

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD REPORT

## 2017

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**Yellow Wagtail** *Richard Johnson*

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD REPORT 2017

### FOREWORD

Vince Lea

The main change that will be noted in the systematic section of the report is the presence of a new subheading in the data presented for some species, namely *Nocturnal sound recordings*. This is a newly developing field, primarily led in Cambridgeshire by Simon Gillings from his home in Chesterton [Cambs], but also practised by a few other disciples and with readily portable recording equipment now available it is likely to be an increasingly used technique in the field as well. I envisage it could have immensely useful applications for the study of nocturnally active breeding species, such as crakes, Stone-curlew, owls and Nightingale, as well as the exciting insights it is giving to the species that migrate through our airspace overnight. It inevitably raises issues of what can and can't be accurately identified and counted, and whether those birders that keep 'house lists' will choose to count species that have only passed by leaving a trace on a digital recording device or not is a matter of conscience! We have of course known for some time that urban Peregrines have taken scarce species, probably helped by electric lighting which illuminates birds from below and allows night-time captures of species such as Water Rail, Woodcock and Teal not normally considered present within our towns and cities. Clearly species which migrate by night have always passed through in this way, but this technique now gives us a greater insight into this behaviour. Having a sound-recording parabolic reflector and digital recording device in the garden shows not only the expected passage of Redwings and Golden Plovers, but also numerous other species of a wide range of taxa. One species which has been claimed by this technique is Ortolan Bunting, and if recordings can be confirmed as belonging to this species it would generate a first county record. With such a lot at stake our records committee is taking a cautious approach at this stage and pending decisions until a clearer picture emerges of the seasonality and pattern of migration for this species, and the range of confusion calls that may be emitted by other species.

It is a very fortunate coincidence that the development of nocturnal sound recording occurred in the year of the Great Hawfinch Invasion! There is no doubt that 2017 will be long remembered as the year that this elusive and scarce species suddenly turned up almost anywhere, generally as a fly-by bird calling as it passed through. Several were detected by Simon's equipment, and no doubt if a network of recorders across the county had been in place we would have had even more records to report on. Birds lingered into 2018 but, surprisingly, return passage was not particularly noticeable, although there was no evidence of birds staying to breed. Research is underway to assess the extent and causes of the movement and the origin of the birds; it was not merely a Cambridgeshire thing but the whole of western Europe was affected. We would like to have an article on the Great Hawfinch Invasion in the 2018 Report once all the data are available. Anyone wishing to write such a paper should please contact me in advance and we will ensure that all the records are made available to you.

Another technological development which is likely to be of increasing significance is the use of satellite tagging and other advanced tracking techniques applied to species of conservation concern or of general research interest. We have in the past reported on an Osprey which passed through the county bearing a satellite transmitter, and this year there is a record of a Nightjar which came through the county carrying a GPS tag. These particular devices do not give live transmissions but require the bird to be recaptured and the tag then needs to be analysed. This was the first such movement by a tagged Nightjar, and made it into the news feeds which is how we heard about it and could then contact the researchers in Yorkshire to get the full details. As these techniques become more and

more routine, it may get harder to keep up with all the information that relates to our county. Out of interest, while writing this part of the foreword, I looked at the Rutland Osprey project, and found that their tagged female '30' passed through our county on Mar 30th 2017, including what looks like a visit to Grafham Water on her route; there was a sight record of an Osprey from Grafham Water on Mar 30th already in the database, so the chances are we saw this one, but of course no-one noticed it going past other parts of the county that it must surely have traversed. There is almost certainly merit in someone taking on a role of trawling through all the satellite tagging projects that are underway involving species and locations that could interact with our county; none of the scheme operators are likely to contact us with the information that a particular bird has passed through our county so it is up to us to look out for such instances. Maybe a job for those winter evenings! For species such as Goshawk and Montagu's Harrier, the live data are sensitive as these species are subject to persecution, but there is the chance that records could be extracted from the relevant tagging schemes retrospectively, making them perfectly useable for future reports.

The additional information these schemes provide could be overwhelming of course. Osprey '30' fledged from a nest at Rutland Water in 2005 and started breeding there in 2009. She raised 6 chicks with her first mate, then had a couple of years without a partner. In 2015 she found a new mate and started breeding again... at the time of writing, she was in Senegal. Isn't that a lot more interesting than just a sight record for a single date at Grafham Water? Would future CBRs be big enough to accommodate all the available information on each such bird?

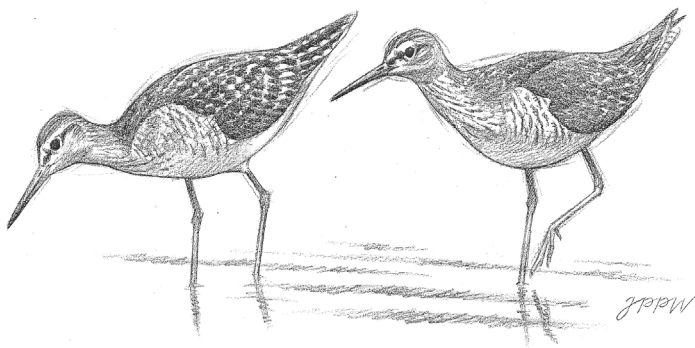
These new technologies bring new insights into our avifauna but of course the bulk of records in the report are, and for the foreseeable future always will be, from simple sight records, and we are immensely grateful to all the recorders out there for the data they supply. Sight recording can also be used for more than just presence/absence and numbers, with dedicated surveys recording behaviour and locations allowing us to determine the number of territories for many species, much of which supplies the main evidence for the breeding populations of some of the commoner passerines such as the warblers. This is also the primary technique used to create the information for studying the effects of any conservation effort on a site, and Georgina Bray gives us an excellent example of the application of territory mapping at the RSPB's Hope Farm in Knapwell. Sight records also contributed to the Sand Martin study reported by Robert Brown in the back pages as well. Over a hundred years ago, one of the first revolutionary technologies in the study of birds was the development of ringing, and to this day it remains a valuable and growing technique; the report by Michael Holdsworth highlights the vast number of birds now being ringed on an annual basis in the county. Although there was a slight dip in the 1990s, the quinquennial review which covers all ringing since 1968 reveals a steady growth in numbers ringed, with over five times the number of birds ringed in the current 5-year period compared with the first five years for which detailed data are available. Ringing birds is of little use, however, without future sightings of the ringed birds, and Michael's article highlights some of the interesting observations arising from this scheme across the county. Traditional ring recoveries from dead birds seen by the general public have really declined, so much of the data now relies on ringer-to-ringer controls and sight reading of colour ringed birds.



Proof-readers: Louise Bacon, Roger Buisson, Mike Foley, Jon Heath, Richard Patient, Richard Thomas and Mark Ward.

Artists: Ann Biggs, Chris Button, Richard Fowling, Ben Green, James Hanlon, Richard Johnson and Jan Wilczur. Richard Johnson commissioned and compiled the selection which illustrates many of the highlight species from the year but also includes superb studies of our commoner species. Richard will happily supply contact details for them if needed (07811 409651, [rjohnson.birdart@gmail.com](mailto:rjohnson.birdart@gmail.com)).

Photographers: Garth Peacock once again curated a superb selection from the ever-growing array of images taken in the county during the year, with contributions from Neil Bramwell, Roger Cresswell, Ian Dawson, Ed Gill, Yves Gisseliere, James Hanlon, Geoff Harries, Jonathan Heath, Tony Martin, Alexey Murzin, Richard Patient, Garth Peacock, Thomas Reed, Nigel Spowell, Simon Stirrup, Jonathan Taylor, Gary Thornton and George Walthew. 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 ([garth.peacock@btinternet.com](mailto:garth.peacock@btinternet.com)).



**Wood Sandpiper** *Jan Wilczur*

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB CHAIR'S REPORT**

Presented to the Annual General Meeting on March 9th 2018

I have failed in my main task for the fifth year of chairing the Cambridgeshire Bird Club: to find a replacement chair. I have to confess that I have not put a lot of effort into this task beyond one or two appeals in Bulletins. Perhaps someone who thinks this might be for them would like to spend the current year as deputy chair and we can phase in a transition. If this might be you, please get in touch.

### **Council activities**

Vicki Harley had planned to take on the role of Report Editor, but a wrist injury at the critical time prevented this and Louise Bacon stepped into the breach once again, for which we are truly indebted. Robert Brown has taken on the role of Research Officer, with a project on Sand Martins in 2017 to dip his toe in the water, and has been making plans for further surveys in 2018. Other Council Members have stayed on in their various roles for which I am extremely grateful.

### **2016 Bird Report No.90**

The Annual Report continues to evolve as bird recording changes. We added one or two new features and a new simplified font format for the 2016 report which, based on the lack of complaints, seems to have gone down reasonably well. Due to the volume of records from BirdTrack we have added lines on total records and sites in the breeding and wintering season. The records processing by Louise and Howard Slatter has speeded up giving us a bit more time to fit the task into the year after the records were accumulated, such that the 2016 Report was available by the end of 2017.

### **Bulletins**

Peter Bircham has continued to produce a speedy monthly bulletin, which is distributed solely by email, and which Chris Brown uses alongside later additional records to act as the basis of the traditional bimonthly Bulletin, available electronically or by post. It would be valuable to know how people use these bulletins, as Chris is hoping to stand down and a new editor is being sought. Thoughts on the pros and cons of fast news versus more comprehensive news would be useful, and how much people value the Systematic Report section which is the main time-consuming element of the job.

### **Research activities**

Sand Martin reports were received from all the known colonies, giving us reasonable coverage of the breeding population in the county, but no new colonies were discovered despite requests to seek these out. Maybe we have found them all, maybe not; more effort searching for this species in the breeding season and reporting back on sites checked and empty would be appreciated. It turns out that WI appeals and letters in Parish Magazines are a better way to find breeding Spotted Flycatchers than asking CBC members; they are all in leafy gardens in the villages. Michael Holdsworth has been heavily involved in some fascinating work tagging some of these birds with geolocators, which has revealed a fascinating story. Once formally published by the BTO this research will of course be shared with the Club. Plenty of members have been able to report mixed-singing *Phylloscopus* warblers, which Tony Fulford has been keen to follow up and record. His studies have shown some evolutionary blind allies which will be further studied in 2018. There was good participation in the autumn raptor count, showing the continued strength of our recovering populations of Buzzards, Red Kites and so on.

### **Photo pages on website**

Garth Peacock and Chris Quy continue to do a great job on perhaps the most popular part of the Club's website, the photo section. The volume of submissions has grown exponentially as digital equipment has become widely adopted, so Garth has had to apply stricter quality criteria to avoid

overloading the pages but the high standard is much admired. In terms of selecting the Photo of the Month, we have attempted to maintain this quality by using regular photographers to make the selection in 2017, but it would be useful to know if other members would appreciate being more involved in this aspect.

### **Facebook and Twitter**

Many thanks go to Kevin Harris for maintaining our Facebook page and Mark Peck for taking on the Twitter feed.

### **Membership and Subscriptions**

The club had a healthy 347 members in 2017 and many were now paying the correct revised subscription rate by standing order, which makes our life a lot easier.

### **Club meetings**

Once again a very varied programme was arranged by Vicki Harley, featuring topics from the very local fenland drains by Cliff Carson, to the remote South Georgia work by Tony Martin, both eminent club members doing sterling work on wildlife conservation. We also had a global perspective of threatened species from BirdLife and a long-term study of Pied Flycatchers in the south-west from Malcolm Burgess. There were two visits to Africa, with Ann Scott reporting on the legacy of Bob Scott's work on securing bird reserves where farmland is swallowing up forest, and Claire Spottiswoode took us on a tour of the extraordinary behaviour of some African cuckoo species. Conor Jameson delved into the shadowy world of the Goshawk, and Viola Ross-Smith didn't need to work too hard on the audience to persuade us there are many reasons to love gulls!

### **Rare Breeding Birds**

No misdemeanours came to light in terms of revealing the location of sensitive species, for which a great debt of thanks goes to all. Increasing numbers of species which would be desirable 'collectors items' for the die-hard egg collectors still out there are high on our list of responsibilities. A small support group has formed but in 2017 we had very little to do. Recording and reporting on breeding activity for this element of our avifauna could still be improved though.

### **Behind the scenes**

Much appreciation goes to people who help keep the club running without being on the Council, such as tea making and door duties at meetings, distributing reports and bulletins — something which Bruce Martin has been masterminding for many years and would like to retire from if anyone can help take this on — and keeping the What's About information up to date on the website.

*Vince Lea, CBC Chair*

## **LIST OF INDOOR MEETINGS 2017**

January 8th	Ian Burfield	The Red List and the State of the World's Birds
February 10th	Conor Jameson	Looking for the Goshawk
March 11th	Ann Scott	Annual General Meeting Pineapple Peril for Palearctic Migrants
April 7th	Viola Ross-Smith	Feathered Friends? Reasons to love your local gulls
May 12th	Tony Martin	Reclaiming South Georgia
September 8th	Malcolm Burgess	Research on the Pied Flycatcher
October 13th	Cliff Carson	Giving Wildlife the Edge on Fenland Drains
November 10th	Claire Spottiswoode	Cuckoos: an African perspective
December 8th		Christmas Social

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2017

Vince Lea

### BREEDING RECORDS

Barnacle Geese bred at both of their recent locations this year, with 2 pairs at both Dunkirk and Whittlesford GP, fledging 14 young between them, while Egyptian Geese continue to increase their output, with 22 pairs breeding at 13 sites. The first confirmed breeding of Mandarin Duck since 2013 was at Linton, where 2 pairs reared young, and there was good evidence of breeding at 3 other sites. Several species of waterfowl qualify as Rare Breeding Birds at a national level, including Muscovy Duck, with 10 broods at Ely, Wigeon which had 10 possible breeding pairs at 3 sites, Garganey with 20 pairs or broods at 7 sites, Shoveler with 159 pairs or broods at 9 sites, Pochard with 54 pairs or broods at 4 sites. Non-RBBP waterfowl records of note included 197 pairs or broods of Gadwall at 13 sites, 23 pairs of Teal at 10 sites and 139 pairs or broods of Tufted Duck at 14 sites. There was breeding season presence for Red-crested Pochard, Goosander and Ruddy Duck, but none were thought to have attempted to nest.



**Great White Egret** *James Hanlon*

There were 16 booming Bitterns at 7 sites, a slight reduction on 2016, Little Egret had an increase in breeding sites (from 2 to 4) but a decrease in pairs (from 44 to 37), while Great White Egret continues to tantalise with the prospect of breeding, with a pair in breeding plumage at the Ouse Washes, but no further evidence of success. Even less promising were the lone Red-necked Grebe that summered for a second year and the single Black-necked Grebe that visited a previously productive site. A Honey-buzzard in June raises the prospect that it may have been present in the county for breeding, but the bird found was dead, so if it had been then the attempt came to a sad end; circumstances suggest natural causes as it was found within a well-watched Peregrine breeding site. Many of the 25 Marsh Harrier females thought to be breeding in the county were successful. One brood of Water Rails was seen at Kingfishers Bridge — a rare treat — and another 21 pairs were at 10 other sites, mainly detected from calls alone. Even more secretive is the Spotted Crake, and the UK had a poor year which was reflected locally, with just one singing male at the Nene Washes. The Corncrake re-introduction programme has entered a less intensive phase with no further releases and no special

monitoring efforts to look for young, so they are also hard to gauge; 12 were recorded singing at the Nene Washes and 2 at a second site. Cranes find it slightly harder to hide, and although some choose very concealed locations, we think the total of 4 breeding attempts by 5 pairs at 2 sites is correct; two young were fledged.

No Stone-curlews nested to our knowledge this year, after a short run of breeding. Black-winged Stilts, however, had their first successful breeding attempt in the county, after a failed attempt in 2015. There was a major influx of birds, including many breeding pairs, into the UK, and Cambridgeshire had 4 pairs at 3 sites. The success came at the Ouse Washes where a pair fledged two young thanks in part to the help of the wardens, who raised the level of the nest as flood waters rose around it. Avocets also did well with 35 pairs at 6 sites fledging 17 young, the best output since 2013. Ringed Plover had its first blank breeding season in modern memory, whereas Little Ringed Plover had a slight upturn on recent years, with 10 pairs at 10 sites. Black-tailed Godwits bred at the Nene Washes (35 pairs) and the Ouse Washes (minimum 2 pairs) with at least 10 young produced. A new 'headstarting' programme by the RSPB and WWT, in which eggs are harvested early in the season for captive rearing and release produced some of these chicks. Pairs typically re-lay after this procedure so this is a way of doubling the potential output, and the captive reared chicks have a safer environment to reach fledging age prior to release. Please keep an eye out for the colour-ringed chicks from this programme, which have a combination of rings that include a lime coloured ring on the right leg, stamped with a black letter E. The Ouse and Nene Washes also held the majority of breeding Redshank (274 out of 329) and Snipe (173 out of 182), with many of the additional pairs on the newly created wader habitats adjacent to the Ouse Washes. Woodcock were seen roding at 3 sites, with a peak of 10 at Chippenham Fen and singles at Wicken and Woodwalton Fens, and another 4 birds recorded at Littleport (May Farm) during the breeding season.

Good reporting of Common Terns this year saw totals of 114 pairs at 10 sites submitted. A pair of Mediterranean Gulls displayed at Dunkirk but got no further, while a pair at Fen Drayton Lakes reared one chick. Seventy-nine pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted at 3 sites, the majority at Paxton Pits, which also held all 3 of the known Herring Gull pairs. Turtle Dove numbers continue to dwindle, with an estimated 24 territories in the county. Cuckoo numbers held at around 87. Three pairs of Long-eared Owls were confirmed breeding at 3 sites, and another 3 sites had possible pairs. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker held territory at Castor Hanglands and a second bird was seen at Grafham Water in the breeding season; slim hopes for the future of this species in Cambridgeshire. Hobbies were thought to have bred at 15 sites, and Peregrines at 4.

Ravens continue their colonisation of the county, with 5 confirmed breeding pairs at 5 sites in the west of the county, and another 2 pairs displaying at another location; an increase of 3 confirmed pairs compared with 2016. A single singing Firecrest did not stay long enough to raise hopes of breeding this year. The reported number of Marsh Tit breeding pairs remained comparable with recent years, at 55, with a further 15 probable pairs, but many potential locations remain under-recorded. Bearded Tits had fairly good returns of data, with 13 confirmed pairs, though more probably went undetected, particularly at the main stronghold Ouse Fen which was only partially surveyed. Cetti's Warblers are rarely confirmed as breeding, other than the capture of juveniles or brooding females at ringing sites, but a healthy 219 territories were estimated from 54 sites. Single singing male Savi's and Marsh Warblers may be potential forerunners of breeding attempts.

Just 8 pairs of Spotted Flycatchers were reported. Nightingales had a poor return, with just 34 singing males reported from 16 sites, a serious dip on recent years. Black Redstarts had a good year, however, with 2 confirmed pairs at a site fledging at least 4 young. A new location for breeding Stonechats was found at Coates, and the regular site at Wicken Fen also held a pair; both pairs were successful. Two locations reported breeding Tree Sparrow; Redmere Farm with 20 pairs is the main stronghold while 3 pairs at Ouse Washes is a welcome return at this site.

## **LIST OF RARITIES (20 or fewer records)**

The county list stands at 342 with the addition of one new species. Cambridgeshire records were as follows: Gull-billed Tern (1st), Bee-eater (6th), Dartford Warbler (6th), Coues's Arctic Redpoll (7th), Shore Lark (9th), Siberian Chiffchaff (10th & 11th), Red-rumped Swallow (11th), Black-winged Stilt (16th to 24th), American Golden Plover (17th), Sabine's Gull (17th) and Cattle Egret (19th to 21st).

### **JANUARY**

*The first few days were very cold with night frosts, followed by a short period of milder weather with rain, before returning to cold, high pressure weather, with frosts and low daytime temperatures but dry. The month ended with a couple of days of slightly warmer weather but many water bodies remained partially iced over.*

Overwintering birds from 2016 included a Ring-necked Duck at Paxton Pits until Apr 18th, 3 Great Northern Divers at Grafham Water, a Glossy Ibis and a Siberian Chiffchaff, both at Ely, a Great Grey Shrike at Burwell/Wicken Fen until Apr 11th and the Bassingbourn Dipper was seen on the 24th. On the 2nd there were White-fronted Geese at Swaffham Prior Fen (13), Ouse Washes (9) and a juvenile at Whitemoor, the start of a good run of records through the next two months, with four flocks hitting the 40+ mark, and Tundra Bean Geese also made appearances with 2 at the Ouse Washes on the 2nd, joined by 2 more the next day, and on 14th 3 were at Prior's Fen, 2 of which stayed to the 28th. There was a record-equalling flock of 7 Spoonbills in flight at Burwell Fen on the 5th. Also on the 5th a Siberian Chiffchaff was found at Fen Drayton Lakes, last seen on the 8th, while another was found at Cambridge Research Park on the 7th, along with the long-stayer at Ely this made a total of 3 in the county in the first week of the year. Waxwings continued their modest presence in the county this winter, with a peak of 26 at Cherry Hinton on the 9th. An estimated 4 Iceland and 5 Glaucous Gulls roamed the various tips, reservoirs and wetlands of the county during the month. Counts of 10 Short-eared Owls came from both the Nene Washes and Burwell Fen. A Rough-legged Buzzard returned to the Wryde Croft area and crossed the Lincs border during its stay from 10th to Feb 26th. There were 145 Lesser Redpolls at Woodwalton Fen on the 19th, the best count of the year by far.

### **FEBRUARY**

*The month began with a rare few days of mild weather before, at the beginning of the second week, the Continental high returned bringing an easterly wind and temperatures close to zero with some flurries of weak snow. Mid-month the westerly wind brought a return to milder, spring-like weather culminating in Storm Doris on the 23rd when the county was battered by severe winds, after which the days were windy, with some rain but still mild.*

A Great Grey Shrike was found at Melbourn on the 6th, present to the 10th. Two of the Grafham Water Great Northern Divers were present until the 12th. A Lapland Bunting was at Earith Washes on the 26th.

### **MARCH**

*The month began mild, windy at times and showery and it continued much the same with no overnight frosts and an early arrival of Chiffchaffs until, towards the month's end the wind turned to the east which forced temperatures down so that Cambridgeshire was among the colder parts of the country and that may have inhibited the arrival of early migrants.*

There was a Red-breasted Merganser at Grafham Water on the 11th. A Great Grey Shrike that mostly resided in Bedfordshire was seen in Cambs at Little Staughton from the 15th to the 19th. A Cattle Egret was seen at Duxford on the 16th. The last of the overwintering Great Northern Divers was seen at Grafham Water on the 22nd.



## APRIL

*The first week was warm and dry culminating in a very warm day on the 9th when Cambridge at 25 °C was the warmest place in the country. There was an immediate return to more normal April temperatures in the week up to Easter but no rain. Thereafter it was more or less normal temperatures, with one or two colder days with winds variable in both direction and force. In the final week a touch of winter returned for a day or two but no real rainfall. One of the driest Aprils on record.*

The Ely Glossy Ibis left on the 5th and was seen at Littleport (May Farm) on the 6th. Peak numbers of Sandwich Terns occurred on the 9th, with 3 each at Paxton Pits and Grafham Water, and another at Cambridge Research Park. A Red-rumped Swallow at Ferry Meadows on the 17th continued the recent good run for this species, with 8 of the 11 records in total coming since 2009. At the Ouse Washes there was a Spoonbill on the 21st and a Purple Heron on the 23rd. Two Dotterel were at Wardy Hill on 26th-27th and another in flight on the 30th at Shingay. There was an exceptional number of Black-winged Stilt records through the spring, which peaked with 5 at the Nene Washes on the 29th. A Curlew Sandpiper on the 29th at the Ouse Washes was the only spring record. The largest flock of Arctic Terns of the year was 87 at Grafham Water on the 27th, while peak counts of Black Terns were recorded on the 30th, with 41 at Paxton Pits, 40 at Fen Drayton Lakes and 14 at Grafham Water.

## MAY

*We began with cool north-easterly winds, not much sun and no rain, followed by a change to a westerly airstream which brought some rain and an inflow of migrants. In the middle of the month there were several days of (much needed) rain which gave way to southerly hot and humid air and temperatures well into the 20s.*

A Spoonbill passed Berry Fen on the 1st, with another at Nene Washes from the 4th to the 9th. A Red-footed Falcon was at Fen Drayton Lakes from the 5th to the 14th. Northerly-breeding wader passage held few surprises but the majority of regular species were seen in average numbers, so 'highlights' such as they were included 2 Knot at Paxton Pits on May 5th, a Temminck's Stint on the same day at Coveney Byall Fen, and a total of 17 Wood Sandpipers there on the 8th. On the 7th there was a Wryneck at Coveney Byall Fen. The second Red-breasted Merganser of the year was at Grafham Water on the 12th. The first Gull-billed Tern for Cambridgeshire was seen at the Ouse Washes on the morning of the 15th, and later the same day was seen again at Burwell Fen. The only Little Tern of the year came on the 26th at Fletton BP. There was a Savi's Warbler in song at Wicken Fen on the 31st, and it remained to Jun 2nd.



**Gull-billed Tern Richard Johnson**

## JUNE

*Beginning with a typical early summer mixture of light showers and sunshine the middle of the month suddenly became unusually hot with temperatures in the 30s for five consecutive days, Cambridgeshire being among the hottest spots. A gradual breakdown at the end of the third week led to some very heavy downpours and in some places a month's rain fell in a single day followed by a more typical pattern of sunshine, cloud and showers.*

A freshly dead Honey-buzzard was found close to a Peregrine nest site on the 11th. What was a Honey-buzzard doing in the county at this time of year? Did it get too close to the Peregrines and were they the cause of mortality? Despite a post-mortem this remains a bit of a murder-mystery. A singing Marsh Warbler from 17th-19th in potential breeding habitat was considered worthy of site confidentiality on the grounds that this species has the potential to return and recolonise. An unseen Nightjar carried a GPS tag through the county on the 25th and 27th, with the information coming back from the Yorkshire researchers some while later. A Temminck's Stint was found at the Ouse Washes on the 30th.

## JULY

*The month began much as June ended with dry, warm, occasionally hot (and very hot) weather. Mid-month, in a hint of what was to come, there were a few slightly wetter days and then in the final week the jet stream changed its path allowing a westerly Atlantic airstream to dominate and with it wet and cooler conditions prevailed, including a day or two of northerly winds.*

Another Nightjar record for the year came from a calling bird at Cambourne on the 7th. A Red-necked Phalarope was at Dunkirk from the 25th to 31st, with a brief visit to the Ouse Washes on the 28th. A Little Stint at Burwell Fen from the 26th to the 28th was the forerunner of a strong showing for this species at that site.

## AUGUST

*The weather began much the same as July had ended with a more 'traditional' English summer of sunshine, showers and on at least one day a longer spell of rain. Maximum temperatures largely around the 20 degree mark apart from the odd day up towards 30. Rainfall was variable but it was not a noticeably dry month.*

The second Purple Heron record of the year was a juvenile roosting at Barleycraft from the 10th to 11th. The only Stone-curlew record was a single seen from the Devil's Dyke on the 21st. A White-winged Black Tern was seen at Grafham Water on the 25th. At the end of the month Wrynecks were at Middle Fen on the 29th and Coveney Byall Fen on the 30th.



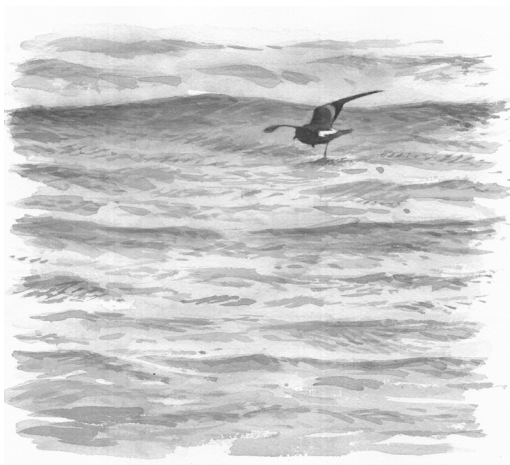
**Sandwich Tern** Chris Button



## SEPTEMBER

*After a series of Septembers with warm Indian-summer type weather 2017 turned out to be more like recent Octobers with temperatures in the teens and a succession of low pressure areas bringing showers and on some days strong winds; until the final week when there were a few days of warmer sunnier weather. The winds resulted in much of the month being dominated by seabird sightings.*

Two Little Stints settled in to Burwell Fen on the 1st, staying together to the 25th, with one present the next day, then numbers grew again at the end of the month; 8 on the 27th, 9 on the 28th-29th and 10 on the 30th. Many other sites held good numbers of the species through the month. A Pectoral Sandpiper was also at Burwell Fen from the 7th to the 14th. A Manx Shearwater was at Grafham Water on the 8th, and another found at Littleport on the 13th. Curlew Sandpipers were at Paxton Pits on the 13th and Grafham Water on the 16th.



**Leach's Petrel** *Richard Johnson*

A new county record count of 62 Great Skuas (in 6 parties) was recorded at Foul Anchor on the 14th. A Red-necked Phalarope was at Burwell Fen from the 14th to the 15th. There was a juvenile Sabine's Gull at the Grafham Water roost on the 15th, then on the 17th a Leach's Petrel was found there, and a Red-breasted Merganser showed well at Earith the same day. On the 22nd a new county record count of Ravens was made at Warboys, where 6 were seen together. The largest group of Brent Geese of the year was a flock of 15 over Cambourne on the 25th. A Yellow-browed Warbler was at Stanground also on the 25th. Grafham Water held a Red-necked Phalarope on the 26th-27th. Seabirds finished the month with another 12 Great Skuas at Foul Anchor on the 29th.

