Grafham Water on May 21st, 16 on 24th and 10 on 25th and 10 at Paxton Pits on May 21st.

Autumn: passage began with a single at Whittlesey on Jul 11th and 2 at Grafham Water on Jul 26th. It peaked on Aug 29th to Sep 2nd, ceasing with a single at Fen Drayton Lakes on Oct 17th (see Figure). Highest counts were 12 at Grafham Water on Aug 29th and 8 on Sep 1st.

Figure: Black Tern passage in 2018. Values are totals from all sites for the 10-day period from the date given. For each site the maximum count during each period was used.



GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

Amber List. *Scarce passage migrant, sometimes storm-driven.* c. 81(408+) **3**

Autumn/second winter period (3 records): Foul Anchor 16 on Sep 23rd (JPT), 40 southwest in six flocks within an hour and 15 minutes on Oct 27th (RMP) and Grafham Water 3 on Sep 23rd (RMP).

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

List. *Scarce passage migrant, sometimes storm-driven.* 23(36) **2**

The first since 2015.

Autumn/second winter period (2 records): Foul Anchor on Oct 27th, an intermediate-phase juvenile at 10.20am, followed by a much paler bird at 10.40am (RMP, JPT).

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

List. *Scarce passage migrant, sometimes storm-driven.*

The first since 2016.

Autumn/second winter period (2 records): Grafham Water on Sep 16th (RMP). Foul Anchor on Oct 27th, one, as part of a skua passage (RMP, JPT).

ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Green List. *Common feral resident, increased in rural but not urban areas (where control measures are often used).*

Total records: 700. *Sites:* 91.

Breeding: no information received.

Peak counts of 30+ (excluding presumed racing pigeons): Devil's Dyke 151 on Sep 25th, Wisbech 150 on Oct 27th, St Neots 120 on Jul 26th, Cambridge 90 on Oct 9th, Ely 60 on Jan 20th, Barleycraft GP 50 on Oct 29th, Peterborough 50 on Dec 8th, Swavesey 50 on Mar 26th, Farcet 45 on May 7th,

Hail Weston 40 on Nov 16th, Ellington 35 on Oct 31st, Hinxton Genome Campus 31 on Jan 22nd and Ouse Washes (Earth) 30 on Apr 19th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 24% (95/96) *cf.* 11% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 17 (95/96) *cf.* 9 (17/18)

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Amber List. *Common resident and winter visitor.*

Total records: 1719. *Sites:* 144 breeding season/139 non-breeding.

Breeding (38 pairs at 9 sites): Paxton Pits 17, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 5, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 4, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 3, Hauxton GP 3, Landbeach 3 in nest boxes and single pairs/broods at an additional 3 sites.

Peak counts of 40+ as follows:

First winter period/spring: Great Fen Project 1000 on Feb 6th and 14th, Kingston Hill 95 on Jan 18th, Littleport (May Farm) 50 throughout Jan and Feb, Barway 43 on Feb 11th, Swaffham Prior Fen 42 on Feb 17th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 41 on Jan 7th, Cambridge Research Park 40 on Jan 27th and Paxton Pits 40 on Jan 5th.

Autumn/second winter period: Comberton (Westfield Farm) 106 on Dec 16th, Cambridge Research Park 60 on Dec 30th, Colne Fen GP 60 on Nov 18th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 59 on Nov 8th, Cantelupe Farm Reservoir 50 on Dec 9th, Kingfishers Bridge 41 on Dec 9th, Foxton 40 on Oct 2nd and Holme Fen 40 on Dec 30th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 65% (95/96) *cf.* 56% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 30 (95/96) *cf.* 32 (17/18)

WOODPIGEON (Common Wood Pigeon) *Columba palumbus*

Green List. *Abundant resident and winter visitor.*

Total records: 5115. *Sites:* 228 breeding season/229 non-breeding.

Breeding (178 pairs at 10 sites): Paxton Pits 75, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 65, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 20, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 7, Cambridge 6 and single pairs/broods at an additional 5 sites.

Peak counts of 500+ as follows:

First winter period/spring: Babraham 1000 on Feb 15th, Littleport (May Farm) 1000 throughout Jan and Feb, Pampisford 1000 on Feb 15th, Redmere 1000 throughout Jan and Feb, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 772 on Mar 9th, Drysides BP 600 on Feb 7th and Kingfishers Bridge 516 on Feb 4th.

Autumn/second winter period: Ferry Meadows CP 3428 on Oct 22nd, Roswell Pits 1374 on Nov 26th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 807 on Nov 17th, Shepreth 800 on Nov 24th, Cambridge Research Park 600 on Nov 17th, Witchford (Long Drove) 600 on Nov 6th, Devil's Dyke 500 on Aug 25th, Kingfishers Bridge 500 on Dec 30th and Sutton Gault 500 on Oct 15th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 100% (95/96) *cf.* 99% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 256 (95/96) *cf.* 420 (17/18)

Aberrant individual: Devil's Dyke a leucistic bird on Mar 30th.

COLLARED DOVE (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto***Green List.** *Abundant resident.**Total records:* 1892. *Sites:* 130 breeding season/104 non-breeding.*Breeding* (13 pairs at 6 sites): Paxton Pits 8 and single pairs/broods at an additional 5 sites. Breeding remains grossly underrecorded.*Peak counts of 35+ as follows:* Littleport (May Farm) 100 throughout Jan and Feb, Burwell Fen 68 on Jan 14th, Wicken Fen 68 on Jan 14th, Reach 64 on Sep 22nd, Whittlesey 40 on May 25th, Kingfishers Bridge 37 on Dec 30th, Wicken Fen 37 on Sep 12th and Burwell 36 on Oct 7th.**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 57% (95/96) *cf.* 49% (17/18)*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 21 (95/96) *cf.* 16 (17/18)**Breeding behaviour:** Fowlmere nest-building on Dec 25th.**TURTLE DOVE (European Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur*****Red List.** *Uncommon, recently much declined migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records:* 159. *Sites:* 41 breeding season.*Earliest* on Apr 15th (Hardwick) and *latest* on Sep 15th (Wicken Fen)*Breeding* (26 pairs/territories/singing males at 22 sites): The highest count of territories/singing males was 3 at Ouse Fen, where supplementary feeding by RSPB takes place. Fowlmere NR, which had been leading for several years, is down to a single pair. The overall figures are similar to the low ones of 2017, when 24 pairs/territories/singing males at 20 sites were recorded. The uncertainty of assigning records to territories or breeding pairs should be taken into account. The highest count has slipped below 5 for the first time, with 4 at Great Wilbraham Common on Jun 3rd.**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 55% (95/96) *cf.* 6% (17/18)*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 13 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (17/18)**Turtle Doves Ann Biggs**

CUCKOO (Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus***Red List.** *Uncommon declined migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records: 559. Sites: 92 breeding season.**Earliest on Apr 11th (Grafham Water) and latest on Sep 13th (Nene Washes (March Farmers)).*

Breeding (105 pairs/territories/singing males at 92 sites): The figure of 105 pairs/territories/singing males is the highest in a long time. Although there is a good degree of uncertainty in assigning records to pairs/territories and observers might have become more alert to noting Cuckoos, this might indicate a recovery of the population. The BBS index for Cuckoo for eastern England also seems to show a halt of the long-term decline (BTO website) and the BBS distribution in Cambridgeshire was up very slightly in the last two years. Most sites held one pair/territory/singing male but Paxton Pits held 7, Wicken Fen 3 and five sites 2 each. The highest count was 7 at Wicken Fen on Jun 8th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 59% (95/96) *cf.* 17% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 11 (95/96) *cf.* 2 (17/18)

BARN OWL (Western Barn Owl) *Tyto alba***Green List.** *Fairly common widespread resident with highest concentrations in fenland.**Total records: 483 Sites: 71 breeding season/92 non-breeding.*

Breeding (17 pairs at 12 sites): Landbeach 4, Littleport (May Farm) 2, Lode 2 and single pairs at Barton, Comberton, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Littleport, Melbourn, Nene Washes (Eldernell), Ouse Fen and Raveley – obviously only a fraction of the real population considering records from another 59 sites during the breeding season and the data in the ringing report.

Out of the breeding season: records of 1–8 from 92 sites - mostly the same locations both in and out of the breeding season.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 7% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (17/18)

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco***Amber List.** *Fairly common widespread resident.**Total records: 210 Sites: 33 breeding season/ 58 non-breeding.*

Breeding (5 confirmed breeding at 5 sites and a further 10 possible pairs at 7 sites): single pairs at Grafham Water, Great Wilbraham Common, Lordsbridge, Six Mile Bottom and Stretham, with possible breeding at Chippenham Fen 2, Monks Wood 2, Woodwalton Fen 2, Buff Wood, Fulbourn, Kingfishers Bridge and Littleport (May Farm). A poor year noted at Monks Wood with signs of occupation of only 2 boxes out of 11 checked and at Hardwick Wood with neither box occupied. Being such an under-recorded species makes any decline hard to detect, but ten years ago there were c35 confirmed/suspected breeding records (CBR 82, 2008) and 6 pairs at Chippenham Fen for example.

Many out of breeding season birds are likely to be on territory as Tawny Owl is highly sedentary and starts breeding early in the year.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Fairly common, introduced, naturalised resident.

Total records: 129. Sites: 31 breeding season/35 non-breeding.

Breeding (10 pairs at 10 sites): Colne, Fulbourn (New Shardelows Farm), Granta Park, Graveley, Great Staughton, Kingfishers Bridge, Litlington, Melbourn, Swavesey and Wyton Airfield.

Overall the records, which are consistent with those of 2017, suggest a widespread distribution across all parts of the county.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 5% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (17/18)

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Green List. *Scarce and very local resident; uncommon winter visitor/passage migrant (occasional influxes).*

Total records: 86. Sites: 6 breeding season/5 non-breeding.

Breeding (2+ pairs at 2 sites, and 4 additional possible sites, locations withheld): a pair plus at least 1 other individual hooting throughout season at one location. At a second location, a pair calling and displaying through April. At 4 other locations, only one bird ever recorded. No young observed at any site.

Out of breeding season (5 sites): Wicken Fen 6 in a daytime roost on Jan 31st, Swavesey/Fen Drayton Lakes 2 or 3 roosting on several dates from Jan–Apr, Kings Dyke 2 on Feb 22nd, Wyton Airfield 1 or 2 in Sep and a single at Milking Nook on Jan 1st.

Long-eared Owl: confirmed/suspected breeding pairs/sites (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Pairs	14	6	8	2	5	10	9	3	6	3	7	6	7
Sites	13	5	6	2	5	6	8	1	6	2	3	6	6

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Amber List. *Uncommon winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder.*

Total records: 198. Sites 22 non-breeding.

Latest on June 14th (Burwell Fen) and *earliest* on Aug 22nd (Knapwell Grange Farm).

Breeding: records at 2 sites during May and June but no evidence of breeding.

First winter period (11 sites): peak counts Nene Washes 8 on Jan 25th, other sites 1–3 birds at Aldreth, Burwell Fen, Coates, Fulbourn Fen, Great Fen Project, Ickleton Grange, Littleport (May Farm), Mepal, Upware, Wicken Fen and Wisbech.

Second winter period (19 sites): peak counts of 7 at Holme Fen, 6 at Burwell Fen but only 1 or 2 elsewhere, at Cam Washes, Kingfishers Bridge, Knapwell (Grange Farm), Mepal, Nene Washes, Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.

Numbers reduced from the rather higher levels of 2017 when there were 298 records and peak counts of 10 in the first winter period.

SWIFT (Common Swift) *Apus apus*

Amber List. *Common but declining migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Total records: 696 *Sites:* 133 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 24th (Ferry Meadows CP, Godmanchester GP, Paxton Pits) and *latest* on Sep 11th (Brampton GP).

Breeding (73 confirmed pairs at 10 sites plus screaming parties at a further 8 sites): Landbeach 31, Dry Drayton 16 (21 young), Litlington 7, Cambridge (Lovell Road) 5, Little Abington 5, Buckden 2 (2 young), Waterbeach 2, and single pairs at Foxton and Hauxton. Low-flying screaming birds, indicating probable colonies, noted at Barton, Cambridge (Shire Hall), Chatteris, Eaton Ford, Fowlmere, Histon, Melbourn and Orton Brimbles.

Peak counts of 100+:

Spring: Grafham Water 300 on Jun 14th, Cambridge 250 on Jun 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 200 on May 29th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 180 on May 24th, Ferry Meadows CP 150 on Jun 6th and Ouse Washes (Pymoor) 100 on May 17th.

Autumn: Cambridge 150 on Jul 18th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 53% (95/96) *cf.* 36% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 52 (95/96) *cf.* 16 (17/18)

KINGFISHER (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis*

Amber List. *Fairly common, but local resident; numbers affected by severity of winters.*

Total records: 654 *Sites:* 49 breeding season/98 non-breeding.

Breeding (4 confirmed pairs at 4 sites, 4 possible pairs at 4 sites): confirmed at Colne Fen/Earith GPs, Eldernell Pits, Grafham Water and Littleport (May Farm). Possible pairs at Foxton, Logan's Meadow LNR, River Cam (Clayhithe) and Whittlesford GP. It remains likely that the breeding population is under-recorded. However, recent national data suggest that this species may have been adversely affected by the weather event commonly called 'The Beast from the East' in March 2018.

Out of the breeding season: the 98 sites reflect the recording bias of birders and WeBS counts to the non-breeding season.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 6% (95/96) *cf.* 2% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (17/18)

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

Rare visitor. 6(6) 0

A bird seen in St Neots in 1989 (RES) has always been accepted on the county list. There has been uncertainty over its inclusion on the British statistics as it was then a BBRC description species. They have now confirmed that it was accepted but never published at the time in their records. It does not affect the county totals.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dryobates minor*

Red List. *Rare resident, now very local after marked recent decline.*

Breeding (one probable pair at one site): a pair drumming and calling during spring at Bedford Purlieus.

Out of breeding season (single records at 3 sites): Kingston on Jan 9th, Haddenham on Sep 25th and Bedford Purlieus on Dec 31st.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Green List. *Fairly common, increased, resident, except in central fenland.*

Total records: 1252. Sites: 102 breeding season/130 non-breeding.

Breeding (12 confirmed at 11 sites and a further 40 possible pairs at 25 sites): confirmed at St Neots 2, Swavesey 2 and single pairs at Buff Wood, Cambridge (Clarendon Road), Cambridge (Lovell Rd) Comberton (Westfield Farm), Kingfishers Bridge, Kings Dyke NR, Logans Meadow LNR, Milton CP. Probable breeding (drumming reported) at a further 15 sites: Paxton Pits 10, Aversley Wood 4, Beford Purlieus 4, Bolton's Pit, Buckden, Cam Washes, Chippenham Fen, Colne Fen GP, Croydon, Ditton Park Wood, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fen Drayton, Fordham Wood, Fowlmere, Fowlmere NR, Granta Park, Hinxton, Isleham Washes, Mare Fen, Melbourn, Peterborough, Redmere, Roswell Pits Sawston and St Neots.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 16% (95/96) *cf.* 36% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (17/18)

GREEN WOODPECKER (European Green Woodpecker) *Picus viridis*

Green List. *Fairly common resident, widespread except in fenland.*

Total records: 2213. Sites: 129 breeding season/158 non-breeding.

Breeding (28 confirmed at 12 sites and 9 possible pairs at 9 sites): confirmed breeding at Paxton Pits 16, Swavesey 2 and single pairs at Barnwell East LNR, Bradley Fen, Cambridge (Clarendon Rd), Cambridge (Regional College), Cambridge Science Park, Comberton (Westfield Farm), Ditton Park Wood, Eldernell Pits, Hinxton and Stanground Wash. Probable breeding Chippenham Fen, Croydon, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere, Fowlmere NR, Granta Park, Ouse Fen, Peterborough and Quy Fen.

Counts of 5+ as follows: Ouse Fen 10+ on Jul 15th, Swavesey 8 on March 22nd, 6 on Apr 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes 6 on May 1st, Littleport (May Farm) 6 during Jan and Feb.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 51% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 10 (17/18)

KESTREL (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*

Amber List. *Fairly common resident, winter visitor and autumn passage migrant.*

Total records: 2169. Sites: 152 breeding season/209 non-breeding.

Breeding (31 confirmed at 25 sites, 4 possible breeding at 4 sites): confirmed at: Paxton Pits 3, Burwell Fen 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Nene Washes 2 and single pairs at Barton (Lark Rise Farm), Bodsey, Cam Washes, Comberton (Westfield Farm), Coveney Byall Fen, Eddington, Eltisely, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Granta Park, Hinxton, Knapwell (Grange Farm), Landbeach, Litlington, Littleport, Longstowe, Ouse Fen, Stourbridge Common, Swavesey and Toft. Probable breeding at Bourn, Chippenham Fen, Landbeach (a second pair) and Shingay.

Peak counts of 6+:

First winter period: Littleport (May Farm) 20 throughout Jan–Feb, Nene Washes 6 on Jan 22nd.

Second winter period: Holme Fen 10 on Nov 12th, Nene Washes 7 on Nov 12th, Ouse Washes (Four Balls Farm) 6 on Sep 18th and Wryde Croft 6 on Oct 31st.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 53% (95/96) *cf.* 43% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 6 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (17/18)

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Red List. *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly to the fens; declining.*

Total records: 82. *Sites:* 20 first winter period-spring/25 autumn-second winter.

Latest on May 17th (Nene Washes) and *earliest* on Sep 22nd (Clopton).

First winter period: Barton (Lark Rise Farm), Burwell Fen, Cottenham, Coveney Byall Fen, Dogsthorpe Star Pit, Eldernell, Ferry Meadows CP, Fowlmere NR, Foxton, Great Fen Project, Kingfishers Bridge, Little Fen, Melbourn, Nene Washes (March Farmers), Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits, Stuntney, Whittlesford, Wicken Fen and Wisbech.

Second winter period: Brampton GP, Burwell Fen, Cam Washes, Clopton, Devil's Dyke, Eldernell, Fortreys Hall, Foul Anchor, Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water, Great Fen Project, Holme Fen, Kingfishers Bridge, Nene Washes (March Farmers), Ouse Washes (Four Balls Farm and Welches Dam), Roman Road, Shepreth, Stapleford, Sutton Gault, Teversham Fen, Tubney Fen, Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.

HOBBY (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

Green List. *Uncommon migratory breeder (steady increase since the 1980s).*

Total records: 484. *Sites:* 103 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 15th (Trumpington Meadows) and *latest* on Oct 7th (Eaton Ford).

Breeding (confirmed 6 pairs at 6 sites, a further 9 possibles at 9 sites): confirmed at Conington [Cams], Foxton, Great Staughton, Litlington, Nene Washes and Wentworth and possible breeding at Barway, Chippenham Fen, Dernford, Fen Drayton Lakes, Godmanchester (Debden Farm), Grafham Water, Kingfishers Bridge, Kings Dyke NR and Ouse Fen.

Given the secretive nature of breeding Hobbies this may be an under-recording of true numbers. However the totals remain fairly consistent (see Table).

Peak counts of 5+:

Spring: Paxton Pits 14 on May 9th, Nene Washes 10 on May 11th, Orton BP 8 on May 26th, Ouse Fen 8 on May 4th, Ouse Washes 7 on May 13th and Wicken Fen 7 on May 18th.

Autumn: Great Fen Project 6 on July 26th.

Hobby: breeding details (2008-2018)

	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Confirmed breeding pairs	7	8	11	16	8	2	7	6	7	15	9
Suspected breeding pairs	9	12	2	5	5	5	3	5	4	0	4
Total breeding pairs	16	20	13	21	13	7	10	11	11	15	13

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 1% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (17/18)

PEREGRINE (Peregrine Falcon) *Falco peregrinus*

Green List. Scarce resident and uncommon winter visitor/passage migrant. Bred from 2007 onwards.

Total records: 374. *Sites:* 28 breeding season/81 non-breeding.

Breeding: confirmed at 3 sites (locations withheld). Pair A fledged 2 young, pair B fledged 2 young, pair C fledged 2 young. At one other long-established site, a pair noted as present on one date but no information on outcome. No information received from one other long-established site. At another site one bird seen throughout season, occasionally with a second bird, but no evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding: widespread records across the county. The bias of records towards wetlands may simply reflect recorder bias, but could represent easier hunting.



Peregrine Emma Hayward

RING-NECKED PARAKEET (Rose-ringed Parakeet) *Psittacula krameri*

Scarce wanderer from expanding naturalised populations and escapes.

Birds presumed part of or originating from the breeding pair from 2014 were seen around the Ouse Washes on Jan 14th, Mar 30th, Mar 31st, Apr 28th, 29th, Oct 7th, 17th and Nov 6th. There was no evidence of breeding and never more than 1 bird seen at once.

This remains a 'description species' because of the possible confusion with Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*. No other records were backed up with descriptions.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Scarce, almost annual passage migrant and winter visitor.

Second winter period (3 records): Ellington Oct 30th to Nov 2nd (TSR), Great Fen Project Nov 20th (DFi, AlWh) and Barleycraft GP Dec 11th to 12th photo (JLins, DFi).

JAY (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius***Green List.** *Fairly common resident; some autumn influxes.**Total records: 828. Sites: 79 breeding season/109 non-breeding.**Breeding (3 pairs confirmed at 4 sites, 13 further possibles at 6 sites): confirmed breeding at Cambridge Science Park, Granta Park and Kingfishers Bridge. Probable breeding at Paxton Pits 8 territories and single pairs at Chippenham Fen, Ditton Park Wood, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR and Stourbridge Common.**Another species where breeding is under-recorded, in part because of the secretive nature of this species but also as a reflection of the site-bias of many birders away from the wider countryside.**Peak counts of 5+ as follows:**First winter period: Chippenham Fen 7 on Mar 29th.**Second winter period: Ferry Meadows CP 10 on Oct 2nd, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Aug 26th, Barleycraft GP 5 on Sep 2nd and Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on Sep 8th.*

BBS *Distribution (% squares occupied): 6% (95/96) cf. 25% (17/18)*
 Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) cf. 5 (17/18)

MAGPIE (Eurasian Magpie) *Pica pica***Green List.** *Very common and widespread resident.**Total records: 4123 Sites: 147 breeding season/197 non-breeding.**Breeding (8 confirmed pairs at 8 sites): Comberton (Westfield Farm), Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Hinxton, Kingfishers Bridge, Nene Washes, Ouse Fen and Swavesey. Possible pairs/territories at Paxton Pits (up to 25 territories), Cambridge 3 and Fowlmere (village).**Not representative of the real breeding population given 147 breeding season locations.**Peak counts of 15+ as follows:**First winter period: Hobson's Park 43 on Jan 22nd, Littleport (May Farm) 30+ in Jan and Feb, Kingfishers Bridge 20 on Mar 18th, Kings Dyke NR 20 on Jan 12th and 19th, Sawston 20 on Jan 12th, Witchford (Long Drove) 17 on Feb 18th, Cambridge 16 on Feb 23rd, Fish & Duck Marina 16 on Feb 4th and Milton CP 15 on Jan 30th.**Second winter period: Stow-cum-Quy 28 on Nov 9th, Wyton Airfield 20 on Oct 5th, Sutton Gault 18 on Oct 20th, Kings Dyke NR 18 on Nov 19th, Hinxton Genome Campus 17 on Oct 18th, Stanground 16 on Dec 15th, Devil's Dyke 16 on Sep 14th, and Ferry Meadows CP 15 on Sep 28th.*

BBS *Distribution (% squares occupied): 55% (95/96) cf. 80% (17/18)*
 Density (individuals/10 squares): 11 (95/96) cf. 29 (17/18)

JACKDAW (Western Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula***Green List.** *Abundant widespread resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 2849 Sites: 157 breeding season/180 non-breeding.**Breeding (43 confirmed pairs at 7 sites): Paxton Pits 35, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 3 and single pairs at Buff Wood, Cherry Hinton East Pit, Comberton (Westfield Farm), Fowlmere NR and Swavesey. Probable breeding at Chippenham Fen and Fowlmere (village).**Peak counts of 200+ as follows:**First winter period: Wicken Fen 4300 on Jan 16th, Burwell Fen c364 on Feb 18th, Kingfishers Bridge 300+ at dawn on Jan 14th, Ferry Meadows CP c300 on Jan 11th, Cambridge (Lovell Road) c200*

going to roost on Jan 12th, Cambridge Research Park 200 on Jan 1st and Godmanchester GP c200 on Mar 12th.

Second winter period: Wicken Fen 1500 on Nov 30th, Stapleford Dernford Farm 800 on Aug 30th, Chippenham Fen 500 on Oct 30th, Burwell Fen c300 on Nov 13th, Cambridge (Lovell Road) c260 on Dec 12th, Colne Fen GP 200 on July 15th, Girtton c200 on Dec 20th and Heydon 200 in a pig field on July 22nd and Aug 4th.

Most, but not all, of these high counts relate to birds either going to or coming out of roosts, often associating with Rooks making it difficult to be certain how many of each species are involved.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 57% (95/96) *cf.* 72% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 37 (95/96) *cf.* 66 (17/18)

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Green List. *Abundant widespread resident.*

Total records: 1596. *Sites:* 122 breeding season/161 non-breeding.

Breeding (1390 in 45 rookeries): Chittering 237 (the mile-long rookery by the A10), Melbourn 233 (in 5 rookeries; 156 The Bury, 4 The Moor, 8 High Street, 17 Philimore, 48 Flint Cross), Ely 108 (in five rookeries; 34 By-pass, 12 Leisure Village, 17 Annesdale, 21 Station, 24 Tesco), Waterbeach 80, Littleport 74 (in 2 sites, 54 Westlands, 20 Blackbank Road), Tadlow 60, Prickwillow 60, Lordsbridge 50 (in 2 rookeries about 1/2 mile apart), Ouse Washes 40, Swavesey 39 (2 rookeries, 27 Over Rd, 12 Church), Girtton College 34, Caldecote [Cams] 32, Nene Washes 31, Cobb's Wood 30, Milton CP 30, Gamlingay Great Heath 28, Tilbrook 28 (two rookeries of 21 and 7), Great Abington 25, Covington 20, Fowlmere 20, Stoneley 19, Hinxton 13, Wimpole 13 (2 rookeries, 7 Lakes 6 Hall/Farm), Granta Park 11, Stretham 11, Elford Closes 10, Orwell 10, East Perry 8, Pymoor 7, Diddington 6, Westmoor Fen 6, Barton 5 and Kimbolton 2.

Peak counts of 200+ as follows:

First winter period: Wicken Fen 8000 in a mixed roost with Jackdaws on Jan 31st, Littleport (May Farm) 500+ throughout Jan and Feb, Ferry Meadows CP c300 on Jan 11th–12th, Barrington 250 pre-roost gathering on Jan 17th, Kingfishers Bridge 200+ at dawn on Jan 14th and Cambridge Research Park 200 on Jan 1st.

Summer period: Heydon 450 in a pig field on Jul 22nd, Colne Fen GP 400 on Jul 15th and Barway 230 on Jul 21st.

Second winter period: Burwell Fen 2500 in a mixed flock with Jackdaws on Nov 22nd, Trumpington 1700 pre-roost gathering on Dec 18th, Wicken Fen 1500 roost on Nov 30th and Dec 12th, Chippenham Fen 500 into roost on Oct 30th, Shepreth 300 on Nov 27th and Devil's Dyke 239 on Oct 13th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 61% (95/96) *cf.* 65% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 129 (95/96) *cf.* 171 (17/18)

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Green List. *Very common, increased resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Total records: 4699. *Sites:* 183 breeding season/217 non-breeding.

Breeding (11 confirmed pairs at 9 sites and 11 possible pairs at 8 sites): confirmed at Bodsey 2, River Cam (Bait's Bite to Claythorpe) 2 and single pairs at Barnwell East Pit, Cambridge (Parker's Piece), Fen Drayton Lakes, Hinxton Genome Campus, Milton CP, Stourbridge Common and Wimpole

Basin. Possibles at Nene Washes 3, Paxton Pits 2 and single territories at Barton (Lark Rise Farm), Chippenham Fen, Comberton (Westfield Farm), Fowlmere NR, Logan's Meadow and Ouse Fen.

Peak counts of 50+ as follows:

First winter period: Fen Drayton Lakes 200 on Jan 11th, Gamlingay 109 on Jan 3rd, Ferry Meadows CP 100 on Jan 12th, Littleport (May Farm) 100 in Jan and Feb and Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 65 on Apr 16th.

Summer: Littleport (May Farm) 100 on May 30th, Great Fen project 100 into roost on Jun 5th, Kingston 77 on May 3rd and Clayhithe 50 on May 5th.

Second winter period: Gamlingay 170 on Oct 29th, 150 on Sep 28th and 115 on Aug 8th, Brampton GP 150 on July 17th, Wicken Fen 150 on Nov 18th, Brinkley Wood 100 on Nov 10th, Devil's Dyke 92 on Aug 25th and Heydon 70 in a pig field on Jul 22nd.