## OCTOBER

*The month began with a classic autumnal mixture of sunshine, showers and periods of high winds and continued along the same lines with the odd day of warm sunshine. Also affecting us were tail ends of Atlantic hurricanes. Predominantly southerly and westerly winds and a rather mild temperature prevailed until the first frost right at the end of the month.*

Little Stints continued to grace Burwell Fen, with the peak count of 12 occurring on the 2nd; one or two stayed well into November. An unprecedented invasion of Hawfinches dominated the autumn, with the first records coming on the 14th and a passage count of 17 at Ferry Meadows on the 28th smashing the county record; a total of 38 records were logged during the month, mainly flight calls. Two Wrynecks were seen in the month: at Cherry Hinton Hall on the 15th and Peterborough on the 24th. Rock Pipits were at four sites during the month, with a new record count of 5 at Grafham Water on the 19th. A Dartford Warbler appeared briefly at Magog Down on the 24th. An American Golden Plover at Ouse Fen on the 26th-27th was also seen at Haddenham on the 27th, while the search for

it on the 28th turned up a Dotterel at Ouse Fen. A Bee-eater was seen at Stanground on the 27th. At some point during the month, a Yellow-browed Warbler was photographed at Fowlmere NR, but the image wasn't recognised as such until December, by which time the exact date could not be recalled!

## NOVEMBER

*As it always seems to, November began with one or two frosts and a drop in daytime temperatures. Up to the middle of the month conditions varied between mild and cold as the wind veered between west and north but the month ended with a cold spell and overnight frosts.*

Hawfinches continued to be in the headlines, with a group of 14 settling in at Wimpole Park proving irresistible to photographers. A Shore Lark at Burwell Fen from the 5th to the 8th stayed long enough and showed well enough to allow many birders to add this lovely species to their county list; with the last record some 13 years ago this was much appreciated. A Great Northern Diver found at Grafham Water on the 10th remained until Dec 22nd. The largest group of Pink-footed Geese was at Yaxley on the 24th, with 250 birds.

## DECEMBER

*December continued the pattern of late November with conditions alternating between colder and milder temperatures; by the 8th a much colder spell began with snowfall on the 10th and frosts most nights almost up to Christmas which was mild followed by a second snowfall and frosts which was followed by a mild end to the month. Colder and wetter than recent Decembers the number of 'headline' species was greatly reduced although it is not possible to say if this was cause and effect.*

There was a Coues's Arctic Redpoll at Woodwalton Fen on the 9th. The year's only Shag came on the 10th at Ferry Meadows, and was seen again the following day. The peak Crane count of the year was 31 on the 16th in the fenland maize fields between the Ouse and Nene Washes, shy of the county record. Although Hawfinches dominated the finch influx, Bramblings also had a good showing, with 36 at Littleport (May Farm) on the 30th being the highest count. Two Kittiwakes roosted at Fen Drayton Lakes on the 31st.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

### NOMENCLATURE AND SEQUENCE

This report follows the revised British List published in 2013 [The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (8th edition). *Ibis* **155**: 635–676] 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](http://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.

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

<b>Ageing by calendar-year</b>	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.
<b>Ageing by plumage</b>	e.g. 1st-summer = a bird in first-summer plumage (N.B. this would be attained in its 2nd calendar-year), etc.

**SUBHEADINGS**

<b>First winter period</b>	Jan–Feb	<b>Autumn</b>	Aug–Nov
<b>Spring</b>	Feb–Jun	<b>Second winter period</b>	Nov–Dec
<b>Summer or return</b>	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.

<b>0</b>	Zero count – used in analysis tables
<b>-</b>	No information/count – used in monthly count tables
<b>Ouse W (N &amp; C)</b>	The whole of the Ouse Washes (Norfolk and Cambs). Where a Norfolk count has not been made, this has been treated as 'No count'
<b>Ouse W (C only)</b>	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 2016/17 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/gazetteer.html>) 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].

**Fen Drayton Lakes** Previously known as Fen Drayton GP.

**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

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

**MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor***Amber List.** *Fairly common resident; large non-breeding population.*

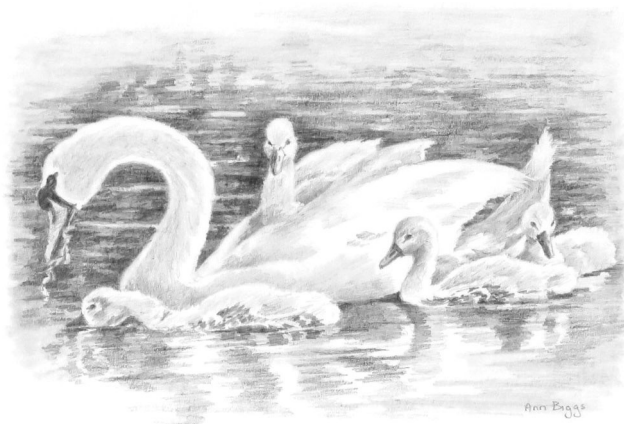
WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 320; threshold for national importance: 740.

*Total records: 3146. Sites: 91 breeding season/129 non-breeding.**Breeding (72 pairs/broods at 25 sites): Nene Washes 23 pairs, Ouse Washes 13 pairs, Ouse Fen 10 pairs, Cambridge 4 broods, Barleycraft GP 2 broods and single pairs/broods at an additional 20 sites.**Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	14	160	-	38	23	15	39	56	79	79	56	28
Fen Drayton Lakes	22	21	25	32	31	51	85	70	81	104	78	78
Grafham Water	12	12	37	4	6	-	4	-	47	42	16	-
Nene Washes	58	55	106	25	-	-	16	-	20	10	94	65
Ouse Fen	55	110	192	4	14	17	22	20	46	17	15	11
Ouse W (N & C)	160	97	141	307	-	-	-	-	-	-	287	214
Ouse W (C only)	112	60	75	225	165	65	-	15	-	25	240	185
Paxton Pits	141	67	62	15	9	10	10	5	133	109	168	86

*Peak counts of 50+ at other sites:* Stretham (Marina) 105 on Feb 4th, Kingfishers Bridge 101 on Jan 28th, Ferry Meadows CP 95 on Oct 17th, Barway 93 on Jan 27th, Coveney Byall Fen 90 on Jan 27th, Earith Washes 74 on Jun 7th, Farcet Fen 68 on Mar 1st, Maxey GP 67 on Aug 6th, River Cam (Owlstone Road to Baits Bite Lock) 57 on Jan 15th, Padney Fen 55 on Jan 24th, Drysides BP 50 on Mar 3rd and Peterborough 50 on Sep 21st.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 29% (95/96) *cf.* 19% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 13 (95/96) *cf.* 5 (16/17)

**Mute Swan** *Ann Biggs*

**BEWICK'S SWAN** *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (see Introduction)

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 220; threshold for national importance: 70.

*Total records: 139. Sites: 14 non-breeding.*

*Latest on Apr 10th (Ouse Washes) and earliest on Nov 5th (Wicken Fen).*

*Peak monthly counts at key sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	393	50	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Ouse W (N & C)	2997	245	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	3
Ouse W (C only)	442	147	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	3

*Peak counts of 5+ at other sites as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Littleport (May Farm) 327 on Jan 24th, Whitemoor 200 on Jan 2nd, Coates 57 on Jan 8th, Wicken Fen 25 on Jan 8th and Grafham Water 8 from Jan 3rd to 8th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 27 on Nov 28th.

**Bewick's Swan:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Nene Washes	1600	703	642	305	1110	1362	676	1150	739	629	334	393
Ouse W (C only)	3114	1647	2679	3458	1605	1287	834	258	112	417	1500	442

**WHOOPEE SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 270; threshold for national importance: 110.

*Total records: 425. Sites: 54 non-breeding.*

*Latest on May 7th (Ouse Washes) and earliest on Sep 20th (Isleham).*

*Peak monthly counts at key sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	986	859	160	23	1	1	-	1	-	27	719	703
Ouse W (N & C)	7663	4585	750	50							4833	5527
Ouse W (C only)	4937	4477	750	43	10	2	1	2	2	11	2822	3516

*Peak counts of 5+ at other sites as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Littleport (May Farm) 1034 on Jan 24th, Sutton North Fen 300 on Mar 4th, Thorney 129 on Feb 26th, Coates 108 on Jan 2nd, Coveney Byall Fen 100 on Jan 27th, Burwell Fen 65 on Jan 16th, Wicken Fen 46 on Jan 15th, Kingfishers Bridge 35 on Feb 8th, Chittering 30 on Feb 17th, Tubney Fen 24 on Feb 5th, Isleham Washes 22 on Jan 4th, Cam Washes (Upware) 17 on Mar 15th, Padney Fen 13 on Jan 24th, Barway 9 on Jan 27th, Holme 9 on Mar 20th, Ferry Meadows CP 7 on Jan 17th and Mar 23rd, Earith 5 on Feb 19th and Yaxley 5 on Jan 14th.

*Summer:* 3 injured birds at the Ouse Washes and one at the Nene Washes stayed through the summer. Also a feral bird remained in the Burwell Fen area.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Manea 600 on Nov 5th, Littleport (May Farm) 424 on Nov 28th, Pymoor 250 on Nov 5th, March 205 on Dec 11th, Sutton North Fen 75 on Nov 26th, Kingfishers Bridge 69 on



Dec 3rd, Prickwillow 30 on Oct 24th, Foul Anchor 24 on Oct 29th, Peterborough (Dogsthorpe Road) 20 over on Oct 30th, Wicken Fen 18 on Nov 29th, Coveney Byall Fen 16 on Oct 5th, Leverington 12 on Nov 4th, Prior's Fen GP 12 on Oct 7th, Burwell Fen 10 on Oct 29th, Upware 9 on Dec 26th, Yaxley 8 on Oct 30th, Haddenham 7 on Oct 30th, Ferry Meadows CP 6 on Nov 19th, Ouse Fen 6 on Oct 29th, Stretham 6 on Dec 12th and Witchford (Long Drove) 6 on Nov 14th.

**Whooper Swan:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Nene Washes	200	216	450	462	767	551	747	1112	1322	1221	979	986
Ouse W (C only)	3356	1417	2993	5979	4238	3281	3587	1087	7443	2871	7044	4937

### **TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE** *Anser serrirostris*

**Amber List.** *Scarce winter visitor.*

*First winter period* (4 records): Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) 2 on Jan 2nd, photo (ALC, RMP, SLC), increasing to 4 on Jan 3rd (JPT), Prior's Fen 3 from Jan 14th to 17th, with 2 remaining until 28th (JPT *et al.*) and Waterbeach 2 on Jan 30th and 31st.

### **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 3600.

*Total records:* 20. *Sites:* 13 non-breeding.

*Latest* on Mar 27th (Eldernell) and *earliest* on Oct 6th (Helpston and Littleport)

*Peak counts:*

*First winter period/spring:* Impington 45 over on Jan 25th, Ouse Washes 20 on Jan 5th, Chatteris (Horesley Fen) 6 on Jan 20th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 4 from Jan 16th to 17th, Prior's Fen 2 on Jan 28th and singles at March on Jan 21st, Eldernell on Mar 27th and Ouse Fen on Jan 20th and Feb 8th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Yaxley 250 on Nov 24th, Helpston 40 over on Oct 6th, Littleport (May Farm) 32 over on Oct 6th, Ferry Meadows CP 8 over on Oct 29th and Ouse Washes 4 from Nov 1st to 2nd.

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

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 24.

*Total records:* 65. *Sites:* 15 non-breeding.

*Latest* on May 12th (Ouse Washes) and *earliest* on n/a

*Peak counts:*

*First winter period:* Swaffham Prior Fen 13 from Jan 2nd to 3rd, Ouse Washes 9 on Jan 2nd, with 38 on Jan 3rd, rising to 48 on Jan 11th, 30 on Feb 1st and a single on Feb 19th, Whitmoor a juvenile on Jan 2nd, Burwell Fen 13 intermittently from Jan 5th to Feb 4th, 17 on Feb 5th, increasing to 37 on Feb 6th, 30 from Feb 10th to 12th and 18 from Feb 20th to 24th, Paxton Pits 18 on Jan 5th, 19

on Jan 28th, 9 on Jan 29th, 20 on Feb 4th and 12 on Feb 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 13 intermittently from Jan 14th to Feb 19th, March 2 on Jan 21st, Earith Washes 20 over on Jan 27th, Berry Fen 46 from Jan 28th to 30th, with 44 remaining on 31st, Cambridge Research Park 3 from Jan 28th to 29th, Ouse Fen 40 on Jan 31st, Barleycraft GP 41 on Feb 4th, with 46 on 6th, Wicken Fen 2 on Feb 7th, Manea 28 on Feb 9th and Cam Washes (Upware) 37 on Feb 17th.

*Spring:* Ouse Washes a first-winter from Apr 6th to May 12th.

A substantial mid-winter influx involving several large flocks with some moving between sites.

## GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

**Amber List.** *Fairly common resident. Re-established native.*

*Total records:* 2290. *Sites:* 85 breeding season/108 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (139 pairs/broods at 25 sites): Paxton Pits 25 pairs, Ouse Fen 20 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 16 broods, Dunkirk 12 broods, Offord 10 broods, Cam Washes (Upware) 9 broods, Nene Washes 8 pairs, St Ives GP 5 pairs, Burwell Fen 4 broods, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 4 pairs, Cambridge Research Park 3 broods, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 broods, Milton CP 3 broods, Burghley Park 2 broods, Hinxton Genome Campus 2 broods, Kings Dyke NR 2 broods, Shingay 2 broods, Wicken Fen 2 broods and single pairs/broods at a further 7 sites.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	106	7	-	97	92	260	122	571	371	2	3	20
Burwell Fen	260	172	80	49	72	36	211	400	278	450	-	200
Colne Fen GP	254	2	190	26	22	216	548	3	77	2	-	-
Fen Drayton Lakes	2	5	42	26	44	200	404	227	7	40	6	50
Godmanchester GP	38	160	42	60	47	226	170	226	171	173	-	58
Grafham Water	67	3	6	1	26	61	60	-	471	478	112	75
Kingfishers Bridge	350	305	314	110	140	215	361	396	450	886	860	380
Ouse W (N & C)	109	325	44	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	625	574
Ouse W (C only)	76	247	22	60	50	6	-	-	-	-	214	264
Paxton Pits	150	151	30	14	50	25	22	7	320	176	161	-
Sutton North Fen	710	-	-	-	-	-	198	392	630	846	1020	-

*Peak counts of 100+ at other sites:* Stretham (Marina) 400 on Nov 18th, Burghley Park 350 on Feb 1st, Marsh Lane GP 350 on Nov 19th, Wicken Fen 350 on Nov 26th, Berry Fen 300 on Aug 24th, Fowlmere NR 291 on Feb 28th, Wimpole Park 288 on Nov 7th, Hauxton 280 on Jan 26th, Cam Washes (Upware) 270 on Feb 26th, Cambridge Research Park 260 on Dec 29th, Little Shelford 250 on Jan 16th, Buckden and Stirtloe GP 201 on Jul 21st, Milking Nook 200 on Aug 26th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 180 on Oct 12th, Ouse Fen 173 on Feb 26th, Milton CP 170 on Jan 1st, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 151 on Jan 29th, Whittlesford GP 137 on Jan 3rd, Chippenham Fen 130 on Nov 29th, Maxey GP 123 on Jul 31st, Barway 110 on Jan 27th and Ferry Meadows CP 100 on Feb 13th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 29% (16/17)

*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 3 (95/96) *cf.* 16 (16/17)

**CANADA GOOSE (Greater Canada Goose) *Branta canadensis****Fairly common naturalised resident.**Total records: 1758. Sites: 75 breeding season/104 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (63 pairs/broods at 24 sites): Paxton Pits 20 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 9 broods, St Ives GP 5 pairs, Burwell Fen 3 pairs, Ouse Fen 3 pairs, Adams Road Sanctuary 2 pairs, Cambridge Science Park 2 broods, Nene Washes 2 pairs, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2 broods and single pairs/broods at a further 15 sites.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cam Washes (Upw)	24	123	42	43	23	1	1	-	-	40	-	2
Godmanchester GP	161	234	56	40	33	30	12	194	82	5	16	5
Kingfishers Bridge	340	234	165	179	164	148	206	519	411	268	32	170
Ouse W (N & C)	550	10	5	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	1077	960
Ouse W (C only)	550	7	2	12	4	4	-	-	-	41	912	669
Trumpington (CF)	62	51	6	18	32	29	39	68	119	60	66	-

*Peak counts of 75+ at other sites:* Barway 238 on Jan 27th, Stretham (Marina) 186 on Aug 16th, Sutton North Fen 156 on Sep 10th, Grafham Water 138 on Oct 8th, Ferry Meadows CP 106 on Oct 19th, Marsh Lane GP 90 on Nov 19th and Woodwalton Fen 82 on Jan 2nd.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 10% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (16/17)

**BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*****Amber List.** *Scarce naturalised resident; wild birds are rare winter visitors.**Total records: 85. Sites: 9 breeding season/19 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (4 pairs/broods at 2 sites): Dunkirk 2 pairs fledged 5 young and Whittlesford GP 2 pairs fledged 9 young.

*Peak monthly counts at key sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Granta Park	-	13	13	-	-	-	-	10	-	13	13	-
Ouse Washes	22	10	16	4	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-
Sutton North Fen	31	-	-	-	-	-	28	29	31	-	25	-
Whittlesford GP	-	-	-	4	3	5	13	2	-	-	-	-

*Peak counts at other sites:* Chatteris (Horseley Fen) 18 on Jan 20th, Farcet Fen 15 on Sep 28th, Ouse Fen 14 on Oct 29th, Little Abington 13 on Oct 29th, Cam Washes (Upware) 2 on May 14th, Colne Fen GP 2 on Mar 4th, Earith Washes 2 on Feb 26th, Grafham Water 2 from Jun 10th to Jul 30th, Paxton Pits 2 on Aug 28th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2 on Mar 9th and singles at Barleycraft GP on Jul 24th, Burwell Fen intermittently from Jan 22nd to Apr 15th and Wicken Fen on Nov 17th.

The records from the south of the county (including table) are likely to involve the same flock.

**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): single birds at Nene Washes (Eldernell) on Jan 8th, Ferry Meadows CP on Jan 10th, Burwell Fen from Jan 12th to 15th, Kingfishers Bridge on Feb 5th, Grafham Water on Feb 15th and Sutton Gault on Feb 25th with presumed same at Ouse Washes (Earith) on Feb 26th.

*Autumn/second winter period* (2 records): Cambourne 15 over on Sep 25th and Trumpington (Clay Farm) a colour-ringed bird from Oct 11th to 13th. This female was ringed in Friesland (NL) in spring 2015 as a first-winter bird and had been re-sighted in Friesland in subsequent winters.

**EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca***

*Uncommon naturalised resident.*

*Total records: 652. Sites: 30 breeding season/45 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (22 pairs/broods at 14 sites): Berry Fen 3 pairs, Earith Washes 3 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes (broods of 4 and 2), Kingfishers Bridge (broods of 4 and 3), Ouse Fen 2 pairs, Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) 2 pairs, Barleycraft GP (brood of one), Burghley Park (brood of 6), Dunkirk (one brood, no young fledged), Earith GP 1 pair, Hauxton (brood of 4), Maxey GP (brood of one), Paxton Pits (brood of one) and St Ives GP (brood of one).

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	4	6	1	13	6	2	3	9	8	8	1	14
Colne Fen GP	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	11	16	9	11	3
Fen Drayton Lakes	8	6	3	6	8	14	23	8	6	17	1	2
Godmanchester GP	2	1	5	2	2	1	2	6	10	4	-	2
Kingfishers Bridge	5	4	4	11	11	6	9	9	4	7	9	11
Maxey GP	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	4	5	2	-
Ouse Fen	44	3	1	1	1	4	-	1	2	20	3	-
Paxton Pits	-	2	2	3	2	5	2	4	3	2	4	2

*Peak counts at other sites:* Burghley Park 8 on Apr 7th, Stretham (Marina) 8 on Oct 26th, Burwell Fen 7 on Sep 24th, Eaton Ford 7 on Oct 24th, Berry Fen 6 on Apr 30th, Earith Washes 6 on Mar 4th, Hauxton Pits 6 on May 11th, Sutton North Fen 6 on Jul 23rd, Cam Washes (Upware) 5 on Dec 24th, Coveney Byall Fen 5 on Apr 22nd, Ouse Washes 5 on Apr 30th and 1-4 at a further 26 sites.

**SHELDUCK (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna***

**Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant and local breeder.*

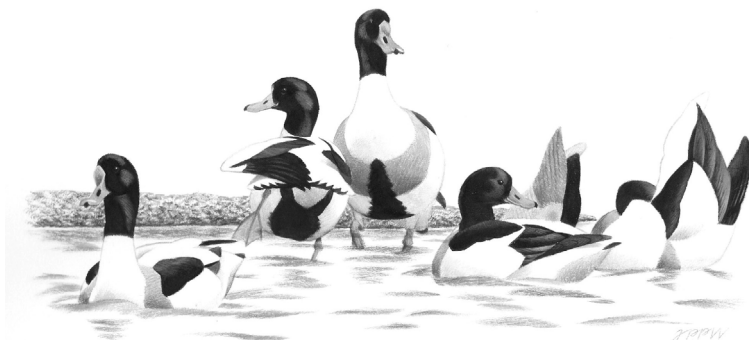
*Total records: 715. Sites: 32 breeding season/34 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (84 pairs/broods at 12 sites): Nene Washes 52 pairs, Ouse Washes 8 pairs, Burwell Fen 6 pairs/2 broods, Dunkirk 5 pairs/25 young fledged, Kingfishers Bridge 3 pairs/one brood, Cam Washes (Upware) 2 pairs, Colne Fen GP 2 pairs, Wicken Fen 2 pairs and single pairs at Cambridge Research Park, Littleport, Maxey GP (9 young) and Ouse Fen.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burwell Fen	7	8	37	24	13	12	15	9	3	3	3	1
Cam Washes (Upw)	2	6	7	4	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	4	4	7	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	2	2
Kingfishers Bridge	1	3	9	14	7	4	1	-	-	-	-	2
Nene Washes	7	40	37	38	26	24	11	-	3	-	1	-
Ouse W (N & C)	10	24	63	213	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8
Ouse W (C only)	4	17	31	83	50	16	2	4	-	2	1	1

*Peak counts at other sites:* Wicken Fen 32 on May 11th and 24th, Coveney Byall Fen 19 on Apr 6th, Barleycraft GP 15 on Jan 15th, Maxey GP 11 on May 22nd, Dunkirk 10 on Jun 30th, Kings Dyke NR 8 on Aug 1st, Ouse Fen 7 on May 13th, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 6 on Apr 18th, Sutton North Fen 6 on Jan 15th, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on May 7th and 1-4 at a further 18 sites.



**Shelducks** Jan Wilczur

**MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata*

*Uncommon naturalised resident and escapee.*

*Total records: 108. Sites: 14 breeding season/29 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (2 pairs/broods at 1 site): Linton 2 broods of 3 and 4 young is the first confirmed breeding in the county since 2013. Elsewhere juveniles were noted at Stanground Wash and Wicken Fen, and a female seen at Trumpington Meadows was thought to be leaving a nest site. Single pairs seen during the breeding season at Barton (Lark Rise Farm) and Pymoor, and single males noted at Berry Fen, Eye Green BP, Grafham Water and Woodwalton Fen.

*Peak monthly counts at selected site:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wimpole Park	13	8	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	5	17

*Peak counts at other sites outside breeding season:*

*First winter period/spring:* Crown Lakes CP 12 on Jan 24th, Trumpington 5 on Mar 13th, Haslingfield 3 on Mar 31st, Hauxton Pits 3 on Mar 31st, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 2 on Mar 15th, Eye Green BP 2 from Jan 10th to Apr 15th, Great Shelford 2 on Mar 13th, Longstowe 2 on Apr 2nd and singles at

Arrington on Jan 21st, Berry Fen from Mar 11th to May 14th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) on Jan 14th, Ferry Meadows CP from Mar 20th to Apr 27th, Haddenham on Feb 15th and Wansford on Apr 16th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Stapleford 30 on Sep 18th, Haslingfield 10 on Nov 6th, Hauxton Pits 3 on Aug 16th, Little Shelford 2 on Sep 4th, and singles at Barleycraft GP from Aug 12th to Sep 10th, Earith Washes on Nov 6th, Eye Green BP on Nov 9th and Dec 26th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Nov 18th, Ferry Meadows CP on Aug 22nd, Sep 15th and Oct 10th, Grafham Water from Aug 10th to 15th, Littleport (May Farm) from Nov 28th to Dec 14th, Peterborough from Aug 11th to 14th, Stanground Wash from Aug 2nd to Sep 22nd and Whittlesford GP on Aug 6th.

### WIGEON (Eurasian Wigeon) *Anas penelope*

**Amber List.** *Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant; regularly summers/occasionally breeds.*  
WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 15000; threshold for national importance: 4400.

*Total records:* 1348. *Sites:* 18 breeding season/51 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (10 pairs at 3 sites): no confirmed breeding, which remains a rare event in the county (last confirmed 2016). Possible breeding pairs recorded at: Nene Washes 4 pairs, Ouse Fen 3 pairs and Ouse Washes 3 pairs.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	375	470	170	32	1	-	-	1	36	137	140	286
Burwell Fen	625	860	345	16	5	3	-	2	48	220	200	300
Cam Washes (Upw)	540	350	290	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	102	250
Colne Fen GP	1334	139	130	4	-	-	-	-	22	19	486	354
Fen Drayton Lakes	240	825	358	4	2	-	-	1	206	458	657	1317
Kingfishers Bridge	217	254	420	8	3	1	1	5	22	13	52	110
Nene Washes	12017	12929	6123	1	5	4	-	2	-	3	951	8000
Ouse W (N & C)	25122	16071	19121	3649	-	-	-	-	-	-	10049	13503
Ouse W (C only)	15776	9996	10112	3378	50	6	6	2	-	200	5549	10549
Paxton Pits	949	800	240	4	3	1	1	1	30	480	255	150
Wicken Fen	293	567	780	10	5	4	2	-	117	202	571	575

*Peak counts of 100+ at other sites:* Berry Fen 800 on Feb 25th, Godmanchester GP 389 on Mar 12th, Ouse Fen 300 on Oct 28th, Haddenham 250 on Jan 6th and Feb 15th, Earith 177 on Nov 28th, Bainton GP 157 on Dec 11th, Chatteris (Horseley Fen) 150 on Jan 20th and Ferry Meadows CP 101 on Oct 9th.

**Wigeon:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Fen Drayton Lakes	1608	2960	2222	2228	2131	3000	3001	2369	6575	3124	3021	2735
Nene Washes	800	8180	10497	9096	22571	20460	3050	5923	11423	14200	15150	12929
Ouse W (C only)	38398	19056	15425	18417	13022	26780	24590	18995	28964	15632	25213	15776
Paxton Pits	1864	1084	1047	670	691	928	2462	819	1759	1672	500	949

**GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 600; threshold for national importance: 250.

*Total records:* 1789. *Sites:* 33 breeding season/61 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (194 pairs/broods at 12 sites): Ouse Washes 86 pairs, Nene Washes 65 pairs, Ouse Fen 24 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 5 broods/15 young, Cam Washes (Upware) 3 broods/21 young, Cambridge Research Park 3 broods/15 young, Burwell Fen 2 broods, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 2 pairs and single pairs/broods at Cottenham (Long Drove), Farcet, Ferry Meadows CP and Stanground Wash.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	98	94	56	11	6	1	20	6	34	58	193	210
Berry Fen	70	270	-	36	-	25	-	-	-	6	2	-
Burwell Fen	213	104	20	46	32	26	24	130	179	220	4	21
Fen Drayton Lakes	187	124	86	12	13	6	73	309	363	89	179	352
Nene Washes	102	228	170	-	-	130	-	-	-	4	28	6
Ouse Fen	111	50	-	6	6	24	55	40	51	32	65	28
Ouse W (N & C)	199	320	699	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	26
Ouse W (C only)	163	245	517	233	120	172	4	14	-	20	20	16
Paxton Pits	162	104	54	8	22	9	3	-	20	100	215	146

*Peak counts of 50+ at other sites:* Wicken Fen 188 on Feb 7th, Stretham (Marina) 180 on Nov 18th, Milton CP 167 on Jan 27th, Godmanchester GP 74 on Dec 6th, Kingfishers Bridge 72 on Dec 8th, Cam Washes (Upware) 66 on Feb 25th, Grafham Water 63 on Sep 3rd, Bainton GP 62 on Dec 11th, Ferry Meadows CP 61 on Oct 22nd, Colne Fen GP 51 on Jan 15th and Cambridge Research Park 50 on Dec 3rd.

**Gadwall:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Fen Drayton Lakes	378	553	387	442	348	350	456	369	345	229	646	264
Ouse W (C only)	1694	180	702	1143	735	623	994	432	490	324	985	517
Paxton Pits	315	212	324	280	307	173	341	194	315	247	176	162

**TEAL (Eurasian Teal)** *Anas crecca*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 5000; threshold for national importance: 2100.

*Total records:* 1667. *Sites:* 19 breeding season/67 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (23 pairs at 10 sites): No confirmed breeding, (last confirmed 2016), pairs recorded in the breeding season at: Ouse Fen 5 pairs, Littleport (May Farm) 4 pairs, Burwell Fen 3 pairs and 1-2 pairs at Fen Drayton Lakes, Grafham Water, Kingfishers Bridge, Maxey GP, Nene Washes, Ouse Washes and Wicken Fen.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burwell Fen	331	736	96	140	19	6	13	24	226	264	246	200
Fen Drayton Lakes	120	151	101	35	3	1	6	20	34	21	25	107
Grafham Water	682	156	72	2	2	-	-	79	54	76	81	8
Isleham Washes	208	113	35	19	-	-	-	1	179	147	50	27
Kingfishers Bridge	250	163	105	71	20	4	1	12	15	46	45	163
Nene Washes	2338	2900	1529	-	4	1	5	4	-	2	262	396
Ouse W (N & C)	2494	1067	2819	1784	-	-	-	-	-	-	3605	2739
Ouse W (C only)	1148	487	1526	1181	100	4	23	7	-	100	1210	1519
Paxton Pits	58	261	20	6	4	-	1	-	-	21	138	50
Wicken Fen	225	268	220	88	27	2	7	1	37	244	138	58
Woodwalton Fen	186	512	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	221

*Peak counts of 75+ at other sites:* Cambridge Research Park 215 on Dec 31st, Berry Fen 153 on Apr 9th, Maxey GP 150 on Jan 10th, Sutton North Fen 142 on Jan 22nd, Cam Washes (Upware) 120 on Jan 18th, Ferry Meadows CP 80 on Feb 21st and Colne Fen GP 79 on Oct 8th.

**Teal:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Fen Drayton Lakes	160	196	286	150	677	305	250	710	919	1142	1119	151
Grafham Water	470	414	181	150	414	200	384	335	379	610	368	796
Nene Washes	456	1677	2078	1851	9012	3916	2004	1350	1500	2219	3600	2900
Ouse W (C only)	7181	1572	2090	3642	972	3611	3316	2000	5180	7179	7816	1621

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 45000; threshold for national importance: 6800.

*Total records:* 4090. *Sites:* 130 breeding season/163 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (818 pairs/broods at 38 sites): Nene Washes 381 pairs, Ouse Washes 301 pairs, Ouse Fen 70 pairs, Dunkirk 8 broods, Paxton Pits 6 pairs, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 5 pairs, Cambridge 3 broods and 1-2 pairs/broods at a further 31 sites

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BBite – Owlstone	242	215	124	-	-	-	-	-	-	161	190	186
Colne Fen GP	212	91	50	69	43	33	159	183	206	17	220	147
Fen Drayton Lakes	151	56	86	66	61	85	156	121	143	106	73	134
Grafham Water	342	96	62	-	6	22	20	-	446	295	201	-
Kingfishers Bridge	436	68	78	45	79	72	153	147	147	39	54	174
Marsh Lane GP	79	113	106	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	111	50
Nene Washes	771	425	529	-	-	381	-	-	200	-	717	836
Ouse W (N & C)	2211	1416	1014	725	-	-	-	-	-	-	1478	1439
Ouse W (C only)	1133	619	615	386	75	588	-	22	-	100	766	974
Sutton North Fen	334	-	149	-	-	-	68	315	106	137	335	-
Wicken Fen	89	224	56	31	96	77	98	52	49	30	86	43

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



*Peak counts of 100+ at other sites:* Littleport (May Farm) 681 on Dec 30th, Burwell Fen 300 on Aug 14th, Barleycraft GP 295 on Sep 10th, Wicken Fen 224 on Feb 16th, Cambridge Research Park 215 on Aug 5th, Ferry Meadows CP 200 on Aug 1st, Ouse Fen 186 on Jul 23rd, Berry Fen 154 on May 14th, Haddenham 151 on Nov 16th, Granta Park 130 on Dec 30th, Woodwalton Fen 127 on Jan 26th and Shropshire's Reservoir 107 on Oct 9th.

**Mallard:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Fen Drayton Lakes	236	213	197	219	407	244	264	348	218	252	245	243
Grafham Water	491	526	371	391	711	632	716	570	341	522	323	525
Nene Washes	246	485	1164	851	1291	1024	869	439	484	982	1330	807
Ouse W (C only)	1786	1740	2158	2284	1903	1554	1351	1626	1883	1881	3223	2255
Wicken Fen	351	170	254	280	121	180	185	140	448	160	220	224

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 73% (95/96) *cf.* 56% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 65 (95/96) *cf.* 40 (16/17)

### **PINTAIL (Northern Pintail)** *Anas acuta*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 600; threshold for national importance: 290.

*Total records:* 240. *Sites:* 2 breeding season/20 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
Nene Washes	250	109	150	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	222
Ouse W (N & C)	216	166	659	152	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	303
Ouse W (C only)	50	70	471	144	8	-	-	-	-	-	50	93

*Peak counts at other sites as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Woodwalton Fen 14 on Feb 17th, Ouse Fen 12 on Jan 15th, Burwell Fen 8 on Mar 13th, Wicken Fen 7 on Jan 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on Jan 15th and Mar 11th, Grafham Water 3 on Jan 13th, Landbeach Pits 3 on Mar 12th, Paxton Pits 3 on Mar 13th, Cam Washes (Upware) 2 on Mar 15th, Coveney Byall Fen 2 on May 6th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Jan 22nd and singles at Barleycraft GP on Jan 20th and Mar 11th, Berry Fen on Mar 6th, Colne Fen GP on Jan 15th, Earith on Feb 19th and Milking Nook on Apr 26th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Fen Drayton Lakes 7 on Nov 19th, Grafham Water 7 on Sep 19th, Paxton Pits 6 on Sep 19th, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on Nov 6th, Wicken Fen 3 on Oct 29th, Burwell Fen 2 on Oct 15th, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on Nov 6th and singles at Berry Fen on Nov 19th and Cambridge Research Park on Dec 2nd.

**Pintail:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Nene Washes	281	1931	1267	1951	2400	1237	50	575	523	830	680	250
Ouse W (C only)	2387	1051	1195	1450	201	876	545	488	482	496	892	471

**Pintail** Jan Wilczur**GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula***Amber List.** *Uncommon migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records:* 317. *Sites:* 10 breeding season/18 non-breeding.*Earliest* on Mar 11th (Grafham Water and Ouse Washes) and *latest* on Nov 18th (Ouse Washes)*Breeding* (20 pairs/broods at 7 sites): Wicken Fen 6 pairs/2 broods, Nene Washes 5 pairs, Ouse Washes 5 pairs/2 broods and single pairs/broods at Berry Fen, Burwell Fen, Isleham Washes (8 young) and Kingfishers Bridge.*Peak monthly counts at key sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Berry Fen	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burwell Fen	-	-	3	3	3	1	7	14	9	-	-	-
Kingfishers Bridge	-	-	6	6	4	-	-	3	2	-	-	-
Nene Washes	-	-	4	6	3	10	1	2	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	-	5	13	5	12	9	7	-	-	1	-
Wicken Fen	-	-	-	2	9	12	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Counts at other sites as follows:*

*Spring:* Grafham Water 4 on Mar 11th, Ferry Meadows CP 3 drakes on Mar 25th, Dog-in-a-Doublet 2 on Mar 23rd and Apr 1st, Milking Nook 2 on Apr 26th, Tubney Fen 2 on Apr 29th and singles at Cam Washes (Upware) on Mar 29th, Fen Drayton Lakes on May 11th, Fowlmere NR on Mar 25th and Paxton Pits on May 7th

*Summer/autumn:* Isleham Washes 9 on Aug 27th and singles at Fen Drayton Lakes on Sep 3rd and Paxton Pits on Jul 1st and from Sep 14th to 18th.

### SHOVELER (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

**Amber List.** *Fairly common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 400; threshold for national importance: 180.

*Total records:* 1411. *Sites:* 22 breeding season/50 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (159 pairs/broods at 9 sites): Ouse Washes 87 pairs, Nene Washes 45 pairs, Ouse Fen 10 pairs, Burwell Fen 6 pairs/2 broods, Wicken Fen 6 pairs/2 broods, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 2 pairs and single pairs at Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport (May Farm) and Paxton Pits.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burwell Fen	176	164	204	81	10	12	11	28	158	176	70	60
Fen Drayton Lakes	84	225	97	4	3	1	7	5	260	210	46	107
Grafham Water	93	72	89	2	3	-	-	-	34	111	22	-
Kingfishers Bridge	62	56	38	12	8	9	3	5	25	24	23	28
Nene Washes	171	226	418	104	-	90	-	-	-	-	89	80
Ouse W (N & C)	260	177	1065	1342	-	-	-	-	-	-	280	304
Ouse W (C only)	260	57	568	1084	30	162	10	4	-	5	200	151
Paxton Pits	27	63	67	5	5	1	-	-	9	13	30	43
Wicken Fen	52	196	157	22	14	13	6	4	79	104	132	35

*Peak counts of 20+ at other sites:* Marsh Lane GP 110 on Dec 12th, Ouse Fen 95 on Oct 8th, Barleycraft GP 78 on Nov 19th, Berry Fen 74 on Feb 25th, Cambridge Research Park 51 on Jan 29th, Bainton GP 46 on Dec 11th, Ely BF 38 on Nov 5th, Cam Washes (Upware) 36 on Feb 25th, Ferry Meadows CP 36 on Jan 13th and 29th, Godmanchester GP 36 on Oct 8th, Stretham (Marina) 35 on Nov 18th, Colne Fen GP 34 on Nov 26th and Woodwalton Fen 20 on Mar 16th.

**Shoveler:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Grafham Water	357	170	157	121	180	268	100	130	109	112	64	93
Nene Washes	213	432	384	272	330	79	50	239	496	287	537	418
Ouse W (C only)	1134	338	846	1506	206	898	586	650	466	578	668	568

### RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

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

*Total records:* 66. *Sites:* 2 breeding season/8 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (one pair at one site): No confirmed breeding. Birds seen during the breeding season included a pair at Maxey GP (see table) and a drake at the Ouse Washes.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maxey GP	-	3	-	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2

*Counts at other sites as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Grafham Water 2 on Jan 3rd, Ouse Washes (Sutton Gault) 2 on Feb 18th, Buckden Marina 2 on Mar 31st with a single on Apr 9th, Coveney Byall Fen a single on May 6th and Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) a drake from May 6th to 7th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Nov 5th and Barleycraft GP 2 from Nov 13th to 19th.

### **POCHARD (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina***

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 3000; threshold for national importance: 380.

*Total records:* 1052. *Sites:* 22 breeding season/43 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (54 pairs/broods at 4 sites): Ouse Fen 49 pairs/one brood, Kingfishers Bridge 2 broods, Nene Washes 2 pairs and a single pair at Ouse Washes.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	34	42	8	15	17	47	10	9	19	7	21	9
Fen Drayton Lakes	192	157	42	9	16	2	80	49	30	6	49	59
Grafham Water	25	14	-	-	-	-	7	17	11	30	14	24
Nene Washes	2	9	-	2	4	4	-	-	-	2	1	-
Ouse Fen	36	20	30	15	40	3	28	104	24	12	33	12
Ouse W (N & C)	1022	1091	928	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	66
Ouse W (C only)	570	482	826	29	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	105	138	91	-	14	5	-	-	12	31	38	22

*Peak counts of 20+ at other sites:* Maxey GP 90 on Sep 2nd, St Ives GP 77 on Jan 22nd, Colne Fen GP 65 on Jan 15th, Cambridge Research Park 53 on Dec 31st, Tanholt GP 40 on Sep 20th, Marsh Lane GP 36 on Dec 12th, Sutton North Fen 34 on Jan 15th, Wicken 30 on Nov 5th, Bradley Fen 29 on Feb 13th, Ferry Meadows CP 28 on Feb 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 27 on Apr 6th, Littleport (May Farm) 27 on Jan 19th and Dec 15th and Whittlesford GP 21 on Jan 3rd.

**Pochard:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Fen Drayton Lakes	157	121	251	316	176	173	118	110	382	240	156	192
Grafham Water	78	48	84	78	526	217	69	21	62	50	43	25
Nene Washes	88	57	462	330	129	3	4	1072	1067	11	65	9
Ouse W (C only)	267	2289	1846	1316	1522	1305	233	2099	850	1570	1839	826
Paxton Pits	258	164	313	370	311	187	397	151	231	151	155	138

### **RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris***

*Rare, irregular visitor.* c20 (20) 0

*First winter period* (one record): the wintering female at Paxton Pits from 2016 remained to Apr 18th.

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 12000; threshold for national importance: 1100.

*Total records: 2131. Sites: 51 breeding season/74 non-breeding.**Breeding* (139 pairs/broods at 14 sites): Ouse Fen 84 pairs, Nene Washes 10 pairs, Ouse Washes 9 pairs, Cambridge Research Park 6 broods, Kingfishers Bridge 6 broods, Cam Washes (Upware) 5 broods, Littleport (May Farm) 5 pairs, Dunkirk 4 broods, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 4 broods, Burwell Fen 2 broods and single broods at Kings Dyke NR, Maxey GP, Milton CP and Paxton Pits.*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	70	67	-	144	76	31	63	44	37	21	111	70
Colne Fen GP	54	71	30	192	17	30	124	108	27	110	152	101
Fen Drayton Lakes	349	419	398	354	33	8	290	592	390	422	397	227
Godmanchester GP	148	78	36	10	15	26	129	172	69	169	146	217
Grafham Water	657	136	72	12	12	2	600	545	921	1584	932	250
Nene Washes	32	41	41	-	10	20	-	-	-	-	20	5
Ouse W (N & C)	448	559	1952	470	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	370	444	1530	450	2	18	2	1	-	-	2	1
Paxton Pits	456	307	443	30	28	24	6	-	146	125	344	235

*Peak counts of 50+ at other sites:* St Ives GP 280 on Jan 22nd, Ouse Fen 159 on Jan 15th, Ferry Meadows CP 150 on Dec 10th, Maxey GP 78 on Sep 2nd, Drysides BP 70 on Aug 10th, Milton CP 70 on Jan 27th, Bradley Fen 68 on Mar 13th, Kingfishers Bridge 68 on Jan 8th, Wicken Fen 64 on Feb 16th, Cambridge Research Park 62 on Jan 7th, Roswell Pits 60 on Dec 2nd, Shropshire's Reservoir 56 on Aug 13th, Littleport (May Farm) 53 on Dec 15th, Cam Washes (Upware) 52 on Jun 1st and Somersham GP 50 on Jan 14th.**Tufted Duck:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Fen Drayton Lakes	679	454	473	505	759	492	878	643	601	730	1141	816
Grafham Water	1337	521	1458	1591	2242	1815	1645	1421	1937	2031	729	1497
Nene Washes	69	375	103	247	213	80	851	1095	1152	51	250	41
Ouse W (C only)	832	1525	2523	2409	1249	1247	619	3911	1619	2545	936	1530

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 12% (95/96) *cf.* 7% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 5 (95/96) *cf.* 3 (16/17)

**SCAUP (Greater Scaup)** *Aythya marila***Red List.** *Scarce annual passage migrant and winter visitor* (20 records *cf.* an average of 13/year).*Latest* on Apr 20th (Coveney Byall Fen) and *earliest* on Aug 3rd (Coveney Byall Fen).

A good year with an above-average number of records and several sizeable groups in late winter.

*First winter period/spring* (15 records): Fen Drayton Lakes 4 birds from 2016 (2 first-winter males and 2 females) to Jan 5th, with 3 remaining to Jan 22nd and a female from Mar 7th to 17th, Ouse Washes a first-winter male at Welches Dam from Jan 3rd to 22nd, up to 9 birds between Chain Corner and

Sutton Gault from Feb 18th to Mar 11th, then 10 birds between Four Balls Farm and Pymoor building to 15 from Apr 1st to 2nd with 8 remaining on Apr 10th, 5 at Welches Dam on Apr 11th and 2 on Apr 17th, Grafham Water an immature male on Jan 6th, a female on Jan 24th, 4 (3 drakes and a female) from Feb 18th to 21st and a female on Mar 27th, Paxton Pits a drake from Jan 18th to 23rd, a drake from Mar 6th to 14th, 9 from Mar 16th to 28th, building to 10 on Mar 29th, with 3 remaining on 31st, Newborough a female on Feb 2nd and Coveney Byall Fen a pair on Apr 20th.

*Autumn/second winter period* (5 records): Coveney Byall Fen one on Aug 3rd, Fen Drayton Lakes a juvenile on Aug 12th, Ferry Meadows CP a female on Sep 15th, Paxton Pits a drake from Oct 9th to 16th and Grafham Water a female on Nov 26th.

### COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

**Red List** *Scarce annual passage migrant; occasional in winter* (12 records cf. an average of 11/year).

*First winter period/spring* (4 records): Grafham Water an immature from 2016 remained to Feb 12th, being joined by 3 more birds on Jan 18th, 3 on Apr 5th and single drakes on Apr 19th and 30th.

*Summer* (2 records): Grafham Water a female on Jun 29th and 9 on Jul 3rd.

*Autumn/second winter period* (6 records): Godmanchester GP a single on Aug 13th, Grafham Water an immature on Sep 26th, 3 on Oct 18th, 3 female-types from Dec 4th to 6th and 2 from Dec 17th to 24th, with up to 6 on 18th.

### GOLDENEYE (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 200.

*Total records:* 349. *Sites:* 17 non-breeding.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	51	92	47	10	1	1	1	1	1	9	25	40
Grafham Water	148	146	83	2	1	1	1	1	1	43	149	-
Ouse W (N & C)	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	10	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Paxton Pits	75	19	20	7	-	-	-	-	1	1	10	9

*Peak counts at other sites:* St Ives GP 6 on Jan 22nd, Ferry Meadows CP 5 on Nov 21st, Godmanchester GP 4 on Feb 28th and Mar 12th, Orton BP 3 on Jan 8th, Barleycraft GP 2 on Jan 15th and Dec 9th, Stapleford 2 on Nov 14th, Bainton GP a female from Mar 18th to 19th, Buckden GP a single on Nov 19th, Cambridge Research Park a female from Oct 20th to Nov 9th, Maxey GP a female on Sep 2nd, Milton CP a drake on Feb 8th and Roswell Pits a female on Dec 2nd.

**Goldeneye:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Fen Drayton Lakes	146	90	114	94	112	105	72	71	57	58	73	92
Grafham Water	91	57	140	96	89	220	133	214	206	109	160	148
Paxton Pits	132	138	137	103	117	108	63	100	101	150	87	75

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 2.

*Total records: 91. Sites: 12 non-breeding.**Latest on Mar 19th (Bainton GP) and earliest on Nov 19th (Fen Drayton Lakes).**Peak monthly counts at key sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Fen Drayton Lakes	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2

*Peak counts at other sites:* Colne Fen GP 4 on Mar 4th, Ouse Washes (Chain Corner) 2 on Mar 11th, Bainton GP a female from Mar 18th to 19th, Berry Fen a single on Feb 12th, Earith (Old West River) a redhead from Feb 8th to Mar 18th, Ferry Meadows CP a redhead on Jan 26th, Grafham Water a redhead on Feb 17th, Kingfishers Bridge a redhead from Dec 3rd to 22nd, Maxey GP a redhead on Jan 16th and Tanholt GP a single on Dec 4th.

**Smew:** peak counts at key sites September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Barleycraft GP	26	11	12	15	29	34	21	18	19	21	14	14
Fen Drayton Lakes	24	7	6	14	16	15	4	7	5	4	8	5
Paxton Pits	13	8	13	6	20	23	15	11	7	2	4	-

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator***Green List.** *Scarce, almost annual winter visitor and passage migrant (3 records cf. an average of 3/year).**First winter period/spring (2 records):* Grafham Water a drake on Mar 11th (MBran) and a 2nd cal-year male on May 12th (RMP).*Autumn (one record):* Earith (Hermitage Lock) a redhead showing at close range on Sep 17th (DE).**GOOSANDER (Common Merganser)** *Mergus merganser***Green List.** *Uncommon winter visitor; has summered.**Total records: 147. Sites: 1 breeding season/19 non-breeding.**Latest on Mar 31st (Grafham Water) and earliest on Sep 14th (Stapleford).**Peak monthly counts at key sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghley Park	6	33	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fen Drayton Lakes	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ferry Meadows CP	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	-
Grafham Water	8	15	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Maxey GP	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

*Peak counts at other sites:*

*First winter period/spring:* Eaton Socon 2 on Feb 28th, Bottisham Lock a redhead on Mar 15th and Castor Mill a single on Mar 18th.

*Summer:* An unusual summer record of a female at Trumpington (Clay Farm) from Jun 19th to Jul 6th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Stapleford (Dernford Farm) a female on Sep 14th, Earith a redhead from Sep 27th to 28th, Kingfishers Bridge an eclipse drake from Oct 8th to 11th, Woodston a single over on Nov 14th, Ouse Fen a single on Dec 2nd, Nene Washes (Eldernell) a single on Dec 6th, Bainton GP 2 on Dec 11th and Wimpole Park a redhead on Dec 15th.

**Goosander:** peak counts at key sites from September to March (2005/06–2016/17)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Grafham Water	12	16	12	11	20	21	13	30	17	25	24	15
Maxey GP	20	15	22	6	11	24	1	28	19	22	8	21
Paxton Pits	12	12	7	3	2	17	17	10	12	15	15	13

**RUDDY DUCK** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

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

*Breeding:* No confirmed breeding pairs. Breeding was last confirmed in the county in 2013 (see table).

**Ruddy Duck:** number of breeding pairs/territorial males (2006–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Breeding pairs	6	6	2	0	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	0

Recorded from only one site:

*Summer/Autumn* (one record): a female at Kings Dyke NR from May 23rd to Jun 26th, then at nearby Bradley Fen from Jul 26th to Oct 27th (GFW).

**QUAIL (Common Quail)** *Coturnix coturnix*

**Amber List.** *Scarce summer visitor in variable numbers; breeding rarely confirmed* (27 individuals cf. an average of 15/year).

*Total records:* 64. *Sites:* 20 breeding season.

A good year with a notable arrival of birds in July.

*Earliest* on May 11th (Fleam Dyke) and *latest* on Sep 13th (St Neots)

*Spring/summer:* Fleam Dyke on May 11th, Chippenham Fen from May 23rd to Jul 5th, Cambridge on May 29th, Swaffham Prior on May 31st to Jun 2nd, Orwell on Jun 17th, Great Chishill 2 on Jun 29th, Barton on Jun 30th, Grunty Fen on Jul 2nd, Fordham on Jul 5th to 6th, Swaffham Prior Fen 1–2 from Jul 7th to Aug 23rd, Cambridge 2 on Jul 10th, Wandlebury CP on Jul 12th, Cheveley on Jul 13th, Cottenham (Long Drove) on Jul 13th, Odsey on Jul 16th, Steeple Morden on Jul 16th, Sutton North Fen 2 on Jul 23rd and Burwell Fen 1–3 from Jul 24th to Aug 24th.

*Autumn:* Great Stukeley on Aug 6th, Yaxley on Aug 14th and St Neots 2 on Sep 13th.



**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa*

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

*Total records: 492. Sites: 70 breeding season/40 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (20 pairs/broods at 6 sites): Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 7 pairs, Paxton Pits 6 pairs, Comberton (Westfield) 3 pairs, Little Wilbraham Fen 2 pairs and single pairs/broods at an additional 2 sites. Potential pairs were recorded at a further 64 sites but breeding details lacking.

*Counts/coveys* (peaks of 20+): largest numbers all relate to releases. Little Wilbraham Fen 175 on Sep 17th, Wood Ditton 150 on Oct 8th, Littleport (May Farm) 60 on Jan 31st, Westley Waterless 60 on Oct 8th, Grafham Water 50 on Dec 28th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 39 on Nov 19th, Chrishall Grange 35 on Jan 9th, Foxton 35 on Oct 12th, Raveley Wood 35 on Jan 26th, Kingfishers Bridge 33 on Dec 28th, Hinxton 23 on Oct 6th, Linton 22 on Jan 13th and Fen Drayton Lakes 20 on Oct 1st.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 86% (95/96) *cf.* 65% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 43 (95/96) *cf.* 27 (16/17)

**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*

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

*Total records: 292. Sites: 48 breeding season/46 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (49 pairs/broods at 33 sites): Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 8 pairs, Fowlmere (Manor Farm) 4 pairs, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 3 pairs, Litlington 3 pairs, Hilton 2 pairs, Swaversey 2 pairs and single pairs/broods at an additional 27 sites.

*Counts/coveys* (peaks of 15+): Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 35 on Oct 21st, Heydon Grange 35 on Dec 31st, Foxton 30 on Oct 19th, Melbourn 23 on Jan 29th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 20 on Feb 18th, Flint Cross 20 on Nov 28th, Burwell 15 on Dec 3rd and Shepreth L-Moor 15 on Oct 15th.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nine Wells	28	34	20	3	5	4	-	-	38	71	73	11
Littleport (May Farm)	93	7	20	20	20	20	30	30	30	30	50	63

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 29% (95/96) *cf.* 23% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 5 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (16/17)

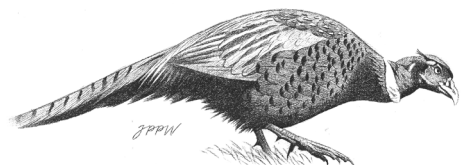
**PHEASANT (Common Pheasant)** *Phasianus colchicus*

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

*Total records: 1896. Sites: 140 breeding season/120 non-breeding.*

Many records submitted failed to include breeding evidence, therefore breeding data incomplete.

*Breeding* (39 pairs/broods at 11 sites): Dunkirk 15 broods, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 9 pairs, Paxton Pits 4 pairs, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 4 pairs, and single pairs/broods at an additional 7 sites.



**Pheasant** Jan Wilczur

*Counts/coveys* (peaks of 15+): Littleport (May Farm) 100 on Jul 31st, Thorney 55 on Feb 17th, Kingfishers Bridge 54 on Mar 9th, Farcet 23 on Aug 19th, Little Wilbraham Fen 22 on Nov 18th, Tetworth Hall Estate 22 on Oct 8th, Wryde Croft 20 on January 17th, Peakirk 19 on Apr 21st and Stanground Wash 17 on Sep 22nd.

**BBB** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 96% (95/96) *cf.* 91% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 80 (95/96) *cf.* 40 (16/17)

### **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (Great Northern Loon)** *Gavia immer*

**Amber List.** *Scarce, annual passage migrant/winter visitor.* 78(80) **1**

*Latest* Mar 22nd and *earliest* on Nov 10th (both Grafham Water).

*First winter:* at Grafham Water the 3 juvenile birds remained from 2016 until Feb 2nd then 2 noted to Feb 12th with one remaining to Mar 22nd.

*Second winter* (one record): Grafham Water an adult from Nov 10th to Dec 22nd, photo (RMP et al.).

**Divers:** total number of records (1950–2017)

	1950s	60s	70s	80s	90s	00s	2010–17
Red-throated Diver	9	16	24	30	10	8	6
Black-throated Diver	3	3	7	11	11	6	1
Great Northern Diver	1	5	10	14	15	19	13

*Table:* note the change of status between Red-throated and Great Northern Divers over the last 60 years.

### **MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

*Rare storm-blown visitor.* 43(43) **2**

*Autumn* (two records): singles at Grafham Water on Sep 8th, photo, (CDA) and another bird taken into care at Littleport on Sep 13th, photo (per county recorder).

### **LEACH'S PETREL** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

*Rare storm-blown visitor.* c25(28) **1**

*Autumn:* a single bird performed well to dusk at Grafham Water on Sep 17th despite the regular harassment by both large and small gulls, photo (JoCa, IKD).

### **CORMORANT (Great Cormorant)** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 350.

*Total records:* 2386. *Sites:* 76 breeding season/100 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (147 pairs at 4 sites): Ouse Washes 60, Paxton Pits 40, Nene Washes 37 and Barleycraft GP 10. Despite being an increasingly regular sight around the whole county the total number of breeding pairs is again not approaching the record number recorded in 2006 (see table below).

*Occupied nest counts (2006–2017)*

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Barleycraft GP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	10
Fen Drayton Lakes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Holme Fen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	19	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	90	81	98	92	44	85	48	26	21	-	65	60
Paxton Pits	165	161	80	140	125	70	75	75	80	-	-	40
Nene Washes	0	0	0	16	25	23	28	33	36	35	40	37
Total	255	242	178	248	194	178	151	150	156	42	112	147

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	10	11	-	17	14	19	37	35	63	56	26	20
Drysidles BP	15	10	7	9	2	18	26	44	49	31	8	6
Fen Drayton Lakes	26	19	25	22	20	10	45	83	169	160	98	69
Ferry Meadows CP	25	17	8	8	3	6	14	33	44	44	45	39
Godmanchester GP	27	19	20	9	2	4	6	13	16	40	11	52
Grafham Water	313	43	29	48	12	4	10	-	50	83	121	-
Kingfishers Bridge	22	19	21	10	7	10	36	20	18	19	24	26
Ouse W (N & C)	55	26	180	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	26
Ouse W (C only)	41	23	133	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	14
Paxton Pits	25	21	20	39	50	60	25	-	40	39	20	8

*Peak counts of 25+ at other sites:* Nene Washes 66 on Feb 13th, St Ives GP 47 on Nov 2nd, Marsh Lane GP 42 on Oct 8th, Wicken Fen 39 on Jan 11th, Buckden & Stirlloe GP 31 on Aug 13th, Isleham 25 on Oct 10th and Kings Dyke NR 25 on Oct 10th.

**SHAG (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

**Red List.** *Scarce annual visitor, mainly storm-driven immatures in winter; occasionally in spring/autumn (one record cf. an average of 4/year).*

*Second winter period:* a single at Ferry Meadows CP on Dec 10th to 11th was the only record for the year (MW).

**BITTERN (Eurasian Bittern) *Botaurus stellaris***

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 6.

*Breeding* (16 confirmed or probable breeding sites): territories mainly defined by booming birds with Ouse Fen 7, Nene Washes 4, and singles at Dogsthorpe Star Pit, Fen Drayton Lakes, Godmanchester GP, Kingfishers Bridge and Kings Dyke NR.