Peak monthly counts from one selected site:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Parker's Piece	69	68	73	83	86	69	98	85	65	54	48	62

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 73% (95/96) *cf.* 94% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 36 (95/96) *cf.* 83 (17/18)

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

Green List. *Rare winter visitor.*

Second winter period (2 records): Cottenham (Long Drove) Oct 10th to the end of the year, photo (per County Recorder), Orton Longueville on Dec 24th then Ferry Meadows CP on Dec 25th, photo (per County Recorder).

RAVEN (Northern Raven) *Corvus corax*

Green List. *Scarce resident, increasing numbers breeding as British population spreads east.*

Total records: 111. *Sites:* 16 breeding season/40 non-breeding.

Breeding (7 pairs at 6 sites): Madingley Hall 2, Bevill's Wood, Hatley Park, Heydon (possible they actually bred over the border as seen soon after fledging rather than at nest site), Monks Wood and Wimpole Park. As they commence breeding very early in the year, usually in woodland or parkland settings away from regular birding spots, it is likely that this is an underestimate of the actual population. Pairs were noted on single occasions in late winter in at least 3 other locations, but no further evidence of breeding reported from those sites.

Non-breeding: reported widely usually 1–2 birds flying over, mainly on the west side of the county, but increasingly reported from the south-east as well.

Counts of 4+: Heydon 8 on Aug 4th and 11th, around pigfields (SLC), this constitutes a new county record count (cf. 6 at Warboys Sep 2017). Also Tetworth Hall Estate 6 on Nov 16th, Grafham Water 4 on Aug 16th, Great Fen Project 4 on Oct 21st, Knapwell 4 on Oct 7th and Madingley 4 on Apr 10th.

WAXWING (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*

Green List. *Scarce, almost annual, irruptive winter visitor.*

Second winter period (2 records): March one with Starlings Dec 26th (DAC) and Hampton 2 on Dec 31st (PT). Another year with no influx following the big year of 2015-16.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater***Green List.** *Fairly common, but local, resident; occasional influxes.**Total records: 266. Sites: 32 breeding season/61 non-breeding.**Breeding* (4 confirmed pairs at 4 sites and 22 possible pairs at 8 further sites): confirmed at Cambridge (Lovell Road), Caxton, Hauxton GP and Hinxton and singing males on territory at Monks Wood 12, Ditton Park Wood 4, Buff Wood, Cambridge Botanic Gardens, Chippenham Fen, Fen Ditton, Fordham Wood and Fowlmere.*Peak counts of 5+:*

Ditton Park Wood 7 on Feb 8th, Hauxton GP 6 on Jun 24th and Hardwick Wood 5 on Aug 4th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 14% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 2 (17/18)

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris***Red List.** *Fairly common, but declined, local resident.**Total records: 86. Sites: 15 breeding season/23 non-breeding.**Breeding* (41 territories at 11 sites plus a further 12 possibles at 3 sites): Monks Wood 10, Wennington Wood 9, Holland Wood 6, Upton Wood 4, Hardwick Wood 2, Hayley Wood 2, Odd Quarter Wood 2, Southey Wood 2 and single territories at Ditton Park Wood and Paxton Pits. Singing males noted at Woodwalton Fen 5, Aversley Wood 4 and Kingston Wood 3.*Peak counts of 5+:* Monks Wood 46 on Sep 14th and Woodwalton Fen 10 on Apr 6th and Nov 25th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 3% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (17/18)

BLUE TIT (Eurasian Blue Tit) *Cyanistes caeruleus***Green List.** *Abundant and widespread resident.**Total records: 3764. Sites: 158 breeding season/189 non-breeding.**Breeding* (30 confirmed pairs at 17 sites, a further 53 territories at 13 sites): Littleport (May Farm) 6, Wyton Airfield 6, Cambridge 3 (2 different locations), Granta Park 3, Stourbridge Common 2, and singles at a further 11 sites. Territories/pairs at Paxton Pits 20, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 6, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 6, Ditton Park Wood 5, Swavesey 5, Granta Park a further 3 not confirmed, Hinxton Genome Campus 2 and single pairs at a further 6 sites.*Peak counts of 20+ as follows:**First winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 40 throughout Jan and Feb, Redmere 40 in Jan, Buff Wood 32 on Apr 22nd, Godmanchester GP 29 on Feb 18th, Milton CP 28 on Apr 16th, Kingfishers Bridge 25 on Feb 4th and 18th, Fen Drayton Lakes 23 on Apr 5th, Buckden GP 22 on Feb 18th and Paxton Pits 20 on Jan 4th.*Summer:* Bedford Purlieu 86 on Jun 28th, Littleport (May Farm) 40 on May 30th, Kingfishers Bridge 31 on July 22nd, Fowlmere 30 on June 24th and Buff Wood 22 on May 18th.

Second winter period: Milton CP 43 on Aug 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 37 on Sep 30th, Wimpole Park 35 on Dec 17th, Chippenham Fen 31 on Dec 13th, Witchford 28 on Sep 13th, Buckden GP 27 on Nov 23rd, Fordham Wood 25 on Oct 7th, Fowlmere 25 on Nov 23rd, Cambridge (Lovell Road) 24 on Aug 31st and Cambridge Research Park 20 on Oct 6th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 78% (95/96) *cf.* 90% (17/18)

Density (individuals/10 squares): 35 (95/96) *cf.* 51 (17/18)

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Green List. *Abundant and widespread resident.*

Total records: 3496. *Sites:* 147 breeding season/180 non-breeding.

Breeding (23 confirmed pairs at 17 sites and 94 possible territories at 24 sites): Hinxton Genome Campus 3, Great Wilbraham Common 2, Hilton 2, River Cam (Baits Bite – Horningsea) 2, Stourbridge Common 2 and single confirmed pairs at a further 12 sites. Singing birds/territories Swavesey 13, Fen Drayton Lakes 12, Milton CP 9, Cobbs Wood 7, Granta Park 7, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 5, Ditton Park Wood 5, Fordham Wood 5, Chippenham Fen 4, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 4, Buff Wood 3, Cam Washes 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Mepal Airfield 3, Cambridge Research Park 2 and singles at 9 further sites.

Peak counts of 20+ as follows:

First winter period: Littleport (May Farm) 40 in Jan and Feb, Redmere 40 in Jan and Feb, Wicken Fen 29 on Jan 25th, Beechwood LNR 22 on Apr 15th and King's Dyke NR 20 on Jan 19th.

First winter period: Milton CP 30 on Aug 28th and Beechwoods LNR 22 on Nov 15th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 55% (95/96) *cf.* 81% (17/18)

Density (individuals/10 squares): 16 (95/96) *cf.* 32 (17/18)

BEARDED TIT (Bearded Reedling) *Panurus biarmicus*

Green List. *Scarce, very local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Total records: 87. *Sites:* 9 breeding season/14 non-breeding.

Breeding (2 pairs confirmed at 2 sites, Possible pairs at 3 other sites) Confirmed single pairs with fledged young at Ely BF and Kingfishers Bridge. Possible breeding at Ouse Fen 6, Eldernell Pits and Little Wilbraham Fen.

First winter period peak counts: Burwell Fen 1 on Mar 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on Jan 1st, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on Jan 25th, Kings Dyke NR Jan 5th, Ouse Fen 1 during Jan - Feb, Wicken Fen 2 on Feb 18th, Wisbech 4 on Mar 12th.

Second winter period peak counts: Burwell 9 on Oct 18th, Ely BF 4 on Aug 25th, Fen Drayton Lakes 4 on Oct 13th, Fowlmere NR 5 on Nov 2nd, Hobson's Park 1 on Nov 18th and 23rd, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on Nov 11th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on Sep 29th, Nene Washes Sep 30th, Ouse Fen 15 on Sep 27th, Trumpington Meadows 1 on Nov 15th and Wicken Fen 9 on Oct 18th.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Green List. *Scarce passage migrant, last bred in 1957.* 39(46) 1

Autumn (one record): Ouse Fen 3 over on Oct 3rd (JLins and RSPB Vols). This constitutes a new record count *cf.* 2 at Chippenham Fen, Ag 2001 and Trumpington Oct 2002.

SKYLARK (Eurasian Skylark) *Alauda arvensis*

Red List. *Abundant, but much declined, resident; very common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Total records: 1300. Sites: 121 breeding season/129 non-breeding.

Breeding (271 territories at 33 sites): 185 records contained breeding evidence. Nene Washes 50, Littleport (May Farm) 40, Coveney Byall Fen 25, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 23, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 17, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 12, Devil's Dyke (Ditch Farm) 10, Devil's Dyke (Reach) 10, and 1-10 at a further 25 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 67 sites holding 595 birds in the breeding season.

Peak counts of 40+ as follows:

First winter period/spring: Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 108 on Jan 21st, Barton (Burwash Farm) 100 on Mar 2nd, Littleport (May Farm) 100 on Jan 31st, Nine Wells 100 on Jan 19th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 77 on Feb 10th and Cottenham 70 on Mar 3rd.

Autumn/second winter period: Devil's Dyke 115 on Oct 7th, Toft 75 on Sep 30th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 74 on Dec 16th, Foxton 70 on Dec 27th, Nine Wells 70 on Nov 30th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 45 on Nov 10th and Great Fen Project 40 on Nov 16th.

Visible migration: there were 13 records of visible migration, all in October and November, and all of which were below counts of 20.

Nocturnal sound recordings: spring, one record Cambridge Apr 20th. In autumn, there were 14 nocturnal records of flight calls from two locations in Cambridge between Sep 13th and Nov 16th, peaking in mid October.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 100% (95/96) *cf.* 91% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 117 (95/96) *cf.* 78 (17/18)

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Green List. *Fairly common, but declined, migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Total records: 542. Sites: 66 breeding season.

Earliest on Mar 13th (Trumpington Meadows) and *latest* on Sep 24th (Ferry Meadows CP and Grafham Water).

Breeding (9 sites): Ferry Meadows CP 186 chicks ringed over June and July, Cottenham (Long Drove) 46 nest holes (unstated if there was activity indicating occupation), Paxton Pits (Diddington) 40 occupied nest holes, Sutton North Fen 26 occupied nest holes and Earith GP 5 occupied nest holes.

Peak counts of 50+ as follows:

Spring: Fen Drayton Lakes 200 on Apr 2nd and 28th, Grafham Water 200 on Apr 29th, Colne Fen GP 80 on Apr 8th and Stanground 65 on Apr 23rd.

Return/autumn: Barway Flooded Fields 450 on Aug 18th and 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes 100 on Sep 8th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 100 on Aug 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 80 on Aug 24th, Dernford Reservoir 60 on Aug 26th and Buckden GP 50 on Sep 9th.

Visible migration: there were 4 records of visible migration, all in Aug and Sep, the largest count being Kingfishers Bridge 31 on Aug 26th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 3% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 4 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (17/18)

SWALLOW (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica***Green List.** *Very common, but declined, migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records: 1240. Sites: 186 breeding season.**Earliest on Mar 12th (Buckden) and latest on Oct 24th (Ouse Washes).**Breeding (8 sites): ten records contained breeding evidence. Shingay 3 or 4 pairs in horse stables, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 3 pairs nest building under bridge, Lordsbridge 2 pairs, Wyton Airfield at least 2 nests and Hinxtun recently fledged young.**Peak counts of 50+ as follows:**Spring: Fen Drayton Lakes 700 on Apr 28th, Grafham Water 600 on Apr 29th, Sutton Gault 500 on Apr 29th, Burwell Fen 200 on Apr 27th, Godmanchester GP 200 on Apr 29th, Kingfishers Bridge 200 on Apr 29th, Ouse Washes (Oxloade) 200 on Apr 29th, Cam Washes (Upware) 150 on Apr 28th, Cambridge Research Park 150 on Apr 29th, Fen Drayton Lakes 120 on Apr 11th, Ouse Washes (Pymoor) 100 on Apr 29th, Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) 100 on Apr 27th, Ouse Washes (Four Balls Farm) 80 on Apr 29th, Wicken Fen 60 on Apr 28th and Ferry Meadows CP 50 on Apr 30th. The majority of the large counts occurred over the short period Apr 27th to 30th.**Return/autumn: Foxton 200 on Aug 26th, Ouse Washes (Four Balls Farm) 200 on Sep 1st, Sutton Gault 120 on Sep 1st, Cam Washes (Upware) 100 on Aug 26th, Ferry Meadows CP 100 on Sep 20th, Buckden GP 86 on Aug 12th, Kings Dyke NR 54 on Sep 3rd, Brampton GP 50 on Sep 11th, Kingfishers Bridge 50 on Sep 23rd and Ouse Washes (Pymoor) 50 on Sep 18th.**Visible migration: there were 8 records all in Sep, the largest count being Kings Dyke NR 54 on Sep 3rd.*

BBS *Distribution (% squares occupied): 59% (95/96) cf. 67% (17/18)*
 Density (individuals/10 squares): 18 (95/96) cf. 38 (17/18)

HOUSE MARTIN (Common House Martin) *Delichon urbicum***Amber List.** *Common, but declined, migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records: 672. Sites: 123 breeding season.**Earliest on Apr 5th (Ferry Meadows CP) and latest on Nov 11th (Hobson's Park).**Breeding (110+ nests at 13 sites): 19 records contained breeding evidence, mainly occupied nests. Addenbrooke's Site 40, Wyton Airfield 36, Melbourn 7 nests at 3 locations, Barway (Hainey Farm) 6, St Ives (High Street) 5, Landbeach 4, Soham 3 in nest boxes, Cambridge (St John's College) 2, Hilton 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Stretham (Cage Lane) 2, Granta Park 1 and Pymoor (Pumping Station) an unspecified number of nests.**Peak counts of 50+ as follows:**Spring: Fen Drayton Lakes 70 on Apr 26th, Godmanchester GP 70 on Apr 29th, Ferry Meadows CP 65 on May 30th and Ouse Washes (Four Balls Farm) 60 on May 20th.**Return/autumn: Ferry Meadows CP 500 on Sep 23rd and 200 on Sep 15th, Grafham Water 200 on Sep 9th, Kingfishers Bridge 115 on Aug 26th, Wicken Fen 100 on Aug 20th, Orton Longueville 90 on Aug 18th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 70 on Aug 30th, Northstowe 70 on Aug 1st, Sutton Gault 65 on Aug 27th, Dernford Reservoir 56 on Aug 4th and Aug 5th, Colne Fen GP 51 on Aug 19th, Cam Washes (Upware) 50 on Aug 11th and Woodwalton Fen 50 on Sep 20th.*

Visible migration: Kingfishers Bridge 115 on Aug 26th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 20% (95/96) cf. 21% (17/18)
 Density (individuals/10 squares): 8 (95/96) cf. 13 (17/18)



House Martin *Ann Biggs*

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

Green List. *Uncommon but increasing resident, susceptible to harsh winters. Bred 1980–84 and since 2004.*

Total records: 943. Sites: 53 breeding season/45 non-breeding.

Breeding (based on all records from March to June relating to singing birds on territory unless stated otherwise, there were 163 territories at 49 sites): Fen Drayton Lakes 22, Wicken Fen (inc Baker's Fen and Adventures Fen) 15, Paxton Pits 14, Nene Washes 12 (Eldernell 4, March Farmers 8), Ouse Fen 12, Burwell Fen 11, Fowlmere NR 4, Barleycraft GP 3, Berry Fen 3, Drysides BP 3, Kingfishers Bridge 3, Kings Dyke NR Extension 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Marsh Lane GP 3, Orton BP 3, Roswell Pits 3, Woodwalton Fen 3, Bassenhally 2, Buckden GP 2, Godmanchester GP 2, Kings Dyke NR 2, Littleport (May Farm) 2, Ouse Washes 2, Reach Lode 2, Stanground Gullet 2, Sutton Gault 2 and single birds at a further 21 sites. After five years (2013 – 2017) over which the number of territories and the number of sites occupied in spring has increased steadily, 2018 proved a halt to the expanding population of Cetti's Warbler, most probably because of the harsh weather in late winter (the 'Beast from the East').

Cettis Warbler: confirmed/suspected territories/sites (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Territories	8	16	35	47	58	62	72	93	92	104	175	219	163
Sites	6	8	16	18	17	17	26	28	41	49	54	54	49

Autumn/winter period: records from outside of the breeding season came from another 9 sites at which one or two birds occurred.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus***Green List.** *Widespread and common resident.**Total records:* 2002. *Sites:* 140 breeding season/159 non-breeding.*Breeding* (90 territories at 19 sites): 31 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 62, Swavesey 4, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 3, Barnwell East LNR 2, Clopton 2, Devil's Dyke 2, Ditton Meadows 2, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 and single territories at an additional 11 sites.*Peak counts of 25+ as follows:* Castor Hanglands 40 on Jan 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 36 on Sep 30th, Milton CP 35 on Oct 19th, Little Wilbraham Fen 30 on Dec 26th, Buckden GP 28 on Dec 9th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 25 on Dec 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 25 on Feb 9th and Wimpole Park 25 on Jan 1st.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 14% (95/96) *cf.* 46% (17/18)
 Density (individuals/10 squares): 6 (95/96) *cf.* 13 (17/18)

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus**Scarce vagrant from Siberia. 29(29) 2**Autumn* (2 records): two individuals, both mist-netted and ringed, Dunkirk Oct 17th, Oct 18th, photos (both ARM).**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus***Amber List.** *Common and widespread migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records:* 591. *Sites:* 79 breeding season.*Earliest* on Apr 4th (Paxton Pits) and *latest* on Oct 5th (Kings Dyke NR)*Breeding* (92 territories at 29 sites): 72 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 28, Fowlmere NR 7, Ditton Park Wood 6, Castor Hanglands 5, Kings Dyke NR 5, Swavesey 5, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 4, Devil's Dyke (Reach) 3, Fen Drayton Lakes 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Grafham Water 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Littleport (May Farm) 2, Mepal airfield 2, Toft 2 and singles at an additional 14 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 39 sites holding 147 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.*Peak counts in the late summer and autumn of 10+ that are indicative of passage:* Wyton Airfield 20 on Aug 2nd.

Mixed singers: Birds recorded as Willow Warbler that were giving mixed Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff song were recorded at Barton (Lark Rise Farm), Devil's Dyke (Reach), Ditton Park Wood, Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water and Hinxton.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 47% (95/96) *cf.* 27% (17/18)
 Density (individuals/10 squares): 12 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (17/18)

CHIFFCHAFF (Common Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita***Green List.** *Common migratory breeder and passage migrant; regularly overwinters.**Total records:* 1645. *Sites:* 157 breeding season/100 non-breeding.*Breeding* (272 territories at 55 sites): 159 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 80, Ditton Park Wood 20, Milton CP 15, Fowlmere NR 14, Aversley Wood 11, Fen Drayton Lakes 10,

Kingfishers Bridge 10, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 8 and five or fewer at an additional 47 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 100 sites holding 439 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

Peak counts outside the breeding season:

First winter period (40 individuals at 18 sites): Barleycraft GP 5, Littleport (May Farm) 5, Roswell Pits 5, Stirtloe SF 5, Fen Drayton Lakes 3, Melbourn SW 3, Needingworth SW 3 and singles at a further 11 sites.

Late summer/autumn 10+ indicative of passage: Ferry Meadows CP peak count of 25 on Sep 8th falling during the month to 10 on Oct 1st, Kingfishers Bridge 14 on Sep 2nd, Sutton Gault 10 on Sep 8th and Wyton Airfield 10 on Sep 22nd and 29th.

Second winter period (28 individuals at 20 sites): Milton CP 4, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 3, Fen Drayton Lakes 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Woodwalton Fen 2 and singles at a further 15 sites.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 20% (95/96) *cf.* 67% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 3 (95/96) *cf.* 21 (17/18)

SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Very rare vagrant from Siberia. 12(12) **2**

First winter period (one new record): the bird present at Stirtloe SW from 2017 remained in to 2018 and was last reported on Feb 15th and Melbourn SW on Feb 4th (SLC).

Second winter period (one record): Milton CP Dec 11th–29th, photo (JHe).

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Rare vagrant 5(5) **1**

Summer: (one record): one singing at Fen Drayton Lakes from Jun 15th to 30th (TCal, JLins). This record has been accepted by BBRC.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Green List. *Very common migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Total records: 579. *Sites:* 74 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 8th (Fen Drayton Lakes) and *latest* on Sep 15th (Earith).

Breeding (193 territories at 24 sites): 52 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 56, Nene Washes 38, Ouse Washes 18, Stanground Gullet 10, Burwell Fen 9, Fowlmere NR 9, Coveney Byall Fen 7, Chippenham Fen 6, Kingfishers Bridge 6, Ouse Fen 6, Fen Drayton Lakes 4, Little Wilbraham Fen 4, Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 4, Stanground Wash 4, Buckden 3 and singles at an additional 9 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 42 sites holding 287 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

There were no peak counts in the late summer and autumn passage period of more than 9 birds.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 45% (95/96) *cf.* 20% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 21 (95/96) *cf.* 5 (17/18)

REED WARBLER (Eurasian Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***Green List.** *Very common migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records: 902. Sites: 104 breeding season.**Earliest on Apr 9th (Woodston Ponds LNR) and latest on Oct 18th (Burwell Fen)*

Breeding (355 territories at 30 sites): 89 records contained breeding evidence. Nene Washes 65, Paxton Pits 55, Fowlmere NR 54, Ouse Washes 25, Kingfishers Bridge 22, Ouse Fen 22, Burwell Fen 17, Kings Dyke NR Extension 14, Little Wilbraham Fen 12, Hobson's Park 11, Drysides BP 10, Coveney Byall Fen 9, Reach Lode 9, Cambridge Research Park 5, Hinxtun 3, River Cam (Baits Bite-Clayhithe) 3, Wimpole Basin 3, Adams Road Sanctuary 2, Fen Drayton Lakes 2, Fish & Duck Marina 2 and singles at an additional 10 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 60 sites holding 564 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

Peak counts in the late summer and autumn of 10+ that are indicative of passage: Ely BF 50 on Aug 25th, Chippenham Fen 17 on Aug 22nd, Brampton GP 10 on Sep 3rd and Wicken Fen 10 on Sep 2nd.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 37% (95/96) *cf.* 26% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 19 (95/96) *cf.* 9 (17/18)

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia***Red List.** *Uncommon, declined migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records: 114. Sites: 26 breeding season.**Earliest on Apr 8th (Wicken Fen) and latest on Sep 14th (Bradley Fen).*

Breeding (44 territories at 26 sites): all records submitted were assumed to relate to singing males except for three records that related one or more birds being ringed at Chippenham Fen and Wyton Airfield. Chippenham Fen 5, Wicken Fen 5, Woodwalton Fen 3, Bradley Fen 2, Burwell Fen 2, Coates 2, Nene Washes 2, Ouse Fen 2, Reach Lode 2, Stanground Gullet 2, Wyton airfield 2 and singles at an additional 15 sites.

Over the last 6 years the number of sites and territories of Grasshopper Warbler recorded (based on the assumption that all records relate to singing males unless stated otherwise) has fluctuated but 2018 represents the low point for the number of territories since 2012.

Grasshopper Warbler: confirmed/suspected territories/sites (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Territories	70	50	54	59	72	98	35	73	52	56	63	76	44
Sites	28	22	19	36	27	43	17	29	20	33	32	39	26

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 6% (95/96) *cf.* 5% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (17/18)

BLACKCAP (Eurasian Blackcap) *Sylvia atricapilla***Green List.** *Very common migratory breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.**Total records: 1567. Sites: 179 breeding season/ 88 non-breeding.*

Breeding (391 territories at 60 sites): 185 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 101, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 19, Ditton Park Wood 16, Kingfishers Bridge 14, Milton CP 13, Ouse Washes

11, Fen Drayton Lakes 10, Great Wilbraham Common 10, River Cam (Baits Bite–Clayhithe) 10, Swavesey 10, Stanground Wash 9, Buff Wood 8, Devil's Dyke 8, Mepal Airfield 8, Little Wilbraham Fen 7, Ouse Fen 7, Bedford Purlieus 6, Coldham's Common 6, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 6, Fowlmere NR 6, Hinxton Genome Campus 6, Kings Dyke NR 6, Aversley Wood 5, Fordham Wood 5, Kingston Wood 5 and four or fewer at an additional 36 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 100 sites holding 592 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period April to June.



Blackcap *Richard Fowling*

First winter period (47 individuals at 32 sites): Rampton 6, Littleport (May Farm) 4, Orwell 3, Cambridge (Lovell Road) 2, Cottenham 2, Great Shelford 2, Linton 2, Ramsey 2 and singles at a further 24 sites.

Late summer/autumn 10+ indicative of passage: Wyton Airfield 45 on Sep 6th, Milton CP 29 Aug 28th, Queen Adelaide 18 on Sep 1st, Kingfishers Bridge 13 on Sep 2nd, Chippenham Fen 12 on Aug 22nd and Ely BF 10 on Aug 25th.

Second winter period (22 individuals at 13 sites): Fowlmere 5, Cambridge (Lovell Road) 2, Dry Drayton 2, Great Shelford 2, Melbourn 2, Sawston 2 and singles at a further 7 sites.

Nocturnal sound recordings: there were 2 nocturnal records of flight calls involving six birds, from one location in Cambridge, four on Apr 7th, 2 on Apr 19th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 47% (95/96) *cf.* 80% (17/18)

Density (individuals/10 squares): 9 (95/96) *cf.* 33 (17/18)

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Green List. *Common, but local, migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Total records: 279. *Sites*: 58 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 15th (Fen Drayton Lakes) and *latest* on Sep 23rd (Fen Drayton Lakes).

Breeding (104 territories at 16 sites): 32 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 73, Ferry Meadows CP 6, Aversley Wood 4, Ditton Park Wood 4, Fen Drayton Lakes 3, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Kings Dyke NR 2, Littleport (May Farm) 2 and singles at an additional 8 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 26 sites holding 133 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun. If all of the records submitted in the breeding season related to birds that were detected by the observer

through their singing, which is possible for this species that sings from within scrub, and is much less frequently first seen than heard, then these would represent 178 territories/singing males at 60 sites.

There were no peak counts in the late summer and autumn passage period of more than 8 birds.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 12% (95/96) *cf.* 10% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (17/18)

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Green List. *Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Total records: 450. *Sites:* 96 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 14th (Castor Hanglands, Devil's Dyke, Dimmock's Cote, Ferry Meadows CP, Fowlmere NR, Reach and Wyton Airfield) and *latest* on Oct 5th (Devil's Dyke).

Breeding (65 territories at 31 sites): Paxton Pits 17, Fen Drayton Lakes 6, Devil's Dyke 4, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 3, Kingfishers Bridge 3, Grafham Water 2, Isleham LNR 2, Kings Dyke NR 2, Little Wilbraham Fen 2, Lode 2, Reach Lode 2 and singles at an additional 20 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 39 sites holding 110 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

Peak counts in the late summer and autumn of 10+ that are indicative of passage: Wyton Airfield 15 on Aug 2nd, Sep 1st and Sep 6th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 14% (95/96) *cf.* 37% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 7 (17/18)

WHITETHROAT (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis*

Green List. *Very common migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Total records: 930. *Sites:* 144 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 11th (Fen Drayton Lakes) and *latest* on Sep 24th (Cambridge Research Park)

Breeding (250 territories at 45 sites): 129 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 28, Nene Washes 23, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 16, Ouse Washes 14, Devil's Dyke (Reach) 12, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 11, Swavesey 11, Kingfishers Bridge 10, Stanground Gullet 10, Burwell Fen 8, Clopton 8, Mepal airfield 8, Coveney Byall Fen 7, River Cam (Baits Bite—Clayhithe) 7, Swaffham Prior 7, Reach Lode 6, Cam Washes 5, Ditton Park Wood 5 and four or fewer at an additional 27 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 76 sites holding 402 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

Peak counts in the late summer and autumn of 10+ indicative of passage: Wyton Airfield 40 on Aug 2nd, 35 on Sep 1st, and 17 on Sep 6th, Ely BF 35 on Aug 25th, Devil's Dyke 18 on Aug 5th, 14 on Aug 25th, 12 on Aug 25th and 11 on Aug 3rd, Cam Washes (Upware) 15 on Aug 11th and 10 on Aug 30th and Kingfishers Bridge 12 on Aug 5th and 11 on Sep 2nd.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 78% (95/96) *cf.* 91% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 26 (95/96) *cf.* 38 (17/18)

FIRECREST (Common Firecrest) *Regulus ignicapilla*

Green List. *Scarce annual passage migrant and rare breeder, last confirmed nesting (failed) in 2010 (6 records cf. average of 12/year).*

First winter period/spring: Wimpole Park on Jan 14th, Girtton on Jan 21st, Fowlmere on Mar 4th, Wisbech on April 25th and Wyton a singing bird on May 18th not seen or heard after.