*Non-breeding:* (15 sites) Bainton GP, Barleycraft GP, Bedford Purlieus, Cambridge Research Park, Dryside BP, Farcet Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes 3, Fowlmere NR, Glassmoor Bank 3, Kingfishers Bridge 3, Nene Washes 3, Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits, Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen 3.

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

*Rare visitor from Europe. 21(31) 3*

*First winter period:* Nene Washes a single bird remained from 2016 to Jan 28th at least.

*Spring* (3 records): Duxford A505 one flew over on Mar 16th (BGD), Earith Washes Apr 16th (GHir) then at Fen Drayton Lakes Apr 17th, photo (JHe) and Nene Washes single from May 2nd to May 7th, photo, (RMP *et al.*).

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

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

*Total records:* 1599. *Sites:* 55 breeding season/112 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (37 AON at 4 sites): Nene Washes 24 pairs, Ouse Washes 10 pairs, Cambridge Research Park 2 pairs and a single pair at Paxton Pits.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	2	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	-
Berry Fen	-	1	1	3	5	2	-	7	1	1	1	-
Burwell Fen	3	3	6	5	5	34	39	48	25	11	6	6
Fen Drayton Lakes	3	3	2	5	2	2	3	10	42	51	11	8
Godmanchester GP	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	16	1	1
Grafham Water	4	2	-	2	3	3	7	12	17	10	7	1
Kingfishers Bridge	2	2	4	7	1	4	5	7	3	3	2	3
Nene Washes	13	13	54	49	56	-	3	-	-	1	2	5
Ouse Fen	2	2	3	1	5	4	11	5	4	1	2	-
Ouse W (N & C)	2	6	70	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	1	6	53	76	40	-	6	2	-	1	3	-
Paxton Pits	2	-	4	2	9	6	7	2	8	4	1	-
Wicken Fen	6	2	6	6	15	23	11	12	21	13	4	3

*Peak counts of 10+ at other sites:* St Ives GP 37 on Nov 9th, Maxey GP 18 on Apr 3rd, Maxey Cut 11 on May 1st and Newborough 10 on Jan 21st.

**GREAT WHITE EGRET (Great Egret)** *Ardea alba*

*Scarce, increasing visitor from the Continent.*

*Total records:* 260. *Sites:* 4 breeding season/ 30 non-breeding.

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

*Breeding:* 2 birds in fine breeding plumage present on the Ouse Washes during the spring and early summer raised hopes of potential breeding but this was again not confirmed.

*Peak counts*

*First winter period/spring:* at the turn of the year at least 3 birds were present in the county with singles at Fen Drayton Lakes, Littleport (May Farm) and Paxton Pits, all on Jan 3rd. These individuals accounted for regular records from these sites through to February, also being recorded at Sutton Gault and St Ives GP. A single was on the Nene Washes on Jan 25th. During February/March records of 1–2 birds were less widespread and centred on the Fen Drayton Lakes/Ouse Washes corridor.

A single bird toured the north of the county from Mar 13th to 26th at least, being recorded at Ferry Meadows CP, Maxey GP and Nene Washes.

*Autumn/second winter period:* continuous presence in the county from August to December, with peaks at Burwell Fen of 3 on Oct 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 from Sep 30th to Oct 29th, St Ives 3 on Nov 9th, Cambourne 2 on Nov 16th, Godmanchester GP 2 from Oct 8th to 11th and singles at a further 16 sites.

### GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 610.

*Total records:* 2301. *Sites:* 75 breeding season/96 non-breeding.

*Breeding:* 67 AON at 10 sites. Table plus Ouse Washes at least 2 nests but no full count and single nest at Granta Park.

*Occupied nest counts at regular sites (2006–2017):*

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Berry Fen	3	6	7	6	7	8	10	9	15	14	17	16
Burwell	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Bury Farm	9	11	11	3	4	10	13	10	12	15	13	1
Cam Washes (Up.)	3	4	4	4	1	-	4	2	1	1	-	-
Cambridge	-	3	-	5	7	6	11	10	13	12	8	12
Cambridge R Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Eldernell/Lords Holt	3	8	7	-	14	-	-	-	-	14	19	15
Fortrey's Hall	39	39	15	15	15	28	28	-	-	-ex	-ex	-ex
Goosetree Farm	20	24	-	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hemingford Park	29	23	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
Kingfishers Bridge	-	1	-	5	5	5	5	5	2	-ex	-ex	-ex
Milton Park	52	15	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
Oxloade	6	9	-	-	10	6	7	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	10	10	10	10	-	5	5	6	-	6	4
Quy	8	8	-	-	4	2	-	-	1	-	2	-
River Lane GP	17	7	-	15	16	14	14	14	14	-	-	-
St Ives GP	11	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-
Wicken Fen	4	7	6	3	3	1	-	5	5	2	4	7

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.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	3	3	-	1	1	4	7	2	5	4	1	1
Berry Fen	-	16	-	11	7	16	-	2	7	2	1	1
Fen Drayton Lakes	5	8	2	6	4	3	5	12	19	37	17	12
Godmanchester GP	6	7	4	1	2	1	3	4	1	11	5	5
Grafham Water	7	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	7	8	9	3
Nene Washes	11	10	32	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	16	5
Ouse Fen	2	2	2	2	8	11	6	2	11	3	8	2
Ouse W (N & C)	20	13	32	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
Ouse W (C only)	13	6	26	17	15	-	-	8	-	-	9	4
Paxton Pits	5	5	3	5	21	8	-	5	8	5	4	4

*Peak counts of 10+ at other sites:* Burwell Fen 21 on Aug 29th, Wicken Fen 15 on Jun 15th and Cambridge Research Park 12 on May 21st.

**PURPLE HERON**

*Rare migrant, mostly in spring. 41(41) 2*

Spring: (one record) Ouse Washes a 2nd cal-year bird briefly on Apr 23rd flew off north after being harrassed by Grey Herons, the first record since 2012, photo (RMP, SLC).

Autumn: (one record) Ouse Fen a juvenile on Aug 10th to 11th roosted overnight at Barleycraft GP, photo (RT).

**WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia*

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

Spring: a bird recorded at Old Hurst on Apr 4th and later at Hilton from May 2nd to 9th was considered to be an escaped individual that had been reported roaming around East Anglia.

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus*

*Rare but increasing vagrant from southern Europe. 17(25) 0*

Autumn/winter: The well-watched bird from 2016 remained in the Ely/Roswell Pits area to Apr 5th and then was last seen briefly at Littleport (May Farm) on Apr 6th.

**SPOONBILL (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia***

**Amber List.** *Scarce, annual, visitor mostly to the main washes. (4 records cf. an average of 5/year).*

*Winter (one record): 7 seen flying south over Burwell Fen on Jan 5th (DAP) equals the county record of 7 at the Ouse Washes in Sep 2014.*

*Spring (3 records, all singles): Ouse Washes a 2nd cal-year on Apr 21st (BGD), Berry Fen flew eastwards on May 1st (JDH) and Nene Washes from May 4th to 9th (CK)*



**Spoonbill** *Chris Button*

**LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 160.

*Total records: 1379. Sites: 49 breeding season/69 non-breeding.*

*Breeding (50 pairs/broods at 21 sites): Ouse Fen 11 pairs, Burwell Fen 6 broods, Colne Fen GP 4 broods, Fowlmere NR 3 broods, Kingfishers Bridge 3 broods, Kings Dyke NR 3 broods, Wicken Fen 3 broods, Adams Road Sanctuary 2 broods, Nene Washes 2 pairs, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2 broods, and single pairs/broods at an additional 11 sites.*

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	14	16	-	1	2	2	6	25	9	39	24	-
Bradley Fen	5	2	9	6	5	5	7	12	11	10	4	5
Colne Fen GP	12	20	12	13	7	2	17	31	30	36	21	19
Grafham Water	5	2	4	-	-	-	1	-	17	15	4	1
Kingfishers Bridge	1	2	12	10	4	4	7	9	10	10	6	5
Ouse Fen	5	2	5	5	8	13	10	9	6	9	6	3
Ouse W (N & C)	12	13	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	12	13	10	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7

*Peak counts of 10+ at other sites:* Chain Corner (New Bedford River) 29 on Oct 14th, Littleport (May Farm) 15 on Jan 31st, River Cam (Baits Bite-Clayhithe) 14 on Jan 7th, Holme Fen 12 on Nov 2nd, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 12 on Oct 22nd, Nene Washes 11 on Dec 12th, Maxey GP 10 on Sep 2nd and Woodwalton Fen 10 on Dec 8th.

### **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

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

*Total records:* 1582. *Sites:* 61 breeding season/55 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (61 pairs/broods at 22 sites): Paxton Pits 13 pairs, Ouse Fen 10 pairs, Nene Washes 7 pairs, Colne Fen GP 3 broods, Dryside BP 3 broods, Milton CP 3 broods, Roswell Pits 3 pairs, Cambridge Research Park 2 broods, Kingfishers Bridge 2 pairs, Ouse Washes 2 pairs, Wicken Fen 2 pairs and single pairs/broods at an additional 11 sites. Breeding is often protracted into late in the season as small young are often noted in September.

*Peak monthly counts at key sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	4	3	-	10	8	7	10	3	9	8	1	-
Bradley Fen	-	1	4	5	6	3	4	6	2	2	-	-
Colne Fen GP	7	3	4	5	9	10	17	31	35	24	1	2
Dryside BP	12	7	15	16	18	16	18	23	10	6	1	4
Fen Drayton Lakes	28	10	12	27	25	23	75	69	70	87	24	22
Godmanchester GP	20	8	16	6	5	12	14	17	16	16	5	2
Grafham Water	260	324	97	-	-	-	-	-	236	249	259	-
Ouse W (N & C)	5	4	52	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	3	35	14	4	6	-	-	-	5	-	-
Paxton Pits	40	8	17	-	-	-	-	-	22	9	11	2

*Peak counts of 20+ at other sites:* St Ives GP 28 on Jan 22nd and Ferry Meadows CP 42 on Mar 23rd.

### **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 bird returned to an undisclosed site from Apr 10th to Jul 17th but again failed to attract a mate (GFW).

*First winter* (no new records): Grafham Water a bird from 2016 continued its prolonged stay at the site, last being noted on Apr 5th, a stay of over 7 months.

### **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis*

**Amber List.** *Scarce annual visitor, mainly passage/summer (6 records cf. an average of 10/year); occasionally breeds, perhaps increasingly.*

*Breeding* (one record): undisclosed site, a single bird returned to a previous breeding site from Mar 31st to Apr 4th only.

*First winter/spring* (2 records): Fen Drayton Lakes two on Mar 23rd one remaining to Apr 9th, 2 from Apr 20th to 21st.

*Autumn/second winter* (3 records): singles at Grafham Water on Jul 24th and from Sep 2nd to 3rd and Paxton Pits on Sep 2nd.



**HONEY-BUZZARD (European Honey Buzzard) *Pernis apivorus*****Amber List.** *Scarce, almost annual passage migrant.*

*Summer* (one record): an adult female found freshly dead at an undisclosed site on Jun 11th, photo, (AM) was post-mortemed and found to have died of natural causes. The corpse was found close to a Peregrine nest site, which offers a likely cause for the mortality, and the discovery in the middle of the breeding season indicates a possible breeding attempt from the Honey-buzzard as well, giving two reasons to maintain confidentiality.

**RED KITE *Milvus milvus*****Green List.** *Uncommon but increasing resident, bred since 2004. Mainly descendants of released birds.**Total records:* 855. *Sites:* 125 breeding season/139 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (1 confirmed pair and 4 possible pairs/sites): confirmed breeding at a site where nest building observed in spring and food carrying in summer. At 4 other sites, display, or territorial pair observed. This species is very elusive during the breeding season, but the large number of locations for which no comment on potential breeding activity was made must surely mean under-reporting away from large groups.

*Peak counts of 10+:* Sawtry/Norman Cross area (next to A1M) 60 on Dec 12th, Belsize wood 29 on Nov 25th, Great Chishill 24 on Feb 21st, heading to roost in Hertfordshire, Grafham Water 10 on Aug 27th, Holme Fen 10 on Nov 28th.

**Red Kite:** confirmed and suspected breeding records (2006–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Confirmed pairs	0	3	5	6	6	4	1	6	5	5	1	1
Suspected pairs	2	5	2	2	5	1	4	2	2	1	6	4
<b>Breeding total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

**MARSH HARRIER (Western Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*****Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant and breeder; scarcer but increasing in winter.**Total records:* 1154. *Sites:* 66 breeding season/76 non-breeding.*Breeding:* 25 confirmed pairs at 12 sites and a further 3 possible pairs at 3 sites.

Many of the breeding records reported fledged young this year, with several pairs fledging 2 or 3, and a minimum of 16 young reported.

**Marsh Harrier:** Totals of breeding sites and paired females (2006–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Breeding sites	13	9	12	18	14	9	8	11	15	20	16	15
Paired females	25	17	21	28	26	26	27	31	30	29	32	28

*Winter* (peak counts of 7+): Nene Washes 9 on Jan 8th, Ouse Fen 8 on Jan 22nd, Wicken 8 on Jan 24th, Littleport (May Farm) 8 on Oct 31st, Ouse Washes 8 on Dec 26th and Woodwalton Fen 7 on Dec 22nd.

**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

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

*Total records: 101. Sites: 23 non-breeding.*

*Latest on Apr 21st (Maxey GP) and earliest on Aug 17th (Haddenham).*

*First winter period/spring* (85 records at 17 sites): the roosts at Woodwalton Fen and Wicken continued to reflect the decline in the UK population, with a peak of 3 birds at Wicken Fen (Jan 14th 2 males and 1 female, and Mar 12th), down from a peak of 7 last year. At Woodwalton Fen, the regular wintering wing-tagged male, in his 5th year, was reported specifically once on Jan 27th but the other 6 records from the site either state only male or no gender at all, so it is unclear whether there was ever more than this one bird. Two were at Cam Washes on Jan 18th, otherwise all records were of single birds at Burwell Fen, Chittering, Dimmock's Cote, Maxey GP, Fortrey's Hall, Haddenham, Kingfishers Bridge, Little Wilbraham Fen, Nene Washes, Sawtry, Sutton Gault, Swavesey, Tadlow and an undisclosed location.



**Hen Harrier** *James Hanlon*

*Autumn/second winter period* (16 records at 8 sites): the roost at Wicken peaked at 3 birds, all male, on Dec 9th. Only singles were recorded at other sites as follows: Aldreth, Burwell Fen, Haddenham, Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport (May Farm), Nene Washes and Swaffham Prior Fen.

**MONTAGU'S HARRIER or PALLID HARRIER** *Circus pygargus* or *C. macrourus*

*Summer* (one record): a ringtail harrier on Jun 29th at Fen Ditton (NRa) was either Montagu's or Pallid, there was not enough detail in the description to eliminate either of the pair.

**SPARROWHAWK (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)** *Accipiter nisus*

**Green List.** *Fairly common resident. Some passage migrants and winter visitors.*

*Total records: 791. Sites: 82 breeding season/133 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (9 confirmed pairs at 8 sites and a further 10 possible pairs at 9 sites): confirmed breeding at Chippenham Fen 2, Cambridge, Cambridge Science Park, Coveney Byall Fen, Hardwick Wood, Logan's Meadow, Monks Wood and Waterbeach, with possible breeding at Paxton Pits 2, Barton, Cambridge (centre), Eaton Socon, Fowlmere, Kings Dyke NR, Nene Washes, Ouse Fen and Ouse Washes. 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.* 8% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (16/17)

**BUZZARD (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo***

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

*Total records: 1541. Sites: 199 breeding season/266 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (13 confirmed pairs at 13 sites and a further 22 possible pairs at 10 sites): confirmed pairs at Cam Washes, Cambridge, Cambridge Research Park, Chippenham Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Ferry Meadows CP, Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport (May Farm), Longstowe, Lordsbridge, Mepal, Swavesey and Witcham. 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; places not visited often by birders. Hence this total, at an eighth of the breeding season locations, is probably still below the true figure of breeding pairs.

**Buzzard:** breeding details (2006–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Confirmed pairs	11	21	19	23	30	12	5	15	30	16	23	13
Suspected pairs	21	20	16	14	14	11	4	13	6	15	26	22
<b>Total pairs</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>35</b>

Peak counts of 10+: Duxford 23 on Apr 22nd, Woodditton 18 on Oct 8th, Grafham Water 15 on Sep 16th, Foxton 14 on Apr 9th, Paxton Pits 12 on Mar 13th and Apr 22nd, Cambridge 11 on Aug 27th, Great Chishill 11 on Feb 21st, Kingfishers Bridge 11 on Mar 6th, Littleport (May Farm) 10 on several dates and Roman Road 10 on Aug 29th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 0% (95/96) *cf.* 64% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 10 (16/17)

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus***

*Rare winter visitor. 68(75) 0*

*Winter* (one record): One around Wryde Croft wind farm, between Thorney and the Lincolnshire border, from Jan 10th to Feb 26th (per CBC recorder). Believed same as 2016.

**2016, add winter** (one record): Wryde Croft wind farm, between Thorney and Lincolnshire border, from Feb 22nd to Mar 6th, photo (per CBC recorder). The 68th record of this species.

**OSPREY (Western Osprey) *Pandion haliaetus***

**Amber List.** *Uncommon but increasing passage migrant; has summered.*

*Total records: 30. Sites: 13 spring/7 autumn.*

*Earliest* on Mar 27th (Eaton Ford) and *latest* on Sep 14th (Burwell)

Autumn passage was far less protracted than 2016. Spring passage was between Mar 27th and Jun 3rd and the return started on Jul 26th, with the last bird earlier than recent years on Sep 14th.

*Spring* (20 records): Eaton Ford on Mar 27th, Grafham Water on Mar 30th, Apr 4th–5th, Apr 12th, Apr 16th–17th, Apr 29th, May 15th–16th, Farcet on Apr 3rd, Elton on Apr 13th, Ouse Washes on Apr 15th and Apr 30th, Maxey GP on May 2nd, Peterborough on May 2nd, Nene Washes on May 4th, Paxton Pits on May 5th and 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes on May 9th, Brampton on May 14th, Littleport on May 24th and Offord Cluny on Jun 3rd.

*Autumn* (10 records): Grafham Water on Jul 26th, 2 on Aug 27th with one remaining to Sep 4th and single on Sep 7th, Barnack on Aug 20th, Mepal on Aug 30th, Paxton Pits on Aug 31st, Burwell Fen on Sep 6th, Shepreth on Sep 6th, Tetworth Hall Estate on Sep 6th and Burwell on Sep 14th.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

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

*Total records: 559. Sites: 30 breeding season/45 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (22 pairs/broods at 11 sites): the only confirmed breeding was at Kingfishers Bridge (1 brood of 1+ chicks), elsewhere territories/pairs as follows: Nene Washes 8, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Dunkirk 2, Ouse Washes 2, Burwell Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes, Gault Hole, Kings Dyke NR, Ouse Fen and Paxton Pits.

*Out of breeding season:* peak counts of 4+ as follows: Littleport (May Farm) 6 on several dates, Gault Hole 6 on Oct 29th, Woodwalton Fen 5 on Jan 26th, Barford Pocket Park 4 on Nov 14th, Grafham Water (lagoons) 4 on Sep 27th and Roswell Pits 4 on Nov 11th.

**SPOTTED CRAKE** *Porzana porzana*

**Amber List.** *Scarce annual summer visitor/passage migrant; breeding has been confirmed in past years (one record cf. an average of 5/year).*

*Breeding season* (one singing male/one site): an exceptionally poor year, reflecting a UK-wide situation, with only one singing male at the Nene Washes.

*Earliest* on May 10th (Nene Washes) and *latest* on N/A

**CORNCRAKE (Corn Crane)** *Crex crex*

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

*Earliest* on Apr 30th (Nene Washes) and *latest* on Jul 30th (Nene Washes)

*Breeding season* (2 sites): At the Nene Washes there were only 12 singing males. There was no August round-up of young to assess success rate. Two males singing at an undisclosed site during the summer.

**MOORHEN (Common Moorhen)** *Gallinula chloropus*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 3200.

*Total records: 3473. Sites: 113 breeding season/131 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (107 pairs/broods at 30 sites): Dunkirk 40, Paxton Pits 17, Cambridge Research Park 4, Cambridge Science Park 4, Fen Drayton Lakes 4, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 4, Hinxton Genome Campus 3, Kingfishers Bridge 3, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 3, Bourn 2, Milton CP 2, Ouse Fen 2, Trumpington Meadows 2 and single pairs/broods at an additional 17 sites.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burwell Fen	12	16	7	8	9	7	6	20	14	26	13	7
Cambridge Res Pk	10	1	15	10	2	8	14	14	7	8	9	10
Cam Washes	37	26	29	18	6	6	7	9	6	6	11	11
Farcet	44	45	30	20	8	15	13	13	-	-	-	-
Godmanchester GP	19	25	14	6	11	4	11	14	8	1	22	21
Grafham Water	34	18	11	1	-	1	2	-	8	17	16	1
Ouse W (N & C)	28	24	26	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	33
Ouse W (C only)	22	15	22	14	2	4	2	2	-	3	6	21
RCam Owl-BBite	56	37	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	22	44

RCam Owl-BBite, River Cam (Owlstone Road to Baits Bite Lock)

*Peak counts of 30+ at other sites:* Littleport (May Farm) 100 on several dates, Haddon 50 on Feb 17th, Stanground Wash 40 on Jan 27th, Grafham Water 34 on Jan 21st and Pidley 33 on Oct 6th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 39% (95/96) *cf.* 29% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 6 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (16/17)

**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:* 2910. *Sites:* 85 breeding season/95 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (151 pairs/broods at 21 sites): Paxton Pits 39, Ouse Washes 33, Nene Washes 18, Cambridge Research Park 12, Milton CP 9, Burwell Fen 8, Kingfishers Bridge 6, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 6, Maxey GP 3, Mepal GP 3, Burghley Park 2, Kings Dyke NR 2, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 2 and single pairs/broods at an additional 8 sites.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	313	160	-	38	51	60	175	228	194	183	129	10
Burwell Fen	35	458	230	142	165	225	54	53	54	29	16	-
Colne Fen	85	103	40	46	68	123	285	248	234	146	116	104
Fen Drayton Lakes	543	380	253	117	84	221	585	190	816	1199	988	1236
Grafham Water	395	40	25	5	45	10	200	-	1149	971	579	150
Kingfishers Bridge	74	137	64	48	67	123	169	270	420	190	234	189
Ouse Fen	158	31	41	23	129	201	207	201	146	94	15	2
Ouse W (N & C)	1515	2956	2348	1231	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	1141	1971	1730	738	22	42	17	8	-	5	6	19
Paxton Pits	116	110	41	9	24	39	9	5	246	10	56	36

*Peak counts of 200+ at other sites:* Fletton Lake 300 on Dec 31st, Earith GP 262 on Jan 15th, St Ives GP 236 on Jan 22nd and Ferry Meadows CP 205 on Dec 26th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 10% (95/96) *cf.* 9% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 3 (95/96) *cf.* 3 (16/17)

**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: 262. Sites: 15 breeding season/17 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (5 confirmed pairs at 2 sites): at site A 3 pairs nested, successfully rearing 2 young and a fourth pair were present but did not breed. At Site B one pair lost their one young when half-grown. The non-breeding pair at Site A had relocated from another location where present the previous year.

*Peak monthly counts from Nene Washes:*

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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	29	24	23	17	17	14	16	10	19	18	10	31

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*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. A few records came from other sites, including a couple of flocks of 7 or 9. It is possible that flocks away from the main population centre, even into May, are actually Scandinavian birds migrating – tracking evidence of the timings of Cranes moving through various parts of Europe would imply that this is possible. The latter could include 9 ‘kettling’ high over Bottisham on Apr 19th, 9 over Wimblington on Apr 28th and 7 over Barway on May 2nd.

*Second winter period:* several family parties and non-breeding birds were only occasionally recorded feeding in maize stubble in fenland, in contrast to the previous year. The pattern of previous winters was followed, with a roost accumulating at the Ouse Washes until water levels forced a move to the Nene Washes. The December peak of 31 on Dec 16th was not quite the county maximum recorded the previous winter, but assuming breeding success continues in forthcoming years, that record is not likely to stand for many more winters.

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

**Amber List.** *Scarce passage migrant and a much declined rare breeder. Bred up to 1993, in 1999, from 2007 to 2010 and from 2013 to 2016 (one record cf. an average of 3/year).*

*Breeding:* no reports received, the first blank year since 2012.

*Autumn:* Devil’s Dyke a single on Aug 21st (KWil).

**BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus***

*Rare but increasing passage migrant and occasional breeder 24(40) 9*

An exceptional spring arrival including 4 breeding pairs, one of which was the first successful breeding in the county. In order to give full details of the breeding attempts and the multiple arrivals, there is duplication in the two sets of data presented here.

*Breeding* (4 pairs at 3 sites; one pair fledged two young and three possible pairs at 2 further sites): Ouse Washes, present from Apr 24th with a nest and 3 eggs by May 26th, 2 young hatched by Jun 13th, both of which fledged by Jul 13th with the family present until Jul 27th, after which they were last seen at Dunkirk on Jul 28th. The first successful breeding attempt in the county after failed attempts in 1983, 2014 and 2015. Nene Washes 5 on Apr 29th were seen nest building and copulating but did not remain, Wicken Fen (Baker’s Fen) a pair on May 12th–13th were seen mating and nest site prospecting.

*Spring* (9 records): a series of records began with a pair at Ouse Washes on Apr 24th followed by a pair flying over Woodwalton Fen on Apr 25th. Nene Washes 5 on Apr 29th. An additional single

Ouse Washes on May 1st, then on 5th one of the initial pair was seen to have an injured leg and was replaced by the healthy individual; three birds, the lone injured bird and the pair, were present to the 9th, and the pair thereafter. Paxton Pits on May 10th, Berry Fen on May 13th, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) a pair on May 12th–13th, Ouse Washes additional single on May 25th and finally Nene Washes a pair on Jun 1st were apparently the birds that bred at nearby Welney in Norfolk.

The count of 5 at the Nene Washes on Apr 29th (MWe) is a new county record (*cf* 2 on 8 occasions at 6 locations between 1945 and 2015).

### **AVOCET (Pied Avocet)** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 75.

*Total records:* 189. *Sites:* 16 breeding season.

*Earliest* Feb 18th (Isleham Washes) and *latest* Aug 11th (Littleport)

*Breeding* (35 pairs at 6 sites): Ouse Washes 15 pairs nested, 6 of them successfully fledging a total of 12 young, Dunkirk minimum 9 nests with eggs, 5 young fledged, Cam Washes 6 pairs nested but all unsuccessful, Littleport (May Farm) 2 pairs but eggs predated by Moorhen, Nene Washes 2 pairs and Fen Drayton Lakes pair nest building on Apr 9th and one brooding on Apr 29th.

**Avocet:** approximate breeding totals (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pairs	6	3	29	23	39	50	38	35	30	31	25	32	35
Young	0	0	3	34	29	27	8	0	25	7	7	2	17
Sites	3	2	5	7	4	5	7	2	6	4	5	3	6

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	1	5	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Isleham Washes	-	12	45	35	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse Washes (C)	-	-	5	12	23	30	12	3	-	-	-	-

*Maximum counts at additional sites:* Cam Washes 17 on Apr 22nd, Coveney Byall Fen 4 on Apr 29th, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on Apr 19th, Nene Washes 4 on May 1st, Paxton Pits 4 on Mar 25th, Burwell Fen 2 on Apr 23rd, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2 on Apr 23rd and Wicken Fen 2 on May 13th.



**Avocet** Chris Button

**OYSTERCATCHER (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*****Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant, scarce winter visitor and local breeder.**Total records: 674. Sites: 46 breeding season/14 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (23 pairs at 10 sites): Ouse Washes 5 pairs, Nene Washes 4 pairs, Paxton Pits 3 pairs, Cam Washes 2 pairs, Dunkirk 2 pairs (no young fledged), Kingfishers Bridge 2 pairs (at least 3 young fledged), Littleport (May Farm) 2 pairs (3 young fledged), and single pairs at Earith Washes, Fen Drayton Lakes (raised one young) and Kings Dyke NR.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colne Fen GP	-	-	2	4	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Fen Drayton Lakes	1	3	6	4	3	5	2	-	-	-	-	-
Godmanchester GP	-	8	8	4	2	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	3	2	5	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
Nene Washes	-	1	5	2	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	1	12	18	6	10	3	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	1	5	6	4	6	2	-	-	-	-	-

*Peak counts of 5+ at additional sites as follows:*

*Spring* (6 sites): Manea (Carroll's Ground) 18 on May 22nd, Coveney Byall Fen 10 on Jul 7th, Cam Washes 6 on Mar 11th, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Jun 22nd, Pidley (Rookery Waters) 6 on Jul 20th, Berry Fen 5 on Apr 9th and Littleport (May Farm) 5 on Jul 31st.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Apr 1st, 16th, 28th, 30th, May 2nd, 4th, 6th, 20th, 21st, 25th, 26th, Jul 3rd, 7th, Aug 27th and Sep 9th.

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

A particularly strong spring passage: autumn and winter records were more typical.

*Earliest* on Mar 8th and *latest* on Dec 24th (both Nene Washes).

*Spring* (40 records including sound recording at night): Nene Washes singles on Mar 8th, Mar 25th, 5 on Apr 30th, 3 on May 1st, 2 on May 2nd, 2 on May 4th, 5 on May 5th, 8 on May 6th, single on May 8th, 2 on May 11th, singles on May 14th, Jun 6th–7th, Ferry Meadows CP single on Mar 25th, 5 on Apr 30th, Paxton Pits singles on Mar 25th, Mar 27th, Apr 9th, May 4th–5th, May 8th, May 12th, May 17th, Ouse Washes single on Mar 26th–29th, 12 on Apr 30th, 15 on May 1st, 11 on May 2nd, 4 on May 5th–6th, 6 on May 7th, single on May 8th, Grafham Water singles on Apr 14th–16th, May 5th, 3 on May 6th, single on May 10th, Orton Goldhay single on Apr 27th. Berry Fen 3 on Apr 29th, 5 on Apr 30th, 3 on May 1st, 2 on May 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on Apr 30th–May 1st, singles on May 2nd, May 5th, 2 on May 6th, single on May 8th, Maxey GP singles on Apr 30th, May 6th, Barleycraft GP on May 5th and Kingfishers Bridge on May 11th.

*Autumn* (4 records, all singles): Grafham Water on Jul 3rd, Kingfishers Bridge on Sep 10th, Stretham on Sep 21st and Burwell Fen on Oct 28th.

*Winter* (2 records): singles Ouse Washes on Nov 18th and Nene Washes on Dec 24th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on May 2nd.



**GOLDEN PLOVER (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria***

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

WeBS (2016/17) Threshold for international importance: 9300, threshold for national importance: 4000.

*Total records: 332. Sites: 90 non-breeding.*

*Latest on Jun 7th (Nene Washes) and earliest on Aug 13th (Burwell Fen and Ouse Washes).*

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	6000	10000	6000	1	-	1	-	-	50	200	700	4000
Ouse Fen	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	2700	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	500	800	-	1	-	-	-	40	-	300	175	2

*Peak counts of 500+ at additional sites as follows:*

*First winter:* Norman Cross (Manor Farm) 3000 on Jan 18th, Sutton Gault 1600 on Feb 25th, Great Wilbraham 700 on Feb 25th and Stow-cum-Quy 500 on Feb 6th.

*Second winter:* Haddenham 3000 on Oct 26th, Trumpington 1600 on Nov 25th, Stapleford 1000 on Sep 18th, Burwell Fen 600 on Nov 5th and Foxton 500 on Dec 31st.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cambs] on Mar 30th and 31st, Apr 1st, Sep 17th, 18th, 25th and 27th and Oct 14th.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica***

*Rare vagrant 17(17) 1*

*Autumn (one record):* a typical late autumn record of a juvenile with a flock of around 1500 Golden Plovers at Ouse Fen on Oct 26th–27th, photo (RT *et al.*). Also seen at Haddenham on Oct 27th (DPo).

**DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus***

**Amber list.** *Scarce passage migrant, mainly spring: recorded in winters of 1961 and 1999–2006 (3 records cf. an average of 2/year).*

*Spring (2 records):* Wardy Hill 2 on Apr 26th–27th (JPT) and Shingay one in flight on Apr 30th (LB).

*Autumn (one record):* a first-winter with c.800 Golden Plovers at Ouse Fen on Oct 28th (RT).

**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: 169. Sites: 17 breeding season/16 non-breeding.*

*Earliest on Feb 18th (Ouse Washes) and latest on Nov 12th (Kingfishers Bridge)*

*Breeding (3 possible sites):* Barleycraft GP a pair alarm calling and running away on Jul 24th, Littleport (May Farm) pair throughout June but no evidence of breeding, Maxey GP a pair Apr–May but no evidence of breeding. The first year with no confirmed breeding records after a sustained decline: this species may be lost as a breeder in the county.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colne Fen GP	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	-	3	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	1	10	-	-	-
Nene Washes	-	-	-	1	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse Washes	-	3	-	12	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	-	-	3	3	-	1	-	6	-	-	-

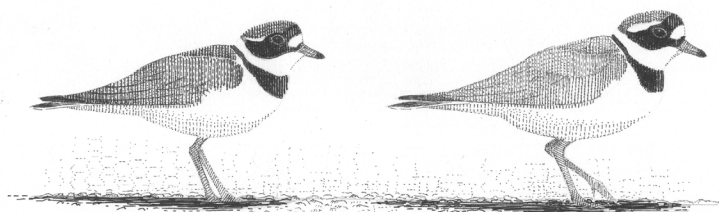
**Table:** counts combine *hiaticula* and *tundrae*.

*Peak counts at additional sites as follows:*

*Spring:* Berry Fen 17 on Apr 30th, Burwell Fen 16 on Apr 30th, Maxey GP 3 on May 9th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on May 1st, and singles Coveney Byall Fen on Apr 28th–29th, Earith Washes on Feb 26th, Littleport (May Farm) on May 10th–25th and Pymoor on Jun 19th.

*Autumn:* Burwell Fen 50 on Sep 25th–26th, Cambridge Research Park 3 on Oct 7th, Littleport (May Farm) 2 on Aug 15th, Stanground Wash 2 on Sep 2nd, Witcham Gravel 2 on Oct 7th, and singles Coveney Byall Fen on Aug 4th, Aug 29th, Sep 10th, Sep 18th, Croydon on Sep 16th, Kingfishers Bridge on Nov 12th, Maxey GP on Jul 10th and Ouse Fen on Oct 9th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Apr 29th, May 2nd, 11th and 28th and Oct 19th.



**‘Tundra’ Ringed Plover and Ringed Plover** *Richard Fowling*

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

**Green List.** *Uncommon migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 247. *Sites:* 25 breeding season/17 non-breeding.

*Earliest* on Mar 18th (Cam Washes and Fen Drayton Lakes) and *latest* on Oct 27th (Littleport)

*Breeding* (10 pairs at 10 sites): single pairs displaying at Berry Fen, Coveney Byall Fen, Cam Washes (Upware), Fen Drayton Lakes, Godmanchester GP, Kingfishers Bridge, Littleport (May Farm), Maxey GP (where single juv seen on Jul 26th), Paxton Pits (where single juv seen on Jun 24th) and Pidley (Rookery Waters).

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	1	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	-	2	1	2	7	3	-	-	-	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	-	1	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

*Peak counts at additional sites as follows:*

*Spring:* Littleport (May Farm) 9 on May 10th, Coveney Byall Fen 8 on Apr 20th, Berry Fen 7 on May 11th, Earith Washes 6 on Apr 17th, Maxey GP 4 on May 15th and Jun 2nd, Witcham Gravel 4 on May 6th, Cam Washes 3 on Apr 2nd, Colne Fen 3 on Apr 29th, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on Apr 29th, May 1st, May 4th, Cambridge Research Park 2 on Apr 29th, May 31st, Jun 18th, Godmanchester GP 2 in Apr, Grafham Water 2 on Mar 28th, Nene Washes 2 on May 1st, Pidley (Rookery Waters) 2 in Apr–Jun, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2 on Mar 29th, Apr 27th and May 8th–9th, and singles Bradley Fen in May–Jun, Burwell Fen on Jun 25th and 30th, Ferry Meadows CP on May 2nd and 7th, Fowlmere NR on Jun 24th, Kings Dyke NR on May 13th and 20th and Trumpington (Clay Farm) on May 31st and Jun 19th.

*Autumn:* Burwell Fen 11 on Aug 13th, Grafham Water 6 on Aug 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 3 on Jul 3rd, Maxey GP 3 on Jul 30th, Coveney Byall Fen 2 on Jul 2nd and 30th, Littleport (May Farm) 2 on Aug 11th and Oct 24th–27th, and singles Cambridge Research Park on Jul 2nd–14th, Chatteris on Aug 18th, Godmanchester GP on Jul 23rd, Ouse Fen on Jul 23rd, Trumpington on Jul 5th and Wicken Fen on Aug 24th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on May 14th and Jul 15th.

**Comparison of Ringed Plover and Little Ringed Plover: breeding pairs (2006–2017)**

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ringed Plover	10	3	3	5	8	4	2	4	4	2	1	0
Little R'd Plover	17	13	16	21	12	17	8	12	15	4	7	10

**LAPWING (Northern Lapwing)** *Vanellus vanellus*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 20000; threshold for national importance: 6200.

*Total records:* 1619. *Sites:* 119 breeding season/60 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (490 pairs/broods at 31 sites): Nene Washes 185, Ouse Washes 168, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 50, Dunkirk 15 (several successful), Berry Fen 13, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Mepal Fen 5, Paxton Pits 5, Foxton 3, Haslingfield 3, Kingfishers Bridge 3, Maxey Cut 3, Maxey GP 3, Abbotsley 2, Fen Drayton Lakes 2, Kings Dyke NR 2, Little Wilbraham Fen 2, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2, Wicken Fen 2, and single pairs/broods at an additional 12 sites.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	300	90	15	7	19	11	351	350	850	74	46	1
Nene Washes	9000	9350	819	50	17	370	200	900	800	109	1500	2000
Ouse Fen	250	64	21	1	6	87	130	300	190	400	135	200
Ouse W (N & C)	1335	1243	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147	305
Ouse W (C only)	600	3072	257	74	75	336	186	184	-	200	1823	1187
Wicken Fen	550	62	10	29	30	34	100	21	100	300	170	16

*Winter peak counts of 200+ at other sites as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Pymoor 2000 on Jan 17th, Burwell Fen 964 on Feb 16th, Sutton Gault 900 on Feb 25th, Swaffham Prior Fen 750 on Jan 12th, Cam Washes 600 on Feb 25th, Colne Fen GP 600 on Mar 4th, Berry Fen 450 on Feb 12th, Isleham Washes 420 on Feb 18th, Ferry Meadows CP 400 on Jan 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 380 on May 7th, Morborne 300 on Feb 13th, Longstanton 285 on Feb 12th, Roman Road 279 on Feb 14th, Thorney 250 on Feb 4th and Barleycraft GP 200 on Feb 12th.

*Return/summer:* Kingfishers Bridge 720 on Aug 31st, Burwell Fen 650 on Aug 20th, Aug 28th, Barleycraft GP 365 on Aug 13th, Sutton North Fen 289 on Jul 23rd, Colne Fen GP 248 on Jul 23rd, Maxey GP 232 on Aug 30th, Swaffham Prior Fen 213 on Sep 30th, Pidley (Rookery Waters) 202 on Jul 20th, Maxey Cut 200 on Aug 1st and Witcham 200 on Jul 3rd.

*Autumn/second winter:* Haddenham 5000 on Oct 26th, Oct 31st, Burwell Fen 1230 on Sep 28th, Mepal Fen 800 on Oct 7th, Littleport (May Farm) 554 on Nov 24th, Kingfishers Bridge 518 on Nov 16th, Sutton North Fen 450 on Oct 8th, Mepal GP 250 on Nov 16th, Pidley (Rookery Waters) 219 on Nov 16th, Cambridge Research Park 200 on Oct 25th and Stanground Wash 200 on Dec 10th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Oct 15th, Dec 2nd.

**Breeding totals (pairs/territorial individuals):** Ouse Washes (including adjacent RSPB Pilot Project) and Nene Washes (2006–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ouse Washes	125	156	221	221	181	118	-	1	1	149	188	168
Nene Washes	264	279	280	314	246	165	115	25	237	297	163	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>353</b>

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 27% (95/96) cf. 31% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 20 (95/96) cf. 14 (16/17)

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus***Red List.** *Uncommon passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 59. *Sites:* 17 spring/7 autumn.

*Earliest* on Apr 17th (Ferry Meadows CP) and *latest* on Aug 30th (Chesterton)

An above average passage, particularly in spring.

*Peak counts as follows:*

*Spring* (47 records): Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Apr 22nd, Coveney Byall Fen 5 on Apr 21st, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on May 7th, Holywell 5 on Apr 24th, Nene Washes 5 on Apr 23rd, Littleport (May Farm) 4 on May 15th, Maxey GP 4 on May 9th, Grafham Water 3 on Apr 21st, Ouse Washes 3 on May 5th, Paxton Pits 3 on Apr 21st and singles at 7 other sites.

*Autumn* (12 records including sound recordings): Reach 8 on Aug 19th, Cherry Hinton 4 on Jul 25th, Burwell Fen 2 on Aug 19th, Grafham Water 2 on Jul 26th, Witchford 2 on Jul 23rd and Kingfishers Bridge single on Jul 22nd.

*Nocturnal sound recordings*: Chesterton [Cambs] on Jul 19th, Aug 15th and Aug 30th.

### **CURLEW (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata***

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

*Total records*: 34. *Sites*: 11 spring/15 autumn/1 winter.

*Peak counts as follows*:

*First winter/spring* (14 records): Nene Washes 3 on Mar 23rd, Ouse Washes 2 on Mar 25th and singles at 9 further sites.

*Summer/autumn/second winter* (20 records): Ouse Fen 3 on Aug 6th, Chesterton [Cambs] 2 on Jun 25th and singles at 13 further sites.

### **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa***

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 610; threshold for national importance: 430.

*Total records*: 348. *Sites*: 22 breeding season/26 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (37+ pairs/broods at 2 sites): Nene Washes 35 territories reported, success unknown although 3 juveniles on Jun 25th, Ouse Washes no data on territories or pairs, but 7 young represents at least 2 successful broods, some from the 'headstarting' programme.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites*:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	100	-	1	80	1	-	4	1	-	3	-	-
Nene Washes	400	800	2410	65	70	19	7	-	-	-	-	1
Ouse W (N & C)	-	1079	68	501	-	-	-	-	-	-	705	923
Ouse W (C only)	1200	1600	1665	1500	36	20	40	7	-	2	260	1

*Peak counts of 10+ at other sites as follows*:

*First winter period/spring*: Earith Washes 1417 on Feb 26th, Sutton Gault 900 on Mar 26th, Witcham Gravel 300 on Apr 6th, Manea 240 on Apr 18th, Chatteris 175 on Mar 6th, Berry Fen 170 on Apr 24th, Barleycraft GP 50 on Apr 28th, Maxey GP 28 on Jun 25th, Coveney Byall Fen 18 on May 6th and Mepal 17 on Jun 17th.

*Return/autumn/second winter period*: Kingfishers Bridge 26 on Jul 9th, Isleham Washes 12 on Aug 4th, Burwell Fen 11 on Jul 5th and Wicken Fen 10 on Aug 13th.

**Black-tailed Godwit**: peak counts 2006–2017

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Peak counts	2992	2300	5000	3530	3500	2100	3921	3000	1700	3500	4000	2410

**Breeding totals (pairs/territorial individuals): Ouse Washes and Nene Washes (2006–2017)**

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Nene Washes	48	41	40	42	44	43	41	41	37	46	42	35
Ouse Washes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>



**Black-tailed Godwits** *Ben Green*

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*

**Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in the spring (late April/early May), occasionally in winter.*

*Total records: 34. Sites: 13 spring/2 autumn.*

*Earliest on Mar 6th (Berry Fen) and latest on Nov 21st (Grafham Water)*

*Spring (32 records):* Berry Fen on Mar 6th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Mar 30th, Apr 22nd, 2 on Apr 30th–May 1st and 2 on May 7th, Paxton Pits 3 on Apr 18th, single on Apr 22nd, 10 on Apr 29th, single on Apr 30th, 3 on May 1st, single on May 2nd and 6 on May 4th, Grafham Water 2 on Apr 20th, singles on Apr 30th and May 1st, Kingfishers Bridge on Apr 21st–23rd and 24th, Coveney Byall Fen on Apr 22nd and 28th, Ouse Washes on Apr 24th, 28th and 30th and May 4th, Isleham Washes on Apr 29th, 2 on Apr 30th, Maxey GP 4 on Apr 30th, Nene Washes 5 on Apr 30th, singles on May 6th and 10th, Trumpington on Apr 30th, Eaton Ford on May 1st and Ferry Meadows CP 3 on May 7th.

*Autumn (2 records):* Burwell Fen single on Sep 14th and Grafham Water 2 on Nov 21st.

**TURNSTONE (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres*****Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant; occasional in winter.**Earliest* on Apr 25th (Grafham Water) and *latest* on Oct 16th (Chesterton)

*Spring* (13 records): Grafham Water on Apr 25th–26th, 2 on Apr 30th and singles on May 8th and May 23rd–24th, Barleycraft GP 2 on Apr 30th and single on May 5th–6th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Apr 30th and 2 on May 5th, Ouse Washes on Apr 30th–May 1st, Nene Washes 5 on May 5th and single on May 6th, Paxton Pits on May 8th and Wicken Fen on May 18th–19th.

*Autumn* (10 records including sound recording): Grafham Water on Jul 29th, 8 on Jul 30th, single on Jul 31st, 3 on Aug 1st with 2 still on Aug 2nd and one remaining to Aug 7th, single on Aug 21st and a juvenile on Aug 25th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Jul 30th, Paxton Pits on Aug 21st and Burwell Fen on Sep 17th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings*: Chesterton [Cams] on Oct 16th.

**KNOT (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus*****Amber List.** *Scarce annual visitor, mainly passage migrant (7 records cf. average of 12/year).**Earliest* on Apr 30th (Nene Washes) and *latest* on Sep 16th (Burwell Fen)

*Spring* (4 records): Nene Washes on Apr 30th, Fen Drayton Lakes on May 1st and 4th and Paxton Pits 2 on May 5th.

*Autumn* (3 records): Ouse Fen (adult) on Aug 9th and Burwell Fen on Aug 18th and Sep 16th.

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 8.

*Total records*: 480. *Sites*: 13 spring/18 autumn.*Peak monthly counts at selected sites*:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nene Washes	89	120	75	7	6	-	-	-	9	-	8	70
Ouse W (N & C)	11	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
Ouse W (C only)	25	15	34	104	14	-	47	38	49	7	22	26

*Other peak counts as follows*:

*First winter period/spring*: Coveney Byall Fen 25 on Apr 29th, Burwell Fen 13 on Apr 24th, Wicken Fen 9 on May 5th, Maxey GP 8 on May 9th, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Apr 22nd, Cam Washes 5 on May 1st, Paxton Pits 5 on Mar 27th and 1–2 at a further 4 sites.

*Autumn/second winter period*: Burwell Fen 208 on Oct 12th, Swaffham Prior Fen 129 on Sep 29th, Kingfishers Bridge 123 on Oct 16th, Wicken Fen 35 on Sep 9th, Ouse Fen 23 on Sep 1st, Cam Washes 15 on Dec 16th, Littleport (May Farm) 9 on Jul 31st and Aug 18th, Paxton Pits 7 on Sep 19th, Coveney Byall Fen 6 on Sep 14th, Fen Drayton Lakes 6 on Sep 10th, Berry Fen 4 on Aug 24th, Sutton North Fen 3 on Sep 10th and Oct 8th, and 1–2 at a further 4 sites.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*

**Amber List.** *Scarce annual passage migrant; occasional autumn influxes but scarce in spring (3 records cf. average of 8/year).*

*Earliest* on Apr 29th (Ouse Washes) and *latest* on Sep 16th (Grafham Water)

A well-below average showing.

*Spring* (one record): Ouse Washes on Apr 29th (CaDa, GWS).

*Autumn* (2 records): Paxton Pits on Sep 13th (JW) and Grafham Water juvenile on Sep 16th (RMP).

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** *Calidris temminckii*

*Scarce, annual, passage migrant, usually singly (2 records cf. average of 4/year).*

After last year's single record, just two this year.

*Spring/summer:* (2 records) Coveney Byall Fen on May 5th (MJE) and Ouse Washes on Jun 30th (JPT).

**Temminck's Stint:** approximate annual totals for spring/autumn (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Spring	3	4	-	8	4	7	6	4	2	2	2	1	2
Autumn	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

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

A slightly earlier than usual and below par spring showing following last year's bonanza. Grafham Water monopolised the autumn records.

*Spring* (21 records): Paxton Pits on Apr 25th, May 5th and 9th and Jun 3rd–4th, Grafham Water 2 on Apr 29th, single on Apr 30th, 2 on May 8th, 3 on May 12th, 2 on May 14th, single on May 17th, 3 on May 22nd and 2 on May 30th, Barleycraft GP from Apr 30th to May 1st, Fen Drayton Lakes on Apr 30th, May 6th, 12th and 14th, Maxey GP on May 3rd, Ouse Washes on May 5th, Nene Washes on May 6th and Coveney Byall Fen on May 8th.

*Autumn* (3 records): Grafham Water on Aug 1st, Oct 21st and Nov 7th,

**Sanderling:** approximate annual totals (2004–2016)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Records	15	48	49	45	26	23	35	36	28	30	29	56	24
Sites	6	9	6	6	7	3	5	8	8	7	3	6	8



**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: 447. Sites: 19 first winter period-spring/8 autumn-second winter.*

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	5	2	1	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	2	9	3	2	6	8	7	3	-	-
Nene Washes	70	200	210	3	10	1	-	1	2	-	6	4
Ouse W (N & C)	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Ouse W (C only)	34	90	5	12	23	-	2	-	-	1	32	9
Paxton Pits	-	-	3	4	3	-	1	1	4	3	-	-

*Peak counts at other sites as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Chain Corner 30 on Jan 22nd, Earith Washes 29 on Jan 14th, Berry Fen 18 on Jan 15th, Maxey GP 6 on Apr 30th, Isleham Washes 4 on Apr 30th and 1–2 at a further 9 sites.

*Return/autumn/second winter period:* Burwell Fen 30 on Sep 26th and Coveney Byall Fen 3 on Aug 4th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Aug 2nd and 15th, Sep 26th, Oct 16th and 19th and Nov 9th and 14th.

The 23 at Ouse Washes on May 2nd included one individual identified as belonging to the race *arctica* (RMP).

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*

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

After a blank spring in the county a very strong autumn passage at Burwell Fen, where birds were present continuously from early Sep to early Nov. A conservative estimate of the number of records involved is made below.

*Autumn* (20 records): Burwell Fen on Jul 26th–28th, 2 juveniles from Sep 1st to 25th with one remaining to 26th, 8 on Sep 27th, 9 on Sep 28th–29th, 10 on Sep 30th–Oct 1st, 12 on Oct 2nd with 10 still on Oct 15th, dwindling to 5 by Oct 20th and 1–2 present to Nov 8th and a single on Dec 4th, Ouse Fen adult on Aug 5th, Maxey GP on Sep 1st, Wicken Fen 2 juveniles on Sep 9th, single on Nov 8th, Grafham Water on Sep 10th, juvenile on Sep 16th–17th, Paxton Pits on Sep 10th and 16th, 5 juveniles on Sep 18th–19th and 2 on Sep 23rd, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on Sep 29th with one remaining to Oct 1st, Kingfishers Bridge juvenile on Nov 12th and Ouse Washes on Nov 18th–20th.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos*

Scarce annual visitor from North America/Siberia. c. 82(88) 1

A typical autumn record.

Autumn (one record): Burwell Fen on Sep 7th–14th, photo (BWY, RAP).

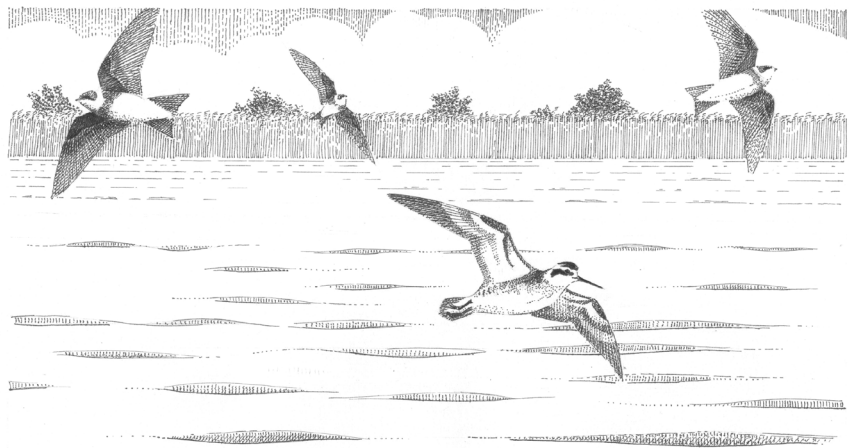
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** approximate annual totals (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Records	1	5	3	1	3	4	2	5	7	3	1	4	1
Sites	1	4	2	1	2	2	1	3	6	2	1	4	1

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in the autumn 43(43) 3

Autumn: (3 records) Dunkirk a female on Jul 25th–Jul 31st, photo (ARM) briefly visited Ouse Washes on Jul 28th (JPT, KC-Y), Burwell Fen on Sep 14th–15th, photo (per CBC Recorder) and single Grafham Water on Sep 26th–27th (CDA, JPT).



**Red-necked Phalarope** Richard Fowling

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Total records: 334. Sites: 21 first winter period-spring/31 autumn-second winter.

Earliest on Mar 27th (Maxey Cut) and latest on Dec 8th (Paxton Pits)

Peak monthly counts at selected sites:

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

*Other peak counts as follows:*

*Spring:* Kingfishers Bridge 3 on Apr 29th, Cam Washes 2 on May 3rd, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on Apr 24th–25th and Apr 29th, Ouse Washes 2 on Jun 12th, Paxton Pits 2 on May 4th–5th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2 on May 8th, and singles at a further 12 sites.

*Autumn:* Colne Fen GP 8 on Jul 23rd, Burwell Fen 7 on Aug 21st, Maxey GP 7 on Jul 21st, Sutton North Fen 7 on Jul 23rd, Littleport (May Farm) 4 in Aug, Paxton Pits 4 on Aug 28th, Foul Anchor 3 on Oct 22nd, Longstanton 3 on Jul 23rd and 1–2 at a further 20 sites.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Apr 21st, May 2nd, Aug 14th, 4 on Aug 21st, Sep 24th and 25th.

### **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

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

*Total records:* 543. *Sites:* 37 first winter period-spring/38 autumn-second winter.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cam Washes	2	1	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	2
Fen Drayton Lakes	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	1	2	1	-
Grafham Water	3	1	-	-	-	3	7	9	2	2	1	1
Kingfishers Bridge	1	1	1	4	4	1	7	8	4	1	1	1
Ouse Fen	1	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	1	-	-
Paxton Pits	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	3	1	-	1
Wicken Fen	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	5	4	-	-	-

*Other peak counts as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Burwell Fen 7 on Jun 30th, Maxey GP 4 on Jun 29th–30th, Colne Fen GP 3 on Apr 2nd, Nene Washes 3 on Apr 15th, Oxlode 3 on Mar 26th and 1–2 at a further 24 sites.

*Return/autumn/second winter period:* Burwell Fen 25 on Jul 23rd, Aug 13th, Dunkirk 14 on Aug 21st, Colne Fen GP 10 on Jul 23rd, Littleport (May Farm) 7 on Jul 31st, Maxey GP 4 on Jul 10th, Jul 21st, Aug 10th, Barleycraft GP 3 on Aug 13th, Coveney Byall Fen 3 on Aug 26th, Stapleford 3 on Sep 14th, Trumpington 3 on Oct 12th, Cottenham (Long Drove) 3 on Nov 24th, and 1–2 at a further 20 sites.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Aug 13th and 22nd.

### **SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*

**Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant; occasionally winters.*

*Earliest* on Apr 16th (Ouse Washes) and *latest* on Oct 20th (Burwell Fen)

*Spring* (12 records including sound recording): Ouse Washes on Apr 16th and 22nd, 3 on Apr 23rd, singles on Apr 28th, Apr 30th–May 1st, 2 on May 2nd and single on May 4th–7th, Kingfishers Bridge on Apr 23rd, Berry Fen on Apr 28th, Coveney Byall Fen on May 6th–8th and Littleport (May Farm) on May 15th.

*Autumn* (8 records): Ouse Washes on Jul 22nd, Grafham Water on Aug 27th, Isleham Washes on Aug 28th–29th, Littleport (May Farm) on Sep 12th and 28th and Oct 3rd and Wicken Fen on Oct 3rd and 17th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Apr 29th.

**GREENSHANK (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia***

**Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn; occasionally winters.*

*Total records: 377. Sites: 17 spring/21 autumn.*

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	-	3	3	-	1	5	1	-	-	-
Grafham Water	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	5	-	1	-	-
Nene Washes	-	-	-	5	13	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ouse Fen	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	-	-	-	13	35	-	5	2	-	1	-	-
Paxton Pits	-	-	-	2	5	-	1	5	3	-	-	-
Wicken Fen	-	-	-	3	5	1	-	5	2	-	-	-

*Other peak counts as follows:*

*Spring:* Coveney Byall Fen 17 on May 5th, Burwell Fen 4 on Apr 29th, Cam Washes 4 on Apr 23rd, Whittlesey 4 on Apr 29th, Maxey GP 3 on May 14th and 1–2 at a further 5 sites.

*Autumn:* Burwell Fen 27 on Jul 22nd, Kingfishers Bridge 24 on Jul 22nd, Coveney Byall Fen 5 on Sep 10th, Berry Fen 4 on Sep 24th, Littleport (May Farm) 4 on Sep 4th, Colne Fen 3 on Aug 20th and singles at a further 7 sites.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Sep 18th.

**WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola***

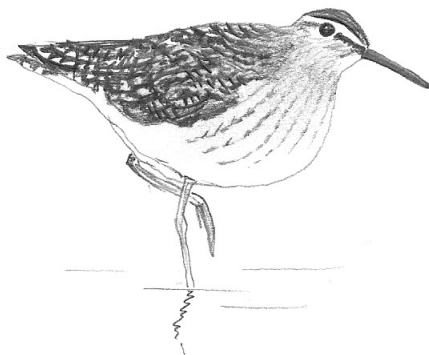
**Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant.*

A strong spring passage, particularly at Coveney Byall Fen where conditions were ideal; although the exact number of individuals passing through cannot be accurately determined there was a peak of 17 birds on May 8th.