Firecrest: number of records per year (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Records	10	5	24	12	19	10	13	13	4	10	8	9	6

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Green List. *Common, but local, resident; widespread autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Total records: 621. *Sites:* 39 breeding season/98 non-breeding.

Breeding (4 confirmed pairs at 4 sites and 27 territories at a further 15 sites): confirmed breeding at Cambridge Science Park, Hauxton GP, Hinxton Genome Campus and Thorpe Wood. Territories at Wyton Airfield 4, Cambridge 3, Ditton Park Wood 3, Kingfishers Bridge 3, Milton CP 3 and singles at a further 10 sites.

Peak counts of 5+ as follows:

First winter period: Littleport (May Farm) 20 in Jan and Feb, Ely 6 on Jan 29th, Stirtloe SW 6 on Jan 2nd, Chippenham Fen 5 on Mar 6th, Ouse Fen 5 on Feb 25th, Redmere 5 on Jan 23rd and Wicken Fen 5 on Jan 14th.

Second winter period: Paxton Pits 7 on Dec 28th, Devil's Dyke 6 on Oct 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 6 on Oct 21st and Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Aug 5th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 2% (95/96) *cf.* 17% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 3 (17/18)

WREN (Eurasian Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Green List. *Widespread and abundant resident.*

Total records: 3283. *Sites:* 168 breeding season/175 non-breeding.

Breeding (542 territories at 53 sites): Paxton Pits 125, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 35, Chippenham Fen 26, Milton CP 25, Baits Bite–Clayhithe 24, Ouse Washes 22, Kingfishers Bridge 19, Cambridge 19, Swavesey 16, Fordham Wood 15, Mepal Airfield 14, Great Wilbraham Common 13, Aversley Wood 11, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Redmere 10, Ditton Park Wood 10, Fen Drayton Lakes 9, Logan's Meadow LNR 9, Stourbridge Common 9, Devil's Dyke 8, Bodsey 7, Hinxton 7, Nene Washes 6, Coldham's Common 6 and 1-5 at an additional 29 sites.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 84% (95/96) *cf.* 94% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 41 (95/96) *cf.* 73 (17/18)

NUTHATCH (Eurasian Nuthatch) *Sitta europaea***Green List.** *Fairly common but rather local resident.**Total records:* 140. *Sites:* 30 breeding season/27 non-breeding.*Breeding* (7 territories at 6 sites): Cobb's Wood 2, Buff Wood, Chippenham Fen, Ditton Park Wood, Fordham Wood and Monks Wood.*Additional sites outside of breeding season:* widely scattered sites, mostly woodlands in the west and south of the county, although possibly expanding into more wooded areas on the fen-edge.**TREECREEPER (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*****Green List.** *Fairly common resident away from fenland.**Total records:* 313. *Sites:* 39 breeding season/58 non-breeding.*Breeding* (25 territories at 11 sites): Paxton Pits 9, Buff Wood 4, Chippenham Fen 2, Ditton Park Wood 2, Fen Drayton Lakes 2, Fordham Wood, Hinxton, Kingfishers Bridge, Logans Meadow LNR, Thorpe Wood and Wandlebury CP.

It is likely that the breeding population is under-recorded.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 0% (95/96) *cf.* 2% (17/18)
 Density (individuals/10 square): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (17/18)

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING (Rosy Starling) *Pastor roseus**Rare vagrant from south-east Europe and central Asia* 13(13) **1***Summer* (one record): Hinxton Genome Campus (BGD, NDR) from Jun 5th to 6th. At least 2 others were reported during the summer but details were not supplied for consideration by the records committee. There was a wider influx in the UK during late spring and summer 2018 as part of an irruption of adult birds across western Europe. The first record since 2003.**STARLING (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*****Red List.** *Very common, but declined resident; abundant winter visitor/passage migrant.**Total records:* 2688. *Sites:* 136 breeding season/175 non-breeding.*Breeding* (34 territories at 15 sites): Knapwell (Grange Farm) 12, Fowlmere 4, Barton 3, Swavesey 3, Toft 3, Burwell 2 and single pairs at Bluntisham, Buff Wood, Fen Drayton, Girton, Hinxton, Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Fen, Redmere and Stretham. Much under-recorded.*Peak counts of 1000+ as follows:**First winter period/spring:* Barleycraft GP 3000 on Jan 1st, Littleport (May Farm) 3000 during Jan, Wicken Fen 1500 on Jan 16th*Autumn/second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 5000 on Nov 3rd, Fen Drayton 3294 (counted from a photograph) Jun 19th, Manea 2500 on Jul 1st, Granta Park 1500 on Nov 26th, Nene Washes 1500 on Oct 22nd and Ferry Meadows CP 1066 on Oct 20th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 88% (95/96) *cf.* 62% (17/18)
 Density (individuals/10 squares): 99 (95/96) *cf.* 90 (17/18)

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Red List. *Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in the spring (21 records cf. an average of 21/year).*

Total records: 21. Sites: 14 spring/4 autumn.

Earliest on Mar 25th (Woodwalton Fen) and latest on Nov 5th (Cambridge).

Spring (16 records including nocturnal sound records): Woodwalton Fen on Mar 25th, Conington Airfield on Apr 2nd, Burwell Fen on Apr 6th, Witcham Gravel on Apr 9th, Steeple Morden on Apr 10th, Coveney Byall Fen 3 on Apr 12th, one on Apr 14th, Eldernell on Apr 14th, Ferry Meadows CP 3 on Apr 14th, Coates on Apr 16th and Apr 18th, Paxton Pits on Apr 16th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) on Apr 18th, Knapwell 2 on Apr 20th and Paxton Pits on Apr 21st.

Autumn (5 records including nocturnal sound records): Northstowe on Oct 5th and Earith on Oct 13th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: there was one record from spring and three from autumn. Three at Chesterton [Cambs] on Apr 14th, singles on Chesterton [Cambs] on Oct 18th and Cambridge (Lovell Rd) Oct 25th and Nov 5th.

Ring Ouzel: total number of records per year (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Records	22	49	24	10	20	11	24	18	24	45	13	26	21



Ring Ouzel *Richard Fowling*

BLACKBIRD (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula*

Green List. *Widespread and abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Total records: 4597. Sites: 178 breeding season/206 non-breeding.

Breeding (252 territories at 44 sites): Paxton Pits 88, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 18, Swavesey 16, Fen Drayton Lakes 10, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Fowlmere 7, Great Wilbraham Common 7, Chippenham Fen 6, Ditton Park Wood 6, Kingfishers Bridge 6 and 1-5 at an additional 34 sites. Much under-recorded.

Peak counts of 20+ as follows:

First winter period/spring: Littleport (May Farm) 50 during Jan, Redmere 50 during Feb, Stanground 34 on Mar 24th, Milton CP 31 on Apr 16th, Peterborough (Central Park) 31 on Feb 5th, Kingfishers Bridge 30 on Mar 4th, Clayhithe 26 on Mar 5th, Buckden 23 on Feb 18th, Witchford (Long Drove) 23 on Jan 21st, Etton-Maxey Pits 21 on Mar 3rd, Cam Washes 20 on Apr 7th, Girtton 20 on Jan 31st, Grafham Water 20 on Jan 9th, Kings Dyke NR 20 on Jan 5th and Orton Waterville 20 on Jan 16th.

Autumn/second winter period: Witchford (Long Drove) 49 on Dec 13th, Stanground Wash 34 on Jul 6th, Kingfishers Bridge 33 on Dec 16th, Coldhams Common 30 on Nov 18th, Chesterton [Cams] 22 on Nov 4th, Devil's Dyke 21 on Oct 16th, Fowlmere 20 on Nov 19th, Great Wilbraham Common 20 on Dec 16th and Histon 20 on Jul 12th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 96% (95/96) *cf.* 98% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 91 (95/96) *cf.* 90 (17/18)

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Red List. *Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant, particularly in autumn.*

Total records: 1305. *Sites:* 188 non-breeding.

Latest on Apr 15th (Burwell Fen, Cambridge Research Park, Devil's Dyke, Ferry Meadows CP, Stanground) and *earliest* on Oct 5th (Kings Dyke NR).

Peak counts of 300+ as follows:

First winter period/spring: Kingfishers Bridge 585 on Feb 11th, Ferry Meadows CP 471 moving west, Feb 28th, Fowlmere 370 on Mar 28th, Swavesey 350 on Feb 6th, Devil's Dyke (Ditch farm) 320 on Mar 16th, Cam Washes 300 on Mar 14th, Chain Corner 300 on Mar 25th, Etton-Maxey Pits 300 on Mar 21st and 26th, Littleport (May Farm) 300 on Jan 7th, Wimpole Park 300 on Jan 14th and Woodwalton Fen 300 on Mar 25th.

Autumn/second winter period: Shepreth 1000 on Nov 24th, Wicken Fen (Bakers Fen) 1000 on Nov 30th, Devil's Dyke 820 on Oct 25th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 600 on Nov 30th, Kingfishers Bridge 460 on Nov 4th, Cottenham (Long Drove) 400 on Dec 1st, Cam Washes 300 on Nov 27th, Middle Fen 300 on Oct 25th and Stretham 300 on Nov 27th.

Nocturnal sound recordings: April 13th-14th, significant movement over Cambridge (Lovell Rd) and Chesterton. In autumn, birds observed on the move Oct 7th-8th, Oct 20th to Nov 10th in small numbers.

Visible migration: between Oct 8th and Nov 25th, groups of between 20 and 820 seen migrating in Cambridge, Coton and Devil's Dyke.

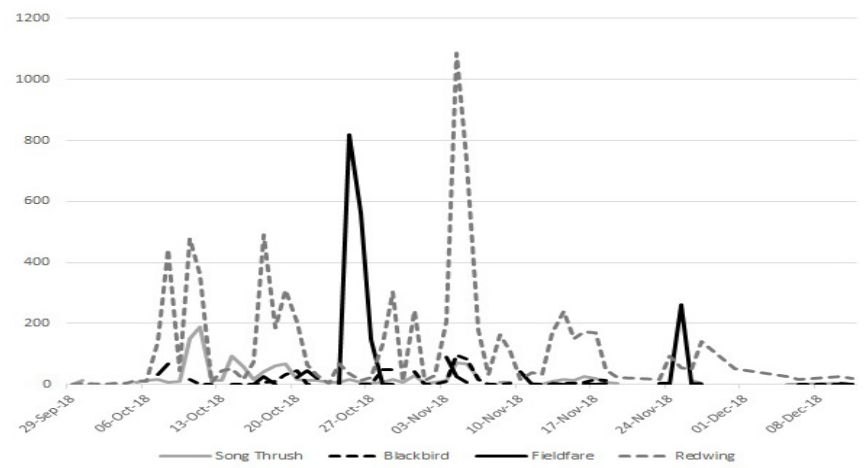
Severe weather: the hard freeze of Feb 28th to Mar 5th resulted in many records from unusual locations, often gardens.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus***Red List.** *Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 1589. Sites: 161 non-breeding.**Latest on May 26th (Abington Pigotts) and earliest on Sep 25th (Chesterton [Cambs]).**Peak counts of 100+ as follows:**First winter period/spring:* Wimpole Park 500 on Jan 14th, Great Abington 200 on Jan 14th, Cam Washes 20 on Mar 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 135 on Apr 1st, Cobb's Wood 105 on Mar 9th and Girtton 110 on Jan 31st.*Autumn/second winter period:* Kingfishers Bridge 1550 on Nov 4th, Shepreth (River Rhee) 800+ on Nov 24th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 500 on Dec 2nd and 9th, Fowlmere 300 on Nov 16th, Burwell 300 on Nov 25th, Little Wilbraham Fen 300 on Nov 30th, Devil's Dyke 207 on Oct 8th, Shepreth L-moor 200+ on Nov 24th, Cambridge Research Park 200 on Dec 1st, and Ferry Meadows CP 100 on Oct 8th.*Nocturnal sound recordings:* a small passage over Cambridge in spring with 10–60 over nightly during the last week of March. In autumn, Cambridge sites recorded nocturnal movement almost daily from the end of September to year end, with peaks in mid October and early November, the highest night count being 1086 over on Nov 4th.**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos***Red List.** *Common but declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (including immigration of continental race T. p. philomelos).**Total records: 2135. Sites: 132 breeding season/148 non-breeding.**Breeding* (126 territories at 34 sites): Paxton Pits 47, Milton CP 9, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 8, Fen Drayton Lakes 6, Littleport (May Farm) 5, Swavesey 4, Cobbs Wood 3 and 1-3 at an additional 27 sites.*Peak counts of 10+ as follows:**First winter period/spring:* Kingfishers Bridge 23 on Mar 4th, Milton CP 14 on Apr 16th, Fen Drayton Lakes 10 on Jan 5th and Littleport (May Farm) 10 during February.*Autumn/second winter period:* Devil's Dyke 31 on Oct 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 15 on Nov 4th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 11 on Nov 17th and Milton CP 11 on Oct 19th.*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cambs] 43 on Oct 11th and Cambridge (Lovell Rd) 20–45 over each night Oct 10–15th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 73% (95/96) cf. 71% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 22 (95/96) cf. 19 (17/18)

CONTINENTAL SONG THRUSH *T. p. philomelos**Seven records:* Woodwalton Fen Jan 7th, Paxton Feb 1st, Buckden 40 on Mar 3rd, Grafham Water one on Mar 16th, 6 on Mar 18th, 6 on Oct 13th and one on Nov 17th.

The chart overleaf shows autumn migration for the thrush species from vis and noc mig records.



MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Red List. *Common and widespread resident; some passage migrants.*

Total records: 490. *Sites:* 57 breeding season/82 non-breeding.

Breeding (50 territories at 21 sites): a count of pairs within an 8x8km square based on Cambridge city showed 23 pairs/territories in that area as a whole. Additional pairs or territories at Bedford Purlieus 2, Chippenham Fen 2, Great Shelford 2, Hinxton 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Littleport (May Farm) 2, Southey Wood 2 and single pairs/territories at an additional 13 sites. Breeding somewhat under-recorded, and present in the breeding season at many locations where no breeding information or singing noted, but the totals boosted by the Cambridge-area focussed study.

Summer/autumn (peak counts of 10+): Ferry Meadows CP 23 on Oct 2nd, Cambridge Research Park 13 on Jul 4th, Brampton GP 11 on Jul 30th and Foxton SW 10 on Aug 26th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 45% (95/96) *cf.* 24% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 14 (95/96) *cf.* 3 (17/18)

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Red List. *Uncommon and greatly declined, migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Total records: 91. *Sites:* 54 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 28th (Houghton) and *latest* on Sep 27th (Ferry Meadows CP).

Breeding (12 territories at 10 sites): Abington Pigotts 2, Fowlmere NR 2, Buckden, Cambridge (Eachard Rd), Croxton, Gamlingay Heath, Hatley, Hinxton, Tetworth Hall Estate and Wimpole Park.

Summer/autumn (peak counts of 4+): Gamlingay Great Heath 4 on Aug 2nd and Hinxton 4 on Aug 15th, both family parties.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 2% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 square): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (17/18)

ROBIN (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula***Green List.** *Widespread and abundant resident; some passage migrants.**Total records: 3836. Sites: 158 breeding season/192 non-breeding.**Breeding (335 territories at 38 sites): Paxton Pits 104, Milton CP 29, Fen Drayton Lakes 27, Swavesey 20, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 19, Mepal Airfield 16, Kingfishers Bridge 12, Cambridge 10, Fowlmere NR 8, Reach 8 and 1-6 at a further 27 sites.**Peak counts of 20+: Milton CP 68 on Aug 28th, Stanground 22 on Mar 30th, Witchford (Long Drove) 21 on Feb 18th, Littleport (May Farm) 20+ during Jan and Feb and Coldhams Common 20 on Nov 18th.*

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 76% (95/96) cf. 92% (17/18)
 Density (individuals/10 squares): 27 (95/96) cf. 53 (17/18)

WHITE-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica cyanecula*.*Rare vagrant from Europe 10(10) 1**Summer (one record): a male, Great Fen Project area, in song from Jun 9th to 20th, photo (MWe). This potential breeder was found in an area where viewing would also be disruptive to another sensitive species – see article on p140. The previous record was another White-spotted male holding territory for two consecutive years 2011-12, and prior to that was 1988.**Of the 10 county records, 4 are White-spotted (Southern and Central Europe), 2 are Red-spotted (Scandinavia/north European) and 4 undetermined. The first 8 records were all birds during spring or autumn migration, whereas the most recent two have shown signs of holding territory in summer. The nearest breeding populations in the Netherlands are White-spotted giving hope that these recent birds are the vanguard of our next colonist species, both birds having found areas of newly created fenland habitat to their liking.***NIGHTINGALE (Common Nightingale) *Luscinia megarhynchos*****Red List.** *Uncommon migratory breeder, most in the west of the county.**Total records: 93. Sites: 13 breeding season.**Earliest on Apr 15th (Paxton Pits) and latest on Jul 20th (Grafham Water).**Breeding (43 territories at 7 sites): Castor Hanglands 23 territories and a further 9 singing males, Marsh Lane GP 8 plus a further 3 males, Paxton Pits 6, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 and single territories at Cambridge, Grafham Water and Wicken Fen. Birds noted for a single day only at Buckden, Bar Hill, Godmanchester GP, Orton BP and Upware.***Nightingale:** approximate annual totals of singing males (2006–2018)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Males	89	70	83	64	46	56	70	102	97	80	70	34	43
Sites	22	15	18	13	15	19	16	18	20	16	15	16	7

PIED FLYCATCHER (European Pied Flycatcher) *Ficedula hypoleuca***Red List.** *Scarce annual passage migrant (4 records cf. average of 3/year); last bred in 1972.**Spring (one record): Marsh Lane GP a male on Apr 23rd (MJE).**Autumn (3 records): Hinxtan Genome Campus 1st cal-year male Aug 6th (BGD, NDR), Witcham Sep 7th (DHop) and Hobson's Park Oct 21st (HAS).*

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Red List. *Scarce annual passage migrant and irregular migratory breeder* (13 records *cf.* average of 10/year).

Breeding: (1 confirmed, 2 possible pairs): confirmed at one of the large research sites in Cambridge, plus an agitated female in central Cambridge. A singing male and occasional second bird seen throughout summer in central Peterborough. The largest breeding total for a decade.

First winter period/spring migrants (8 records): Brampton (A14 compound) Feb 7th, Croydon Mar 31st, Waterbeach Mar 14th, Swaffham Bulbeck Mar 16th, Earith (Industrial Estate) Mar 25th, Grafham Water Apr 6th, Pondersbridge Apr 8th and Godmanchester Apr 9th.

Autumn/second winter period: (2 records) Wyton Airfield Nov 5th and St Ives Dec 9th to 2019.

Black Redstart: total number of confirmed/possible pairs per year (2005–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Confirmed	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Possible	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	2
Total	1	2	2	4	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	2	3

REDSTART (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Amber List. *Scarce passage migrant* (11 records *cf.* average of 25/year); *breeding last confirmed in 1987.*

Total records: 11. *Sites:* 4 spring/7 autumn.

Earliest on Apr 14th (Wicken Fen, Wyton) and *latest* on Oct 20th (Reach).

Spring: Wicken Fen Apr 14th, Wyton Airfield Apr 14th, Ferry Meadows CP Apr 20th and Ouse Washes 6 on Apr 27th.

Summer/autumn: Caxton Jul 29th, Cambridge a female on Aug 25th, Perry a male on Aug 25th, Ferry Meadows CP Sep 5th, Wandlebury CP Sep 9th, Kingfishers Bridge 1st cal-year male on Sep 23rd and Reach a male on Oct 20th.

Redstart: total number of records (2005–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Records	20	11	33	17	22	23	20	27	15	35	36	18	11

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Red List. *Uncommon passage migrant (more numerous in the autumn); breeding last confirmed in 1981 (at two sites).*

Total records: 35. *Sites:* 10 spring/16 autumn.

Earliest on Apr 26th (Nene Washes) and *latest* on Oct 17th (Grafham Water).

Spring: Nene Washes (Low Wash) on Apr 26th, Coveney Byall Fen on Apr 28th, Ouse Fen 2 on Apr 28th, Cam Washes on Apr 29th, Hobson's Park on Apr 29th, Ouse Washes on Apr 29th, Haddenham on May 1st, Knapwell (Grange Farm) on May 1st, Burwell Fen on May 2nd and Blackbush on May 3rd.

Summer/autumn: Nene Washes on Aug 11th, Aug 20th, Aug 25th, 2 on Sep 6th (Eldernell), 1 at Low Wash on Sep 7th and 3 on 8th, Sep 24th, Longstanton Drainage Lagoons on Aug 12th, Cambourne on Aug 22nd, Hobson's Park on Aug 26th, 2 on Aug 28th, Sep 2nd, 5 on Sep 23rd, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Aug 26th, 2 on Sep 23rd, Molesworth 2 on Sep 2nd, Ouse Washes on Sep 2nd, Ferry Meadows CP on Sep 5th, Burwell Fen 7 on Sep 12th, Ouse Fen on Sep 16th, Helpston from Sep 22nd to 23rd, Etton-Maxey Pits on Sep 24th and 26th and Grafham Water from Oct 12th to 17th.

STONECHAT (European Stonechat) *Saxicola rubicola*

Green List. *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant (mainly in the fens); bred up until 1962, sporadically from 2007 to 2015 and again in 2018.*

Total records: 277. Sites: 61 non-breeding.

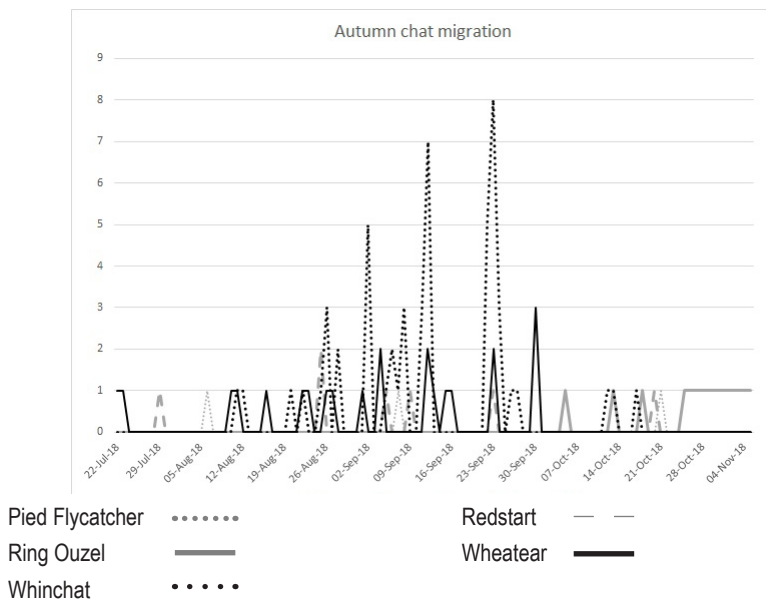
Breeding (2 pairs at 2 sites): a pair observed on several occasions at Coates through spring and early summer, followed by a juvenile seen nearby on the Nene Washes. At Burwell Fen, a pair seen on Jun 6th then one on Jul 21st, no young noted.

Peak counts of 3+ as follows:

First winter period: Nene Washes 11 on Jan 22nd, Kingfishers Bridge 5 on Feb 11th, Cam Washes 4 on Mar 10th, Burwell Fen 3 on Feb 17th, Dogsthorpe Star Pit 3 on Feb 11th, Ferry Meadows 3 on Jan 6th, Ouse Washes 3 on Jan 22nd and Trumpington Meadows 3 on Jan 8th.

Second winter period: Great Fen Project 8 on Nov 17th, Nene Washes 8 on Nov 12th, Burwell Fen 5 on Oct 16th, Cam Washes 5 on Dec 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 5 on Nov 4th, Ouse Washes 4 on Dec 30th, Grafham Water 3 on Oct 17th and Wicken Fen 3 on Dec 24th.

The chart below shows autumn chat migration



WHEATEAR (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Green List. *Fairly common passage migrant. Probably bred regularly in 19th century, irregularly in 20th century, last confirmed 1987.*

Total records: 150. Sites: 56 spring/14 autumn.

Earliest on Mar 5th (Eldernell) and latest on Sep 30th (Nene Washes, Stretham).

Peak counts of 5+ as follows:

Spring: Fowlmere 25 on May 1st, Burwell Fen 10 on Apr 25th, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 8 on Apr 25th, Cam Washes 8 on Apr 29th, Blackbush 7 on May 3rd, Bradley Fen 7 on May 2nd, Foxton 7 on May 1st, Coveney Byall Fen 6 on Apr 28th, Etton-Maxey Pits 5 on Apr 28th and Ouse Washes 5 on Apr 28th.

Autumn: only 14 records, only ever one or 2 birds – a poor autumn passage.

The record on Mar 5th constitutes a new earliest date (AGa) (*cf.* Mar 6th 2017 Horseley Fen).

GREENLAND WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Regular passage migrant. Many are indeterminate in the field.

Spring (6 records): Oxloade Apr 19th, Foxton 5 on May 2nd, Waterbeach Fen 5 on May 3rd, Coveney Byall Fen 2 on May 4th, Oxloade 1 on May 4th and Teversham Fen 2 on May 5th.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Red List. *Abundant but declining resident.*

Total records: 1497. Sites: 91 breeding season/107 non-breeding.

Breeding (53 territories at 44 sites): Stretham 15, Fowlmere 10, Wisbech St Mary 5, Wyton 4, Soham 4, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 and 1 or 2 pairs/nests noted at 8 further sites. Much under-recorded.

Out of breeding season (peak counts of 25+): Wicken Fen 70 on Sep 17th, Thriplow 60 on Nov 22nd, Ouse Washes 50 on Dec 14th, Littleport (May Farm) 50 during Jan & Feb, Pymoor 50 on Aug 19th, Stanground 50 on Jan 10th, Burwell Fen 45 on Jun 24th, Barway 40 on Oct 21st, Stretham 40 year-round, Kingfishers Bridge 39 on Jan 18th, Cottenham 38 on Jan 4th, Fowlmere 36 on Dec 19th, Grafham Water 30 on Aug 17th, Shepreth 30 on Mar 23rd, Redmere 30 during Jan & Feb, Whittlesey 30 on May 25th and Gamlingay Great Heath 26 on Aug 13th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 71% (95/96) *cf.* 43% (17/18)

Density (individuals/10 squares): 92 (95/96) *cf.* 32 (17/18)

TREE SPARROW (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

Red List. *Uncommon resident and passage migrant (very local after a serious decline).*

Total records: 102. Sites: 10 breeding season/21 non-breeding.

Breeding (14 territories at 4 sites): Ouse Washes 7, Redmere 4, Sutton [Cambs] 2, Sutton North Fen one pair occupying a hole in Sand Martin colony.

First winter/spring period: Redmere 30 on Jan 31st, Littleport (May Farm) 30 on Jan 31st, Ouse Washes 20 on Jan 30th, Foxton 11 on Feb 28th, Thriplow 10 on Jan 25th, Burwell Fen 7 on Jan 30th, Whittlesey 4 on Apr 6th and singles at an additional 5 sites.

Autumn/second winter: Thriplow 30 on Nov 9th, Nene Washes 20 on Sep 20th, Barway 15 on Nov 18th, Ouse Washes 10 on Dec 26th, Reach 6 on Oct 21st, Hinxton 5 on Nov 5th, Swaddyswell Pit 4 on Nov 8th and 1–3 at an additional 5 sites.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 1% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (17/18)

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Amber List. *Widespread and abundant resident; some evidence of passage migrants.*

Total records: 2724. *Sites:* 138 breeding season/153 non-breeding.

Breeding (226 territories at 35 sites): Paxton Pits 69, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 27, Kingfishers Bridge 11, Devil's Dyke 9, Swavesey 9, Fen Drayton Lakes 7, Mepal Airfield 7 and 1–6 at a further 28 sites.

Out of breeding season (peak counts of 10+): Littleport (May Farm) 20 during Jan & Feb, Wyton Airfield 15 on Sep 22nd, Stanground 14 on Oct 20th, Cambridge (Mill Rd Cemetery) 12 on Mar 11th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 10 on Mar 4th, Farcet 10 on Feb 17th, Fen Drayton Lakes 10 on Feb 5th, Kingfishers Bridge 10 on Mar 25th and Witchford (Long Drove) 10 on Sep 13th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 69% (95/96) *cf.* 84% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 19 (95/96) *cf.* 30 (17/18)

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Red List. *Fairly common but much declined migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Total records: 490. *Sites:* 89 breeding season.

Earliest on Apr 4th (Grafham Water) and *latest* on Oct 9th (Stanground Gullet).

Breeding (110+ territories at 32 sites): Ouse Washes 41, Nene Washes 23, Littleport (May Farm) 10; and 1–2 pairs present at a further 29 sites.

Peak counts of 15+:

Spring: Nene Washes 50 on April 20th and Bassenhally 16 on April 26th.