*Earliest* on Apr 30th (Berry Fen, Fen Drayton Lakes and Ouse Washes) and *latest* on Sep 26th (Burwell Fen)

*Spring* (22 records): Berry Fen on Apr 30th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Apr 30th and May 7th, Ouse Washes 5 on Apr 30th–May 4th, 2 on May 5th, and 7th and a single on May 9th, Coveney Byall Fen 9 on May 3rd, 14 on May 4th, 11 on May 5th–7th, 17 on May 8th and 8 on May 10th, Paxton Pits 3 on May 5th and 2 on May 7th, Fowlmere NR on May 9th and 25th, Maxey GP on May 9th, Wicken Fen on May 9th and 3 on May 10th, Littleport (May Farm) 2 on May 15th, Nene Washes on Jun 14th and Ouse Fen on Jun 24th.

*Autumn* (16 records): Kingfishers Bridge on Jul 2nd and 6th and 2 on Aug 8th, Paxton Pits on Jul 3rd, Ouse Washes 2 on Jul 9th, singles on Jul 10th and 25th, Nene Washes on Jul 24th and 30th and Aug 1st, Maxey GP 2 (one juvenile) on Jul 29th–30th, one remaining to Aug 1st, Burwell Fen on Aug 13th–14th, 17th–18th, 21st, 23rd–24th and Sep 26th.



**Wood Sandpiper** *James Hanlon*

**REDSHANK (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus***

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

*Total records: 759. Sites: 22 breeding season/40 non-breeding.*

*Breeding (329 pairs at 11 sites): Nene Washes 138 pairs, Ouse Washes 136 pairs, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 19 pairs, Berry Fen 17 pairs, Dunkirk 6 pairs, Kingfishers Bridge 3 pairs, Wicken Fen 3 pairs, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 pairs, Maxey GP 2 pairs, Paxton Pits 2 pairs and Cam Washes one pair.*

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	1	23	1	22	12	15	1	1	1	-	4	8
Fen Drayton Lakes	-	-	4	4	3	2	5	-	2	-	-	1
Grafham Water	11	3	5	5	-	3	1	2	-	1	7	6
Nene Washes	32	27	136	16	276	276	-	-	-	-	12	40
Ouse Fen	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	-	-	2	1	1
Ouse W (N & C)	4	2	22	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-
Ouse W (C only)	20	26	73	59	10	272	3	-	-	-	10	10
Paxton Pits	1	-	30	13	4	4	1	-	-	-	5	-
Wicken Fen	1	1	10	11	11	8	1	2	2	1	1	-

*Peak counts of 10+ at other sites as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Manea (Carroll's Ground) 38 on Apr 18th, Kingfishers Bridge 14 on Apr 2nd, 9th and on May 6th, Isleham Washes 13 on Mar 17th and Earith Washes 11 on Mar 1st.

*Autumn/second winter period:* None (highest count in this period was 9 at Littleport (May Farm) on Jul 31st).

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cambs] 2 on Apr 17th, one on 22nd, 5 on 28th and 2 on 29th, singles on May 1st and 7th, Jul 4th, 2 on Jul 15th, and singles on Jul 17th and 26th.

**Breeding totals (pairs/territorial individuals):** Ouse Washes and Nene Washes (2006–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Nene Washes	154	187	195	220	180	155	152	127	157	184	167	138
Ouse Washes	231	233	216	185	149	136	-	1	-	152	166	136
<b>Total</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>274</b>

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) cf. 3% (16/17)*

*Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) cf. 2 (16/17)*

**JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyrtus minimus***

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

*Total records: 48. Sites: 14 first winter period-spring/7 autumn-second winter.*

*Latest on Apr 24th (Nene Washes) and earliest on Oct 8th (Colne Fen GP)*

*Peak counts as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Colne Fen GP 4 on Mar 4th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on Feb 8th, Mar 1st and 25th and singles at a further 12 sites.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Kings Dyke NR 2 on Dec 2nd, Littleport (May Farm) 2 on Nov 24th and singles at a further 5 sites.

**WOODCOCK (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola*****Red List.** *Scarce resident, fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 137. Sites: 35 first winter period/spring/24 autumn/second winter period.**Breeding (12 roding males at 3 sites and one additional possible breeding site): Chippenham Fen 10 roding males, Littleport (May Farm) 4 during breeding season and single roding males at Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen.**Peak counts as follows:**First winter period/spring: Wryde Croft 15 on Feb 16th, Monks Wood 8 on Mar 2nd, Ferry Meadows CP 4 on Feb 21st, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on Jan 15th, Littleport (May Farm) 4 in March, Woodwalton Fen 4 on Feb 17th, Kings Dyke NR 3 on Feb 6th, Barleycraft GP 2 on Jan 15th, Bedford Purlieu 2 on Mar 13th, Castor Hanglands 2 on Feb 19th, Ditton Park Wood 2 on Feb 22nd, and singles at a further 23 sites.**Autumn/second winter period: Littleport (May Farm) 20 in Dec, Wicken Fen 7 on Nov 25th, Drysides BP 2 on Nov 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP 2 on Nov 9th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on Nov 30th–Dec 18th, Nene Washes 2 on Dec 18th and singles at a further 18 sites.***SNIFE (Common Snipe) *Gallinago gallinago*****Amber List.** *Uncommon local breeder; common winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 845. Sites: 7 breeding season/67 non-breeding.**Breeding (182 drumming/chipping birds): Ouse Washes 112 territories, Nene Washes 61 territories, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 8 males drumming and Kingfishers Bridge single male drumming.**Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barleycraft GP	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1
Fen Drayton Lakes	7	4	15	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
Isleham Washes	-	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	5	2	9
Nene Washes	60	1	22	1	1	61	1	-	-	2	7	12
Ouse Fen	3	3	3	2	-	-	-	4	7	2	7	4
Ouse W (N & C)	41	6	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ouse W (C only)	123	5	-	4	10	112	1	3	50	2	42	29
Paxton Pits	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	1	4	3	-	7
Wicken Fen	20	4	26	3	2	3	-	3	4	2	10	3

*Peak counts of 10+ at other sites as follows:**First winter period/spring: Littleport (May Farm) up to 60 in Jan–Mar, Ferry Meadows CP 40 on Feb 21st, Colne Fen GP 38 on Feb 12th, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 34 on Apr 18th, Cam Washes 27 on Mar 11th, Kingfishers Bridge 21 on Jan 22nd, Maxey GP 20 on Apr 1st–3rd, Fowlmere NR 18 on Mar 25th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 18 on Jan 2nd and Feb 14th, Roswell Pits 13 on Apr 6th, Mepal Airfield 12 on Apr 1st, Sutton North Fen 12 on Mar 4th, Witchford 12 on Feb 21st, Burwell Fen 10 on Apr 5th and Grafham Water 10 on Jan 19th.**Autumn/second winter period: Littleport (May Farm) 100 in Nov–Dec, Burwell Fen 50 on Sep 4th, Kingfishers Bridge 29 on Dec 17th, Cam Washes 15 on Nov 19th, Colne Fen GP 15 on Dec 17th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 15 on Nov 2nd, Stretham 14 on Sep 28th and Roswell Pits 13 on Sep 7th.*

**Breeding totals (pairs/territorial individuals):** Ouse Washes and Nene Washes (2005–2016)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Nene Washes	204	144	177	230	109	109	83	121	106	73	92	61
Ouse Washes	186	148	135	125	157	59	3	1	-	72	102	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>173</b>

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 2% (95/96) *cf.* 1% (16/17)

*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (16/17)

**2016, erratum:** The Fowlmere NR figure of 121 on Feb 26th 2016 should have read 12 birds.

**GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua*

**Amber List.** *Scarce passage migrant, sometimes storm-driven. c. 78(349+) 2*

The two records of Great Skua are the only skua records this year (although one Arctic Skua record remains unsubmitted). The last blank years for Arctic Skua were 1999 and 2011.

*Autumn/second winter period* (2 records): Foul Anchor 62 in 6 groups south on Sep 14th (JPT) and 12 (10 south-west and 2 singles north) on Oct 29th (RMP, JPT). The count of 62 is a new county record (*cf.* 42 at Foul Anchor in Sep 2010).

**LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons*

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

With just one spring record, this was a disappointing year for Little Tern.

*Spring* (one record): Fletton BP/Lake on May 26th (MW).

**GULL-BILLED TERN** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

*Very rare vagrant from eastern Europe/Asia. 1(1) 1*

*Spring* (one record): Ouse Washes (Welches Dam), photo (JPT) and presumed same later at Burwell Fen (RJ) on May 15th. See page 137 for an article about this, the first record for the county. This record has been accepted by the BBRC.

**BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger*

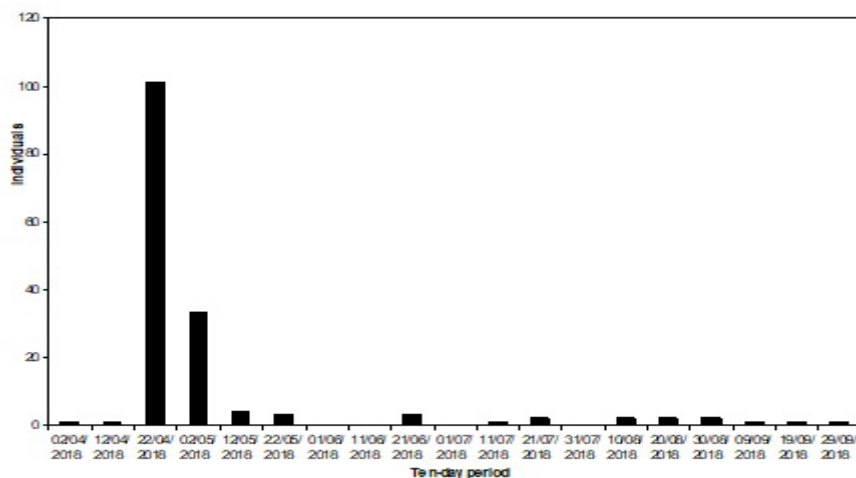
**Green List.** *Fairly common passage migrant, occasionally in large numbers; nested regularly in 19th century (and three times in 20th century).*

*Total records:* 101. *Sites:* 10 spring/6 autumn.

*Earliest* on Apr 2nd (Pymoor) and *latest* on Oct 8th (Grafham Water).

*Spring:* Spring passage commenced with a single at Pymoor on Apr 2nd, followed by a single at Paxton Pits on Apr 18th. It peaked in late April/early May (see Figure). Highest numbers were Paxton Pits 41 on Apr 30th, Fen Drayton Lakes 40 on Apr 30th, Grafham Water 14 on Apr 30th and Ferry Meadows CP 10 on May 4th. The record on Apr 2nd at Pymoor (DPo) becomes the new earliest date (*cf.* Apr 8th 2000 at Ferry Meadows CP).

*Autumn*: Grafham Water 3 on Jun 27th were probably early returning birds. After that, autumn passage began on Jul 19th and kept a low profile with single birds or just 2 on a single day. The latest bird was at Grafham Water on Oct 8th.



**Figure:** Black Tern in 2017. 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.

### WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (White-winged Tern) *Chlidonias leucopterus*

*Rare vagrant from eastern Europe/Asia.* 29(32–33) 1

*Autumn* (one record): Grafham Water an adult on Aug 25th, photo (RMP).

### SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

**Amber List.** *Scarce annual passage migrant* (7 records *cf.* an average of 9/year).

*Earliest* on Apr 9th (Cambridge Research Park, Grafham Water and Paxton Pits) and *latest* on Sep 6th (Chesterton [Cams])

Two records of sound-recorded nocturnal migrants at Chesterton (Cambridge) in autumn helped bring the total close to average. This indicates the extent of passage that has previously gone undetected.

*Spring* (3 records): Cambridge Research Park on Apr 9th, Grafham Water 3 on Apr 9th also at Paxton Pits and Bretton on Apr 18th.

*Autumn* (4 records including nocturnal sound recordings): Eaton Ford on Aug 11th and Paxton Pits 4 on Aug 29th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] singles on Sep 2nd and 6th



**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

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

*Total records: 927. Sites: 72 breeding season.*

*Earliest on Mar 28th (Fen Drayton Lakes) and latest on Oct 6th (Grafham Water)*

*Breeding* (114 confirmed pairs at 10 sites): Fen Drayton Lakes 44, Paxton Pits 31, Dunkirk 15 (one chick fledged), Barleycraft GP 9, Cam Washes (Upware) 5, Kingfishers Bridge 3 (2, 1 and 1 chicks), Burwell Fen 2 (3 and 1 chicks), Ouse Washes 2, singles at Cambridge Research Park (unsuccessful), Grafham Water (one chick, first breeding record in many years) and Littleport (May Farm) nest predated by Moorhen. Possible nesting at Trumpington (Clay Farm) and Woodwalton Fen. As every year, counts of nests/pairs are lacking or inadequate from a number of sites.

*Peak counts of 10+ non-breeding (may include some breeding birds):*

*Spring:* Ferry Meadows CP 51 on May 3rd, Grafham Water 30 on May 9th, Cam Washes 25 on May 13th, Kings Dyke NR 22 on May 18th, 22nd and 23rd, Maxey GP 15 on May 1st and 4th, Godmanchester GP 14 on Apr 21st, Drysides BP 13 on May 5th and Milking Nook 10 on Apr 26th.

*Summer/autumn:* Burwell Fen 35 on Aug 2nd, Grafham Water 32 on Jun 29th and Kings Dyke NR 10 on Jun 5th.

**ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

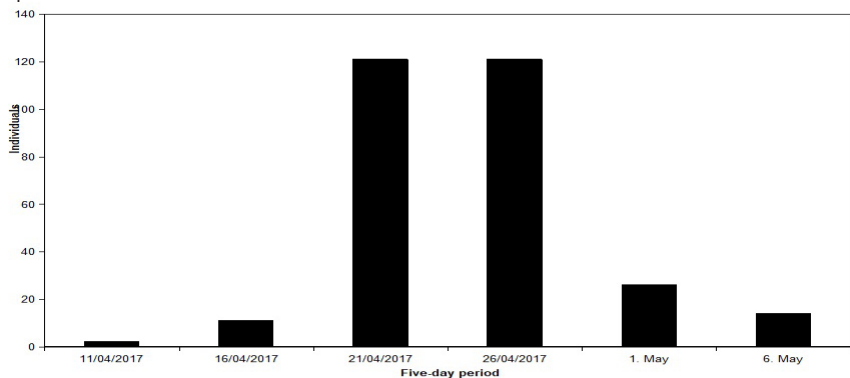
**Amber List.** *Uncommon passage migrant, with largest parties in the spring.*

*Total records: 68. Sites: 11 spring/2 autumn.*

*Earliest on Apr 11th (Grafham Water) and latest on Sep 22nd (Fen Drayton Lakes)*

*First winter period/spring:* Peak counts of 10+ as follows: Grafham Water 87 on Apr 27th, Fen Drayton Lakes 22 on Apr 24th, Paxton Pits 14 on Apr 25th and Ferry Meadows CP 10 on May 3rd (see also Figure).

*Autumn/second winter period:* singles at Grafham Water on Sep 14th and Fen Drayton Lakes on Sep 22nd.

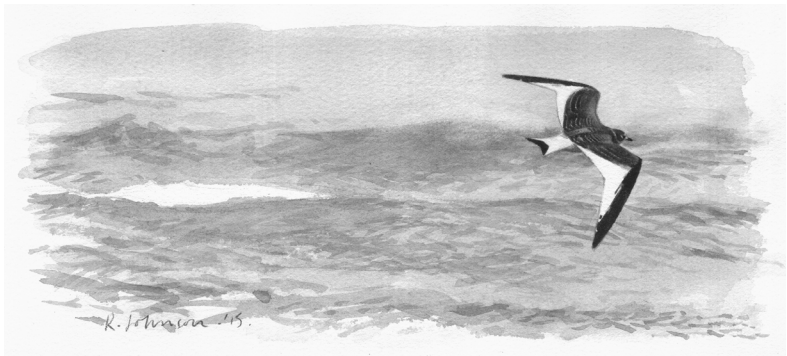


**Figure:** Arctic Tern in spring 2017. Values are totals from all sites for the 5-day period from the date given. For each site the maximum count during each period was used.

**SABINE'S GULL** *Xema sabini*

*Rare vagrant* 17(24) 1

*Return/autumn* (one record): Grafham Water a juvenile into roost on Sep 15th, photo (MLH). This is the first record since 2014, in a typical month.



**Sabine's Gull** *Richard Johnson*

**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* (2 records): Ferry Meadows CP an adult on Jan 16th and Grafham Water an adult on Apr 14th–15th.

*Autumn/second winter period* (4 records): Fen Drayton Lakes an adult on Jul 1st, Grafham Water an adult east on Sep 14th, Ouse Washes a 1st cal-year on Nov 12th and Fen Drayton Lakes 2 adults roosting on Dec 31st.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 20000; threshold for national importance: 22000.

*Total records:* 3356. *Sites:* 95 breeding season/224 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (2197+ pairs at 9 sites): Dunkirk 1200, Barleycraft GP 494, Paxton Pits 229, Fen Drayton Lakes 192, Maxey GP 58, Cam Washes (Upware) 20, Kingfishers Bridge 2 and an unknown number at Littleport (May Farm) and Ouse Washes.

*Peak monthly counts at selected sites:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bradley Fen	1000	300	600	80	40	38	36	142	180	150	200	500
Fen Drayton Lakes	1000	33	1000	530	500	100	246	43	80	159	55	2000
Littleport (May Farm)	200	200	200	200	50	50	20	20	100	100	300	300
Wicken Fen (Baker's F)	500	1360	1000	10	8	9	-	-	-	8	500	930

*Peak counts of 200+ at other sites as follows:*

*First winter/spring:* CEGB Reservoir 8000 on Jan 22nd and Feb 16th, Cambridge Research Park 2000 on Jan 7th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 2000 on Feb 14th, Cottenham (Long Drove) 750 on Jan 19th, Chittering 700 on Feb 19th, Ferry Meadows CP 700 on Feb 18th, Ouse Washes 600 on Apr 23rd, Peterborough (Millennium Bridge) 500 on Feb 21st and Mar 13th, Milton CP 400 on Jan 5th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 400 on Feb 13th, Kingfishers Bridge 387 on Mar 2nd, Burghley Park 300 on Mar 9th, Paxton Pits 300 on Apr 28th, Tanholt GP 300 on Feb 6th, Wicken Fen 300 on Jan 8th, Cambridge 260 on Jan 5th, Maxey GP 250 on Apr 15th, River Cam (Owlstone Road to Baits Bite Lock) 250 on Feb 20th, Block Fen GP 225 on Apr 15th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 221 on Mar 19th, Boxworth/Conington 200 on Apr 9th, Cam Washes 200 on Mar 15th, Chesterton (Cambs) 200 on Jan 22nd, Drysides BP 200 on Mar 21st and Little Staughton Moat 200 on Mar 16th.

*Summer:* Maxey GP 1000 on Aug 12th, Trumpington 331 on Jul 17th, Grafham Water 312 on Jul 5th and Burwell Fen 200 on Aug 10th.

*Autumn/second winter:* Burwell Fen 1000 on Oct 6th, Flint Cross 700 on Nov 28th, Ferry Meadows CP 500 on Oct 17th, Burwell 450 on Nov 29th, Grafham Water 450 on Sep 17th, Duxford 410 on Oct 31st, Fowlmere NR 300 on Oct 11th, Kingfishers Bridge 267 on Oct 11th, Barford Pocket Park 250 on Nov 21st, Paxton Pits 202 on Dec 12th and Farcet 200 on Sep 23rd.

**Aberrant individual:** Grafham Water a juvenile with largely white wings but usual black outer primaries on Aug 30th.

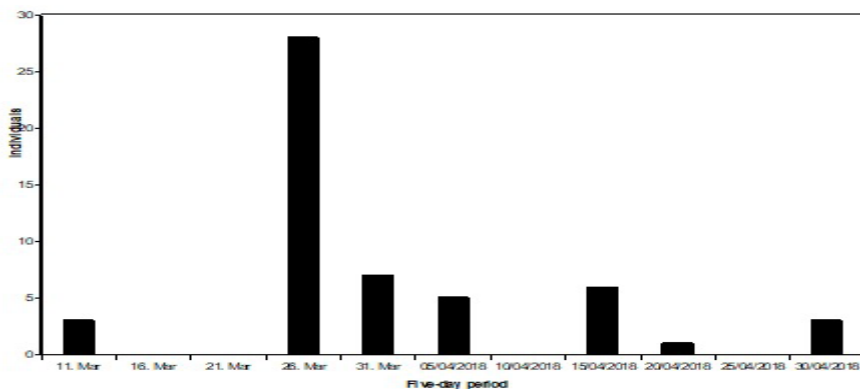
### **LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

*Total records: 22. Sites: 9 non-breeding*

*First winter period:* Ferry Meadows CP an adult on Jan 31st.

*Spring:* passage commenced with 3 forerunners on Mar 11th, peaked on Mar 27th and 28th and ceased on May 1st (see Figure). Peak counts were Fen Drayton Lakes 8 on Mar 27th and 6 on 31st, Grafham Water 7 on Mar 27th and Paxton Pits 6 on Mar 28th.



**Figure:** Little Gull in spring 2017. 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: 56. Sites: 14 first winter-spring/6 autumn-second winter.*

*Breeding (2 possible pairs at 2 sites):* Dunkirk a pair took territory but did not stay and Fen Drayton Lakes a pair displaying and a recently fledged juvenile observed.

*First winter period (7 sites):* Grafham Water on Jan 6th, Feb 17th and 21st, Burwell Fen on Jan 7th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 7th and 2 on 8th, Wicken Fen on Jan 8th, Ferry Meadows CP on Jan 10th and Feb 23rd, Yaxley on Jan 15th and Feb 25th and Ouse Washes (Sutton Gault) on Feb 24th.

*Spring (11 sites including breeding sites above):* Grafham Water on Mar 15th, Cam Washes 2 on Mar 18th, Earith on Mar 30th and 2 on Apr 30th, Hemingford Grey 2 on Mar 30th, Maxey GP on Apr 2nd and 3rd, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Apr 9th, Burwell Fen on Apr 16th, Fen Drayton Lakes a 2nd cal-year on Apr 29th, Ferry Meadows CP on Apr 30th, May 1st and 2 on 6th and Over on May 27th.

*Return/autumn (5 sites):* Grafham Water on Jul 31st, Aug 25th and 30th, Burwell Fen on Aug 2nd and Sep 24th, Ferry Meadows CP on Sep 27th and 29th and Oct 8th, Bradley Fen on Oct 12th and Fen Drayton Lakes on Oct 28th.

*Winter (4 sites):* Ferry Meadows on Nov 9th, 11th and 14th, Grafham Water on Nov 15th and 22nd and Dec 18th, Cambourne on Nov 18th and Fen Drayton Lakes on Nov 26th and Dec 28th.



**Mediterranean Gull** *Chris Button*

**COMMON GULL (Mew Gull)** *Larus canus*

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

*Total records: 689. Sites: 104 non-breeding.*

*First winter period/spring (peak counts of 30+):* CEGB Reservoir 1000 on Jan 22nd, Chrishall Grange 375 on Feb 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 220 on Mar 6th, Ferry Meadows CP 140 on Mar 11th, Burwell Fen 102 on Mar 19th, Fowlmere NR 80 on Feb 10th, Grafham Water 58 on Apr 27th, Paxton Pits 50 on Mar 9th, Melbourn 45 on Jan 29th, Godmanchester SW 31 on Feb 4th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 30 on Feb 13th and Wicken Fen (Adventurers Fen) 30 on Jan 16th.

*Late spring/early summer:* in May recorded at 5 sites with a maximum of 6 at Littleport (May Farm) and Wicken Fen, in June at 4 sites with a maximum of 6 at Littleport (May Farm) and in July at 5 sites with a maximum of 5 at Littleport (May Farm).

*Autumn/second winter period* (peak counts of 30+): Fen Drayton Lakes 600 on Dec 24th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 150 on Nov 9th, Flint Cross 84 on Nov 28th, Melbourn 54 on Dec 31st, Paxton Pits 40 on Nov 16th and Haddenham (Hinton Farm Reservoir) 36 on Nov 16th.

### **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus*

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

*Total records: 1422. Sites: 153.*

*Breeding* (79 pairs at 3 sites): Paxton Pits 63, Godmanchester GP 15 and Maxey GP a pair nest-building.

*Peak counts of 100+:*

*First winter period/spring:* Grafham Water 600 on Jan 3rd, Fen Drayton Lakes 370 on Mar 6th, Witcham Gravel 270 on Mar 26th, CEGB Reservoir 250 on Feb 16th and Godmanchester GP 149 on May 14th.

*Summer:* Burwell Fen 400 on Aug 11th, Shepreth 300 on Aug 17th, Godmanchester GP 289 on Jul 23rd, Cottenham (Long Drove) 140 on Aug 20th, Littleport (May Farm) 134 on Aug 31st, Bradley Fen 120 on Jun 30th and Hinxtun 100 on Jul 17th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Grafham Water 1100 on Sep 4th, Melbourn 900 on Oct 3rd, Foxton 720 on Sep 22nd, Fowlmere 458 on Sep 17th, Fowlmere NR 400 on Oct 11th, Duxford 312 on Sep 17th, Littleport (May Farm) 242 on Sep 4th, Flint Cross 200 on Nov 28th, Foxton SW 200 on Nov 4th, Coveney Byall Fen 188 on Oct 19th, Witcham 177 on Oct 8th, Stapleford 150 on Sep 4th, Kingston 147 on Nov 22nd, Witchford (Long Drove) 144 on Sep 8th and Wicken (farmland) 128 on Sep 19th.

### **HERRING GULL (European Herring Gull)** *Larus argentatus*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for international importance: 10200; threshold for national importance: 7300.

*Total records: 886. Sites: 34 breeding season/93 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (3 pairs at one site): Paxton Pits 3.

*First winter period/spring* (peak counts of 50+): Grafham Water 5000 roosting on Jan 8th, Dogsthorpe Tip 2000 on Jan 21st, CEGB Reservoir 1000 on Feb 16th, Fen Drayton Lakes 1000 on Jan 5th and 19th, Cambridge Research Park 400 on Jan 22nd, Bradley Fen 250 on Mar 1st, Ferry Meadows CP 140 on Mar 9th and 10th, Milton CP 140 on Jan 27th, Tanholt GP 100 on Feb 6th, Drysides BP 80 on Feb 13th, Chittering 70 on Feb 19th, Woodwalton Fen 57 on Jan 2nd and Ouse Washes 50 on Jan 1st.

*Late spring/summer* (peak counts of 20+): Littleport (May Farm) 112 on Aug 31st.

*Autumn/second winter period* (peak counts of 50+): Bradley Fen 300 on Dec 14th, Cambridge Research Park 200 on Nov 29th, Littleport (May Farm) 173 on Nov 24th, Ferry Meadows CP 114 on Oct 23rd and Colne Fen GP 54 on Dec 17th.

**YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 11.

*Total records: 116. Sites: 30 non-breeding.*

A rather poor year for the species, a far cry from the more recent high numbers (*cf.* peak counts of 130 in 2012 and 104 in 2014), with few two-digit counts.

*Peak monthly counts at a selected site:*

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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grafham Water	3	4	1	1	2	5	12	15	15	-	-	1

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*Peak counts at other sites as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Ouse Washes 3 on Jan 2nd and Apr 30th, Cambridge Research Park 2 on Jan 7th and 31st, Cottenham (Long Drove) 2 on Feb 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on Jan 15th and 19th, Foxton 2 on May 1st, Paxton Pits 2 on Apr 17th, 24th and 27th and May 2nd and singles at a further 5 sites.

*Summer:* Cottenham (Long Drove) 9 on Aug 20th, Burwell Fen 3 on Aug 11th, Paxton Pits 3 on Jun 24th, Godmanchester GP 2 on Jul 21st and singles at a further 7 sites.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Witcham 8 on Oct 8th, Melbourn 7 on Oct 3rd, Duxford 3 on Sep 17th, Flint Cross 3 on Nov 28th, Fowlmere 3 on Sep 17th, Fowlmere NR 3 on Oct 11th, Stapleford 3 on Nov 14th, Cambridge Research Park 2 on Nov 16th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2 on Oct 15th to Dec 3rd and singles at a further 4 sites.

**CASPIAN GULL** *Larus cachinnans*

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

*Total records: 53. Sites: 15 non-breeding.*

*Peak counts as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Cottenham 6 on Feb 10th, Cottenham (Long Drove) 5 on Feb 11th, Fen Drayton Lakes 3 on Mar 6th, Cambridge Research Park 2 on Jan 15th and 28th, Grafham Water 2 on Jan 14th and Feb 21st, Waterbeach 2 on Jan 15th and Feb 11th and singles at Coveney Byall Fen on May 6th, Dogsthorpe Tip on Jan 21st, Feb 17th and Mar 17th, Ely (Rowing Club) on Feb 16th, Milton Tip on Jan 19th and Paxton Pits on Jan 2nd, 8th, 22nd and 28th and Feb 4th and 19th.

*Summer:* Paxton Pits one on Jul 1st.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Melbourn 3 on Oct 3rd, Milton Tip 3 on Nov 28th, Cambridge Research Park 2 on Nov 9th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on Dec 7th, Waterbeach 2 on Nov 9th and singles at Dogsthorpe Tip on Dec 30th, Grafham Water on Sep 4th and 7th, Ickleton on Nov 17th, Littleport (May Farm) on Dec 3rd and Paxton Pits on Nov 12th.

**ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucooides*

**Amber List.** *Scarce, annual winter visitor and passage migrant* (9 records *cf.* average of 7/year).

*Latest* on Apr 21st (Dogsthorpe Tip) and *earliest* on Dec 29th (Cottenham).

Nine records is the highest number since 2012 and 2013 but some of the records listed below may actually refer to the same bird and the total number of birds involved might be smaller.

*First winter period/spring* (7 records):

A – Grafham Water a 2nd cal-year on Jan 11th and 13th and presumed same Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 21st.

B – Fen Drayton Lakes a 3rd cal-year on Jan 19th and presumed same Milton (Cambs) on Jan 19th.

C – Cambridge Research Park a 3rd cal-year on Jan 20th and 21st, thought to be different to bird B.

D – Dogsthorpe Tip an unaged bird on Jan 21st.

E – Dogsthorpe Tip a 3rd cal-year on Feb 17th.

F – Grafham Water a 5th cal-year on Feb 21st, also seen in Northamptonshire.

G – Dogsthorpe Tip an unaged bird on Mar 17th–19th, 21st and 27th and presumed same, aged as 2nd cal-year, on Apr 6th and 21st.

The following records of unaged birds are likely to refer to one of the birds listed above: Cottenham (Long Drove) on Jan 19th and Milton Tip on Jan 19th.

*Autumn/second winter period* (2 records): Cottenham (Long Drove) a 1st cal-year on Dec 29th and Waterbeach (Amey Cespa Site) presumed same on Dec 30th and 31st, with a second unaged bird on Dec 31st.

**Iceland Gull (including Kumlien's Gull) and Glaucous Gull:** annual record totals (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Iceland Gull	8	5	4	12	6	1	6	16	9	8	7	5	9
Kumlien's Gull	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Glaucous Gull	2	0	3	8	7	2	5	8	13	8	6	5	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>

**GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus*

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

*Latest* on Apr 2nd and *earliest* on Dec 29th (both Cottenham).

There is some uncertainty in allocating records to individual birds so the number of birds involved might be higher or lower than presented below. As every year and as with Iceland Gull, observers are asked to indicate the age of birds involved to help disentangling the number of individuals involved.

*First winter period/spring* (6 records):

A – Ferry Meadows CP a 2nd cal-year on Jan 7th and presumed same Dogsthorpe Tip on Jan 13th and 21st.

B – Grafham Water 2 2nd cal-years on Jan 8th and presumed one of them Cambridge Research Park on Jan 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 27th and 30th, Feb 6th, 21st, 24th, 26th and 28th and Mar 4th, 19th and 30th, Cottenham (Long Drove) on Feb 2nd, 18th, 19th and 26th and Apr 2nd, Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 20th, Littleport (May Farm) on Jan 28th and Milton Tip on Jan 31st.

C – Grafham Water an adult on Jan 14th and presumed same Cambridge Research Park on Jan 15th and 28th and Feb 1st and 4th and Cottenham (Long Drove) on Feb 2nd.

D – Cambridge Research Park an adult on Jan 21st, thought to be different to bird C.

E – Grafham Water an adult on Mar 18th.

F – Dogsthorpe Tip an unaged bird on Mar 21st and 24th.

The following records of unaged birds are likely to refer to birds listed above: Cambridge Research Park on Jan 14th, Feb 9th and Mar 18th, Cottenham (Long Drove) on Jan 19th, Milton Tip on Feb 2nd and Littleport (May Farm) on Mar 31st.

*Autumn/second winter period* (one record): Cottenham (Long Drove) an adult on Dec 29th.

## **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*

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

WeBS (2016/17) threshold for national importance: 760.

*Total records:* 211. *Sites:* 54 non-breeding.

*First winter period/spring* (peak counts of 20+): Grafham Water 755 on Jan 8th, Dogsthorpe Tip 450 on Jan 21st, Fen Drayton Lakes 104 on Jan 5th, Cottenham (Long Drove) 94 on Jan 19th, Milton [Cams] 64 on Jan 19th and Cambridge Research Park 50 on Jan 7th.

*Summer:* Kingfishers Bridge on Jun 1st, Pymoor 2 on Jun 21st, Grafham Water 2 on Jul 5th, one on 6th, 2 on 30th, 5 on Aug 25th and 3 on 28th, Tanholt GP on Jul 31st, Witchford (Long Drove) on Aug 13th and Cottenham (Long Drove) 38 on Aug 20th.

*Autumn/second winter period* (peak counts of 20+): Ouse Fen 156 on Dec 1st, Cambridge Research Park 110 on Dec 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 107 on Dec 31st and Waterbeach (Amey Cespa Site) 88 on Dec 30th.

## **Breeding gulls and terns:** total counts of breeding/territorial pairs (2006–2017)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Black-headed Gull	475	530	300	535	534	533	950	1126	2930	1448	2089	2197
Mediterranean Gull	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0
Lesser B-b Gull	16	15	21	49	41	18	18	5	38	27	32	79
Herring Gull	4	11	2	2	8	1	10	2	0	0	2	3
Yellow-legged Gull	1*	1	0	0	1*	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Tern	105	56	103	118	79	34	102	68	99	121	85	114

\*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.



**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: 550. Sites: 88.*

*Breeding (5 pairs at 2 sites): Cambridge 4 and Wansford one. As every year, breeding is obviously largely unreported.*

*Peak counts of 30+: St Neots 80 on Nov 20th, Chatteris 45 on Jan 21st, Great Fen Project (Yaxley Lode) 45 on May 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 35 on Sep 30th, Cam Washes 30 on Aug 26th, Cambridge Research Park 30 on Feb 14th, Farcet 30 on Jul 8th and Stanground Wash 30 on Jul 19th.*

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 24% (95/96) cf. 14% (16/17)*  
*Density (individuals/10 squares): 17 (95/96) cf. 10 (16/17)*

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

**Amber List.** *Common resident and winter visitor.*

*Total records: 1354. Sites: 128 breeding season/121 non-breeding.*

*Breeding (33+ pairs at 8 sites): Paxton Pits 13, Dunkirk 6 in nest boxes, Landbeach 5 in nest boxes, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 4, Kings Dyke NR 2 in nest boxes and unknown numbers at Cambridge, Littleport (May Farm) and Ouse Washes.*

*Peak counts of 40+ as follows:*

*First winter period/spring: Cambridge (NIAB) 117 on Feb 6th, Colne Fen GP 59 on Mar 4th, Coveney Byall Fen 50 on Jan 28th and Thorney Dyke 41 on Feb 12th.*

*Autumn/second winter period: Nene Washes (Eldernell) 600 on Oct 22nd, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 250 on Oct 31st, Woodwalton Fen 80 on Dec 28th, Coveney Byall Fen 65 on Sep 26th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 63 on Dec 2nd, Witcham 53 on Oct 8th and Littleport (May Farm) 50 Jul to Dec.*

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 65% (95/96) cf. 50% (16/17)*  
*Density (individuals/10 squares): 30 (95/96) cf. 23 (16/17)*

**WOODPIGEON (Common Wood Pigeon)** *Columba palumbus*

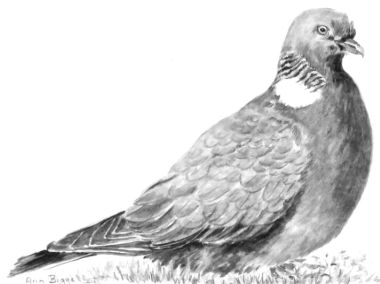
**Green List.** *Abundant resident and winter visitor.*

*Total records: 4487. Sites: 202 breeding season/193 non-breeding.*

*Breeding (131+ pairs at 9 sites): Paxton Pits 62, Dunkirk 40, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 12, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 7, Cambridge 6, Burwell a single and Coe Fen, Littleport (May Farm) and Ouse Washes an unknown number. An encouraging increase in reported breeding pairs/nests.*

*Peak counts of 500+ as follows:*

*First winter period/spring: Offord D'Arcy 1300 on Feb 12th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 1200 on Jan 23rd, Littleport (May Farm) 1000 throughout Jan, Ferry Meadows CP 900 on Jan 21st, Woodwalton Fen 525 on Feb 4th and Cam Washes 500 on Feb 17th.*



**Woodpigeon** Ann Biggs

*Autumn/second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 5000 on Oct 14th and 15th, Ferry Meadows CP 4079 migrating on Oct 27th, Fortrey's Hall 1500 roosting on Oct 22nd, Witcham 1500 on Nov 7th, Kingston (North) 1323 on Oct 30th, Kingston (Kingston Hill) 1163 on Oct 30th, Toft 1037 on Nov 3rd, Cambridge 1000 migrating on Nov 7th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 1000 on Oct 22nd, Grafham Water 800 migrating on Oct 27th, Stretham 800 migrating on Oct 28th, Kingfishers Bridge 700 on Dec 31st, Drysides BP 600 on Dec 14th, Witchford (Long Drove) 600 on Nov 7th and Foxton 520 migrating on Nov 7th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 100% (95/96) *cf.* 100% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 256 (95/96) *cf.* 413 (16/17)

### **COLLARED DOVE (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto***

**Green List.** *Abundant resident.*

*Total records:* 1713. *Sites:* 129 breeding season/98 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (16+ pairs at 6 sites): Paxton Pits 7, Roswell Pits 4, Melbourn 2, Barway a single and Littleport (May Farm) and Ouse Washes an unknown number. Although more breeding records have been received than in previous years, breeding remains grossly underreported.

*Peak counts of 35+ as follows:* Burwell Fen 130 on Sep 18th, Littleport (May Farm) 100 throughout Oct, Nov and Dec, Cam Washes 65 on Sep 23rd, Farcet 58 on Sep 23rd, Burwell 50 on Nov 17th, Smithey Fen 46 on Jan 28th and Stanground Wash 42 on Aug 2nd.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 57% (95/96) *cf.* 446% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 21 (95/96) *cf.* 17 (16/17)

**Breeding behaviour:** Melbourn an early fledged juvenile on Feb 11th.

### **TURTLE DOVE (European Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur***

**Red List.** *Uncommon, recently much declined migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 159. *Sites:* 40 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Apr 17th (Abbots Ripton) and *latest* on Sep 3rd (Over)

*Breeding* (24 pairs/territories/singing males at 20 sites): Fowlmere NR 3 pairs continues to be in the lead. Although there is some uncertainty in assigning records to pairs or territories, this year's figure of just 24 at 20 sites is another low, slightly down from 28 at 20 sites in 2016. Also, the highest count figure has been spiralling down further, with just 6 birds at Fowlmere on Jun 16th. The times of two-digit counts are long gone.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 55% (95/96) *cf.* 7% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 13 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (16/17)

### **CUCKOO (Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus***

**Red List.** *Uncommon declined migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 504. *Sites:* 71 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Apr 14th (Paxton Pits) and *latest* on Aug 13th (Buckden GP)

*Breeding* (87 pairs/territories/singing males at 71 sites): the number of singing males is the same as last year while the number of sites is down from 79. It should be noted that there is some uncertainty

in assigning records to pairs or territories. Most sites held one 'territory' or singing male, but Paxton Pits held 7, Woodwalton Fen 4 and Wicken Fen a minimum of 3. The highest count was 8 at Wicken Fen on May 24th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 59% (95/96) *cf.* 14% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 11 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (16/17)

### **BARN OWL (Western Barn Owl)** *Tyto alba*

**Green List.** *Fairly common widespread resident with highest concentrations in fenland.*

*Total records:* 426. *Sites:* 48 breeding season/80 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (14 pairs at 10 sites): Landbeach 3 pairs, Littleport (May Farm) 3 pairs, and single pairs at Chippenham Fen, Fowlmere NR, Kingfishers Bridge, Litlington, Ouse Fen, Paxton Pits, Swavesey and Shingay. The breeding season extended into the autumn, with chicks noted in boxes at Fowlmere NR in Aug and at Kingfishers Bridge in Nov.

*Out of the breeding season:* records of 1–8 from 80 sites.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 7% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (16/17)

### **LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*

*Fairly common, introduced, naturalised resident.*

*Total records:* 137. *Sites:* 23 breeding season/37 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (10 pairs at 9 sites): Litlington 2 pairs bred, and single confirmed pairs at Granta Park, Kingfishers Bridge and Landbeach. Additionally pairs on territory all summer but no breeding confirmed at Cambridge (West Cambridge research site), Littleport (May Farm), Over, Swavesey and Wyton Airfield.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 5% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (16/17)



**Little Owl** Jan Wilczur

**TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

**Amber List.** *Fairly common widespread resident.*

*Total records:* 170. *Sites:* 29 breeding season/51 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (11 pairs at 11 sites): confirmed breeding at Buckden, Cambridge (Jesus College), Swavesey and Wimpole, and pairs on territory during breeding season at Cambridge (Newnham), Chippenham Fen, Comberton, Littleport (May Farm), Melbourn, Mepal and Woodwalton Fen.

Out of breeding season birds are likely to be on territory as Tawny Owl is relatively sedentary and an early breeder from late March.

**LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

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

*Total records:* 48. *Sites:* 6 breeding season/5 non-breeding.

*Breeding:* 3 breeding pairs at 3 sites (locations withheld), and single probable or possible pairs/territories at 3 other sites.

*Out of breeding season:* reported from Dunkirk, Fen Drayton Lakes, Ferry Meadows CP, Kings Dyke NR and Swavesey.

**Long-eared Owl:** confirmed/suspected breeding pairs/sites (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pairs	20	14	6	8	2	5	10	9	3	6	3	7	6
Sites	18	13	5	6	2	5	6	8	1	6	2	3	6

**SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

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

*Total records:* 298. *Sites:* 36 non-breeding.

*Latest* on May 11th (Ouse Washes) and *earliest* on Aug 31st (Chippenham Fen).

*Breeding:* one bird seen during breeding season at an undisclosed site, no confirmed breeding evidence. Dates not included in earliest/latest above.

*First winter period:* peak counts at Burwell Fen 10 on several dates in Jan, Nene Washes 10 on several dates in Jan, Mare Way 7 on Jan 28th, and 1–3 birds at 23 other sites.

*Second winter period:* recorded at 13 sites mostly Nov–Dec, up to 6 birds at the Nene Washes but only 1 or 2 elsewhere.

**NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

**Amber List.** *Rare visitor.* 26(26) since last bred in 1972. **2**

*Summer* (2 records): a male at Wisbech on Jun 25th later roosted during the day on Jun 27th at Waterbeach (*per* CBC Recorder) and a second bird at Cambourne on Jul 7th, heard calling (RSe). The first records since 2012.

**Tagging data:** the Waterbeach bird was known to be present in the county purely from GPS tag data. It was ringed and tagged by researchers from the University of York at a site in Yorkshire, and the bird was re-trapped and the tag retrieved several days later at the same breeding colony. GPS data showed it passed through the county from the Wisbech area across to the Suffolk border on Jun 25th. Two days later it re-entered the county and spent the day roosting at Waterbeach, which it left that evening in a southwesterly direction over the county. It was an unpaired male, and absent from the breeding area for around a week on a tour of central England and East Anglia.

**SWIFT (Common Swift)** *Apus apus*

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

*Total records:* 834 *Sites:* 135 *breeding season.*

*Earliest* on Apr 20th (Paxton Pits) and *latest* on Sep 15th (Cambridge and Ouse Fen)

*Breeding* (8 confirmed and 4 probable colonies): Landbeach 24, Chatteris 6, Cambridge (Lovell Rd) 5, Fowlmere 2, Trumpington 2 and single nests at Cambridge (Sturton St), Foxton and Peterborough. Low screamers, indicating probable colonies, noted at Wyton Airfield 10, Cambridge (Castle Hill) 5, Granta Park 4 and Foxton church 3.

*Peak counts of 100+:*

*Spring:* Fen Drayton Lakes 400 on May 9th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 400 on May 6th, Ferry Meadows CP 300 on May 20th.

*Autumn:* Cambridge (Lovell Rd) 100 on Jul 22nd, Cam Washes 100 on Aug 7th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 53% (95/96) *cf.* 38% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 52 (95/96) *cf.* 21 (16/17)

**BEE-EATER** *Merops apiaster*

*Very rare vagrant from Eurasia.* 6(6) **1**

*Autumn* (one record): Stanground on Oct 27th, photo (GFW). A brief visit from this lovely species, only seen by one lucky observer. The first record since 2012.

**KINGFISHER (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis***

**Amber List.** *Fairly common, but local resident; numbers affected by severity of winters.*

*Total records: 923. Sites: 59 breeding season/102 non-breeding.*

*Breeding (12 pairs at 9 sites): Ouse Washes 3 pairs, no outcomes reported, Paxton Pits 2 territories and single pairs breeding at Buckden Marina, Godmanchester GP, Kingfishers Bridge, Kings Dyke NR, Milton CP, Littleport (May Fam) and Whittlesford GP. However, it remains likely that the breeding population is under-recorded.*

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 6% (95/96) cf. 4% (16/17)*

*Density (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) cf. 0 (16/17)*



**Kingfisher Jan Wilczur**

**WRYNECK (Eurasian Wryneck) *Jynx torquilla***

*Scarce, almost annual passage migrant, mainly in autumn (5 records cf. average of 2/year).*

*Spring (one record): Coveney Byall Fen on May 7th (DHop).*

*Autumn (4 records): Middle Fen on Aug 29th (RT), Coveney Byall Fen on Aug 30th (MB), Cherry Hinton Hall on Oct 15th (IW) and Peterborough on Oct 24th (BFR). The Middle Fen bird was part of a wider fall of migrants, including 8 species of warbler, some singing and a Common Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher.*

**GREEN WOODPECKER (European Green Woodpecker) *Picus viridis***

**Green List.** *Fairly common resident, widespread except in fenland.*

*Total records: 2145. Sites: 143 breeding season/152 non-breeding.*

*Breeding (10 confirmed at 9 sites and a further 15 possibles at 10 sites): confirmed breeding at Cambridge Research Park 2, Cambridge Science Park, Fen Drayton Lakes, Granta Research Park, Hinxton Genome Campus, Little Eversden, Littleport (May Farm), Stanground Wash and Wicken Fen*



and possible breeders at Paxton Pits 3, Comberton 2, Ouse Fen 2, Ouse Washes 2, Baits Bite Lock, Barton (Lark Rise Farm), Chippenham Fen, Fowlmere, Toft and Wimpole Park.

*Counts of 5+ as follows:* Buckden GP 8 on Apr 9th, Abbots Ripton (Grange Farm) 6 on Apr 19th, Cambridge Research Park 6 on Jul 2nd, Fulbourn Fen 6 on Jul 19th, Littleport (May Farm) 6 on several dates, Gault Hole 5 on Apr 18th, Kings Dyke NR 5 on Jul 18th, Little Eversden 5 on Jul 1st, Little Paxton 5 on Jul 17th and Ouse Fen 5 on Feb 5th and Sep 24th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 55% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 10 (16/17)

### **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

**Green List.** *Fairly common, increased, resident, except in central fenland.*

*Total records:* 1142. *Sites:* 99 breeding season/122 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (4 confirmed at 4 sites): Buff Wood, Girtton, Littleport (May Farm) and Ouse Washes. Probable breeding at a further 18 sites: Paxton Pits 5, Ditton Park Wood 3, Fordham Wood 2, Ouse Fen 2, Chippenham Fen, Colne Fen GP, Eversden Wood, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere, Granta Park, Kings Dyke NR, Little Abington, Melbourn, Milton CP, Soham, Sutton Gault and Ten Wood.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 16% (95/96) *cf.* 40% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (16/17)

### **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dryobates minor*

**Red List.** *Rare resident, now very local after marked recent decline.*

*Breeding* (one probable at one site, one possible at one further site): one drumming at Castor Hanglands on Mar 14th, 18th and Apr 23rd and one seen at Grafham Water on Apr 9th.

*Out of breeding season* (4 records at 4 sites): Bedford Purlieus on Jan 5th, Grafham Water on Jan 19th, Newborough on Jan 21st and Caxton on Sep 17th.

**Rare Breeding Bird confidentiality:** whether to disclose site details for rare breeding birds is a matter of subjective consideration, and since this species went on the RBBP list we have maintained site confidentiality. Discussion with Ken Smith at the CBC Rare Breeding Bird Conference, however, suggests that for this species disturbance and egg collection are a relatively minor risk, and by disclosing site details we encourage responsible visiting during the breeding season in order to collect more data on outcomes. No successful breeding has been reported since 2010 but clearly a very small population has persisted since then. If a territory or nest site is found in future years, please contact Ken via the Woodpecker Network: <http://www.woodpecker-network.org.uk/index.php> as well as submitting the record to the county recorder.

### **KESTREL (Common Kestrel)** *Falco tinnunculus*

**Amber List.** *Fairly common resident, winter visitor and autumn passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 2074. *Sites:* 140 breeding season/194 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (16 confirmed at 12 sites): Paxton Pits 3, Cam Washes 2, Chippenham Fen 2, Bourn GC, Coe Fen, Hinxtton, Kingfishers Bridge, Landbeach, Longstowe, Stourbridge Common, Tubney Fen and Woodditton. Probable breeding at a further 8 sites, Barton, Comberton, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere, Fowlmere NR, Ouse Fen, St Ives GP and Wyton Airfield.

*Peak counts of 6+:*

*First winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 8 on Mar 31st, Ouse Washes 7 on Mar 13th and Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 6 on Feb 14th.

*Second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 12 on Sep 30th, Nene Washes (Eldernell) 7 on Oct 25th, Ouse Washes (Welches Dam) 7 on Sep 24th and Witchford (Long Drove) 6 on Aug 13th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 53% (95/96) *cf.* 44% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 6 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (16/17)

### **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

**Red List.** *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly to the fens; declining.*

*Total records:* 104. *Sites:* 25 first winter period-spring/30 autumn-second winter.

*Latest* on Apr 8th (Aldreth and Cambridge Research Park) and *earliest* on Sep 19th (Nene Washes).

*First winter period:* 1–2 at Aldreth Fen, Barleycraft GP, Burwell Fen, Cambridge Research Park, Colne Fen GP, Fowlmere, Grafham Water, Great Abington, Great Fen project, Haddenham, Harston, Holme, Huntingdon, Knapwell (Grange Farm), Little Staughton, Littleport (May Farm), Nene Washes, Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits, Somersham (Long Drove), Stanground Wash, Wicken Fen, Witchford (Long Drove) and Woodwalton Fen.

*Second winter period:* singles at Cam Washes, Cambridge, Cambridge Research Park, Duxford, Earith, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fletton Lake, Foul Anchor, Fowlmere, Fowlmere NR, Grafham Water, Great Fen project, Great Staughton, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens, Holme Fen, Kingfishers Bridge, Little Paxton, Littleport (May Farm), Longthorpe, Nene Washes, Nine Wells, Ouse Washes, Paxton Pits, Reach, Roswell Pits, Shepreth L-Moor, Stretham, Wicken Fen, Wimpole and Woodwalton Fen

The number of sites seems to have been consistent over the last 3–4 years.

### **RED-FOOTED FALCON** *Falco vespertinus*

*Scarce but now almost annual visitor from the continent, mainly in spring.* 38(40) **2**

*Spring:* (one record): Fen Drayton Lakes, a female May 5th–14th, m.o., photo (per CBC recorder).

*Summer:* (one record): Fowlmere NR, a female or immature on Jun 20th, photo (CHel).

### **HOBBY (Eurasian Hobby)** *Falco subbuteo*

**Green List.** *Uncommon migratory breeder (steady increase since the 1980s).*

*Total records:* 525. *Sites:* 101 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Apr 13th (Grafham Water) and *latest* on Oct 27th (Littleport)

*Breeding* (15 pairs at 15 sites): Burwell Fen, Bythorn, Chippenham Fen, Colne Fen GP, Eaton Ford, Elton, Fen Drayton Lakes, Foxton, Hinxton, Kingfishers Bridge, Litlington, Monks Wood, Nene Washes, Swavesey and Wicken Fen.

Notoriously secretive during the breeding process, it is most likely that many other sightings refer to breeding birds suggesting a healthy breeding population. This year, better reporting gives the highest confirmed breeding count since the end of the Atlas period.



*Peak counts of 5+:*

*Spring:* Stirtloe GP/Buckden Marina 23 on May 21st, Ouse Fen 10 on May 13th, Wicken Fen 10 on May 14th, 18th and 22nd, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on May 7th and 11th and Paxton Pits 5 on Apr 30th and Jun 4th.

*Autumn:* Paxton Pits 9 on Sep 13th, Great Fen Project 5 on Jul 29th and Ouse Washes 5 on Aug 6th–7th.

**Hobby:** breeding details (2007–2017)

	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Confirmed breeding pairs	13	7	8	11	16	8	2	7	6	7	15
Suspected breeding pairs	5	9	12	2	5	5	5	3	5	4	0
<b>Total breeding pairs</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 4% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (16/17)



**Hobby** Jan Wilczur

**PEREGRINE (Peregrine Falcon)** *Falco peregrinus*

**Green List.** *Scarce resident and uncommon winter visitor/passage migrant. Bred from 2007 onwards.*

*Total records:* 397. *Sites:* 34 breeding season/68 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (4 pairs at 4 sites, locations withheld): pairs at two regular sites successfully reared 2 young each to fledging. At one of these sites the young are prone to crash landing but, thanks to local awareness, the chicks have been successfully rehabilitated and released back to the nest site with their parents once fully capable of flight. A pair at a third regular site had confirmed incubation

but an unknown outcome. A fourth regular site was known to be unsuccessful due to building work. No information was received from another regular site in the breeding season although birds were present there in the autumn.

Sightings out of the breeding season reflect the wide-roaming nature of this species when not at breeding sites, with records from across the county. Most frequently recorded at the Nene Washes with 66 sightings through the year.

**‘ARCTIC’ PEREGRINE** *F. p. calidus/tundrius*

*Very rare visitor from the Arctic*

*Autumn:* (one record) Burwell Fen 1st cal-year on Oct 29th, photo (BGD).

This record of an individual of one of the races *calidus/tundrius*, the Russian/Tundra subspecies group, is currently being held by BBRC/BOU until taxonomy or identification criteria are resolved (Brit. Birds 111:624).

**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 Apr 1st, Apr 13th, Sep 2nd, Nov 2nd and Nov 4th.

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.*

*First winter period* (2 records): the bird around Wicken/Burwell Fens from 2016 remained until Apr 11th (m.o.). New birds were at Melbourn Feb 6th–10th, photo (SLC, ALC, Sue & John Cane) and at Little Staughton Mar 15th–19th (RMP), originally and subsequently recorded over the border in Bedfordshire (original observer undetermined, *per* SBI).

**MAGPIE (Eurasian Magpie)** *Pica pica*

**Green List.** *Very common and widespread resident.*

*Total records:* 3678. *Sites:* 152 breeding season/165 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (17 confirmed pairs at 11 sites): Nene Washes 4 territories, Paxton Pits at least 3 territories, Ouse Fen 2 territories, and single pairs at Cambridge (Lovell Rd), Cambridge Science Park, Coldham’s Common, Comberton (Westfield Farm), Fowlmere, Great Wilbraham Common, Hinxton and Littleport (May Farm).

*Peak counts of 15+ as follows:*

*First winter period:* Coldham’s Common 30 on Apr 1st, Kings Dyke NR 27 on Jan 30th, Ouse Washes 21 on Mar 13th, Cambridge (east) 20 on Feb 19th, Littleport (May Farm) 20 on numerous dates, Milton CP 20 on Jan 17th, Cambridge (Lovell Rd) 18 on Jan 18th, Eye Green 18 on Feb 4th, Foxton 17 on Feb 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 16 on Mar 2nd and Shepreth 15 on Apr 8th.

*Second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 30 on numerous dates, Cambridge (east) 25 on Oct 29th and Nov 5th, Coe Fen 24 on Dec 30th, Kings Dyke NR 22 on Nov 17th, Milton CP 20 on Nov 3rd, Coton Countryside Reserve 15 on Oct 22nd and Ditton Meadows 15 on Aug 15th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 55% (95/96) *cf.* 81% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 11 (95/96) *cf.* 29 (16/17)

On Dec 30th, 24 birds were observed gathering at dusk on Coe Fen in the trees by the river Cam, they all then moved across the fen to the thick hedges of the Leys School to roost.

### **JAY (Eurasian Jay)** *Garrulus glandarius*

**Green List.** *Fairly common resident; some autumn influxes.*

*Total records:* 796. *Sites:* 75 breeding season/113 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (5 pairs at 3 sites): confirmed breeding at Ouse Washes 2, Paxton Pits 2 and Mepal. Probable breeding at Eversden Wood 2, Cambridge and Chippenham Fen. This species is very secretive in the breeding season, reflected in the low number of breeding records.

*Peak counts of 5+ as follows:*

*First winter period:* Woodwalton Fen 7 on Jan 29th and Bedford Purlieus 5 on May 10th

*Second winter period:* Foxton SW 10 on Oct 8th, Woodwalton Fen 6 on Oct 12th, Little Wilbraham Fen 5 on Nov 16th and Woodditton 5 on Oct 25th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 6% (95/96) *cf.* 31% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 5 (16/17)

### **JACKDAW (Western Jackdaw)** *Corvus monedula*

**Green List.** *Abundant widespread resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 2384. *Sites:* 157 breeding season/164 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (23 confirmed pairs at 11 sites): Paxton Pits 10+ pairs, Cambridge 2, Chatteris 2, Ouse Washes 2 and single pairs noted at Cherry Hinton East Pit, Ditton Meadows, Fowlmere church, Hinxton, Kings Dyke NR, Littleport (May Farm) and Swavesey.

*Peak counts of 200+ as follows:*

*First winter period:* Ouse Washes 1000 on Feb 19th, roosting at Sutton Gault, Paxton Pits 750 on Mar 16th, Ferry Meadows CP 700 on Jan 2nd and 4th, Fowlmere NR 700 on Mar 12th roosting, Kingfishers Bridge 500 on Feb 4th, Cambridge (Lovell Rd) 410 on Jan 5th, overhead to roost, Fen Drayton Lakes 300 on Mar 6th roosting, Burghley Park 250 on multiple dates Jan–Feb, Littleport (May Farm) 200 on multiple dates Jan–Mar and Peterborough (Millenium Bridge) 200 on Jan 17th.