Autumn: Barway 215 on Aug 4th, Nene Washes 190 on Aug 27th, Sutton Gault 60 on Aug 21st, Grafham Water 50 on Sep 1st, Kingfishers Bridge 43 on Aug 5th, Fen Drayton Lakes 32 on Aug 29th, Hobson's Park 26 on Aug 26th, Dernford Reservoir 25 on Aug 4th, Cam Washes (Upware) 18 on Aug 30th and Wicken Fen (Bakers Fen) 17 on Aug 4th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 61% (95/96) *cf.* 25% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 27 (95/96) *cf.* 8 (17/18)

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flava*

Scarce annual passage migrant, mainly in the spring; has bred.

Autumn (one record): two at Hobson's Park Aug 26th to Sep 4th (RJF).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Red List. *Uncommon local resident.*

Total records: 495. *Sites:* 36 breeding season/89 non-breeding.

Breeding (20 territories at 14 sites): Anglesey Abbey/Lode, Bottisham Lock, Cambridge, Cam Washes, Clayhithe, Earith, Grafham Water, Hauxton Mill, Hinxton, Houghton Mill, Little Shelford,

Sawston, Stanground Wash and Upware. In addition, there was possible breeding at a further 16 sites.

First winter: 3 at Buckden on Mar 3rd, Melbourn SW until Feb 4th and Stirtloe SW during January. Elsewhere, 1–2 birds were widely distributed in a wide range of habitats.

Second winter: 7 at Paxton Pits on WeBS count Dec 9th, 4 at Ferry Meadows CP on Sep 25th, 3 at Foxton SW on Sep 9th, Grafham Water on Nov 30th and Milton CP on Oct 23rd. Elsewhere, 1–2 birds were widely distributed in a wide range of habitats.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Green list. *Common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 1436. *Sites:* 91 breeding season/141 non-breeding.

Breeding: no systematic breeding counts were received.

Peak roost counts (30+):

First winter period/spring: Whittlesford (BP/McDonalds) 250 on Jan 6th, Wyton 200 on Jan 30th and Hinxton Genome Campus 40 on Jan 25th.

Autumn/second winter period: Cambridge Leisure 150 on Nov 21st, Hinxton Genome Campus 61 on Nov 21st and Cambridge Research Park 58 on Nov 21st.

Daytime aggregations (30+): Stirtloe SW 110 on Jan 2nd, Melbourn SW 80 on Jan 28th, Littleport (May Farm) 50 most months and up to 30 at times at Barway, Fen Drayton Lakes, Foxton SW, Grafham Water, Granta Park and Haslingfield SW.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 45% (95/96) *cf.* 38% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 9 (95/96) *cf.* 8 (17/18)

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring.

Total records: 9. *Sites:* 5 spring/1 autumn.

Earliest on Mar 23rd (Grafham Water) and *latest* on Sep 25th (Barway Flooded Fields).

Spring (9 records): 3 at Ferry Meadows on Apr 6th–7th, 2 on Apr 17th; and singles at Grafham water on March 23rd, Apr 8th, May 7th, Ouse Washes (Earith) Mar 25th, Cam Washes Apr 7th and Fen Drayton Lakes May 6th–7th.

Autumn (one record): a single at Barway Flooded Fields on Sep 25th.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Amber List. *Common, somewhat local, resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 1130. *Sites:* 42 breeding season/134 non-breeding.

Breeding: as usual there were very few confirmed breeding pairs. Systematic counting this year only from Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 6 and Littleport (May Farm) 5.

Peak counts of 30+:

First winter period/spring: Littleport (May Farm) 100+ Jan and Feb, Trumpington Meadows 66 on Feb 22nd, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 50 on Mar 16th, Chesterton 40 on Mar 4th, Bassenhally 33 on Apr 7th and Little Wilbraham Fen 33 on Feb 23rd.

Autumn: peak vismig counts on Sep 22nd Wyton Airfield 400, Ferry Meadows CP 160, Devil's Dyke 88, Cambridge 35. Grafham Water 100 on Oct 12th, Holme Fen 100 on Sep 29th, Helpston 80 on Sep 24th, Nene Washes (Low Wash) 80 on Oct 7th, Barway Flooded Fields 67 on Sep 15th and Ouse Washes 50 on Oct 13th. Great Shelford 85 to roost on Sep 13th.

Second winter period: there were no counts of 30+ in this period.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 33% (95/96) *cf.* 10% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 9 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (17/18)

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Red List. *Scarce annual passage migrant* (12 records *cf.* an average of 6/year).

There were no spring records.

Autumn (12 records at 6 sites including nocturnal sound recordings): daytime flyovers at Cam Washes on Aug 26th, Trumpington on Sep 5th, Helpston on Sep 23rd and Kingfishers Bridge on Nov 18th.

Nocturnal sound recordings (8 records): Cambridge on Aug 24th and 30th, Sep 5th and 13th and Chesterton [Cams] on Aug 31st, Sep 8th, 13th and 17th.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Amber List. *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly on the Washes.*

Total records: 171. *Sites*: 33 non-breeding.

Latest on Apr 15th (Nene Washes (Eldernell)) and *earliest* on Nov 11th (Berry Fen).

First winter period/spring: Ouse Washes, mainly from Earith to Sutton Gault, usually singles, with peak counts of 5 on Jan 21st and Mar 4th – lower than in recent years. 1–2 at a further 17 sites.

Autumn/second winter period: Ouse Washes as above, usually 1–2, but 3 at Earith on Dec 31st. 1–2 at a further 11 sites.

ROCK PIPIT (Eurasian Rock Pipit) *Anthus petrosus*

Green List. *Scarce annual passage migrant* (10 records *cf.* an average of 13/year).

Latest on Mar 31st (Paxton Pits) and *earliest* on Oct 6th (Grafham Water).

First winter period/spring (2 records at 2 sites): 1–2 at Grafham Water from Mar 23rd to 29th and 1–2 at Paxton Pits from Mar 25th to 31st.

Autumn/second winter period (8 records at 5 sites): 1–5 at Grafham Water from Oct 6th to 10th, then singles from Oct 17th to 20th and on Nov 25th and a flyover at Eaton Ford on Oct 7th.

CHAFFINCH (Common Chaffinch) *Fringilla coelebs*

Green List. *Abundant resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 3124. *Sites*: 151 breeding season/180 non-breeding.

Breeding: significantly under-recorded; no specific site counts reported.

Out of breeding season (peak counts of 50+): Littleport (May Farm) 300 all Jan, Redmere 100 all Jan and Swavesey Lake 70 on Jan 21st.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 92% (95/96) *cf.* 94% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 62 (95/96) *cf.* 60 (17/18)

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla***Green List.** *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 179. Sites: 59 non-breeding.**Latest on Apr 20th (Paxton Pits) and earliest on Oct 7th (Sutton Gault).**First winter period: 56 at Littleport (May Farm) on Jan 3rd, 10 at Wryde Croft on Jan 4th and 1–3 at a further 38 sites.**Second winter period: max 40 at Beechwoods LNR on Dec 10th, 11 vismig over Eaton Ford on Oct 21st, max 11 at Six Mile Bottom (Hare Park) on Dec 27th, 10 at Kingfishers Bridge on Oct 20th and 1–5 at a further 26 sites.***Bramblings** *Steph' Thorpe***HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***Red List.** *Rare winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 91. Sites: 6 non-breeding.**First winter period: the unprecedented invasion of 2017 continued into the new year. Varying numbers remained at Wimpole Park until Mar 30th, with high counts of 18 on Jan 14th and 16 on Feb 19th. Elsewhere at Madingley Hall from Feb 10th (8 birds) to Apr 10th (3), Belham Wood 2 on Mar 11th, Castor Hanglands 2 on Apr 14th and a single at St Ives on Apr 3rd. The count of 18 on Jan 14th is a new county record (MAW) cf. 17 at Ferry Meadows CP Oct 2017.**Autumn: just one single flyby at Earith on Oct 31st.***BULLFINCH (Eurasian Bullfinch)** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***Amber List.** *Common but declined resident.**Total records: 869. Sites: 70 breeding season/92 non-breeding.**Breeding (31 pairs at 18 sites): confirmed at Kingfishers Bridge, Queen Adelaide and Soham, possible pairs at Paxton Pits (14 territories), Bedford Purlieus, Bluntisham, Comberton, Ditton Park Wood, Earith, Eaton Ford, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water, Hinxton, Swavesey, Werrington and West Cambridge Site.*

Out of breeding season peaks of 10+: 13 at Etton-Maxey Pits on Feb 6th, 13 at Fen Drayton Lakes on Feb 8th, 11 at Grafham Water on Feb 2nd, 10+ at Queen Adelaide on Aug 26th and 10+ Ferry Meadows CP on Jan 19th and Sep 27th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 12% (95/96) *cf.* 27% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 5 (17/18)

GREENFINCH (European Greenfinch) *Chloris chloris*

Green List. *Common but declining resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 1564. *Sites:* 106 breeding season/127 non-breeding.

Breeding: systematic counts only from Paxton Pits 21 pairs, Littleport (May Farm) 20, and Knapwell (Grange Farm) 9.

Out of breeding season (peak counts of 20+): Fen Ditton/Horningsea 90 on Mar 11th, Cambridge 65 on Jan 19th, Fortrey's Hall 63 on Nov 24th, March 28 on Jan 14th and Stow-cum-Quy 21 on Jan 1st.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 73% (95/96) *cf.* 50% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 34 (95/96) *cf.* 13 (17/18)

LINNET (Common Linnet) *Linaria cannabina*

Red List. *Common but declining resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 1201. *Sites:* 113 breeding season/116 non-breeding.

Breeding: significantly under-recorded; no specific site counts reported.

Peak counts of 75+:

First winter period: Manea 1200 on Jan 14th, Great Fen Project 1000 on Feb 14th, Littleport (May Farm) 900 on Jan 11th, Darlow's Farm 200 on Feb 17th, Stonea 200 on Feb 8th, Redmere 200 on Jan 31st, Great Staughton 150 on Mar 18th, Devil's Dyke (Ditch Farm) 120 on Mar 24th, Wyton Airfield 120 on Aug 2nd, Chain Corner 100 on Mar 25th, St Neots 100 on Mar 8th and Kingfishers Bridge 92 on Apr 1st.

Second winter period: Devil's Dyke 500 on Oct 7th, Little Wilbraham 200 on Nov 27th, Molesworth 200 on Nov 18th, Woodwalton Fen 200 on Oct 20th, Hinxton 90 on Nov 5th and Holme Fen 80 on Oct 20th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 69% (95/96) *cf.* 74% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 41 (95/96) *cf.* 49 (17/18)



Linnet Ann Biggs

Ann Biggs

COMMON REDPOLL (Mealy Redpoll) *Acanthis flammea*

Amber List. *Scarce annual winter visitor.*

First winter period (5 records at 4 sites): Great Abington on many dates from Jan 20th to Mar 26th, Great Shelford 3 on Feb 22nd, Wicken Fen on Mar 6th and Woodwalton Fen 5 on Jan 7th (one ringed), rising to 10 in a flock of over 200 finches on 10th, decreasing to 6 on Jan 28th, then 5 on Mar 25th, again including one ringed bird.

Second winter period (one record at one site): Woodwalton Fen 2 on Nov 25th.

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

Red List. *Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Former breeder, last confirmed in 2002.*

Total records: 287. *Sites:* 62 non-breeding (including April).

Spring/summer: there were no records between April 27th and Sep 28th.

Non-breeding season peak counts of 8+:

First winter period: Wicken Fen 73 on Mar 6th, Great Fen Project 70 at New Decoy Farm on Feb 6th, Cambridge 38 over Lakes golf course on Mar 24th, Woodwalton Fen 20 on Jan 14th and Fen Drayton Lakes 10 on Mar 24th.

Second winter period: Woodwalton Fen 45 on Nov 1st, Ferry Meadows CP 20 on Dec 24th and Cambridge 9 over Lovell Rd Oct 21st.

CROSSBILL (Red Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra*

Green List. *Scarce annual visitor. Last confirmed breeding 1998.*

Mainly summer post-breeding dispersal (4 flyover records at 4 sites): Earith 2 on Jun 12th (GHir), Grafham Water a single on Jul 12th (RMP), Milton CP 2 on Aug 28th (RDal) and a single at Foul Anchor on Oct 27th (RMP).

GOLDFINCH (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

Green List. *Very common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 3487. *Sites:* 162 breeding season/199 non-breeding.

Breeding: Paxton Pits 36 pairs; elsewhere 1–20 records from another 161 sites during Apr–Jul.

Out of breeding season (peak counts of 100+): Nene Washes (Eldernell) 200 on Oct 3rd, Kingfishers Bridge 164 on Sep 16th, Bradley Fen 150 on Nov 27th, Wicken/Burwell Fens 100 throughout Oct and Nov, 100 at Cam Washes (Upware) on Aug 26th, 100 at Devil's Dyke on Sep 25th, 100 at Barway Flooded Fields on Sep 25th, 100 at Wimpole Park on Jan 18th and 100 at Ferry Meadows CP on Feb 14th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 65% (95/96) cf. 87% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 23 (95/96) cf. 70 (17/18)

SISKIN (Eurasian Siskin) *Spinus spinus*

Green List. *Scarce resident and fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Occasional breeder.*

Total records: 356. *Sites:* 1 breeding season/65 non-breeding.

Summer: a single record at Cambridge (Lovell Road) 2 on Jun 24th. No records suggestive of breeding.

Peak counts of 30+:

First winter period: Chippenham Fen 93 on Jan 14th, Woodwalton Fen 80 on Mar 25th, Holme Fen 50 on Mar 2nd, Stirtloe SW 42 on Jan 2nd, Buckden 40 on Jan 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP 35 on Feb 24th and Cambridge Science Park 30 on Mar 19th.

Second winter period: rather few records. Ferry Meadows CP 40 on Nov 15th, Chippenham Fen 30 on Nov 16th and Woodwalton Fen 30 on Dec 2nd.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*

Red List. *Fairly common but much declined local resident.*

Total records: 408. *Sites:* 68 breeding season/61 non-breeding.

Breeding (151 territories at 9 sites): systematic counts of pairs from South Cambridgeshire parishes: Melbourn 64 pairs (full count) and partial counts from Great Chishill 28, Fowlmere 16, Heydon 13 and Ickleton 7. Systematic counts of pairs from fenland: Ouse Washes 12, Nene Washes 5, Coveney Byall Fen 4 and Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 2. Most summer records specifically mentioned singing males. Significantly under-recorded.

Peak counts of 40+:

First winter period: Littleport (May Farm) 112 on Feb 23rd and Shepreth L-Moor 60 on Feb 25th.

Second winter period: Foxton 50 on Dec 27th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 45% (95/96) *cf.* 22% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 18 (95/96) *cf.* 5 (17/18)

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Red List. *Common but declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 956. *Sites:* 92 breeding season/103 non-breeding.

Breeding systematic counts only from Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 25 pairs, Paxton Pits 15 pairs and Comberton (Westfield Farm) 11 pairs. Significantly under-recorded.

Peak counts of 50+:

First winter period/spring: Hinxton (Lordship Farm) 150 on Jan 6th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 83, Burwell Fen 75 on Feb 7th and Barway 60 on Feb 2nd.

Second winter period: Cambridge Research Park 90 on Oct 28th, Devil's Dyke 89 on Oct 29th, Shepreth L-Moor 80 on Dec 6th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 78 on Nov 17th and Toft 75 on Sep 30th.

BBS *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 67% (95/96) *cf.* 79% (17/18)
Density (individuals/10 squares): 28 (95/96) *cf.* 32 (17/18)

REED BUNTING (Common Reed Bunting) *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Amber List. *Common but declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

Total records: 2244. Sites: 121 breeding season/146 non-breeding.

Breeding: systematic counts mainly from RSPB reserves. Ouse Washes 143, Nene Washes 143 (High Wash 20, Low Wash 42, Eldernell non RSPB 12, Eldernell 15, March Farmers 35, Rings End 18, Eldernell Pits 1), Paxton Pits 56 and Ouse Washes (Pilot Project) 4. Significantly under-recorded.

Peak counts of 50+:

First winter period: Hinxton (Lordship Farm) 200 on Jan 6th, Littleport (May Farm) 200 all Jan and Feb, Fowlmere NR 200 on Jan 20th, Wyton 80 on Jan 30th and Comberton (Westfield Farm) 53 on Jan 7th.

Autumn/second winter period: Hinxton (Lordship Farm) 150 on Nov 5th, Wyton Airfield 100 on Sep 22nd, Fowlmere NR 100 to roost on Dec 4th and Comberton (Westfield Farm) 61 on Nov 17th.

BBS *Distribution (% squares occupied): 61% (95/96) cf. 62% (17/18)*
Density (individuals/10 squares): 22 (95/96) cf. 22 (17/18)



Reed Bunting *Richard Fowling*

APPENDIX I**CATEGORY A & C SPECIES**

Those species in Category A and C which are not on the County List are considered to refer to escapes. (N.B. Escaped individuals of species on the County List are in the main Systematic List to avoid splitting the records of a species).

No species in this category were recorded in 2018.

APPENDIX II**CATEGORY D & E SPECIES**

Category D and E species are not on the County List (see Introduction to the Systematic List).

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus***Australia (introduced populations elsewhere, e.g. New Zealand)**

2 sites/29 records

Breeding: a possible pair at Ouse Washes during the breeding season.

Fen Drayton Lakes from Jan 1st to Mar 31st, then Ouse Washes on Apr 15th, with a second from Apr 22nd. This apparent pair present through till May 26th, and a single seen in December. The dates suggest the Fen Drayton Lakes bird moved to the Ouse Washes and paired up.

ROSS'S GOOSE *Anser rossii***Breeds mainly north-east Canada, winters southern USA and north Mexico**

5 sites/28 records

Recorded between Jan 1st and Sep 30th, presumed same individual. Cam Washes Jan 1st to 13th, Burwell Fen from Jan 30th to Jul 1st, with an absence during May when one sighting came from Swaffham Prior Fen on the 18th, then commuting between Wicken Fen and Kingfishers Bridge during August and September. Presumed same, long lived individual recorded in previous years.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus***Breeds Mongolia and Tibet, winters around Indian sub-continent**

One site/one record

Kingfishers Bridge on Aug 30th.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides***Breeds Mongolia and adjacent areas of Russia and China, winters Korean peninsula and Southern China**

One site/one record

Grafham Water on May 28th.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Migratory populations from South-east Europe, Central Asia to Western China winter in the Indian sub-continent. Resident populations in North-west Africa and Ethiopia and feral populations elsewhere.

One site/one record

East Hatley on Jan 13th.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana***Southern Africa**

One site/one record

Burwell Fen on Apr 22nd.

AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadornoides*

Breeds Southern Australia and Tasmania, wintering further north in Australia.

One site/one record

Berry Fen on Apr 28th.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata***Central America and northern South America, west of the Andes**

2 sites/9 records

No breeding records submitted from the national hotspot at Ely. In addition to the Ely records (table) one seen on the River Great Ouse at Earith on Apr 2nd.

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ely	-	4	7	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	9	1

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL *Anas bahamensis***South America and the Caribbean Islands**

2 sites/2 records

Nene Washes on Jul 16th and Ouse Washes on Oct 13th.

INDIAN PEAFOWL (Peacock) *Pavo cristatus*

Indian sub-continent (and introduced populations e.g. Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and Florida)

4 sites/5 records

Cambridge Research Park on May 13th and 2 on Jun 2nd, presumed same River Cam (Horningsea)
2 also on Jun 2nd, Great Wilbraham Common on Jun 3rd and Abbots Ripton on Jun 25th.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagris*

Sub-tropical and Southern Africa (and introduced populations elsewhere, e.g. Madagascar, West Indies, Eastern Australia, and northern New Zealand).

One site/one record

Great Wilbraham Common 11 near Hawk Mill Farm, apparently free to roam, on Dec 16th.

REEVE'S PHEASANT *Syrnaticus reevesii*

Central China

2 sites/3 records

Littleport (May Farm) 10 in January and February and Whittlesford GP a male on Apr 8th.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Southern USA, Mexico and widespread across South America

2 sites/16 records

Barton (Lark Rise Farm/Lordsbridge area) the bird first seen in July 2016 was seen every month except January. Presumably another bird seen at Magog Down on May 16th.

Behaviour: the Barton Harris's Hawk was seen pursuing a Merlin which was hunting a Skylark, and a Carrion Crow joined the mêlée by mobbing the Harris's Hawk.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula eupatria*

South and south-east Asia

One site/one record

Wimblington on Oct 3rd.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Australia

One site/one record

Ouse Washes on May 7th.

CRIMSON ROSELLA *Platycercus elegans*

Eastern Australia

One site/one record

Shudy Camps on May 5th.

APPENDIX III**HYBRIDS****CANADA GOOSE X GREYLAG GOOSE** *Branta canadensis x Anser anser**7 sites/48 records*

Burwell Fen 3 on Mar 4th, 2 on Mar 11th and a single on Jun 24th, Grafham Water singles regularly (recorded in 8 months of the year), 2 on Aug 8th and 3 on Sep 22nd, Kingfishers Bridge singles on Jan 7th and Mar 4th, 2 on Jul 22nd then regularly seen through the autumn, with two broods seen and two adults survived through to the winter, Ouse Washes 2 on Dec 16th, Paxton Pits on Mar 18th and May 15th, Sutton North Fen 2 on Jun 2nd and Jul 15th and Swaffham Prior Fen on May 18th.

BARNACLE GOOSE X GREYLAG GOOSE *Branta bernicla x Anser anser**One site/one record*

Hobson's Park Feb 9th and 23rd.

GREYLAG GOOSE x ROSS'S GOOSE *Anser anser x Anser rossii**One site/37 records*

Kingfishers Bridge, recorded every month except June. Generally singles but 2 birds seen in four months.

GREYLAG GOOSE x SWAN GOOSE *Anser anser x Anser cygnoides**One site/20 records*

Grafham Water, recorded in Jan, Apr, May, Jul, Aug, Sep, Nov, between 1 and 3 birds.

TUFTED DUCK X POCHARD *Aythya fuligula x Aythya ferina**3 sites/3 records*

Ouse Washes Jan 7th, Kingfishers Bridge Mar 31st, Burwell Fen Apr 3rd.

SCAUP X TUFTED DUCK *Aythya marila x Aythya fuligula**One site/one record*

Grafham Water Jul 31st.

TUFTED DUCK X RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Aythya fuligula x Netta rufina**One site/10 records*

Grafham Water several dates in July and August.

CASPIAN X HERRING GULL *Larus cachinnans x Larus argentatus**One site/one record*

Grafham Water on Sep 1st, a 1st cal-year colour-ringed bird (Yellow 'XCTK'), ringed on Jun 6th 2018 as chick at Lake Gräbendorf in Southern Brandenburg, Germany.

APPENDIX IV

CATEGORY A, B & C SPECIES ON THE COUNTY LIST

Shows the number of records (individuals) and the year last recorded. Statistics are only kept for species with fewer than 100 records [except Crane (see *CBR* 84: 55), Great White Egret (see *CBR* 88: 43) and Raven (see *CBR* 88: 97)]. For a fuller summary of the County List and the forms recorded within Cambridgeshire see *CBR* 80: 167–189 and an update in *CBR* 90: 144–148.

N.B.: * refers to record totals since last bred in the county.

Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>		2018
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	<i>B. b. hrota</i>	3(3)	1997
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		2018
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>		2018
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		2018
Taiga Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	2(5)	2014
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		2018
Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>		2018
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>		2018
Greenland White-fr Goose	<i>A. albifrons flavirostris</i>	2(12)	2003
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		2018
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>		2018
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		2018
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		2018
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		2018
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>		2018
Baikal Teal	<i>Sibirionetta formosa</i>	1(1)	2014
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>		2018
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	10(11)	2013
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		2018
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		2018
Falcated Duck	<i>Mareca falcata</i>	1(1)	1988
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>		2018
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	9(9)	2018
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		2018
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		2018
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		2018
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	21(21)	2016
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		2018
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		2018
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	c.29(32)	2012
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	c.21(21)	2018
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		2018
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>		2018
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	3(4)	2006
Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	17(153)	1996
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	2(2)	1989
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	52(82)	2018
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		2018
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	41(51)	2015
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		2018
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>		2018
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		2018
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		2018

Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		2018
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		2018
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>		2018
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		2018
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		2018
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		2018
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	40(45)	2014
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	78(80)	2017
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	1(1)	1897
Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	11(11)	2012
Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	c.25(28)	2017
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	58(59)	2010
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	1(1)	2013
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	43(43)	2018
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		2018
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		2018
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		2018
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		2018
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		2018
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	4(4)	2016
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	17(18)	2011
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	17(25)	2017
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		2018
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		2018
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	6(7)	1986
Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	8(8)	2011
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	8(8)	2014
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	30(43)	2018
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		2018
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	45(45)	2018
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		2018
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		2018
Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		2018
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		2018
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		2018
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		2018
Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2017
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2018
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		2018
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		2018
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		2018
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	1(1)	2013
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	3(3)	2018
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		2018
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		2018
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	6(6)	2013
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	8(8)	2010
Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	70(77)	2018
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		2018
Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	6(7)*	1880
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	4(4)	1848
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		2018
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		2018

Little Crane	<i>Porzana parva</i>	3(3)	2018
Baillon's Crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	4(4+)	2012
Spotted Crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		2018
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		2018
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		2018
Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		2018
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		2018
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		2018
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	26(42)	2018
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		2018
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		2018
Sociable Plover	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	3(3)	1991
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		2018
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	3(3)	2013
American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	17(17)	2017
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		2018
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		2018
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		2018
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	2(2)	1976
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	10(11)	2004
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		2017
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	1(1)	1854
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		2018
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		2018
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		2018
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		2018
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		2018
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		2018
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		2018
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	2(2)	2006
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	1(1)	1963
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		2018
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		2018
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	1(1)	2001
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		2018
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		2018
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	16(17)	2007
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	2(2)	2008
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		2018
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	1(1)	1983
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	4(4)	2012
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	9(10)	2009
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	c.84(90)	2018
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	1(1)	2007
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	1(1)	2012
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		2018
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>		2018
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	9(9)	2012
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		2018
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	6(6)	2007
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	43(43)	2017
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	54(58-73)	2018

Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		2018
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	2(2)	1994
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		2018
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	8(8)	2016
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		2018
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	6(6)	1995
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		2018
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		2018
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		2018
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	1(1)	1992
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	4(4)	2009
Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	3(3)	2014
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		2018
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	1(1)	1938
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	17(24)	2017
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	1(1)	2018
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		2018
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		2018
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	3(3)	2007
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	2(2)	2016
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>		2018
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		2018
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	5(5)	2012
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		2018
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		2017
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>		2018
Kumlien's Gull	<i>L. g. kumlieni</i>	6(6)	2013
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		2018
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		2018
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		2018
Azorean Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus m. atlantis</i>	1(1)	2014
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		2018
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	1(1)	2017
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	5(5)	1991
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		2018
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		2018
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	6(6)	2006
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		2018
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		2018
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	9(9)	2010
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	29(32–33)	2017
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		2018
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	c81(408+)	2018
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	23(36)	2018
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		2018
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	11(12)	2014
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	72(73)	1999
Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	21(26)	2005
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	8(9)	1996
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	36(39)	2009
Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	11(155)	1888
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		2018

Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		2018
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		2018
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		2018
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		2018
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		2018
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		2018
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		2018
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		2018
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>		2018
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		2018
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	26(26)*	2017
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>	12(12)	2006
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		2018
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1(1)	1835
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		2018
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	1(1)	1982
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	6(6)	2017
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	81(81)	2016
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		2017
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		2018
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2018
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		2018
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		2018
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	38(40)	2017
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		2018
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		2018
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	1(1)	1940
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		2018
Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		2018
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	19(19)*	2016
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	1(1)	2000
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		2018
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	1(1)	1840
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		2015
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		2018
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		2018
Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	9(9)	1987
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula spermologus</i>		2018
Nordic/Eastern Jackdaw	<i>C. m. monedula/soemmerringii</i>	39(53)	2013
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		2018
Carion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		2018
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		2018
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		2018
Waxwing	<i>Bombicilla garrulus</i>		2018
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		2018
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		2018
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>		2006
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		2018
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		2018
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	5(7+)	2014
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>		2018
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	39(46)	2018

Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		2018
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	1(1)	1882
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris flava</i>	9(13)	2017
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		2018
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		2018
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		2018
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	11(12)	2017
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		2018
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		2018
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		2016
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	29(29)	2018
Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1(1)	1998
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		2018
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>		2018
Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>P. c. tristis</i>	13(13)	2018
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	5(5)	2018
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	2(2)	1955
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		2018
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	1(1)	2012
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		2018
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	25(43)	2017
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	9(9)	2015
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		2018
River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	2(2)	1995
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	21(21)	2017
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		2018
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		2018
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	6(6)	2014
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		2018
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		2018
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	6(6)	2017
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		2018
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		2018
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		2018
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		2018
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		2018
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	13(13)	2018
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		2018
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		2018
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		2018
Black-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>	1(1)	1996
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		2018
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		2018
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2018
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		2018
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		2018
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		2018
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	10(10)	2018
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	1(1)	1984
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		2018
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		2018
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	1(1)	2001

Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	2018
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	2018
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	2018
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	2018
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>	2(2) 1979
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2018
Greenland Wheatear	<i>O. o. leucorhoa</i>	2018
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	1(1) 2016
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	3(3) 2017
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2018
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	2018
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	1(2) 1822
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2018
Yellow Wagtail	<i>M. f. flavissima</i>	2018
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>M. f. flava</i>	2018
Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>M. f. thunbergi</i>	6(6) 1999
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	2018
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	2018
White Wagtail	<i>M. a. alba</i>	2018
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	19(21) 2014
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	2(2) 1972
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	2018
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2018
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	1(1) 1991
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	2018
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	2018
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2018
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	2018
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	2018
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2018
Northern Bullfinch	<i>P. p. pyrrhula</i>	4(5) 2004
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	1(1) 2011
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2018
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	2017
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	2018
Common (Mealy) Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	2018
Greenland Redpoll	<i>A. f. rostrata</i>	1(1) 2011
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	2018
Arctic Redpoll	<i>Acanthis hornemanni couei</i>	7(9) 2017
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	2018
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2018
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	7(8) 2016
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	2018
Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	53(92) 2017
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	2016
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	2018
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2018
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	42(63) 1981
Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1(1) 2013
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	1(1) 1994
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1(1) 1993
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	2018

SUMMER MIGRANTS: EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATES

Excludes occasional mid-winter records; NR: no records received.

SPECIES	EARLIEST 2018	EARLIEST EVER
Garganey	Mar 15th (Nene Washes)	Feb 17th 2013 (Mare Fen)
Quail	May 8th (Cambridge)	Apr 16th 2005 (Ouse Fen)
Osprey	Mar 19th (Grafham Water)	Mar 5th 2007 (Little Gransden)
Corncrake	Apr 25th (Dog-in-a-doublet)	Apr 19th 1960 (Odsey)
Spotted Crake	Apr 15th (Nene Washes)	Mar 13th 1959 (Fulbourn Fen)
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 18th (Grafham Water)	Mar 4th 2003 (Isleham)
Whimbrel	Apr 7th (Berry Fen)	Mar 14th 1995 (Cambridge)
Wood Sandpiper	Apr 22nd (Kingfishers Bridge)	Apr 11th 2006 (Ouse Washes)
Sandwich Tern	Apr 3rd (Grafham Water)	Mar 16th 2013 (Grafham Water)
Common Tern	Apr 4th (Ferry Meadows, Grafham Water)	Mar 14th 2011 (Ouse Washes)
		Mar 14th 2012 (Isleham Washes)
Arctic Tern	Apr 15th (Ouse Washes)	Apr 3rd 1987 (Ferry Meadows CP)
Black Tern	Apr 20th (3 sites)	Apr 8th 2000 (Ferry Meadows CP)
Turtle Dove	Apr 15th (Hardwick)	Mar 9th 2014 (Aldreth)
		Mar 9th 2015 (Aldreth)
Cuckoo	Apr 11th (Grafham Water)	Mar 8th 1989 (Monks Wood)
Swift	Apr 24th (3 sites)	Apr 3rd 2002 (Wicken Fen)
Hobby	Apr 15th (Trumpington Meadows)	Mar 26th 2009 (Fowlmere NR)
Sand Martin	Mar 13th (Trumpington Meadows)	Feb 27th 1994 (Nene Washes)
Swallow	Mar 12th (Buckden)	Mar 7th 1983 (Impington)
House Martin	Apr 5th (Ferry Meadows CP)	Mar 4th 2001 (Paxton Pits)
Willow Warbler	Apr 4th (Paxton Pits)	Mar 12th 1957 (Babraham)
Sedge Warbler	Apr 8th (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Mar 25th 2002 (Paxton Pits)
Reed Warbler	Apr 9th (Woodston Ponds)	Mar 29th 2014 (Fen Drayton Lakes)
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 8th (Wicken Fen)	Mar 30th 1989 (Wicken Fen)
		Mar 30th 1989 (Woodwalton Fen)
		Mar 30th 2012 (Nene Washes)
Garden Warbler	Apr 15th (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Mar 28th 1999 (Morbome Hill)
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 14th (7 sites)	Mar 31st 1987 (Cambridge)
Whitethroat	Apr 11th (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Mar 29th 1998 (Fowlmere)
Ring Ouzel	Mar 25th (Woodwalton fen)	Mar 12th 1995 (Paxton Pits)
Spotted Flycatcher	Apr 28th (Houghton)	Apr 15th 1967 (Cambridge)
Nightingale	Apr 15th (Paxton Pits)	Apr 4th 1999 (Paxton Pits)
		Apr 4th 2002 (Paxton Pits)
Redstart	Apr 14th (Wicken Fen & Wyton)	Mar 25th 1995 (Waterbeach)
Whinchat	Apr 26th (Nene Washes)	Mar 5th 1994 (Ferry Meadows CP)
Wheatear	Mar 5th (Eldernell)	Mar 5th 2018 (Eldernell)
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 4th (Grafham Water)	Mar 13th 2006 (Ouse Washes)

Changes for 2018: Wheatear

SUMMER MIGRANTS: LATEST DEPARTURE DATES

Excludes occasional mid-winter records; NR: no records received.

SPECIES	LATEST 2018	LATEST EVER
Garganey	Oct 7th (Fish & Duck Marina)	Dec 8th 2014 (Ely BF)
Quail	Jul 6th (Knapwell)	Oct 31st 1952 (Southoe)
Osprey	Sep 23rd (Duxford & Ely)	Nov 28th 2006 (Ely)
Corncrake	Jul 25th (undisclosed site)	Oct 12th 2012 (Nene Washes)
Spotted Crake	NR	Sep 14th 1953 (Chesterton Fen)
		Sep 14th 2014 (Ouse Washes)
Little Ringed Plover	Sep 30th (Longstanton lagoon)	Oct 29th 1973 (Cambridge SW)
Whimbrel	Sep 26th (Ouse Washes)	Nov 24th 2012 (Grafham Water)
Wood Sandpiper	Sep 25th (Barway)	Oct 27th 1991 (Grafham Water)
		Oct 27th 2006 (Paxton Pits)
Sandwich Tern	Sep 23rd (Chesterton [Cams])	Oct 30th 1994 (Block Fen GP)
Common Tern	Oct 5th (Ferry Meadows CP)	Dec 6th 1953 (Landbeach GP)
Arctic Tern	Sep 23rd (Grafham Water)	Nov 21st 2015 (Ferry Meadows)
Black Tern	Oct 17th (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Nov 5th 1994 (Grafham Water)
Turtle Dove	Sep 15th (Wicken Fen)	Nov 16th 1957 (Cambridge)
Cuckoo	Sep 13th (Nene Washes)	Nov 4th 1957 (Cambridge)
Swift	Sep 11th (Brampton GP)	Dec 16th 2015 (Barleycraft GP)
Hobby	Oct 7th (Eaton Ford)	Dec 7th 2005 (Priory Park)
Sand Martin	Sep 24th (Ferry Meadows, Grafham W)	Nov 17th 1968 (Ouse Washes)
Swallow	Oct 24th (Ouse Washes)	Dec 16th 2005 (Caldecote [Cams])
House Martin	Nov 11th (Hobson's Park)	Dec 17th 1977 (Wistow)
Willow Warbler	Oct 5th (King's Dyke NR)	Nov 30th 2012 (Wicken Fen)
Sedge Warbler	Sep 15th (Earith)	Dec 10th 2003 (Padholme Pumping Station)
Reed Warbler	Oct 18th (Burwell Fen)	Dec 12th 1987 (Ouse Washes)
Grasshopper Warbler	Sep 14th (Bradley Fen)	Oct 8th 1993 (Fowlmere NR)
Garden Warbler	Sep 23rd (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Nov 21st 2003 (Queen Adelaide)
Lesser Whitethroat	Oct 5th (Devil's Dyke)	Nov 25th 2003 (Ferry Meadows CP)
Whitethroat	Sep 24th (Cambridge)	Nov 22nd 2002 (Cottenham)
Ring Ouzel	Nov 5th (Cambridge)	Dec 23rd 2015 (Lode)
Spotted Flycatcher	Sep 27th (Ferry Meadows CP)	Oct 23rd 1989 (Ouse Washes)
Nightingale	Jul 20th (Grafham Water)	Sep 6th 1996 (Bainton)
Redstart	Oct 20th (Reach)	Nov 11th 2003 (Stuntney)
Whinchat	Oct 17th (Grafham Water)	Dec 5th 1976 (Whittlesford)
Wheatear	Sep 30th (Nene Washes & Stretham)	Nov 24th 1957 (Melbourn)
Yellow Wagtail	Oct 9th (Stanground)	Dec 5th 1982 (Eye)

Changes for 2018: None

WINTER MIGRANTS: LATEST DEPARTURE DATES

Excludes occasional mid-summer records; NR: no records received.

SPECIES	LATEST 2018	LATEST EVER
Pink-footed Goose	May 8th (Nene Washes)	May 14th 1959 (Central Fens)
White-fronted Goose	Mar 11th (Etton-Maxey Pits)	May 27th 2008 (Paxton Pits)
Bewick's Swan	Mar 17th (Ouse Washes)	May 13th 2000 (Nene Washes)
Whooper Swan	May 20th (Ouse Washes)	May 23rd 2001 (Nene Washes)
Scaup	May 13th (Nene Washes)	Jun 18th 2001 (Grafham Water)
Smew	Apr 15th (Colne Fen GP)	Apr 23rd 2009 (Barleycraft GP)
Great Northern Diver	NR	May 25th 2015 (Grafham Water)
Hen Harrier	May 27th (Little Wilbraham Fen)	Jun 30th 2007 (Wicken Fen)
Rough-legged Buzzard	Feb 17th (Wryde Croft)	May 6th 1975 (Holme Fen)
Jack Snipe	May 3rd (Nene Washes)	May 29th 1953 (Ouse Washes)
Iceland Gull	Apr 15th (Ouse Washes)	May 7th 2005 (Flag Fen)
Glaucous Gull	NR	Apr 27th 1991 (Nene Washes)
Merlin	May 17th (Nene Washes)	May 24th 2003 (Fowlmere)
		May 24th 2003 (Stilton)
Great Grey Shrike	NR	May 17th 1978 (Marholm)
Waxwing	NR	May 5th 1979 (St. Ives)
Fieldfare	Apr 15th (5 sites)	May 24th 1980 (Ouse Washes)
Redwing	May 26th (Abington Piggotts)	Jun 4th 1975 (Hilton)
Water Pipit	Apr 15th (Nene Washes)	May 13th 2000 (Wicken Fen)
		May 13th 2007 (Paxton Pits)
Rock Pipit	Mar 31st (Paxton Pits)	May 12th 2014 (Paxton Pits)
Brambling	Apr 20th (Paxton Pits)	May 8th 1978 (Ouse Washes)

Changes for 2018: none

WINTER MIGRANTS: EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATES

Excludes occasional mid-summer/breeding records; NR: no records received.

SPECIES	EARLIEST 2018	EARLIEST EVER
Pink-footed Goose	Sep 22nd (Cam Washes)	Sep 7th 2016 (Littleport)
White-fronted Goose	Nov 19th (Nene Washes)	Sep 30th 1994 (Nene Washes)
Bewick's Swan	Oct 26th (Cam Washes)	Sep 22nd 1997 (Ouse Washes)
Whooper Swan	Sep 23rd (Cambridge Res. Pk)	Sep 1st 2007 (Nene Washes)
Scaup	Jul 31st (Grafham Water)	Jul 7th 2009 (Paxton Pits)
Smew	Nov 25th (3 sites)	Oct 20th 1971 (Ely BF)
Great Northern Diver	NR	Oct 8th 2010 (Grafham Water)
Hen Harrier	Sep 16th (Colne Fen GP)	Jul 19th 2012 (Eltisley/Waresley)
Rough-legged Buzzard	Nov 3rd (Great Fen Project)	Sep 21st 1968 (Ouse Washes)
		Sep 21st 1976 (Hinchingbrooke CP)
Jack Snipe	Oct 7th (Paxton Pits)	Jul 26th 1935 (Burwell Fen)
Iceland Gull	NR	Nov 21st 1999 (Grafham Water)
Glaucous Gull	NR	Oct 25th 2011 (Dogsthorpe Tip)
Merlin	Sep 22nd (Clopton)	Jul 5th 1997 (Godmanchester GP)
Great Grey Shrike	Oct 30th (Ellington)	Sep 23rd 1994 (Ouse Washes)
Waxwing	Dec 26th (March)	Oct 23rd 2016 (March)
Fieldfare	Oct 5th (Kings Dyke NR)	Sep 2nd 1989 (Hilton)
Redwing	Sep 25th (Cambridge)	Sep 1st 1979 (Ramsey)
Water Pipit	Nov 11th (Berry Fen)	Sep 13th 2001 (Grafham Water)
Rock Pipit	Oct 6th (Grafham Water)	Sep 13th 2013 (Grafham Water)
Brambling	Oct 7th (Sutton Gault)	Aug 30th 1950 (Great Paxton)

Changes for 2018: None.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

These guidelines apply from January 1st 2016.

The following categories give some indication of the types of records required for each species.

RECORDS OF NATIONAL RARITIES

Records currently assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) require a full description. Description forms are available from the BBRC website or from the County Recorder, who will forward the completed forms to the BBRC. Records can also be submitted online (www.bbrc.org.uk).

COUNTY RECORDS (INCLUDING COUNTY RARITIES)

(a) Species or subspecies (latter in *italics*) requiring descriptions (all records required)

Pale-bellied Brent Goose (<i>hrota</i>)	American Golden Plover
Taiga Bean Goose	Kentish Plover
Tundra Bean Goose	Purple Sandpiper
Greenland White-fronted Goose	White-rumped Sandpiper
(<i>flavirostris</i>)	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
American Wigeon	Pectoral Sandpiper
Green-winged Teal	Red-necked Phalarope
Ring-necked Duck	Grey Phalarope
Lesser Scaup	
Eider	Sabine's Gull
Surf Scoter	Ring-billed Gull
Velvet Scoter	Kumlien's Gull (<i>kumlieni</i>)
Long-tailed Duck	Roseate Tern
	White-winged Black Tern
Red-throated Diver	
Black-throated Diver	Pomarine Skua
Great Northern Diver	Arctic Skua
	Long-tailed Skua
Storm Petrel	
Leach's Petrel	Little Auk
Fulmar	Guillemot
Sooty Shearwater	Razorbill
Manx Shearwater	Puffin
Red-necked Grebe	Nightjar
Slavonian Grebe	Alpine Swift
	Bee-eater
	Hoopoe
White Stork	
Glossy Ibis	Red-footed Falcon
Night-heron	Ring-necked Parakeet
Purple Heron	
Honey-buzzard	Red-backed Shrike
Goshawk	Great Grey Shrike (must exclude other possible races/forms)
Montagu's Harrier	Woodchat Shrike
Black Kite	Golden Oriole
White-tailed Eagle	
Rough-legged Buzzard	Hooded Crow

Continental Coal Tit (<i>ater</i>)	Red-spotted Bluethroat (<i>svecica</i>)
Willow Tit (should include call)	White-spotted Bluethroat (<i>cyanecula</i>)
Penduline Tit	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Woodlark	Dipper
Shore Lark	
Short-toed Lark	Grey-headed Wagtail (<i>thunbergi</i>)
Red-rumped Swallow	Richard's Pipit
Wood Warbler	Northern Bullfinch (<i>pyrrhula</i>)
Yellow-browed Warbler	Common Rosefinch
Pallas's Warbler	Twite
Siberian Chiffchaff (<i>tristis</i>)	Greenland Redpoll (<i>rostrata</i>)
Scandinavian Chiffchaff (<i>abietinus</i>)	Arctic Redpoll (unless determined to Subsp, when it is BBRC)
Blyth's Reed Warbler	Serin
Marsh Warbler	
Icterine Warbler	Lapland Bunting
Barred Warbler	Snow Bunting
Dartford Warbler	Cirl Bunting
Rose-coloured Starling	Little Bunting

(b) Scarce or uncommon species (all records required).

(c) Common or abundant species (selected records required).

- (1) All records of confirmed breeding or birds holding territory.
- (2) All significant counts of roosts or flocks.
- (3) Earliest and latest records for migrants.
- (4) Migration or weather-related movements.

(d) Feral birds and escapes/suspected escapes (all records required).

(e) Hybrids (all records required).

Submission forms for species requiring full descriptions

These can be obtained from the County Recorder and also from the club website. Please note that the 'local rarities form' on BirdTrack is NOT considered an acceptable vehicle for submission at present. The following information is required:

- (1) Name of observer (address and telephone number) and names of other observers.
- (2) Who found and identified the bird and any who disagree with the identification?
- (3) Date, time of day and duration of observation.
- (4) An indication of weather and light conditions.
- (5) Optical aids used and distance of the bird(s) from the observer.
- (6) Identification of species, including where possible an estimate of sex and age.
- (7) An accurate, concise description made at the time of sighting, or as soon as possible afterwards, and preferably before referral to a field guide.
- (8) An indication of previous experience of the species and possible confusion species.

Submitting records

Records can be submitted to the County Recorder by email, on paper or via BirdTrack.

Submitting records by email

Due to an increasing volume of records being submitted, the task of processing them has become extremely arduous. The club encourages as many members as possible to submit their records using the club's spreadsheet by email to the County Recorder, as this greatly reduces the work involved. The spreadsheet can be downloaded from the CBC website or is available by email from the County Recorder.

Records of rare breeding birds

The Cambridgeshire Bird Club places great importance on the collection of sound data on rare breeding birds. These data are submitted annually to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) for inclusion in their annual national report, published in *British Birds*. These records are treated in strict confidence. We encourage all observers to pass such records to the County Recorder.

LIST OF RECORDS NOT PROVEN OR PENDING

CBC Records Committee for 2018

Chairman:	Robin Cox
Secretary:	Bruce Martin
Voting members:	Steve Cooper, Richard Grimmett, Jonathan Taylor, Richard Thomas and Mark Ward

Assessment of records

Descriptions of county rarities are assessed by the CBC Records Committee and acceptance is based on a simple majority decision. In most cases of non-acceptance, records are considered to be unproven because the identification is not fully established in the submitted description. More rarely, the Committee considers that a genuine mistake has been made. It may also be necessary to rule out hybrids or escapees.

Records not proven 2018

Black Kite	Cambridge, Godmanchester, Fen Drayton Lakes, Cottenham	May, June, October
Rough-legged Buzzard	Manea	Dec 13th
Pectoral Sandpiper	Godmanchester GP	Dec 9th
Willow Tit	Redmere	Feb 27th
Woodlark	Eaton Ford	Oct 18th

Records not proven 2017

Goshawk	Peterborough	Aug 13th
Nightjar	Chippenham Fen	Jul 21st

An increasing number of records remain unsubmitted. The CBCRC will always welcome any late submissions.

FALCATED DUCK - NEW TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE***Colin Kirtland***

On April 1st 1988 I visited Buckden Pits, a site which, although infrequently visited, then held much of interest.

Among the fifteen species of waterfowl present, including forty Goldeneye, was a flock of Wigeon grazing on one of the islands. To my surprise, feeding with them was a male Falcated Duck, unmistakable with its glossy purple and green head, the long feathers of the nape giving a maned appearance, and a white spot above the bill. The throat and neck were pure white, crossed below by a black collar; the back, flanks and breast were grey, the latter finely marked with darker crescents. The upper and under tail coverts were black with a pale, yellowish patch at the sides. The prominent black and white inner secondaries were elongated and strongly curved, forming the sickle shape (Latin *falcatus*) which give the bird its name.

Aware that the species was not on the official (Category A) British list owing to the doubt surrounding any sightings of wildfowl known to kept in captivity, I nevertheless took a description in the remote hope that it might some day be admitted to the list. The record was accepted by the BBRC and was included in the Cambridge Bird Club report (no.62 p.51).

Finally in 2019 it was decided to grant the species official status and assign it to Category A, a decision based partly on the habit of vagrant wildfowl to associate with "carrier" species migrating from the same breeding area. In this case there is considerable overlap in the breeding ranges of Wigeon and Falcated Duck around Lake Baikal in Siberia. The Baikal Teal was also recently added to the list for the same reason. Although the first for Cambridgeshire, what was considered to be the same bird was first seen at Welney in December 1986 before moving to Northants where it remained until 5th April 1987. It then returned to Welney with Wigeon on 20th August and again moved to Northants where it stayed until 6th March, three weeks before being seen at Buckden. With 25 later records originally assigned to Category D, further assessment may well add others to the list but this bird is now officially recognised as the first.

BONAPARTE'S GULL, NEW TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Richard Grimmett

On the 14th April 2018, the River Ouse was in flood and the flooded fields at Middle Fen and Ferry Lagoon, Fen Drayton Lakes, were full of gulls, mainly Black-headed. I routinely check through gull flocks in the hope of something more interesting, and at this time of year there is always a chance of a Mediterranean Gull. Bonaparte's Gull is also usually on my mind, and was particularly so on this occasion, as David Hopkins had reported one from Witcham Gravel on the Ouse Washes, c 16km to the north, three days earlier.

David had reported his sighting on Cambirds on the 11th and 12th April. Although personally confident of the identification, he felt he did not get enough detail on the bird, and without a photo decided he did not have enough to submit the record.

Ferry Lagoon was covered in gulls, actively swimming about picking insects off the surface of the water. I had checked them all as best I could once, and on returning thought I would have one last look through them, this time from a peninsular sticking out into the lagoon in the south-west corner. The gulls were close and within minutes I was on to a bird that was noticeably smaller than a Black-headed Gull. I checked and double-checked the size difference to be sure I wasn't imagining it. The hood was a shade darker and sooty-black rather than brown, and the bill was finer and darker, although both features were not that striking on first impressions. I couldn't quite believe it, and checked that the wing pattern at rest was much as Black-headed, to make sure it wasn't a Little Gull (although it was too large by comparison with the nearby Black-headed to be one). Still not yet quite believing it, I sent a message to the local birders 'Whatsapp' group 'Pretty sure I have a Bonys Ferry SW corner', followed by 'now 99% sure' and then when I caught sight of its pink legs as it paddled about, a follow-up message 'It is one, can someone put out the news'. Any nagging lack of confidence was soon cast aside when it flew a short distance to reveal the underwing patterning that I had pleaded with it to show. Despite it being reasonably close, it was amongst hundreds of gulls, all moving about, and I struggled to get some record shots through the scope and for a few moments each time would lose the bird. The first record shots only captured Black-headed Gulls (which, had the bird disappeared, would have been very unsettling).

Richard Bradbury was first to arrive, but my other Ouse Fen birding pals were otherwise engaged, with Jeremy Lindsell in Kent and Richard Thomas incommunicado at a Council Meeting of the Oriental Bird Club. Thankfully Richard Bradbury was able to obtain some good video footage and by this time I had some reasonable shots through the scope. It wasn't long before a number of birders arrived including Bruce Martin and Richard Patient. This was an important moment in the history of Cambridgeshire birding. Not only were we watching a first for Cambridgeshire, but both Bruce and Richard became the first birders to reach 300 species for the county (I can't honestly remember which of them arrived first!). Remarkable for me was the fact that I had spotted the bird from the same peninsular where two years earlier I had picked out a Franklin's Gull in amongst a roosting flock of Black-headed Gulls! I really must build a shrine here to the birding gods.

In a calm state of mind, the bird was reasonably straight-forward to identify, but at the same time could be so easily overlooked. The main features were the following:

- (1) Small size. This is what first attracted me to the bird in comparison with nearby Black-headed Gulls, and its slightly smaller size remained apparent throughout the day. The bird was daintier than Black-headed, slimmer in neck and body and with a smaller looking head with domed crown.
- (2) Finer, more pointed blackish bill. Not jet black, but appearing more knitting-needle-like and lacking a noticeable downward curve to the culmen as in Black-headed.
- (3) Blackish hood, more sooty-black than brown but in bright sunlight this did not stand out as much as was expected. The hood was not immaculate as in some nearby Black-headed and there was a small, pale area on the forehead. The dark edge to the throat and nape was also not clear-cut. The bird showed an off-white eye-ring, mainly apparent behind the eye.
- (4) When seen in flight, and captured well in some photographs, the white triangle ('wedge') on the underside of the primaries appeared more extensive than on Black-headed and the black trailing edge to the underside of the primaries was more clear-cut. The underside to the inner primaries was pale grey, not dark grey as in Black-headed, and concolorous with the underside to the secondaries.
- (5) The legs and feet were pink, and this feature was seen well in flight and occasionally when bathing and swimming.
- (6) The mantle was a shade darker grey than Black-headed, showing a little more contrast with the white rump and tail.

The bird remained in the same area for much of the day, as did the many feeding Black-headed Gulls, and was seen by more than 50 other observers. It was last seen flying off towards Drayton Lagoon (part of the Fen Drayton complex) about 7pm. Richard Thomas had brought the OBC Council meeting to an abrupt end when we finally managed to get the news to him, and he arrived just in time to see the bird. We will never know whether it was the same as David's Witcham Gravel bird.

LITTLE CRAKE, THIRD FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Richard Bradbury

As in recent years, I had agreed with the warden of Ouse Fen RSPB reserve, Hannah Bernie, that I would conduct surveys for calling crakes during May and June. Though there is little suitable habitat for spotted (the target species) or Baillon's Crake (the very hopeful target species), and following my discovery of a singing Marsh Warbler the previous year, I nevertheless enjoy the annual wander in the dark, full of hope of a Corncrake, or maybe a Savi's or Great Reed Warbler.

So I came to be on the fen on the evening of Tuesday 15th May 2018. Conscious that a pair of Cranes (as it transpired, non-breeding) were in the area I ensured that I arrived in the focal area (cells 3-6 of Ouse Fen) after dark had descended, when I would hopefully minimise any disturbance. At about 21:30, as I walked between cells 4 and 5, I heard an unfamiliar trilling call from within the reed-bed. There was open water between me and the bird, but my best guess was that it was about 30-50m away. The call varied in volume, presumably because of both the direction the bird was pointing and because it was moving around – it proved impossible to triangulate exactly where it was because the open water limited by ability to move.

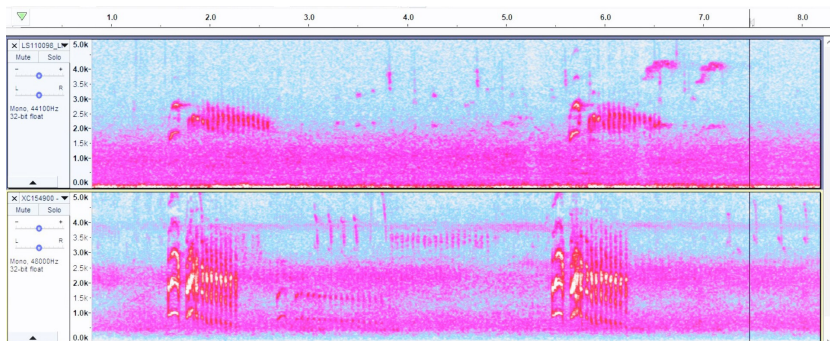
I couldn't immediately place the call, which was slightly reminiscent of the trill of a Little Grebe, but not really sufficiently for me to think it could be that species. My mind ran through Spotted Crake and Baillon's Crake, which I'd heard several times before, but it clearly wasn't either of them. Indeed, as mentioned, the habitat (reed bed with very little fringe at all, and open water) didn't seem the right habitat. I also considered Little Crake (at least male Little Crake!), which I'd heard previously in Ukraine, because the reed-bed habitat seemed more suitable, but the call wasn't right for that either. I actually walked on about 100 yards, thinking I'd need to pass it off as one of those things that would never get resolved (I seem to hear something I can't place on most crake surveys). But something was nagging at me. Not least because it was calling repeatedly – about 3 to 8 seconds apart – and more or less consistently, though with a slightly variable length to the 'tail' of the trill. I decided to check the BirdGuides app on my phone, in case there were any calls I was unfamiliar with. I felt sure it must be a rail or crake, because of the consistency and frequency of the calls, so I typed in the word 'crake'. I first looked at Baillon's, but the only audio clip was of the song I knew, which didn't fit with the mystery bird. I then opened the little crake page and, to my surprise, found clips of both male and female song. I first listened to the male song, to check I had remembered it correctly. I had – it was nothing like the mystery bird. Intrigued, I then checked the female song and was flabbergasted to discover it was a perfect fit.

It was now 21:48 and, still slightly disbelieving, I sent a WhatsApp message to the three other Over birders; Jeremy Lindsell (JL), Richard Thomas (RT) and Richard Grimmett (RG). Fortunately, all three of them replied almost instantly. RG was actually doing a crake survey elsewhere locally, and immediately set about cycling to join me. Neither I nor RG had decent sound-recording equipment, so I was very relieved when both RT and JL responded that they could be on site imminently with recording kit. Still not being able to believe that the calling would continue, I set about trying to get a recording on my phone, while I waited for the others to converge. To my surprise, I got a passable recording, but we badly needed a better recording. After a tense wait, the others joined me and were in position by 22:20. The bird had continued to call with the same regularity throughout this period. We spent about 15 minutes recording it before retiring for the night, some of us to check Xeno-canto for calls. Despite an extensive search, we could find no 'odd' Water Rail calls that fitted the bill - that ruled out one nagging bit of doubt. Also reassuringly, not only was there another female Little Crake call

(from Ukraine) that matched our bird, but that bird had also apparently called at the same frequency for at least 1.5 hours. That was reassuring, as we were all rather disbelieving that a female bird would call so frequently for so long. JL also found that his sonogram of the call was a perfect match for that of the female song on Xeno-canto, confirming what our ears were telling us. With us all reasonably confident that the bird must be a Little Crake, though also aware that there might be very little chance of seeing it because of the lack of a visible fringe to the reed-bed, I emailed the reserve team to inform them and to discuss whether we might be able to provide access. The four of us therefore convened again, with three reserve staff, at 20:15 on Wednesday 16th. Weather conditions were not in our favour, with a fierce and freezing northerly wind. Unable to hear anything, we gave up. The two cranes flew in during this period, immediately raising concern of disturbance to a possible nesting pair. Over the next few days, with much better weather conditions at times, the reserve staff and I established that (i) the cranes were not breeding, and (ii) the crake could be heard from outside the reserve, if the conditions were good. News was therefore released on various bird news networks, once wardening arrangements had been made to facilitate visitors finding the remote spot where the crake could be heard. Unfortunately, though, the crake was last heard (very briefly indeed) by myself on Monday 21st May, the day before the news was released.

Description of song

In good conditions, the call was repeated every 3-6 seconds. This persisted for many minutes – for instance, on the first evening, it had continued for over an hour and was still going when we left. On colder and windier nights, the calling was less frequent, sometimes apparently only once every few minutes. I would describe the call as a short trill. The call started with a slightly higher pitched ‘jump’, before going into a very slightly descending trill which lasted typically about 1 second, occasionally seeming to last slightly longer. A recording captured by JL is shown below, as is a sonogram from that recording (upper: LS110098), with that of the female Little Crake recording on Xeno-canto for comparison (lower: XC154900).



WHITE-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT - A FINDERS STORY

Mike Weedon

Do you ever get so excited by birds that you can't sleep? I do, it is like I am taken back to the Christmas Eves of my childhood. It may be the prospect of going off on a twitch, or even the night before a Big Day or Bird Race, but sleep comes hard. But I have never had this Avian Anticipation Insomnia as badly as on the night of 9-10 June 2018. The reason I was too excited for slumber was that the previous evening I had found one of the best birds I had ever found, certainly in Cambridgeshire. But I hadn't got even the slightest glimpse of it; everything had been done by ear, at dusk and after dark. And in the morning, there was a very high chance I was going to delight my eyes with views of a lovely male Bluethroat. The alarm was set for 4.30am; how was I supposed to sleep?

Let me take you back to the previous evening (Saturday, 9 June 2018). It was a lovely late afternoon and I decided it seemed perfect for a midsummer search for singing Quails. I live in Peterborough, and I tried a place where these mysterious little critters had been heard before, and it felt cracking for one that evening. Indeed, it looked inviting for a bit of a walk out into the promising habitat, along a handy path, where the closest thing to a wildflower meadow around these parts abutted a field of oilseed rape gone to green seed pods. There were Corn Buntings, Skylarks, Reed Buntings and plentiful Sedge Warblers finishing off their evening songs, but not a hint of Quail. Now, I was walking along a narrow dyke lined with a rich diversity of flowering plants, including some tall umbellifers; so much growth, you couldn't see the water in the ditch. The sun was setting, all was peaceful, I kept strolling, kept listening.

Then a song came out of the ditch which stopped me dead.

What the heck was that? It was pretty, pure, melodious, virtuoso even. But it was shockingly unfamiliar. Shocking, because you get so used to hearing the regular local birds, that when something this different comes along, it catches you off guard. It was quite a relaxed song, with phrases of repeated pure notes (slightly like a Song Thrush), interspersed with mimicry, and little complex warbles. The mimicry included very passable Swallow calls, Greenfinch, Green Sandpiper and sounds like chirping crickets, plus I don't know what else thrown in. And there were also single notes which rose in a crescendo, recalling Nightingale; but coming out of a ditch!

It was close. Very close. I felt I could almost reach out to its perch, it was that loud. But I couldn't see the singer no matter how I tried. It was now getting darker and the bird just kept belting out its song from the ditch, unseen. My mind was racing. This was something strange and rare sounding, and it sounded like nothing that 'should' be living in that part (or any other part) of Cambridgeshire. It wasn't quite right for those fancy rare *Acrocephalus* singers like Marsh or Blyth's Reed Warblers, was it? Those Nightingale-like tones struck a chord, and I considered the possibility of another *Luscinia*. Could this virtuoso be a Bluethroat? This was going to need checking.

I was the owner of a primordial mobile phone, far from 'smart'. It was time to make a call from the field and get a fellow birder or two onto Xeno-canto to check Bluethroat song. It was now truly dark, with no chance of seeing the songster. The first target didn't answer, the second did. He could hear the loud singer through my Stone Age device and was impressed! Then, as requested, he checked Xeno-canto and Bluethroat seemed right (but my phone couldn't hear his computer!). I made another call (as a Badger strolled by) to another very experienced birder, and the result was the same; this bird sounded good for Bluethroat.

I was home at 11 that night, whipped out my tablet and went straight on to Xeno-canto to check for myself, against some crude recordings my phone had made, plus my own memory. Immediately, I was totally convinced that 'my' bird was indeed a Bluethroat. Hence, that night of little sleep. at 5.15am on Sunday 10 June, I arrived (along with that first person to answer my field call). Just few minutes walking later we could hear it blasting out its lovely song, just like the previous evening! And just a few minutes after that we were looking at a beautiful male white-spotted Bluethroat belting out its morning song from seeded heads in the corner of the oil-seed rape field next to the previous night's well-vegetated dyke.

The Bluethroat remained in this vicinity for a further couple of weeks or so. It had an established pattern of singing at first light for an hour or so, then remaining largely quiet for most of the day (except the occasional burst of song and even brief song flight), before resuming loud singing at sunset for another hour or so. Otherwise it was as elusive as sleep was for me on that first night.

The management of the site and the county recorder decided not to widely publicise the Bluethroat's locality, for the following reasons. As a singing male, it was a rare bird on potential breeding territory. The habitat of the area where the bird was singing was fragile and potentially vulnerable to damage from a large number of visitors, with other rare breeding birds nearby that would be susceptible to disturbance. Additionally, parking in the vicinity was extremely limited.

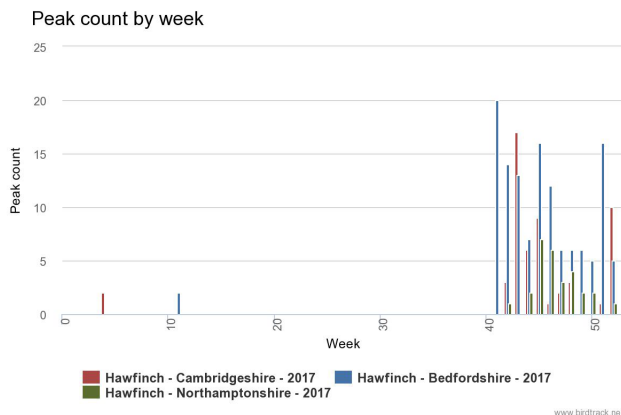
HAWFINCH ARRIVAL, WINTER 2017-2018

Louise Bacon

In Cambridgeshire, we average 1 or 2 records per year of this enigmatic finch, usually in autumn or spring from woodlands. Nationally, Hawfinch is a scarce breeder with an estimated 500 to 1000 pairs in Britain. The Atlas distribution is very patchy, (<https://app.bto.org/mapstore/StoreServlet?id=485>) with population centres in the New Forest, Forest of Dean, North Wales, Lancashire and a scattering across southern England, and a winter distribution scattered across England but with higher densities in these breeding areas.

And then in 2017, something happened. Although small numbers of migrant Hawfinches are noted every autumn across England, from early October onwards, single birds and even flocks began to be observed well away from traditional breeding sites and coastal watchpoints. The origin of this influx is difficult to pinpoint, but observers in several other European countries had noted higher than average counts of Hawfinches. Records logged in BirdTrack included peak counts of over 100 birds, with the reporting rate exceeding 3% of complete lists by the end of October, more than 12 times higher than the historical average.

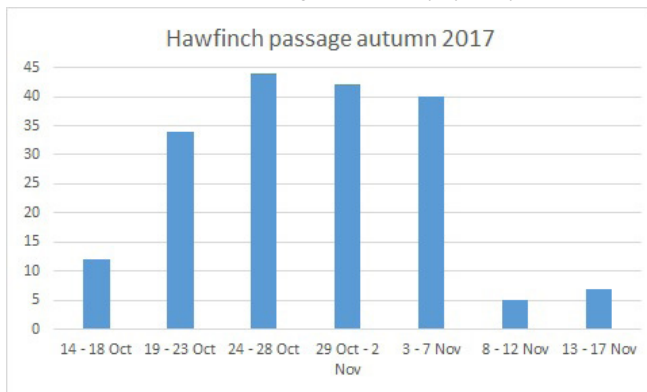
Many central England counties noted the phenomenon at around the same time in Mid October, and the widespread use of county message services or similar meant that word rapidly spread from county to county to keep a watch for flyover birds from gardens, parks or regular inland visible migration (vismig) watchpoints. Bedfordshire logged its first one a day before us, on October 13th, Buckinghamshire on October 16th and similarly across central England. The chart below shows the Birdtrack weekly counts for Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.



The reasons for this irruption are not clear, but this influx was unprecedented, and probably originates with east European birds moving following a tree seed (mast) failure, although gathering evidence to support this or other reason has been difficult.

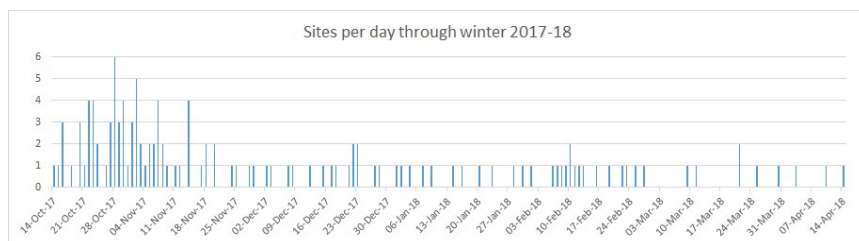
Between the start of the influx in the county on October 14th and the last date of a noted flyover bird on November 20th, there were 71 records. As the events were so unusual, many birders were minded to submit some nice extra info with their count, e.g. the time of flyover, or a total number with a split of groups during an hour period or similar relevant information. From this we can build a good picture of

the movement, and it is noteworthy that it was clearly a diurnal event; the very few sound recordings made from those carrying out nocturnal recording logging had birds not long before dawn. Most of the diurnal observationn with times provided had birds flying over between 7am and 10am. The chart below shows the passage in the county by 5-day periods.



Very few sightings in this period were of birds which landed, very occasionally this noteworthy event was mentioned; so, presumably Cambridgeshire was mostly not to their liking and birds continued south and west to better feeding grounds. From late November onwards through the winter, no movement was noted. A flock did settle around Wimpole Hall, and although not straightforward to see, they did give good views by the carpark to many observers. The county record was broken three times during the winter, in 2017 twice with 17 vismig birds over Ferry Meadows CP on Oct 28th (groups of 7, 6, 2 and two singles) and 14 at Wimpole Park during November. However, this was beaten again in January 2018 at Wimpole when 18 birds were seen one day. They were somewhat mobile and not always in the same flock, so it is not clear how many birds were present at Wimpole - it could have been more than 20. Other settled birds were reported from Woodwalton Fen 4 on Nov 18th and a single on Dec 2nd, Lynch Wood 2 on Dec 12th and Southey Wood on Nov 25th. Varying numbers remained at Wimpole Park until Mar 30th, with high counts of 18 on Jan 14th and 16 on Feb 19th. Elsewhere at Madingley Hall from Feb 10th (8 birds) to Apr 10th (3), Belham Wood 2 on Mar 11th, Castor Hanglands 2 on Apr 14th and a single at St Ives on Apr 3rd.

The chart below shows the number of sites recording hawfinch daily through the winter.



DUNKIRK: A DOMESTIC FENLAND REWILDING JOURNEY

Tony Martin

Cambridgeshire Fenland is renowned for having been drained centuries ago and now being intensively cultivated to within an inch of its life, leaving little room for wildlife. But in recent decades some substantial areas have been taken out of cultivation and partially re-wetted, rapidly becoming oases of biodiverse richness in an otherwise monotonous landscape. Kingfishers Bridge and the Great Fen project are perhaps the best known such developments, but there are numerous others, among them a mere 25 hectare patch at Dunkirk, a hamlet just a kilometre east of Pymore. Blink, and you miss it. Half of those driving through Dunkirk are lost, there being no road signs in any direction. I bought a house and a 5 hectare field, notorious for being poorly drained and useless for potato growing, at Dunkirk in 1991. Inspired by a memorable visit to Slimbridge in my youth, the vague plan was to dig some holes, fill them with water and hope that ducks and swans might use them one day. Use them they soon did, and within a year or two a thousand Wigeon were whiffing in to roost at dusk, along with hundreds of Gadwall, Teal, Tufted Duck and of course Mallard. Better still, Bewick's Swans arrived, in small numbers at first, but then up to 50 in a hard winter. Recognised by their beak patterns, another bow to Slimbridge, and later darvic colour rings (what a privilege to be able to ring Bewick's in the garden), individual swans began to return year after year, bringing their cygnets. Some, no doubt having learned the trick from Slimbridge, began to feed under floodlights outside the back door, and before long three generations of Bewick's were routinely on the lake from November until February. The first lesson had been learned - create the habitat, and the wildlife will follow.

Some years later, the opportunity arose to buy some adjacent fields and expand the experiment. Mortgaging to the hilt, but now with financial support from the Government's agri-environment scheme, some very large machinery moved thousands of tonnes of soil and clay to create a vast waterproof substrate for a scrape and reedbed. In addition, several generations of field drains were systematically deactivated over the entire property, no doubt causing successive farmers of this land to turn in their graves, but resulting in much better retention of rain and the possibility to create some wet grassland for breeding and wintering waders. As part of this development, pipes were laid to bring water from a nearby drainage ditch (courtesy of the local IDB and subject to an abstraction licence) whenever levels needed to be topped up, though in reality pumped water has not often been needed, such has been the efficacy of the clay substrate.

Once again, with the new habitat came the birds. When designing the scrape and its islands, and using a laser level to get the water depth just right, I remember thinking that I'd die a happy man if an Avocet ever landed here, even for a few moments. Imagine the excitement, then, when an Avocet did land that first spring, and then another and another. Seventeen pairs laid eggs in that first season 2007, and numbers peaked in 2010 with an astonishing 40 pairs. The Avocets were joined by Little Ringed Plovers, Redshanks, Lapwings and even drumming Snipe. A few Black-headed Gulls arrived to breed in 2007, their numbers building to a maximum of about 1,200 pairs in 2016, when over 2,200 juveniles fledged. The non-stop line of adults flying between the Milton tip and Dunkirk, seen from the A10, left little doubt where much of the food came from to rear those chicks! In 2014 a pair of Mediterranean Gulls bred, fledging two chicks, one of which was seen a few months later in Morocco and subsequently annually in Cornwall. The size of the raucous colony inevitably attracted the attention of larger gulls, and soon both Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were attempting to breed, mercilessly harrassed by their smaller cousins and the Avocets, in particular.

The bare soils were quickly colonised by vegetation, creating a mosaic of habitats. The reedbed grew from a few lonely strands to a dense, impenetrable forest, attracting noisy Reed and Sedge Warblers, together with Water Rails, Cuckoos and Marsh Harriers. Mixed hedges, bramble thickets and willow scrub were used by several breeding warblers and, as discovered by erecting mist nets for ringing, astonishing numbers of migrating birds in late summer and autumn. On a calm morning in late July or August, well over a hundred birds would drop into the nets and receive a ring. The next morning they would be replaced by another 100+, few of which would already have a ring. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggested that over ten thousand warblers use the site each year - mostly Reed, Sedge, Whitethroat, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warblers, but with significant numbers of Lesser Whitethroat, Cetti's and Garden Warblers. And of course each damp, cold sunrise brings with it the alluring possibility of something unusual - perhaps a Nightingale, a Yellow-browed or a Barred Warbler. Non-warblers have included quite a few Redstart, two Wryneck, a Little Bunting and even a Black-winged Red Bishop - the latter identified by consensus among a number of birders with far greater experience of this group of birds than myself. I just know that they have a wicked bite.

As the numbers of migrating passerines built up, so did the assemblage of waders on the scrape. Twenty-six species have been recorded to date, most in significant numbers, but some in just ones and twos. In winter, Jack Snipe, Snipe and Woodcock take over the scrape and surrounding fields, the smaller species sometimes surprisingly in the majority, as revealed by a recent purchase - my trusty thermal imager.

Some innovations turn out to be useless, such as a futile attempt to attract Kingfishers into a newly-built mound of soil on the edge of the lake. They never so much as investigated the carefully crafted edifice, let alone nested in it. Other ideas were more successful, of which a concrete bunker with a grass roof and 186 holes in the front was one of the best. Not only did this find favour with the fussy Kingfishers, but it soon became home to a thriving colony of Sand Martins, and a source of wonder. Who would have thought that a single bird could produce 49 fledged chicks (and may yet return to produce more)? Or that females often leave their mates to fledge the kids so that they can shack up with another bloke to start another clutch? There's a lot more to Sand Martins than meets the eye.

The successes listed above may give the impression of a smooth and trouble free journey from ploughed field to wildlife heaven. Nothing could be further from reality. In the early years every new species turning up was a victory, and it seemed that nothing could halt the exciting trajectory, but soon reality intervened. In a heart-breaking development, the gulls got a taste for young Avocets, and an Oystercatcher for their unhatched embryos. I watched in horror as this bird walked purposefully from nest to nest, piercing each egg in turn, opening the two halves, tossing back its head and swallowing the embryo with great relish, just as we would an oyster. The next year, every Avocet chick was taken by a male Sparrowhawk that flashed over the scrape from behind a protective bank, and the year after that they all starved because an invasive water weed (*Crassula*) swamped the water margins. The latest challenge is presented by neighbours, one a crisp factory a kilometre away, whose LED security lights illuminate the Fen and the Fenland sky to the extent that there is no longer any darkness. Many birds vote with their wings and prefer to move somewhere unaffected by this pointless and damaging pollution.

Fortunately, most of the neighbours are far more supportive, not least the delightful, hard-working farmers. They may not necessarily share my excitement in seeing a distant peregrine whizz past, but they genuinely welcome a place for nature, especially if it's not their land that needs to be left untidy for it to thrive. And they were thrilled to discover that I would welcome deliveries of reject potatoes for

the swans to feed on, thereby freeing them of the risk of blight on their own fields. In a hard winter, upwards of a thousand Whoopers and Bewick's, together with a carpet of wigeon, gadwall and teal, will consume a tonne per day, matching what the farmers can produce. All went swimmingly for years, but on return from one long Antarctic fieldtrip I discovered that some of the nearest neighbours were complaining about a pungent smell emanating from the field where the potatoes were dumped. A farmer had assumed that the swans would eat rotting onions, too, so had generously brought in twenty tonnes of them, a month earlier. The result was a bubbling, heaving, malodorous morass with an orange crust. It took me ages with an excavator to bury the stuff, and to this day I can't face onion soup. But it was a small price to pay for the privilege of periodically having a significant proportion of Europe's noisiest swans in the garden over many winters

Above all, perhaps, the lesson learned over the past 28 years is one I was taught as a young ecology student - that little in nature is static, especially in man-made landscapes like ours. I look at photographs of the site in the early years, and can hardly believe how barren it looks compared to today. The myriad Wigeon and other ducks that were taken for granted at that time have been largely banished by the trees, scrub and reeds that now occupy what was then open water and its margins. Similarly, the scrape that was once just water and bare soil demands huge amounts of time and machinery just to keep the remorseless vegetation at bay. Maintenance of a Fenland reserve demands swimming madly against the tide of ecological succession. Last summer I spent 6 weeks sitting on big yellow machines removing and carting away 3,500 tonnes of sediment that had accumulated in the lake over a period of a quarter of a century, quite a lot of it brought in on the muddy feet of swans, I suspect. The water had gone from 3 metres deep to just 15cm, and consequently botulism had struck - a toxin only released in warm, shallow waters. In a few more years, the water would have disappeared completely, reed and scrub would take over, and eventually the lake would become a stand of trees. But of course the habitat succession has produced winners as well as losers, not least the migrating songbirds that use vegetation for foraging as well as cover, and the likes of the harriers, Buzzards and owls that hunt in the meadows and reedbeds. The beneficiaries are not just birds, of course. Butterflies and dragonflies now abound, as do grass snakes, lizards and amphibians. A walk after sunset with the thermal imager reveals Harvest Mice, Hedgehogs, deer, Fox, Badgers and even an Otter. Create the habitat, and wildlife will find it.

Barely a day goes by without something to get the pulse racing, and up to now not a year has passed without a new bird species being seen on or over the property (none of this 'I saw it a mile away through a scope while standing in my garden' nonsense at Dunkirk!). Within a few days in August 2017, no fewer than three new species turned up - a Long-eared Owl, a Red-necked Phalarope and a delightful family of Black-winged Stilts that had come over from the RSPB Ouse Washes reserve. Phalarope and stilts on the same pool at the same time, yet we're still to see the first Tawny Owl or Nuthatch! You can't have everything in a patch as small as this. The total as I write is 155 bird species, of which 107 have been caught and ringed. The ringing, and especially the colour-ringing, has shown how Dunkirk attracts winged visitors from a vast area of Europe, Russia and Africa. And it has shown that Dunkirk-hatched Avocets have settled to breed in many parts of England including, in a delightful circle of fate, the Rushy Pen at Slimbridge, where a young lad once gazed out over that magical scene and first dreamed of developing his own Rushy Pen.

NEST RECORDING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE*Louise Bacon*

The last report on this activity was in 2012. Although there is less formal promotion by the BTO, the Nest Records Scheme continues across the country, and by several dedicated folk in the county. Data freely available via the BTO website provides 4 years of data, so here we summarise recent nest recording years and compare 2015-2018 with 2009-2012 data as published in our 2012 report. The number of nest records has stabilised at around 620 per year; whilst this is lower than a decade before, there are notably no longer large reed warbler monitoring projects, other monitoring projects have also ceased, and fewer open-nesting farmland birds being monitored now. There may also be an element of reduction due to less push from the BTO on nest recording but we have no evidence for this.

The proportion of British nest recording done in Cambridgeshire is shown in table 1, which provides a count of monitored nests of each species. As a county we do not have a specifically outstanding species at which we excel. The Black-tailed Godwit monitoring is a time-limited monitoring project linked to the species recovery work being undertaken in Project Godwit; obviously as Cambridgeshire holds most of the UK *limosa* breeding pairs, and is the core of the project, this high proportion would be expected.

Table 1 Cambridge proportions of British nest recording, 2018.

Species	Britain & Ireland	England	Cambridgeshire	% BI	% Eng
Mute Swan	126	87	3	2.4	3.4
Mallard	70	63	2	2.9	3.2
Little Grebe	22	22	2	10.0	10.0
Great Crested Grebe	44	36	1	2.3	2.8
Marsh Harrier	42	42	1	2.4	2.4
Moorhen	164	156	8	4.9	5.1
Coot	257	197	1	0.4	0.6
Lapwing	420	264	5	1.2	1.9
Black-tailed Godwit	49	49	42	85.7	85.7
Common Tern	91	91	1	2.0	2.0
Stock Dove	1057	1008	89	8.4	8.8
Woodpigeon	413	351	6	1.5	1.8
Collared Dove	70	65	4	5.7	6.2
Barn Owl	2402	2061	72	3.0	3.5
Tawny Owl	419	368	7	1.7	1.9
Swift	131	123	11	8.4	8.9
Kestrel	533	503	25	4.7	5.0
Peregrine	288	261	1	0.3	0.4
Jackdaw	464	430	12	2.6	2.8
Coal Tit	146	104	1	0.7	1.0
Blue Tit	6831	5433	69	1.1	1.3
Great Tit	4404	3498	57	1.3	1.6

Species	Britain & Ireland	England	Cambridgeshire	% BI	% Eng
Skylark	51	39	1	2.0	2.6
Swallow	1612	1253	21	1.3	1.7
Long-tailed Tit	181	153	5	2.8	3.3
Willow Warbler	136	107	1	0.7	0.9
Chiffchaff	87	80	10	11.5	12.5
Blackcap	190	163	6	3.2	3.7
Garden Warbler	48	44	1	2.8	2.3
Whitethroat	81	77	1	1.2	1.3
Wren	205	140	9	4.4	6.4
Treecreeper	33	24	1	3.3	4.2
Starling	259	207	15	5.8	7.2
Blackbird	1292	922	27	2.9	2.9
Song Thrush	560	380	6	1.7	1.6
Mistle Thrush	41	32	2	4.9	6.3
Spotted Flycatcher	120	106	36	3.0	34.0
Robin	432	356	9	2.8	2.5
House Sparrow	511	417	8	1.6	1.9
Dunnock	275	215	12	4.4	5.6
Pied Wagtail	105	75	2	1.9	2.7
Chaffinch	157	109	2	1.3	1.8
Linnet	257	187	11	4.3	5.9
Goldfinch	117	90	6	5.1	6.7
totals	25193	20388	612	2.4	3.0
* includes species not recorded in cams	*38222	*30196			

Pulling out the top 10 species recorded in the county in 2018, they rank as follows in Table 2:

Cams top ten species 2018	Britain & Ireland	England	Cambridgeshire	% Eng
Stock Dove	1057	1008	89	8.8
Barn Owl	2402	2061	72	3.5
Blue Tit	6831	5433	69	1.3
Great Tit	4404	3498	57	1.6
Black-tailed Godwit	49	49	42	85.7
Spotted Flycatcher	120	106	36	34.0
Blackbird	1292	922	27	2.9
Kestrel	533	503	25	5.0
Swallow	1612	1253	21	1.7
Starling	259	207	15	7.2

The top 10 species monitored over the years are shown in table 3 below, ordered taxonomically, with the top three each year highlighted in bold:

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2012	2011	2010	2009
Black-tailed Godwit	5							
Stock Dove	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1
Wood Pigeon					9		9	10
Barn Owl	2	2	2	4	3	5	7	7
Kestrel	8	7	6		10			
Jackdaw			9	8				
Marsh Tit						10		
Blue Tit	3	3	3	3	2	2	5	4
Great Tit	4	4	4	2	4	6	3	3
Swallow	9	5	5	5	5	4	4	6
Chiffchaff		10		7				
Reed Warbler						1	1	5
Starling	10	9	7	10	7	9	10	9
Blackbird	7	6	8	6	8	8	6	2
Linnet								8
Corn Bunting					6	7	8	
Spotted Flycatcher	6	8						
Robin			10	9				
Total	612	635	715	626	669	941	968	690

There are some striking similarities as well as some notable changes. The top five have changed little in the last five years, but often the presence of a species related to a specific research project features for a year at a time, Stock Dove, Great Tit and Blue Tit nearly always well represented in the top 5. Barn Owl is more prominent in the most recent top fives - this may be down to more boxes being inspected and the nest record being completed when checking birds for ringing. The checking of Owl boxes almost certainly accounts for the top-ranking position of Stock Dove most years. As a regular user of unoccupied Barn Owl boxes this species gets monitored almost as 'bycatch' from Barn Owl monitoring.



Barn Owl Ann Biggs

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD RINGING REPORT 2018

Michael Holdsworth

2018 was a relatively quiet and undistinguished year for Cambridgeshire bird ringing. The total of 18,021 new birds ringed was lower than the 20,017 of the previous year (now revised up by the BTO from the 19,671 of our last report*). This is the lowest total since 2012, and well below the average of the previous six years which is 19,362 – though even this number see-saws up and down as historical numbers are continually revised. Our record total, from 2016, and again recently revised, is 24,163. There is probably no single cause for this fall in numbers. Some resident species were undoubtedly impacted by the end-February cold snap which brought the sort of snowfall and freezing conditions many of us had long forgotten. Some migrant species showed up in reduced numbers, particularly Sedge Warblers. But overall there was a general reduction in ringing activity across the board. The Wicken Fen Group, for example, hit a ten-year low of 3,025, partly because there was no targeting of migrant Meadow Pipits and Reed Buntings on Burwell Fen.

2018 was also distinguished by the lowest number of different species ringed annually in the last ten years – just 82. Not surprisingly no new species were added to the County list. The record (both 2011 and 2012) is 98 species and most years easily top 90. Higher totals in previous years have been helped along by wildfowl, wader and gull ringing, which barely featured in 2018. No large gulls have been ringed in the County since the brief resurrection of landfill ringing at Milton in 2013–14. Fourteen species from 2017 failed to show, including ‘scarce regulars’ such as Corn Bunting, Firecrest and Redstart. In contrast, eight species were recorded in 2018 but not in 2017. Four of these cropped up in Tony Martin’s ‘garden’: two Buzzards and a Marsh Harrier in his new baited trap; six Jack Snipe with his new thermal camera (the first for a long time); and two more Yellow-browed Warblers to sound lures. There were an additional two Yellow-browed Warblers caught at another fenland site. After a blank year, Yellow Wagtails were back on the list with 95, a nationally significant number, of which 61 were from the revived Wicken Fen roost.

For the first time, Cambridgeshire’s most-ringed species aligned themselves to the national Britain and Ireland pattern. Our top four has previously tended to feature our fenland favourites – Reed Warbler and Reed Bunting – but 2018’s new leader table has Blue Tit, of course, followed by Goldfinch, Great Tit and Blackcap. Nationally, it’s a slightly different order: Blue Tit, then Great Tit, Blackcap, Goldfinch. An astonishing 134,623 Blue Tits were ringed in B&I in 2018 with a third of these being nestlings, probably almost all from nestboxes (which is the same proportion as Great Tits). In contrast, hardly any nests of Blackcaps (249 pulli nationally) and Goldfinch (161) were ringed. Adults of both these species provide the easiest of targets for ringers. Their populations and ranges are expanding – with both changes to climate and garden feeding no doubt playing a role. Goldfinches now seem addicted to nyjer and sunflower hearts in our gardens (sixth in the RSPB’s Garden Birdwatch); and Blackcaps are ultra-responsive suckers for sound-lures both in spring and autumn – a sad fact that has in the last decade industrialised ‘traditional’ *ambelopoulia* trapping in Cyprus and other parts of the Middle East.

* The BTO’s online Ringing and Nest Recording Report is subject to revision after first publication. Some of the totals for previous years published in CBR Ringing Reports do not now match those shown online. Where this is the case, and where earlier Ringing Reports had a different number, the revised total has been shown here in italics.

These top four species accounted for almost exactly one in three of the overall total of 983,176 birds ringed in Britain and Ireland, a total which was also below the level of recent years. In Cambridgeshire the top-four proportion was greater (worse?) at 38% of the annual total; it had been 28% in 2017 for these four. In a slim and slow year, their numbers held up much better than those of the other migrant warblers, of woodland and farmland species or of any species of conservation concern. The table below shows the tallies and rankings of the top twenty species. As usual, the typical garden feeder species are highlighted in bold.

The table below shows the tallies and rankings of the top twenty species:

	<i>Species</i>	2018	<i>2017*</i>
1	Blue Tit	2,676	<i>2,571*</i>
2	Goldfinch	1,658	<i>1,600*</i>
3	Great Tit	1,518	<i>1,398*</i>
4	Blackcap	1,000	<i>1,174*</i>
5	Reed Warbler	898	<i>933*</i>
6	Reed Bunting	865	<i>1,182*</i>
7	Greenfinch	583	<i>610</i>
8	Blackbird	558	<i>799*</i>
9	Long-tailed Tit	537	<i>599*</i>
10	Starling	508	<i>475</i>
11	Chaffinch	449	<i>457*</i>
12	Dunnock	448	<i>642*</i>
13	Sand Martin	447	<i>618</i>
14	Robin	429	<i>651*</i>
15	House Sparrow	395	<i>469</i>
16	Wren	390	<i>549*</i>
17	Chiffchaff	364	<i>798*</i>
18	Swallow	329	<i>143*</i>
19	Redwing	314	<i>423*</i>
20	Barn Owl	283	<i>404*</i>

While the year total for birds of all ages was down, nest-recording and pullus ringing held up well at 2,314, almost exactly the same as 2017's 2,303*, but a higher proportion – 13%. Nestbox Blue Tits were back to average at 702, but Great Tit pulli numbers, for some reason, remain depressed – 363 against earlier years (for example, 608 in 2016, 835 in 2015). The big-box species had a relatively poor year: 272 Barn Owl chicks (377 in 2017) and only 64 Kestrels (107). Our two Sand Martin projects, at Dunkirk and at Ferry Meadows CP, did badly: 352 (519). Tony Martin's 186-hole bunker at Dunkirk accounted for 199 of these. The long-term ringing there of every chick and almost every adult continues to yield insights. One female fledged her 40th chick, with the help of six different mates, and eight others have produced 25 fledged chicks or more. The capture of adults ringed as chicks elsewhere, and the reporting of Dunkirk-ringed chicks breeding in other colonies, has led to an investigation of natal dispersal in this species using all the BTO data. The results are intriguing, and the resulting paper will be offered to a BTO journal for publication. Other focussed breeding studies and projects continue to deliver. Forty-one Black-tailed Godwits, associated with the RSPB's head-starting project, represent most of the national total. Ninety-four pulli Spotted Flycatchers were a continuing by-product of the geolocator project. Nineteen more flycatchers were tagged out of 39 new adults caught. Two new nest-recording projects deserve a mention. Forty-seven Tree Sparrows ringed at Redmere were the first for very many years. While some way short of Wiltshire's eye-watering battery-farm total (2,322 Tree Sparrow pulli in 2018 was their best year ever) it is hoped to continue this work in future years. Simon Evans, working with Dick Newell's 'Action for Swifts'

accounted for 124 of the 144 nestling Swifts ringed in the county; and 105 of an identical 144 ringed next-door in Suffolk. The two counties combined represent over half the national pulli total. The Cambridgeshire numbers come from church nestbox initiatives in Ely, St Neots and Landbeach; the 124 came from 57 broods.

The national ringing total in 2018 for Britain and Ireland fell to 983,176 to which Cambridgeshire's totals made a disproportionate contribution both in numbers and in the variety of species processed. Some nationally significant numbers are shown below.

	Cambs 2018	Britain and Ireland	County ranking and percentage of national total	Top county and total
Black-tailed Godwit	44	242	Second – 18%	East Yorks (76)
Corncrake	5	201	Third – 2%	Norfolk (166)
Swift	150	661	First – 24%	
Lesser Whitethroat	116	2,614	Fourth – 4%	Suffolk (372)
Spotted Flycatcher	135	1173	Third – 12%	Isle of Man (181)
Yellow Wagtail	95	846	Second – 11%	Dorset (424)
Pied Wagtail	221	2,541	Third – 9%	NE Scotland (348)
Reed Bunting	865	13,325	Third –6%	Norfolk (1268)

Apart from the first two RSPB special cases, it's always surprising to see how low the national total numbers are for what might be considered quite common species (and remember those 135K Blue Tits...). For Cambridgeshire, most of these good numbers come from a single site – 73 Lesser Whitethroats at Dave Culham's RAF Wyton Bomb Dump site; 61 Yellow Wagtails from Wicken Fen; 138 Pied Wagtails from the BP/McDs roost at Whittlesford. Ninety Spotted Flycatchers had been good enough for first place last year, so it was personally a bit disappointing to see my 135 having to settle for bronze this year behind observatory ringing on the Calf of Man and Portland. Flycatchers remain common in the north and west. Their national total is boosted by nestbox and garden ringing – 420 pulli in 2018. In contrast, there was not a single nest of Yellow Wagtails ringed anywhere in Britain and Ireland in 2018. Our Green Woodpeckers, usually a feature of this table, tied in 2018 with Hertfordshire in fifth place (at 11). That from just 205 nationally, fewer than the 220 Yellow-browed Warblers...

134 ringing sessions for the Wicken Fen Group took place at several different sites in 2018, somewhat fewer than in recent years. The year's ringing total was 3,025 new birds of 51 different species, in over 4,900 'encounters', including the first Mallard for over ten years. Blue Tits topped the list for numbers ringed (352), followed closely by Blackcap (343), then Reed Warbler (288). Common Tern, Kingfisher, Jay, Tawny Owl and Mallard were the only species to register just one new capture each. Unsurprisingly no new species was added to the Group's overall list, which thus remains at 106. After nearly fifty years as the leader of the Group Chris Thorne stepped down in April; management of the Group is now in the hands of a steering group of senior members. During the summer the Group took part in the Bioblitz and hosted Chris Packham; and later presented a ringing demonstration as part of the CBC's November Migration conference.

Apart from Wicken I have received individual 2018 totals for a handful of additional Cambridgeshire ringing sites (with new bird ringing totals >200) RAF Wyton 1,440, Madingley Wood 754, Dunkirk 551, Great Stukeley 493, Holt Island 457, Chippenham Fen 370, Lordship Farm, Hinxton 326, Paxton Pits CES 316, Five Arches Pit 276, and Ely Beet Pits 250.

BTO Constant Effort Sites projects continued at Bainton (Chris Hughes), Ely Beet Pits (Dave Culham), Five Arches Pit (Alan Brimmell), the Great Fen (Dave Neal), Paxton Pits (Derek Guar) and Wicken Fen (WFG).

As and when time allows, work continues on the website <http://cambridgeshirebirdringing.org/>. For the moment this is intended as a repository of Cambridgeshire ringing data and analyses rather than an exercise in social media!

Ringing totals for 2018

There are three age categories in the following summary table. Pulli are birds either ringed in the nest or as not-fully-grown dependent juveniles where the place of ringing will definitely be the place of birth. Juveniles are birds in their first calendar year. Adults are birds in their second or any later calendar year. Unaged birds are fully-grown flying birds where plumage characters do not allow first calendar year to be excluded (for example, a November Tree Sparrow or Long-tailed Tit). Recovered are reports (captures, field sightings or birds found dead) of birds away from the site of ringing, often by another ringer (a 'control'). Recovered may include either birds ringed in Cambridgeshire and found elsewhere, or birds ringed elsewhere and found in Cambridgeshire. Retrapped are reports of birds found alive (captured or re-sighted) within 5km of their original place of ringing. Species shown in *italics* recorded recoveries without there being any new birds of those species being ringed (just LBBG this year).

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2018	Retrapped	Recovered
Shelduck			1		1		
Gadwall			1		1		
Mallard		3	8		11		4
Teal		2	19		21	2	4
Sparrowhawk		6	7		13	3	
Marsh Harrier			1		1		
Buzzard			2		2		
Corncrake			5		5		
Mute Swan		13	12		25	158	29
Moorhen			1		1		
Lapwing	2				2		
Black-tailed Godwit	41		3		44	7	
Jack Snipe		1	4	1	6	3	
Black-headed Gull	5				5		1
<i>L Black-backed Gull</i>							2
Common Tern	1				1		
Stock Dove	18	1	2		21		
Woodpigeon		4	25		29		
Collared Dove	2	1	7	1	11	1	
Cuckoo			2		2		
Barn Owl	272		11		283	9	22
Tawny Owl	8		1		9		
Little Owl	1				1		2
Swift	144		16		160	7	

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2018	Retrapped	Recovered
Kingfisher		4	3		7		
GS Woodpecker		27	26	2	55	43	1
Green Woodpecker		4	7		11	5	
Kestrel	64		1		65		4
Jay		2	7		9	5	
Magpie		2	1		3		
Jackdaw	11	1	6		18		1
Coal Tit	18	45	29	2	94	57	
Marsh Tit		36	25	1	62	44	150
Blue Tit	702	1,442	529	3	2,676	1,647	23
Great Tit	363	777	376	2	1,518	1,253	5
Bearded Tit		24	5		29	7	2
Skylark				2	2		
Sand Martin	352	32	63		447	80	6
Swallow	48	257	24		329		
House Martin		10			10		
Cetti's Warbler		50	15	11	76	45	1
Long-tailed Tit		65	194	278	537	412	4
Willow Warbler		95	73		168	48	1
Chiffchaff	6	277	69	12	364	55	143
Yellow-br Warbler**				4	4		
Sedge Warbler	1	153	67		221	71	1
Reed Warbler		589	309		898	175	10
Grasshopper Warbler		9	8		17	7	
Blackcap	4	740	250	6	1,000	86	7
Garden Warbler		46	41	1	88	23	
Lesser Whitethroat		67	49		116	23	
Whitethroat		220	49		269	24	1
Goldcrest		75	46	6	127	44	
Wren	6	277	103	4	390	186	2
Nuthatch		5	5	14	24	25	
Treecreeper		28	12	6	46	38	
Starling	48	268	160	32	508	82	7
Blackbird	6	208	343	1	558	278	8
Fieldfare		12	21		33		
Song Thrush	11	50	32		93	16	1
Redwing		252	49	13	314		
Mistle Thrush		1			1		
Spotted Flycatcher	94	2	39		135	9	1
Robin	3	303	122	1	429	279	2
Nightingale			5		5	2	1
Stonechat		5			5		

**not all have had descriptions submitted to the club so do not necessarily appear in the systematic list or totals

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2018	Retrapped	Recovered
House Sparrow	14	128	89	164	395	92	
Tree Sparrow	47		4	9	60		
Dunnoch	3	237	201	7	448	340	1
Yellow Wagtail		88	7		95	1	
Grey Wagtail		4	1		5		1
Pied Wagtail	10	105	106		221	6	1
Meadow Pipit		133	9		142		
Chaffinch	1	154	289	5	449	75	2
Brambling		3	11		14		
Bullfinch		54	75		129	79	
Greenfinch		308	272	3	583	38	13
Linnet		114	43		157	6	
Lesser Redpoll		19	123		142	77	6
Goldfinch	8	995	647	8	1,658	218	14
Siskin		2	10		12		
Yellowhammer		146	80	4	230	2	
Reed Bunting		469	357	39	865	89	9
	2314	9450	5615	642	18021	6282	493

Longevity

In addition to tracking the movements of birds on their seasonal movements and migration, ringing studies provide our only source of information on survival and longevity. The extreme ages achieved by some birds will of course be the exceptions. The oldest recorded wild bird, 'Wisdom', a female Laysan Albatross, is still breeding successfully at about 68 years old, and survival like that won't happen very often. Our British and Irish record is a Bardsey Manx Shearwater aged 50 (when last caught in 2008) and which may also still be living. In general, the larger the bird, the longer the life-expectancy. Some seabirds, auks, wildfowl and waders will regularly make it into their 30s and 40s. Within the passerines, lifespans in the 15 to 30 year range are limited to the corvids. For most songbirds the records suggest likely general maximum ages in the range 7 to 12 years. Sub-Saharan migrants such as Reed Warbler, Cuckoo, Spotted Flycatcher, will be doing a round-trip of about 10,000 miles each year. Our Bainton Reed Warbler (below) had flown the equivalent of over five times around the world.

Cambridgeshire has a long and distinguished history of bird ringing and has eight national records to its name. These are shown below. All encounters have been included.

*[Full details and geographical coordinates of the locations listed below can be found in the **BTO Online Ringing and Nest Recording Report**.]*

National GB&I records from Cambridgeshire

Mallard

GM24822	First-year male	08-09-1965	Borough Fen Decoy	
	Alive	25-02-1986	Steeple (Essex)	126km SSE 20y 5m 17d

Tufted Duck

FR84887	First-year male	27-01-1985	Peakirk, Peterborough	
	Shot	10-05-2009	Verkhniy Chov, Russia	3,214km ENE 24y 3m 13d

Black-tailed Godwit

EF90838	First-year	24-10-1977	Butley (Suffolk)	
	Caught by ringer	18-09-1993	Holbeach St Matthew (Lincs)	128km NW 15y 10m 25d
	Caught by ringer	30-08-1996	Holbeach St Matthew	18y 10m 6d
	Colour rings	29-03-1999	Whittlesey	119km WNW 21y 5m 5d
	Colour rings	26-04-2000	Pollengi (Miðhálandi) Iceland	1,842km NW 22y 6m 2d
	Colour rings	14-02-2001	Fen Drayton	108km WNW 23y 3m 21d

Cuckoo

DA17416	Adult male	05/06/1976	Wicken Fen	
	Caught by ringer	07/05/1983	Wicken Fen	6y 11m 29d

Merlin

EB28714	Nestling	29-06-1976	Loch Rannoch (Perth and Kinross)	
	Freshly dead	18-03-1989	(Cambridgeshire)	SSE 12y 8m 17d

Hobby

ER74556	Nestling	15-07-1992	(Northamptonshire)
	Dead	03-06-2007	Fordham E 14y 10m 19d

Golden Oriole

RA59406	Adult female	24-05-1986	(Lincolnshire)
	Ring read	10-07-1995	(Cambridgeshire) 73km S 9y 1m 16d
	Ring read	25-06-1996	(Cambridgeshire) S 10y 1m 1d

Reed Warbler

E872034	Adult male	25-07-1988	Bainton
	Caught by ringer	02-06-1996	Rutland Water 23km W 7y 10m 8d
	Caught by ringer	16-07-2001	Bainton 12y 11m 21d

Regular ringing at established sites over very many years continues to yield insights into the life-expectancies of common species. Again, the real old-timers won't be representative, and won't help to answer that regular layman-to ringer question: how long do birds live? – just how long some can live. There follows here a small selection of Cambridgeshire record-holders. It's often surprising how – even on small and intensively ringed sites – birds can sometimes go missing for years on end before turning up again. Again, all records are shown here. It's also odd how some birds allow themselves to be caught just once each year. Some of the birds listed here may of course even be still alive and may be encountered again in the future...

Cambridgeshire records – non-passerines (selection)**Mute Swan***GB&I record: 29 years 1 month 11 days (2009)*

Z5936	Second-year	25-05-1963	Peterborough
	Hit wires	10-10-1985	Spalding (Lincolnshire) 23km NNE 22y 4m 15d

Bewick's Swan*GB&I record: 28 years 1 month 27 days (2011)*

Z51019	Adult female	18-01-1988	Welney (Norfolk)
	Colour rings	10-11-1989	Creil The Netherlands 362km E 1y 9m 23d
	Colour rings	28-12-1990	Creil The Netherlands 2y 11m 10d
	Colour rings	02-03-2004	Domitz/Elbe Germany 741km E 16y 1m 13d
	Caught by ringer	02-02-2008	Dunkirk, Little Downham 10km SSW 20y 15d

Grey Heron*GB&I record: 23 years 9 months 2 days (2003)*

112027	Nestling	06-05-1934	Mepal
	Dead	26-10-1952	Near Earith 6km SW 18y 5m 20d

Avocet*GB&I record: 24 years 4 months 21 days (2015)*

ET43256	Nestling	31-07-2004	Welney (Norfolk)
	Ring read	25-04-2012	Dunkirk, Little Downham 8km S 7y 8m 25d
	Ring read	27-03-2017	Dunkirk, Little Downham 12y 7m 24d
	Colour rings	03-05-2018	Dunkirk, Little Downham 13y 9m 2d

Black-headed Gull*GB&I record: 32 years 3 months 26 days (2018)*

ER18167	First-year	09-12-1989	Godmanchester
	Caught by ringer	17-12-2016	Pitsea (Essex) 98km SSE 27y 0m 8d

Barn Owl*GB&I record: 15 years 3 months 21 days (2016)*

GH77274	Nestling	26-07-1990	Eastville (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	01-04-2005	Near March 58km S 14y 8m 6d

Swift*GB&I record: 17 years 11 months 5 days (1999)*

SB69143	Adult	13-07-1993	Gamlingay
	Dead (cat)	08-07-2004	Gamlingay 10y 11m 25d

Cambridgeshire records – passerines (selection)**Marsh Tit***GB&I record: 11 years 3 months 5 days (2015)*

L208459	Adult male	02-09-2010	Wennington Wood
	Caught by ringer	21-03-2018	Wennington Wood 7y 6m 19d

Cetti's Warbler*GB&I record: 9 years 3 months 28 days (2008)*

T941212	Full-grown male	15-04-2007	Wicken Fen
	Caught by ringer	03-05-2014	Wicken Fen 7y 18d

Long-tailed Tit*GB&I record: 8 years 11 months (2014)*

BCR091	Full-grown	18-10-2007	Wicken Fen
	Caught by ringer	02-08-2008	Wicken Fen 9m 15d
	Caught by ringer	12-03-2010	Wicken Fen 2y 4m 22d
	Caught by ringer	29-01-2011	Wicken Fen 3y 3m 11d
	Caught by ringer	08-01-2012	Wicken Fen 4y 2m 21d
	Caught by ringer	09-03-2014	Wicken Fen 6y 4m 19d
	Caught by ringer	17-04-2016	Wicken Fen 8y 5m 30d

Garden Warbler*GB&I record: 10 years 1 month 6 days (2015)*

X875672	Adult Male	04-05-2010	Wicken Fen
	Caught by ringer	04-05-2012	Wicken Fen 2y
	Caught by ringer	27-05-2013	Wicken Fen 3y 23d
	Caught by ringer	12-05-2015	Wicken Fen 5y 8d
	Caught by ringer	18-05-2017	Wicken Fen 7y 14d
	Caught by ringer	01-06-2018	Wicken Fen 8y 28d

Wren*GB&I record: 7 years 3 months 6 days (2004)*

BRD040	First-year	08-04-2008	Wicken Fen
	Caught by ringer	11-05-2011	Wicken Fen 3y 1m 3d
	Caught by ringer	19-06-2012	Wicken Fen 4y 2m 11d
	Caught by ringer	26-10-2013	Wicken Fen 5y 6m 18d

Spotted Flycatcher*GB&I record: 8 years 3 days (2012)*

HA16508	Nestling	21-06-1965	Meldreth
	Shot	06-09-1970	Bragança Portugal 1,304km SSW 5y 2m 16d

Nightingale*GB&I record: 8 years 1 month 11 days (1996)*

P689663	Adult	05-05-2001	Paxton Pits
	Caught by ringer	18-05-2008	Paxton Pits 7y 13d

Dunnock*GB&I record: 11 years 3 months 7 days (1962)*

H42113	First-year	08-07-1961	Cambridge Botanic Gardens
	Dead (cat)	17-02-1970	Cambridge Botanic Gardens 8y 7m 9d

Chaffinch*GB&I record: 13 years 11 months 26 days (2011)*

V834220	Second-year male	21-06-2008	Wicken Fen
	Caught by ringer	03-04-2009	Wicken Fen 9m 13d
	Caught by ringer	01-02-2010	Wicken Fen 1y 7m 11d
	Caught by ringer	22-03-2011	Wicken Fen 2y 9m 1d
	Caught by ringer	11-03-2012	Wicken Fen 3y 8m 19d
	Caught by ringer	17-12-2013	Wicken Fen 5y 5m 26d
	Caught by ringer	10-02-2015	Wicken Fen 6y 7m 20d
	Caught by ringer	02-12-2016	Wicken Fen 8y 5m 11d
	Caught by ringer	30-06-2018	Wicken Fen 10y 9d
	Caught by ringer	25-03-2019	Wicken Fen 10y 9m 4d

Bullfinch*GB&I record: 9 years 9 months 9 days (1975)*

JV46507	Second-year male	23-05-1975	Wicken Fen
	Caught by ringer	05-07-1975	Wicken Fen 1m 12d
	Caught by ringer	20-05-1978	Wicken Fen 2y 11m 27d
	Caught by ringer	13-06-1980	Wicken Fen 5y 21d
	Caught by ringer	25-06-1983	Wicken Fen 8y 1m 2d

HIGHEST EVER COUNTS UP TO AND INCLUDING 2018

Dates show month and year. Changes for 2018 are shown in bold.

Most counts are out of the breeding season (except for species like Quail).

Singles are not shown.

Counts refer to a particular site.

Sometimes there is more than one peak count per species, e.g. Fieldfare 10000 (roost count) and 12000 (visible migration over 2-day period).

Some counts are included just for interest's sake (e.g. autumn total for Sandwich Tern in 1989).

Counts of the Cambs section of the Ouse Washes were not published separately in the *CBR* until 1994 so that the highest counts for this section are from 1994 onwards.

SPECIES	COUNT	DATE	SITE	NOTES
Brent Goose	200	1/1987	Nene Washes	
Canada Goose	1378	11/2008	Ouse Washes	
Barnacle Goose	104	2/2007	Paxton Pits	Mainly from Bedfordshire (Naturalised birds)
Taiga Bean Goose	3	1-2/2010	Nene W & Manea	Same flock moved during winter
Greylag Goose	2305	9/2014	Barleycraft GP	
Pink-footed Goose	5000	2-3/1958	Fens	Mainly around Nene Washes
Tundra Bean Goose	118	1/2005	Ouse Washes	
White-fronted Goose	450	3/1986	Castor Hanglands	Two migrating parties (one of which later seen at Nene Washes)
Mute Swan	890	12/2001	Ouse Washes	Dawn Roost count
Bewick's Swan	4460	1/2005	Ouse Washes	Dawn Roost count
Whooper Swan	7443	11/2013	Ouse Washes	Dawn Roost count
Egyptian Goose	45	12/2016	Ouse Fen	
Shelduck	282	2/1997	Ouse Washes	
Mandarin Duck	53	12/1975	Ferry Meadows CP	Nene valley was a stronghold
Garganey	127	8/2012	Ouse Washes	
Blue-winged Teal	2	1/1969	Grafham Water	
Shoveler	2131	3/2005	Ouse Washes	
Gadwall	1694	2/2006	Ouse Washes	
Wigeon	38398	2/2006	Ouse Washes	
Mallard	5300	1//1969	Grafham Water	
Pintail	5000	3/1969	Nene Washes	
Teal	9012	2/2010	Nene Washes	
Red-crested Pochard	29	1/2010	Barleycraft GP	
Pochard	2729	12/1998	Ouse Washes	
Ferruginous Duck	3	10-11/1950	Fletton BP	
Tufted Duck	3911	02/2013	Ouse Washes	
Scaup	60	2/1947	Ouse Washes	
Lesser Scaup	2	1-3/1998	St. Ives GP and Ouse Washes	
Eider	130	11/1975	Ouse Washes	Flock disorientated by coastal fog
Velvet Scoter	5	1/1964	St. Ives GP	
	5	1 & 5/1985	Grafham Water	5 in both January and May
Common Scoter	73	11/1994	Fen Drayton Lakes	
Long-tailed Duck	4	12/79-1/80	Grafham Water	
Goldeneye	348	3/1999	Paxton Pits	
Smew	34	2/2011	Needlingworth GP	Harsh winter of 1955/56
	35+	2-3/1956	Ouse Washes	
Goosander	156	1/1997	Grafham Water	

Ruddy Duck	121	1/2002	Grafham Water	
Grey Partridge	15–20	10/1987	Grafham Water	
Quail	20+	6/1989	Ickleton-Heydon area	
Red-throated Diver	3	2/1979	Ferry Meadows CP	Harsh winter of 1978/79
	3	4/1989	Grafham Water	'Grounded' by heavy rain
Black-throated Diver	3	2/1979	Ferry Meadows CP	Harsh winter of 1978/79
Great Northern Diver	6	12/2009	Grafham Water	
Leach's Petrel	3	12/2006	Grafham Water	
Fulmar	3	3/2001	Grafham Water	
Little Grebe	91	09/2009	Colne Fen GP	
Red-necked Grebe	11	2/1979	Ferry Meadows CP	Harsh winter of 1978/79
Great Crested Grebe	950	2/1985	Grafham Water	Harsh winter of 1984/85
Slavonian Grebe	5	10/1973	Grafham Water	
	5	4/2004	Grafham Water	
Black-necked Grebe	10	3/1998	Grafham Water	
White Stork	2	4/2004	St. Neots	flew north
Glossy Ibis	7	9/2009	Ouse Washes	
Spoonbill	19	9/2018	Stetchworth	
Bittern	8	12/2010	Site withheld	
Cattle Egret	8	10/2018	Mare Fen	
Grey Heron	140	8/2012	Ouse Washes	
Great White Egret	7	10/2018	Paxton Pits	
Little Egret	299+	6/2014	Nene Washes	
Gannet	9	9/2010	Cambridge	
Shag	41	1/1993	Paxton Pits	
Cormorant	880	1/1994	Paxton Pits	Roost count; revised peak count
Osprey	4	8/2005	Stibbington GP	Family party from Rutland
Honey-buzzard	3	9/1998	Cottenham	
	3	10/1998	Godmanchester GP	
Goshawk	2	2/1986	Fen Drayton Lakes	
Marsh Harrier	25	8/1995	Nene Washes	Roost count
Hen Harrier	17	11–12/1979	Ouse Washes	Roost count
Red Kite	110	12/2015	Belsize Wood	Roost count
Rough-legged Buzzard	3	10/1966	Wennington Wood	One from 10/1966 to 4/1967
Buzzard	30	9/2011	Nene Washes	
Water Rail	27	10/2007	Kingfishers Bridge	
Corncrake	22	5–6/2014	Nene Washes	Singing males holding territory
Spotted Crake	13	6/1998	Nene Washes	
Moorhen	540	12/2007	Ouse Washes	
Coot	4867	1/2013	Ouse Washes	
Crane	52	10/2018	Ouse Washes	
Stone-curlew	120	1950s	South Cams	
Oystercatcher	66	7/2013	Four Gotes	Roosting on bank of tidal Nene
Black-winged Stilt	5	4/2017	Nene Washes	
Avocet	72	4/2010	Dunkirk	
Lapwing	35520	12/1997	Ouse Washes	
	7500/h	12/1961	Milton (Cams)	Harsh winter of 1961/62
Golden Plover	13000	2/2005	Nene Washes	
American Golden Plover	2	10/2001	Swaffham Prior Fen	
Grey Plover	13	12/2001	Cambridge SW	
Ringed Plover	140	3/2009	Nene Washes	
Little Ringed Plover	50	8/1975	Grafham Water	
Kentish Plover	2	5/1950	Cambridge SF	
Dotterel	60	5/1957	Littleport	

Whimbrel	60-80	8/1840	Nene Valley	Parties of 60 to 80 west
Curlew	95	7/1984	Over Fen	
Bar-tailed Godwit	289	4/2007	Wicken Fen	Parties of 130, 95, 60 and 4 northeast
Black-tailed Godwit	5000	2/2008	Fen Drayton Lakes	
	5000	2-3/2008	Nene Washes	
Turnstone	25	3/1978	Duxford	
Knot	50	8/2014	Paxton Pits	Fly-through party
Ruff	425	2/2005	Ouse Washes	
Curlew Sandpiper	99	9/1998	Ouse Washes	
Temminck's Stint	10	6/2001	Nene Washes	
Sanderling	27	5/2008	Etton-Maxey Pits	
Dunlin	790	2/2000	Ouse Washes	
Purple Sandpiper	2	8/1982	North Bank	
Little Stint	106	9/1996	Grafham Water	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2	9/1975	Grafham Water	
Pectoral Sandpiper	4	9/2012	Ouse Washes	
Woodcock	50	12/1981	Gamlingay	
Jack Snipe	26	12/2002	Fletton BP	
Snipe	1629	11/2001	Ouse Washes	
Grey Phalarope	15-20	10/1987	Grafham Water	Party displaced by hurricane
Common Sandpiper	70	8/1954	Cambridge SF	
Green Sandpiper	40	8/1954	Cambridge SF	
Redshank	402	3/2005	Ouse Washes	
Wood Sandpiper	77	9/1968	Ouse Washes	
Spotted Redshank	35	9/1968	Ouse Washes	
Greenshank	35	8/2012	Ouse Washes	
Kittiwake	200	4/1969	Milton/Waterbeach	Single flock south
	876	2/1999	Ouse Washes	One-day count (all south-west)
Sabine's Gull	7-8	10/1987	Grafham Water	Displaced from Biscay by hurricane
Black-headed Gull	20000	1/1962	Farcet	Westerly passage to coast during harsh winter of 1961/2
	100000	2/1975	Ouse Washes	Roost count
	150000	9/1979	Ouse Washes	Estimate: mostly bh Gull
Little Gull	113	4/1987	Ouse Washes	
Mediterranean Gull	6	8/2006	Grafham Water	
Common Gull	19000	2/1972	Grafham Water	Roost count
Great Black-backed Gull	1050	1/2004	Grafham Water	Roost count
Glaucous Gull	4	2/1942	Earith	All adults; spell of cold weather
Iceland Gull	3	1/2008	Grafham Water	Roost count
Herring Gull	7000	1/2004	Ouse Washes	Roost count
Caspian Gull	9	2/2013	Milton Tip	
Yellow-legged Gull	130	9/2012	Grafham Water	Roost count
Lesser Black-backed Gull	5424	9/2012	Grafham Water	Roost count
Sandwich Tern	43	9/1989	St. Ives GP	
Little Tern	10	8/1983	Grafham Water	
Common Tern	283	8/2005	Grafham Water	
Arctic Tern	460	5/2014	Grafham Water	
White-winged Black Tern	2-3	8-9/1968	Ouse Washes	
Black Tern	440	9/1992	Grafham Water	
Great Skua	62	9/2017	Foul Anchor	In six parties
Pomarine Skua	5	10/1987	Graham Water	Party displaced by hurricane
Arctic Skua	30	10/2008	Foul Anchor	Parties of 20, 6 and 4 south
Long-tailed Skua	2	10/2008	Foul Anchor	Two singles south

	2	9/2014	Sutton Bridge	2 juvs together flew into Cambs
Little Auk	2	11/1870	Ramsey	
Guillemot	5	2–3/1983	Dog-in-a-Doublet	
Razorbill	2	2/1983	Dog-in-a-Doublet	
Puffin	2	11/1953	Over	
	2	10/1969	Over	
Pallas's Sandgrouse	40	6–7/1863	Cottenham	
Feral Pigeon	500	8/2003	Peterborough	Seen at the Baker Perkins plant
Stock Dove	2000	4/1950	Buckden	Feeding flock
Woodpigeon	15000	12/1977	Glatton	Roost count
Turtle Dove	450	9/1956	Balsham	
Collared Dove	485	10/1997	Cambridge	
Cuckoo	50	6/1974	Woodwalton Fen	Feeding on Drinker Moth caterpillar
Long-eared Owl	10	1/1976	Coveney	Roost count during invasion year
	10–13	11/2002	Site withheld	Roost in west of county
Short-eared Owl	65	11/2004	Nene Washes	unprecedented vole numbers
Swift	5000	5/1976	Grafham Water	
Wryneck	2	4/1968	Cambridge	
	2	9/1970	Whittlesey	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	10	10/2007	Croydon Hill	
Green Woodpecker	15	8/2011	Buckden GP	
Kestrel	50	11/2002	Nene Washes	unprecedented vole numbers
Red-footed Falcon	3	5/1992	Sutton Gault	
Merlin	5	1950s	Wicken Fen	Roost count
Hobby	25	5/2008	Wicken Fen	
Peregrine	5	1/2010	Nene Washes	
Ring-necked Parakeet	5	6-10/2004	Ouse Washes	remained into 2015
Red-backed Shrike	15	8/1954	Newmarket Heath	Party moving along Devil's Dyke
Great Grey Shrike	2	4/1980	Wicken Fen	
	2	3/1981	Wicken Fen	Probably the same individuals as 1980
Jay	200	10/1983	Fletton BP	Big influx of Continental birds
Magpie	225	11/2004	Elm	
Jackdaw	6000	?/1982	Milton Park	Roost count
Rook	15000	1930s	Madingley	Roost count
Carriion Crow	400	1/2004	Ferry Meadows CP	
Hooded Crow	15–20	3/1926	Berry Fen	
Raven	8	8/2018	Heydon	
Waxwing	190	1/2013	Ferry Meadows CP	
Coal Tit	40+	10/2007	Upton Wood	
Marsh Tit	100+	8/2007	Monks Wood	
Blue Tit	150	9/2002	Paxton Pits	Feeding on blackberries
Great Tit	180	9/2002	Paxton Pits	Feeding on blackberries
Penduline Tit	2	12/2012	Ouse Fen	
	2+	10/1990	Ely BF	
Bearded Tit	45	3/1973	Ely BF	Migrants from Norfolk/Suffolk
Woodlark	2	8/2001	Chippenham Fen	
	2	10/2002	Trumpington	
Skylark	750	1/1962	Milton (Cambs)	South per hour (peak count)
	2000	2/1986	Paxton Pits	Harsh winter of 1985/86
	18000	1/1962	Milton (Cambs)	South per day; harsh winter
Shore Lark	5	11/1969	Grafham Water	
Sand Martin	2 million	8/1968	Ouse Washes	Roost count
Swallow	12000	9/1984	Ely BF	Roost count

House Martin	3000	9/1976	Grafham Water	
Red-rumped Swallow	2	4/2014	Cam Washes (Upware)	
Cetti's Warbler	23	4/2014	(Baker's Fen)	
Long-tailed Tit	60	1/1945	Cambridge SF	
	60	12/1993	Ferry Meadows CP	
Chiffchaff	45	8/2011	Buckden GP	
Marsh Warbler	10	7/1956	Hauxton	
Savi's Warbler	3	7/1979	Ouse Washes	
Goldcrest	200–300	10/1980	Woodwalton Fen	
Wren	70	2/1947	Wicken Fen	Roost in chicken coop in very severe winter 1946/7
Tree Creeper	25+	10/2007	Upton Wood	
Starling	3100	11/1986	Hilton	Westerly passage per hour
	millions	1977–78	Buckworth	Roost dispersed by Ministry officials
Ring Ouzel	6	10/1971	Ouse Washes	
	6	10/2012	Foul Anchor	
	6	4/2015	Witcham	
Blackbird	400–500	10/1960	Fulbourn Fen	
Fieldfare	10000	11/1970	Holywell	Roost count
	12000	10/1991	Grafham Water	Westerly passage 19-20th
Redwing	5000	10/1974	Borough Fen Decoy	Roost count
	18000	10/1991	Grafham Water	Westerly passage 19-20th
Mistle Thrush	200	9/2008	Wisbech	
Spotted Flycatcher	30	8/1981	Grafham Water	
Robin	150	9/2002	Paxton Pits	Feeding on blackberries
Pied Flycatcher	4	9/1961	Ouse Washes	
Redstart	5	8/2015	Fowlmere NR	
Whinchat	21	9/1995	Nene Wahes	
Stonechat	48	12/2007	Nene Washes	
Wheatear	55	3/1992	RAF Wyton	
House Sparrow	4000	10/1972	Milton (Cambs)	
Tree Sparrow	4000	1/1977	Nene Washes	
Alpine Accentor	2	11/1822	Cambridge	Kings college (Female shot, the other taken by cat)
Yellow Wagtail	500	9/1975	St. Ives GP	Roost count
Pied Wagtail	650	11/2013	Addenbrooke's Site	Roost count
White wagtail	30	4/2013	Berry Fen	
Richard's Pipit	2	10/2002	Nene Washes	
Meadow Pipit	300	9/1965	St. Ives GP	Roost count
Water Pipit	46	4/2016	The Gullet	Roost count
Rock Pipit	5	10/1976	Grafham Water	
	5	10/2013	Grafham Water	
Chaffinch	380	3/2002	Holme Fen	
	1339	10/2008	Coploe Hill	Migrants west per 4 h
Brambling	thousands	3/1972	Kirtling	'Several thousands' flying to roost
Hawfinch	18	1/2018	Wimpole Park	
Bullfinch	60	1/2013	Castor Hanglands	
Greenfinch	870	1/1984	Nene Washes	
Twite	300	1–4/1976	Ouse Washes	Regular wintering flocks
Linnet	5000	12/1971	Lime Kiln Hill	
Common Redpoll (mealy)	60	1/2011	Bainton	
	60+	1–4/1996	Woodwalton Fen	
Lesser Redpoll	1500	1975	Holme Fen	
Crossbill	52	1/1998	Southey Wood	

Goldfinch	900	10/1978	Ouse Washes	
Siskin	450	2/2011	Ferry Meadows CP	
Lapland Bunting	10+	2/1978	Nene Washes	
Snow Bunting	70	1959–60	Northey GP	Wintering flocks peaked in 1970s
Corn Bunting	800	12/1986	Fowlmere	
Yellowhammer	460	1/1984	Brinkley	
	723	2/2016	Knapwell	whole farm count
Cirl Bunting	6	10/1943	Grantchester	
Reed Bunting	1200	2/2010	Fowlmere	

GAZETTEER

A Gazetteer is provided on the Cambridgeshire Bird Club website (<http://www.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk/gazetteer.htm>) for easy reference for any reader wishing to locate specific sites of ornithological interest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

A		Peter Beesley	PBe	Malcolm Busby	MBu
Colin Addington	CDA	Mick Beeson	MLB	Nigel Butcher	NB
Dave Agombar	DAGo	Greg Belcher	GreB	Howard Butler	HB
Jill Aldred	JAld	Guy Belcher	GBel	L. J. Butler	LJB
Richard Allison	RIA	P. Bennett	PBen	Phil Butson	PBut
Gary Allport	Gal	Andy Bevan	ABev	Charlie Butt	ChBu
Jake Allsop	JA	Peter Bircham	PMMB	Warren Butterworth	WDB
Martin Amos	MAmo	Michael E. Bird	MEBi	Roger Buxton	RBux
Guy Anderson	GQAA	Mike Black	MiBl	C	
Paul Andrew	PJA	K. Blackmore	KBlA	Marion Cable	MCab
Paul Andrews	PAw	Sean Blackmore	SBlA	James Cadbury	CJC
Ruth Angrave	RAng	Steve Blain	SBl	C. Cairns	CCai
David Angus	DAng	Steve Blake	StBl	Neil Calbrade	NAC
Graham Appleton	GAp	M. G. Blamire	MGBl	David Calcutt	DCal
Mike Archer	MGA	Sam Boden	SBo	Tim Caldicott	TCal
Gareth Arscott	GArS	Assheton Bogg	AsBo	Matthew Cant	MaCa
David Asquith	DSA	P. Bolton	PBol	Michael Cant	MCA
Richard Astle	RA	Chris Boness	CBon	G. Carter	GCa
Malcolm Ausden	MAus	Dave Borderick	DBo	Joshua Carter	JoCa
M. Austin	MAu	Chris Bowden	CBo	Nick Carter	NCar
Steve Austin	SAu	William Bowell	WB	T. Carter	TCar
Toby Austin	TAu	Richard Bradbury	RBB	David Chambers	DCh
Mark Avery	MA	Dave Bradley	DBra	David Chandler	DC
David Avis	DAv	Mark Brandon	MBran	P. Chapman	PCh
P. J. Aylward	PJAY	Cathy Brant	CMB	Ken Charity	KGC
S. Aylward	SAy	James Bray	JaBr	Peter Charles	PCha
B		M. T. Breaks	MTB	Andrew Chick	APCh
Carole Baber	CBab	D. Briggs	DBri	R. Christopher	RChr
Louise Bacon	LB	M. Brolly	MBry	Kieran Claiden-Yardley	KC-Y
M Bailey	MBai	D. Brooke-Taylor	DB-T	F. C. Clark	FCC
Stuart Ball	SBl	Donald Broom	DMB	Saimon Clarke	SCLa
S. Baltruschat	SBat	Sally Broom	SEMB	Andy Clements	FAC
Simon Banks	SBa	Richard Broughton	RKB	Mike Clydesdale	MEC
Lee Barber	LBar	Chris Brown	CGB	Adrian Coe	ACoe
Christine Barker	CBA	P. Brown	PBro	Graham Cole	GCol
Geoff Barlow	GB	Simon Browne	SB	Peter Cook	PCo
David Barr	DBar	Matt Bruce	MJB	Ade Cooper	ALC
Brian Barrett	BBar	Philip Bubb	PJBU	Ali Cooper	AJC
Stuart Bartlett	SGB	Sam Buckton	SBuc	James Cooper	JaCo
Richard Bashford	RIB	Rebecca Buisson	RMB	Steve Cooper	SLC
Rowena Baxter	RCB	Roger Buisson	RSKB	Terry Cooper	Tco
Andy Bayes	ABay	Alan Bull	AJB	Rick Cousins	RiCo
Ken Bayliss	KBay	Ed Bullmore	EBull	Gillian Cox	GCo
Chris Beach	CBe	Michael Burdekin	MB	Robin Cox	RAFC
Vince Beaney	VBe	Ian Burfield	IBu	Paul Craske	PCra
Peter Beckenham	PBec	Ellie Burke	EBur	Michael Creighton	MGC
		Alistair Burn	ABu		

Nick Croft	NCr	David Fisher	DFi	Dean Harlow	DH
David Cromack	DCr	Laurence Fitt-Savage	LF-S	Ron Harold	RHa
Mike Crosby	MJC	Matt Fitzgerald	MFit	Paul Harrington	PEH
D. A. Culham	DAC	J. Flack	JFla	Kevin Harris	KSH
D		Vin Fleming	VF	Rob Hart	RHar
Gareth Dagnall	GJRD	Dan Fletcher	DFle	M. S. Harvey	MHar
Ian Dale	IDal	Mike Foley	MFPF	Jason Hatch	JHat
Richard Dale	RDal	Tristan Folland	TDF	Mark Hawkes	MLH
David Darrell-Lambert	DD-L	David Fotherby	DFo	S. Haynes	SHay
Carlos Davies	CaDa	Richard Fowling	RJF	I. M. Hayward	IMH
G. Davies	GDa	Ben Fraser	BFr	M. Hazleton	MHaz
Ken Davies	KJD	Simon Freedman	SFre	David Heath	DMH
Bob Davis	BDav	Alan Freestone	AF	Jonathan Heath	JHe
Martin Davis	MD	Nick French	NFr	Peter Herkenrath	PHe
Rob Davis	RDav	Andy Frost	ARF	R. Hicks	RHi
Bernard Dawes	BDA	Katie Fuller	KF	Mark Hill	MHi
Ian Dawson	IKD	G		Duncan Hilliard	DuHi
John Day	JDay	Paul Gallagher	PDG	Dale Hing	DaHi
Gavin Deane	GaDe	Mark Galloway	MGal	Graham Hiron	GHir
Tim Dee	TDe	Barrie Galpin	BGa	James Hitchcock	JHit
Boris Delahaie	BDeI	Steve Gann	SG	Philip Hobson	PHo
William Devine	WDev	Chris Gannaway	CGa	J. Hogg	JHog
Ian Dickerson	IJD	Andrew Gardener	AGa	Pauline Hogg	PaHo
Sheila Dickerson	ShD	Don Gardener	DTG	Jem Holding	JDH
Ian Dillon	IDil	Neal Gates	NGa	Michael Holdsworth	MYH
Nina Dimitrova	NDim	Nick Geisler	NGei	Malcolm Holley	MH
Joy Dingley	JDi	D. L. Gifford	DLG	David Hollin	DHol
Brendan Doe	BGD	Anthony Gill	AGil	Mark Holling	MHol
Richard Donoyou	RDon	Simon Gillings	SGi	R. Hollinshead	RHol
Andy Dove	ADov	N. Godden	NGod	Colin Holmes	CHo
M. Drew	MDr	Ian Gordon	IGo	Peter Holt	PJH
Peter Dryburgh	PDry	David Goulding	DGou	Ken Hook	KAH
Steve Dudley	SPD	John Gowers	JGow	Maggie Hook	MHo
Euan Dunn	ED	David Green	DEG	A J Hooper	AJHo
Steve Dutton	SDut	Tom Green	TGre	David Hopkins	DHop
E		Richard Gregory	RGre	John Hoppett	JHop
Kevin Eldred	KE	Ben Greig	BGr	Roger Horton	RHor
David Elliott	DE	R. Grice	RGri	Peter Housego	PHou
Dave Ellis	DMEI	David A. Griffiths	DAG	Carl Howard	CHow
N. J. C. Elsey	NJCE	Richard Grimmett	RGr	Neil Howard	NPH
Jill Elsom	JTE	Derek Guar	DG	Sarah Howlett	SKH
Stuart Elsom	SME	Beth Guy	BGu	Mike Hutchins	MHut
Lee Evans	LGRE	Lyn Guy	LGu	Bob Humphrey	REH
Mark Evans	MEv	H		M. S. Hunt	MSHu
Mike Everett	MJE	Philip Hague	PHag	Frances Hurst	FMH
Josh Everlou	JEve	Chris Hainsworth	CHai	James Hutchinson	JHu
F		David Hall	DHal	I, J, K	
M. Fairley	MFai	John Hall	JH	David Inward	DIn
Andre Farrar	ARFa	Matt Hamilton	MHam	Mark Jackson	MJac
Charles Farrell	CFa	Kevin Hand	KHan	P. Jackson	PJ
Stewart Feeney	SFee	James Hanlon	JAH	Richard Jackson	RJac
Wayne Fendley	WaFe	Andy Hannaford	ACH	Steven Jagger	StJa
Tom Ferrett	TFer	Gordon Harland	GHar	Frank James	FJ
		Vicki Harley	VH	Bob Jarman	BJ

Sue Jarrett	SJa	James Littlewood	JLit	Robert Nibbs	RJBN
R. Jenkins	RJe	Nick Littlewood	NLit	Steven Nichols	SNic
Andrew Jennings	AJen	Keith Livesey	KLiv	Richard Nicol	RNic
Richard Johnson	RJ	Peter Louden	PLo	Ian Norman	INor
B. Jones	BJon	Steve Lowe	StLo	Barbara North	BNo
Ceri Jones	CMJ	Tony Lowe	TL	Darren Oakley-Martin	DO-M
Christopher Jones	CJon	Rachael Lowry	RaLo	Dave Odell	DOd
Ifor Jones	IfJ	M		Martin O'Leary	MJO
Josh Jones	JJ	Andrew Maddocks	AMa	Daniel Osborne	DJO
Richard Jones	RJJ	I. Manfield	IMan	P	
T. D. Jones	TDJ	Guy Manners	GRM	Jonno Palmer	JCP
Annabel Keeler	AKee	Bob Mansfield	RCM	Richard Palmer	RAP
Sarah Kelman	SKe	John Marchant	JHM	Gill Parish	GPar
Andy Kerry	AJKe	Monica Marks	MRM	Chris Park	CP
Lisa King	LJKi	Owen Marks	ORM	Philip Parker	PPa
Melvyn Kirby	MSK	Nick Marriner	NiMa	Neal Parkin	NP
Ken Kirk	KK	Simon Marsh	SDMa	Trevor Parnell	TPar
Colin Kirtland	CAEK	Bruce Martin	BSM	Rob Partridge	RGP
Charlie Kitchin	CK	J. P. Martin	JPM	Paul Pateman	PaPa
James Knightbridge	JKn	Nicola Martin	NMar	Gavin Paterson	GP
Ann Knowles	AKn	Tony Martin	ARM	Richard Patient	RMP
Mike Knowles	MKn	A. Mason	AMas	John Pavey	JFP
Marcus Kohler	MK	Tim Mason	TMas	Garth Peacock	GPe
John Kornjaca	JKo	Andy Massey	AJM	Pam Peacock	PP
Alan Kydd	AKy	Aidan Matthews	AIM	Alison Pearson	APe
L		V. A. Matthews	VAM	Mark Peck	MSP
David Lake	DALa	Evelyn & Ted Maythorne	ETM	Stuart Pedley	SPe
H. Lambert	HLam	Stephen Mcavoy	SMca	Izzy Phillips	IPh
Roger Lane	RoLa	David McCarthy	DMcC	Toni Piccolo	APi
J. Lanfear	JLan	Donald McCarthy	DoMc	M. Pittaway	MPit
Nick Langley	NLan	Peter/Linda McDermott	PLMc	Pete Plant	PPla
Derek Langslow	DRL	Rob McEwen	RMc	Tony Plant	TPla
Nick Laughton	NLau	N. T. McKenna	NTM	Rob Pople	RGPo
Stella Laughton	SLau	Tracey Mclean	TMcl	N. R. Porter	NRP
Brian Lawrence	BL	Duncan McNiven	DM	Duncan Poyser	DPo
Jim Lawrence	JFL	David Mead	DMe	Ray Presley	RPr
John Le Gassick	JLG	John Meed	JMe	David Price	DPr
Vincent Lea	VJL	Matthew Mellor	MRMe	Thomas Pringle	TPr
Diana Leach	DLea	Angus Merrick	AnMe	R	
Martin Leader	ML	Giles Merritt	GMe	Doug Radford	DJR
Christina Leadlay	CML	Andy Merryweather	AM	Hugo Rainey	HRai
R. Leavett	RLea	Steve Millar	SBM	Jonny Rankin	JRan
David Lee	DCLe	Paul Miller	PEM	Norman Ratcliffe	NRa
P. Lee	PL	Steve Miller	SMi	John Raven	JRav
Peter Leonard	PGL	J. Mole	JMo	Gary Rawlings	GAR
Martin Lester	MDL	Chris Monk	CM	Neil Rawlings	NDR
David Leverington	DLev	Ian Moore	IMo	Tim Rea	TSR
G. H. Lewis	GHL	Nick Moran	NJM	Petru Rednic	PRed
Keith Livesley	KLi	J. Moss	JMos	Mike Redshaw	MJR
Jeremy Lindsell	JLins	Steve Mumford	SMu	Craig Reed	CRe
Chris Lines	CLi	Ande Musgrove	AMu	Graeme Reed	GR
Rita Lingard	RML	N, O		Gareth Rees	DGR
Nigel Lister	NL	D Napier	DNap	Ben Reeve	BRee
Ann Littleford	ALit	Rod Newbury	RN	Mark Ricketts	MRic

Chris Rider	CRi	Jim Stevenson	JS	Jamie Wells	JW
Gareth Riley	GRil	G. Stewart	GStw	John Wells	JNW
Duncan Ritchie	DR	Nathan Stimpy	NaSt	Peter Wells	PWe
P. Robbs	PR	Simon Stirrup	SAS	R. P. West	RPW
Mark Roberts	MTMR	Brian Stone	BHS	Anthony Weston	AWes
Tony Roberts	AJR	Tim Stowe	TJS	Julian Wheel	JuWh
David Robertson	DARo	Isaac Swift	ISw	Alyson Wheeler	AlWh
J. J. Robertson	JJR	Andy Symes	ASy	M. J. Wheeler	MJWh
Matthew Rodgers	MRod	T		Mark Whiffin	MWh
Jon Roe	JRoe	Jonathan Taylor	JPT	Richard White	RW
K. Rome	KRo	Kevin Taylor	KTa	Robert Whitehead	RWhi
John Roote	JRo	Mike Taylor	MTa	J. Whitfield	JWhi
Steve Roughley	SRoug	Paul Taylor	PT	Audrey Williams	AMW
Sean Rouse	SRou	Richard Taylor	RTay	Gwyn Williams	GWi
Roger Rowe	RoRo	Mark Thackstone	MTha	J. Williamson	JWon
Chris Ruis	CRui	L. Thaxter	LTh	Nigel Willits	NDW
K Rylands	KRy	Iain Thomas	IT	Kevin Wilson	KWil
S		Mike Thomas	MTh	Matthew Wilson	MaWi
David Saunders	DS	Richard Thomas	RT	John Winterbottom	JWin
Alex Scott	AJPS	Gary Thornton	GTho	Ron Wistow	RWis
Ann Scott	EAS	Niall Tierney	NiTi	David Withrington	DWit
Bob Scott	RES	Tim Quantrill	TMJQ	Kevan Wolstencroft	KW
Liz Scott	EMRS	Keith Tinworth	KT	T. P. Wood	TPW
Ian Seamark	IS	Bob Titman	RCET	P. J. Woods	PJW
Clive Searle	CSe	A. Tomlinson	ATo	Patrick Woods	PWoo
Rodney Self	RGS	Andrew Tongue	ADWT	Hugh Wright	HWr
Rosemary Setchfield	RSe	Erica Townner	ETo	Mick Wright	MiWr
Martin Shadbolt	MSh	Derek Turnidge	DTur	Bartow Wylie	BWly
Alan Shearman	AJSh	Sue Twigger	STwi	Y, Z	
R. Sheldon	RShe	Mick Twinn	MTw	Barbara York	BY
Stewart Short	SSho	D. Tyler	DTy	Julian Young	JY
Norman Sills	NSi	U, V, W		Christoph Zöckler	CZ
Bill Simmonds	WS	Calum Urquhart	CaU		
Clive Sinclair	CS	Hugh Venables	HJV	Organisations submitting records:	
Peter Sketch	PASk	Luke Wake	LWa	Birdguides, CRT monitoring team	
Howard Slatter	HAS	Brian Walker	BJW	(CRT), RAF Ornithological Society	
Bob Smith	BoSm	R. Walker	RWal	(RAFOS), Rare Bird Alert (RBA)	
Jennie Smith	JMac	Brian Wallace	BWal	RSPB Reserves (RSPB), Wildfowl	
M. Smith	MSmi	George Walthew	GFw	and Wetlands Trust (WWT).	
Simon Smith	SSmi	P. Warboys	PWar		
Clifford Smout	Csmo	Mark Ward	MAW		
Graham Smy	GWS	P. E. Ward	PEW		
Shaun Sowden	SSo	Robin Ward	RWar		
J. R. Spaul	JRS	Dave Warner	DWar		
Dave Spencer	DSpe	Tim Watling	TW		
John Spencer	JSp	Trevor Wear	TrWe		
N. Spicer	NWS	Iain Webb	IW		
C. Spinks	CSpi	Mat Webb	MW		
Tony Stachnicki	IAS	WeBS counters	WeBS		
A. Stafford	ASta	Mike Weedon	MWe		
A. J. Steele	AJSt	David Wege	DCW		
Ben Stephen	BSte	Brian Wegg	BWeg		
Graham Stevens	GLS	Martin Weir	MaWe		
Jack Stevens	JSte	Linda Wellington	LiWe		