*Second winter period:* Chippenham Fen 3000 on August 11th, leaving roost, Nene Washes 2000 on Oct 22nd, Cambridge Research Park 1500 on Jul 14th, Cambridge (Lovell Rd) 428 on Nov 3rd to roost, Ely 380 on Aug 3rd, Dernford Fen 350 on Nov 21st to roost, Wicken Fen 310 on Dec 31st to roost, Littleport (May Farm) 300 on multiple dates throughout, Kingfishers Bridge 250 on Dec 31st and Mepal Fen 220 on Jul 8th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 57% (95/96) *cf.* 76% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 37 (95/96) *cf.* 68 (16/17)

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus***Green List.** *Abundant widespread resident.**Total records:* 1495. *Sites:* 159 breeding season/124 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (2614 occupied nests at 100 rookeries): Chittering 316, Melbourn 238 in 5 rookeries, Waterbeach 115, Block Fen GP 75, Nene Washes 75, Buckden 60, Westmoor Fen 60, Littleport 58, 18 & 17, Great Shelford 45, Quy 45, Sawtry 43, Pymoor 42, Cobb's Wood 40, Linton 40, Tadlow 40, Soham 38, Bar Hill 37, Ouse Washes 36, Buff Wood 35, Comberton 35 & 10, Fenstanton 35, Sawtry 35, Sutton [Hunts] 35, Wyton Airfield 32, Alconbury 30, 12 & 3, Burghley Park 30, Cambourne 30 & 8, Duxford 30, Milton 30, Sawtry 30, Upton [Hunts] 30, Ely 28, 20, 18 & 12, Norman Cross 28, Pampisford 28, Wimblington 28 & 8, Yaxley 25, Boxworth 24, Bottisham 23 & 12, Gamlingay Gt Heath 22, Lordsbridge 21 & 18, Brampton 20, Covington 20, Longstowe 18, Newmarket Racecourse 18, Thriplow 17, East Perry 16, Whittlesford 16 & 12, Huntingdon 15, Willingham 15, Barton 14, Yaxley 13, Orwell 12 & 12, Teversham 12 & 11, Wansford 12 & 5, Brandon Creek 10 & 7, Chatteris 10, 5 & 4, Cottenham 10 & 4, Westry 10, Bourn 9 & 8, Buckden 9, Cambridge 9, Thorney 9, Gamlingay 8, Pymoor 8, Wimpole Park 8 & 6, Elford Closes 7, Isleham 5, Great Abington 4, Swaffham Prior 3. Present but no count at further sites in Alconbury, Sawtry, Sibson, Stretham and Wansford.

*Peak counts of 200+ as follows:*

*First winter period:* Cambridge Research Park 300 on Mar 26th, Ferry Meadows CP 300 on Jan 2nd, 4th and 17th, Littleport (May Farm) 200 in Mar, and Peterborough (Millenium Bridge) 200 on Jan 17th

*Second winter period:* Nene Washes 4000 on Oct 22nd, Chippenham Fen 1000 to roost on Nov 30th, Wicken Fen 800 on Dec 3rd, Littleport (May Farm) 500 on multiple dates throughout, Fowlmere NR 400 on Oct 11th, Witchford (Long Drove) 338 on Nov 16th, Fowlmere 300 in harvested field on Jul 18th, Foxton SW 300 on Oct 10th and Stapleford 300 in ploughed field on Jul 20th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 61% (95/96) *cf.* 67% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 129 (95/96) *cf.* 179 (16/17)

**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone***Green List.** *Very common, increased resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.**Total records:* 4043 *Sites:* 173 breeding season/186 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (38 confirmed pairs at 16 sites): Nene Washes 12, Paxton Pits 5, Cambridge 3, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 3, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 2, Littleport (May Farm), Mepal 2, Ouse Fen 2, Ouse Washes 2, Coveney Byall Fen, Fowlmere NR, Great Wilbraham Common, Hinxton Genome Campus, Stourbridge Common, Swavesey and Wicken Fen.

*Peak counts of 50+ as follows:*

*First winter period:* Great Fen project 126 on Jan 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 72 on Feb 8th and Nene Washes 50 on Apr 14th.

*Summer:* Littleport (May Farm) 300 on multiple dates in Jul and Cambridge 84 on Parker's Piece on Jun 16th

*Second winter period:* Wicken Fen 400 on Oct 8th, Littleport (May Farm) 300 on multiple dates, Toft 182 on Nov 29th, Kingston 94 on Nov 14th, Kingfishers Bridge 80 to roost on Nov 6th and Stanground Wash 58 on Sep 3rd.

*Peak monthly counts at selected site:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Parker's Piece	34	37	39	49	63	84	81	82	56	49	49	56

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 73% (95/96) *cf.* 96% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 36 (95/96) *cf.* 74 (16/17)

### **RAVEN (Northern Raven) *Corvus corax***

**Green List.** *Scarce resident, increasing numbers breeding since first modern record in 2015, reflecting a national eastward range expansion.*

*Total records:* 122. *Sites:* 20 breeding season/45 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (7 pairs at 6 sites, locations withheld): 5 sites with confirmed single pairs breeding and additionally 2 pairs displaying at a sixth site. Typically nesting in undisturbed woods or parkland sites in the south and west of the county.

Reported from a number of locations, usually 1–2 birds flying over, mainly on the west side of the county.

*Counts of 4+:* Warboys 6 on Sep 22nd, Littleton 5 on Dec 14th, Houghton 4 on multiple dates in Mar and Apr, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 4 on Dec 18th, Hemingford Grey 4 on Apr 15th and Wimpole Park 4 on Dec 24th.

The count of 6 at Warboys on Sep 22nd (DJD) constitutes a new county record (*cf.* 4 on 5 occasions at 4 locations 2014–16).

### **GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus***

**Green List.** *Common, but local, resident; widespread autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Total records:* 780. *Sites:* 55 breeding season/106 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (21 confirmed pairs at 10 sites and 7 possibles at 4 sites): pairs breeding at Buckden 4, Paxton Pits 4, Wyton Airfield 4, Cambridge 2, Milton CP 2, Buff Wood, Chippenham Fen, Coates, Hinxton and Kingfishers Bridge. Also singing males on territory at Fowlmere village, Fowlmere NR, Lucy Wood and Wimpole Park.

*Peak counts of 5+ as follows:*

*First winter period:* Ouse Fen 12 on Jan 8th, Godmanchester GP 9 on Feb 4th, Woodwalton Fen 9 on Jan 8th, Bedford Purlieu 7 on Jan 5th, Littleport (May Farm) 7 on Jan 14th, Great Widgham Wood 6 on Mar 9th, Milton CP 6 on Mar 9th and Needingworth SW 5 on Mar 4th.

*Second winter period:* Fowlmere NR 20 on Sep 26th, Bar Hill 12 on Oct 15th, Aversley Wood 10 on Nov 2nd, Kingfishers Bridge 10 on Sep 30th and Oct 22nd, Witchford (Long Drove) 9 on Nov 5th, Fen Drayton Lakes 8 on Nov 18th, Buckden GP 6 on Nov 19th, Grafham Water 6 on Oct 23rd, Littleport (May Farm) 6 on Sep 30th, Mepal GP 5 on Oct 7th and Queen Adelaide 5 on Oct 8th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 2% (95/96) *cf.* 18% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 3 (16/17)

**FIRECREST (Common Firecrest)** *Regulus ignicapilla*

**Green List.** *Scarce annual passage migrant and rare breeder, last confirmed nesting (failed) in 2010 (9 records cf. average of 12/year).*

*Spring/summer* (2 records): Mepal on Mar 23rd and Cambridge on Apr 28th, briefly sang in a large garden before moving on.

*Second winter* (7 records): Cambridge on Aug 23rd, photographed on the train station platform, Cottenham on Oct 9th, Dry Drayton on Oct 18th and Nov 25th, Witcham on Oct 22nd, Histon on Nov 1st and Fowlmere church on Dec 12th.

**Firecrest:** number of records per year (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Records	6	10	5	24	12	19	10	13	13	4	10	8	9

**BLUE TIT (Eurasian Blue Tit)** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

**Green List.** *Abundant and widespread resident.*

*Total records:* 3296. *Sites:* 156 breeding season/178 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (73 confirmed pairs at 20 sites and 6 possibles at 6 sites): Knapwell (Grange Farm) 27, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Paxton Pits 10, Milton CP 5, Cambridge 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Fowlmere NR 2, Barton (Lark Rise Farm), Buff Wood, Chatteris, Chippenham Fen, Comberton (Westfield Farm), Fen Drayton Lakes, Great Abington, Hinxton Genome Campus, Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes, Roman Road, Swavesey, and singing birds at Cherry Hinton East Pit, Ditton Park Wood, Fowlmere, Logan's Meadow LNR, Sutton Gault and Stourbridge Common.

*Peak counts of 20+ as follows:*

*First winter period:* Ferry Meadows CP 40 on Mar 7th, Ditton Park Wood 33 on Mar 31st, Orton Wistow 25 on Mar 11th, Buckden GP 23 on Apr 9th, Buff Wood 23 on Apr 8th, Brampton Wood 21 on Apr 11th, Impington 21 on Feb 13th and Godmanchester GP 20 on Feb 14th, Mar 1st and Mar 7th.

*Summer:* Fen Drayton Lakes 30 on Jun 4th, Bedford Purlieu 28 on Jul 13th, Buff Wood 27 on Apr 23rd, Hinxton 24 on Aug 21st, Buckden GP 23 on Jun 12th and Chippenham Fen 22 on Apr 22nd.

*Second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 40 on multiple dates, Grafham Water 30 on Dec 2nd and Kingfishers Bridge 29 on Dec 12th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 78% (95/96) cf. 93% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 35 (95/96) cf. 54 (16/17)

**GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

**Green List.** *Abundant and widespread resident.*

*Total records:* 3096. *Sites:* 143 breeding season/173 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (67 confirmed pairs at 21 sites and 14 possibles at 11 sites): Knapwell (Grange Farm) 17, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Paxton Pits 10, Cambridge 5, Milton CP 5, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Adams Rd Sanctuary, Cam Washes (Upware), Chippenham Fen, Comberton (Westfield farm), Ditton Meadows, Fen Drayton Lakes, Fowlmere NR, Granta Park, Hinxton Genome Campus, Ouse Fen, Ouse Washes, Quy Fen, Stretham, Wyton Airfield, and possible breeding at Ditton Park Wood 4, Buff Wood, Cherry Hinton East Pit, Chatteris, Clopton, Cottenham, Fowlmere, Grafham Water, Great Wilbraham Common, Roswell Pits and Toft.

*Peak counts of 20+ as follows:*

*First winter period:* Ferry Meadows CP 40+ on Mar 7th, Orton Wistow 20 on Mar 11th and Paxton Pits 20 on Feb 6th.

*Second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 40 on Nov 20th, Grafham Water 20 on Dec 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 20 on Dec 12th and Wimpole Park 20 on Dec 15th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 55% (95/96) *cf.* 81% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 16 (95/96) *cf.* 33 (16/17)

### **COAL TIT** *Periparus ater*

**Green List.** *Fairly common, but local, resident; occasional influxes.*

*Total records:* 239. *Sites:* 29 breeding season/56 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (27 confirmed pairs at 4 sites and 2 possibles at 2 sites): breeding pairs at Monks Wood 24, Cambridge (Lovell Rd), Ditton Park Wood and Great Shelford, with possible pairs at Eversden Wood and Wimpole Park.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 11% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 2 (16/17)

### **MARSH TIT** *Poecile palustris*

**Red List.** *Fairly common, but declined, local resident.*

*Total records:* 127. *Sites:* 17 breeding season/29 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (55 confirmed pairs at 14 sites and 15 possibles at 8 sites): confirmed pairs/territories at Monks Wood 15, Wennington Wood 13, Holland Wood 6, Chippenham Fen 5, Ditton Park Wood 2, Hardwick Wood 2, Lucy Wood 2, Odd Quarter 2, Ten Wood 2, Upton Wood 2, Buff Wood, Fordham Wood, Paxton Pits, Wimpole Park and further singing males at Eversden Wood 4, Honeyhill Wood 3, Ditton Park Wood 2 in addition to the confirmed 2 pairs, Wimpole Park 2, Bedford Purlieus, Castor Hanglands, Hayley Wood and Longstowe.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 3% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (16/17)

### **BEARDED TIT (Bearded Reedling)** *Panurus biarmicus*

**Green List.** *Scarce, very local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Total records:* 112 *Sites:* 9 breeding season/15 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (13 confirmed pairs at 4 sites and 2 possibles at 2 sites): Ouse Fen 10+ pairs (only 2 out of the 6 cells surveyed in detail), Kings Dyke NR, Nene Washes and Wicken Fen, with possible pairs at Kingfishers Bridge and Little Wilbraham Fen.

*Peak counts as follows:*

*First winter/spring:* Wicken Fen 9 on Jan 8th, Burwell Fen 5 on Jan 22nd, Little Wilbraham Fen 5 on Jan 19th, Fen Drayton Lakes 4 on Mar 12th and Woodwalton Fen 2 on Jan 1st and 8th.

*Summer:* Fen Drayton Lakes 6 on Jun 14th and Maxey GP on Jul 24th

*Autumn/second winter:* Wicken Fen 20 on Oct 15th, Ouse Fen 5 on Sep 9th, Burwell Fen 4 on Dec 4th, Kingfishers Bridge 4 on Oct 8th and Nov 16th, Dunkirk 3 ringed on Oct 23rd, Nene Washes 3 on Oct 30th, Kings Dyke NR 2 on 3 dates, Paxton Pits 2 on Oct 14th and 29th, Glassmoor Bank on Oct 12th and Ouse Washes on Nov 18th.



**SKYLARK (Eurasian Skylark) *Alauda arvensis***

**Red List.** *Abundant, but much declined, resident; very common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Total records: 1228. Sites: 117 breeding season/145 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (363 territories at 34 sites): 66 records contained breeding evidence. Ouse Washes 56, Nene Washes 54, Littleport (May Farm) 40, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 35, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 24, Fowlmere 24, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 15, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 14, Ouse Fen 12 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 80 sites holding 687 birds in the breeding season.

*Peak counts of 40+ as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 107 on Jan 22nd, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 50 on Jan 14th, Thriplow 50 on Jan 22nd, Nine Wells 46 on May 10th, Linton (Roman Road) 40 on Jan 14th and Littleport (May Farm) 40 throughout spring.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Fowlmere 150 on Dec 11th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 123 on Dec 16th, Caldecote (Highfields) 100 on Dec 10th, Littleport (May Farm) 100 throughout the autumn and winter, Heydon Grange 84 on Dec 31st, Nine Wells 80 on Dec 28th, Cambridge Research Park 65 throughout November and December, Wood Walton 59 on Oct 8th, Camps End 50 on Nov 5th, Fowlmere NR 50 on Oct 8th, Foxton 50 on Sep 27th and Woodwalton Fen 50 on Dec 9th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 100% (95/96) *cf.* 96% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 117 (95/96) *cf.* 87 (16/17)

**SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris***

**Amber List.** *Rare passage migrant and winter visitor. 9(13) 1*

*Autumn* (one record): a single bird recorded at Burwell Fen from Nov 5th to 8th, photo (MAus, BGD, FAC, Miranda Gomperts). Last recorded in Cambridgeshire at Aldreth in October 2004.



**Shore Lark** *Richard Johnson*



**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

**Green List.** *Fairly common, but declined, migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records: 488. Sites: 57 breeding season.*

*Earliest on Mar 14th (Ferry Meadows CP) and latest on Oct 3rd (Littleport).*

*Breeding (7 sites):* 15 records contained breeding evidence. Dunkirk 105 adults around an unspecified number of nest holes (239 chicks fledged, productivity similar to 2016), Paxton Pits 80 breeding territories, Colne (Fenland Fisheries) 60 adults around an unspecified number of nest holes, Thornaugh Quarry 42 adults around an unspecified number of nest holes, Kingfishers Bridge 16–21 occupied holes, St Ives one occupied hole and Stanground Wash one occupied hole.

*Peak counts of 50+ as follows:*

*Spring:* Drysides BP 150 on Apr 25th, Gullet Marsh 120 on Apr 20th, Fen Drayton Lakes 100 from late Mar to mid Apr, Ouse Washes 83 on Apr 10th, Ferry Meadows CP 80 on May 6th, Kingfishers Bridge peaked at 75 between Apr 21st and May 29th, Colne (Fenland Fisheries) 60 on Apr 2nd, Maxey GP 50 on Apr 3rd and Paxton Pits 50 on Apr 10th. These peak counts are considerably lower than those recorded in spring 2016.

*Return/autumn:* Maxey GP peak reedbed roost count of 4000 on Aug 16th, Fen Drayton Lakes 1200 on Sep 10th, Buckden GP 900 on Aug 13th, Burwell Fen 100 on Aug 24th, Grafham Water 100 on Sep 12th, Paxton Pits 100 on Aug 21st and Ferry Meadows CP 65 on Sep 4th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 5% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 4 (95/96) *cf.* 2 (16/17)

**SWALLOW (Barn Swallow)** *Hirundo rustica*

**Green List.** *Very common, but declined, migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records: 1285. Sites: 162 breeding season.*

*Earliest on Mar 21st (Paxton Pits) and latest on Nov 5th (Wicken Fen)*

*Breeding (44 breeding pairs at 9 sites):* 17 records contained breeding evidence. Given the number of sites at which Swallows were recorded in the breeding season, there was very little reporting of breeding evidence. Ouse Washes 15 occupied nests, Wimpole Park 14 occupied nests, Paxton Pits three breeding territories, Wyton Airfield three occupied nests, Fowlmere two occupied nests, River Cam (Riverside–Baits Bite) two occupied nests under the A14 bridge over the river, Littleport (May Farm) several occupied nests, Landbeach one occupied nest and Hinxton an adult feeding three juveniles.

*Spring peak counts of 50+:* Ferry Meadows CP 250 on May 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes 200 on May 8th, Paxton Pits 200 on May 8th, Foxton SW 150 on May 1st, Coveney Byall Fen 66 on May 6th and Roswell Pits 60 on Apr 27th. These and several lesser but still 50+ counts at the same sites occurred in a short period at the end of April and the beginning of May.

*Return/autumn peak counts of 100+:* Ferry Meadows CP 200 on Sep 14th and 15th, Ouse Washes 167 on Aug 26th, Nene Washes (Low Wash) 140 on Sep 10th, Cam Washes 100 on Aug 26th, Fen Drayton Lakes 100 on Sep 10th, Grafham Water 100 on Sep 12th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 100 on Sep 8th, Maxey GP 100 on Aug 13th and Wicken Fen 100 on Aug 20th.

*Visible migration:* Only 10 records were received that described visible migration. The largest count was of 30 over the Nene Washes on Sep 23rd.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 59% (95/96) *cf.* 68% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 18 (95/96) *cf.* 34 (16/17)

### HOUSE MARTIN (Common House Martin) *Delichon urbicum*

**Amber List.** *Common, but declined, migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 622. *Sites:* 98 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Mar 17th (Fowlmere NR) and *latest* on Oct 21st (Dry Drayton)

*Breeding* (117 occupied nests at 9 sites): 17 records contained breeding evidence. Wyton Airfield 44, Linton 29, Sutton 18, Mepal 10, Barway 6, Landbeach 4, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Stow-cum-Quy 2, Stretham 2 and reports of adults collecting mud for nest building at a further 7 sites.

*Peak counts of 50+ as follows:*

*Spring:* Ferry Meadows CP 300 on May 19th, Foxton SW 150 on May 1st, Kingfishers Bridge 60 on May 19th, Paxton Pits 60 on May 8th and Fen Drayton Lakes 50 on Apr 3rd.

*Return/autumn:* Grafham Water 3000 on Sep 12th, Foxton SW 400 on Oct 1st, Cam Washes 200 on Aug 26th, Fen Drayton Lakes 200 on Sep 10th, Ferry Meadows CP 200 on Sep 14th (this the peak from a series of counts of 50+ birds made between Sep 8th and Sep 16th), Chesterton 187 on Sep 20th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 160 on Aug 13th, Kingston 90 on Sep 16th, Buckden GP 76 on Sep 10th, Stretham 70 on Aug 12th, Granta Science Park 60 on Aug 21st, Linton 58 on Jul 25th, Burwell Fen 50 on Sep 19th, Cambridge (Lovell Rd) 50 on Aug 21st, Eaton Socon 50 on Aug 30th, Fowlmere 50 on Aug 24th, Godmanchester GP 50 on Aug 30th and Hinxtun 50 on Jul 18th.

*Visible migration:* Five records were received that described visible migration. Counts of 50+ were of around 400 passing slowly through Foxton SW feeding en route on Oct 1st and 90 passing through over the course of an hour at Kingston on Sep 16th.

The count of 3000 at Grafham Water on Sep 12th (MLH) equals the county maximum at the same site in Sep 1976.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 20% (95/96) *cf.* 21% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 8 (95/96) *cf.* 16 (16/17)

### RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica*

*Rare but increasing vagrant from Eurasia.* 11(12) **1**

*Spring* (one record): Ferry Meadows CP on Apr 17th, photo (MW). This decade has seen 8 of the 11 county records, reflecting the national pattern of increase. All these 8 have been in spring, and half have been at Ferry Meadows. This is the earliest ever.

### CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

**Green List.** *Uncommon but increasing resident, susceptible to harsh winters. Bred 1980–84 and since 2004.*

*Total records:* 980. *Sites:* 64 breeding season/47 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (this is based on categorising all records received in the period Mar to Jun as relating to singing birds on territory unless the record stated otherwise) (219 territories at 54 sites): Wicken Fen (inc Baker's Fen and Adventurers Fen) 35, Ouse Fen 25, Fen Drayton Lakes 22, Paxton Pits

10, Nene Washes 8 (Counter Drain 2, Eldernell Pit 2, March Farmers 2, Rings End 2), Orton BP 7, Burwell Fen 6, Buckden GP 5, Kings Dyke NR extension 5, Queen Adelaide 5, Drysides BP 4, Ferry Meadows CP 4, Fowlmere NR 4, Kingfishers Bridge 4, Littleport (May Farm) 4, Marsh Lane GP 4, Roswell Pits 4, St Ives GP 4, Wilbraham Fen 4, Bainton GP 3, Block Fen GP 3, Eynesbury 3, Gault Hole 3, Grafham Water 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Woodwalton Fen 3, Barford Pocket Park 2, Cam Washes 2, Cambridge Research Park 2, Ouse Washes 2, Peterborough 2 and Stanground Gullet 2 with single birds at a further 22 sites. Each year over the period 2014 to 2017 there has been an increase in the number of sites where territories are held and in the total number of territories.

*Autumn/winter period:* the records from outside of the breeding season identified another four sites at which birds occurred.

### **LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*

**Green List.** *Widespread and common resident.*

*Total records:* 1938. *Sites:* 133 breeding season/155 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (69 territories at 28 sites): 42 records contained breeding evidence. Given the number of sites where recorded in the breeding season, there was relatively little reporting of breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 38, Milton CP 3, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 2, Fowlmere NR 2 and single territories at an additional 24 sites.

*Peak counts of 25+ as follows:* Littleport (May Farm) at least 50 throughout Jan to Mar, Fen Drayton Lakes 39 on Jan 5th, Paxton Pits 38 on Jun 30th, Woodwalton Fen 37 on Jan 8th, Kingfishers Bridge 35 on Dec 12th, Ouse Fen 28 on Oct 28th, Cambridge 27 on Nov 5th, Witchford (Long Drove) 26 on Sep 8th and Hinxtun 25 on Sep 1st.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 14% (95/96) *cf.* 40% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 6 (95/96) *cf.* 16 (16/17)



**Long-tailed Tit** *Ann Biggs*

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

*Scarce vagrant from Siberia. 27(27) 2*

*Autumn* (2 records): Stanground on Sep 25th (GFW) and Fowlmere NR in October, photo (Sam Fowling per RJF) identified by RJF from photographs taken by his son at some point in October, the photographs were seen in Dec 2017 and the exact date they were taken could not be ascertained.



**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Ben Green*

**CHIFFCHAFF (Common Chiffchaff)** *Phylloscopus collybita*

**Green List.** *Common migratory breeder and passage migrant; regularly overwinters.*

*Total records:* 1899. *Sites:* 199 breeding season/103 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (275 territories at 57 sites): 137 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 80, Ditton Park Wood 26, Brampton Wood 15, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 8, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 8, Fen Drayton Lakes 8, Kingfishers Bridge 6, Little Wilbraham Fen 6, Monks Wood 6 and five or fewer territories at an additional 48 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 106 sites holding 541 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* (58 individuals at 21 sites): Needingworth SW 14 on Jan 22nd, Godmanchester SW 7 on Feb 4th, Ely SW 6 on Feb 26th, Ouse Fen 6 on Jan 8th, Fen Drayton Lakes 5 on Jan 5th, Littleport (May Farm) 3 through Jan and Feb, Godmanchester GP 2 on Feb 12th, Witchford (Long Drove) 2 on Feb 21st and singles at a further 13 sites.

*Late summer/autumn 10+ indicative of passage:* Cambridge Research Park 30 on Sep 2nd and 3rd, Kingfishers Bridge 20 on Sep 10th, Grafham Water 20 on Sep 23rd, Ferry Meadows CP 15 on Sep 4th and 12th, Kingfishers Bridge 13 on Sep 29th and 12 on Oct 3rd, Roswell Pits 13 on Sep 7th,

Witchford (Long Drove) 11 on Sep 21st, Ferry Meadows CP 10 on Sep 23rd, Paxton Pits 10 on Sep 23rd and Fowlmere NR 10 on Sep 26th.

*Second winter period* (22 individuals at 14 sites): Littleport (May Farm) 6 through Nov and Dec, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on Nov 19th, Grafton Water 2 on Nov 2nd and 5th, Kingfishers Bridge 2 on Nov 19th and singles at a further 10 sites.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 20% (95/96) *cf.* 70% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 3 (95/96) *cf.* 21 (16/17)

### **SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

*Very rare vagrant from Siberia.* 11(11) **2**

*First winter period* (2 new records): the bird present at Ely SW in 2016 remained in to 2017 and was last reported on Feb 26th. Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 5th to 8th, photo (SLC) and Cambridge Research Park on Jan 7th, photo (JHe, DMH).

### **WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**Amber List.** *Common and widespread migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 642. *Sites:* 113 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Mar 25th (Coldham's Common) and *latest* on Oct 3rd (Kingfishers Bridge)

*Breeding* (110 territories at 35 sites): 55 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 32, Brampton Wood 7, Fowlmere NR 5, Holme Fen 5, Wyton Airfield 5, Cambourne 4, Great Wilbraham Common 4, Hatley Park 4, Mepal Airfield 4, Ouse Fen 4, Block Fen GP 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Toft 3, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 2, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 2, Hardwick Wood 2, Ouse Washes (Sutton Gault) 2, Over 2 and singles at an additional 17 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 57 sites holding 221 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:* Ferry Meadows CP 12 on Aug 10th, Witchford (Long Drove) 12 on Aug 25th and Ouse Washes 10 on Aug 7th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 47% (95/96) *cf.* 30% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 12 (95/96) *cf.* 6 (16/17)

### **BLACKCAP (Eurasian Blackcap)** *Sylvia atricapilla*

**Green List.** *Very common migratory breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Total records:* 1574. *Sites:* 180 breeding season/103 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (269 territories at 44 sites): 101 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 80, Ouse Washes 16, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 12, Brampton Wood 12, River Cam (Baits Bite–Claythorpe) 11, Kingfishers Bridge 8, Little Wilbraham Fen 8, Mepal Airfield 8, Buff Wood 7, Fowlmere NR 7, Stanground Wash 7, Cambridge 6, Littleport (May Farm) 6, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 5, Gault Hole 5, Great Wilbraham Common 5, Gullet Marsh 5, Hinxton Genome Campus 5, Holme Fen 5 and four or fewer at an additional 25 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 115 sites holding 644 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

*First winter period* (94 individuals at 41 sites): Cambridge and its suburbs held 34 at 25 named locations, Melbourn 4, Paxton Pits 4, Fen Drayton Lakes 3, Ferry Meadows CP 3, Godmanchester

GP 3, Impington 3, Ditton Park Wood 2, Fulbourn 2, Granta Park 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Orton BP 2, Soham 2 and singles at a further 28 sites. This is a further increase in the number of individuals recorded compared to the previous six winters but the number of sites that they occurred at fell slightly.

*Late summer/autumn 10+ indicative of passage:* Ferry Meadows CP 18 on Aug 4th, Roswell Pits 16 on Sep 7th, Witchford (Long Drove) 12 on Aug 25th and Queen Adelaide 10 on Sep 10th.

*Second winter period* (21 individuals at 15 sites): Littleport (May Farm) 4, Cambridge and its suburbs 4 at 3 named locations and singles at Comberton, Fulbourn, Godmanchester, Kingfishers Bridge, Linton, Little Shelford, Lordsbridge, Melbourn, Ouse Fen, St Ives, Stanground Wash, Teversham and Woodhurst.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 47% (95/96) *cf.* 84% (16/17)

*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 9 (95/96) *cf.* 16/17 (16/17)

**Behaviour:** In the winter months birds were reported as feeding on the following natural and provided foods: apples, cotoneaster berries, fat block, honeysuckle berries, insects, ivy berries, mahonia nectar, mistletoe berries, pomegranate, rowan berries, suet pellets and sunflower hearts.

### **GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

**Green List.** *Common, but local, migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 296. *Sites:* 68 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Apr 3rd (Burwell Fen) and *latest* on Sep 8th (Stanground Wash)

*Breeding* (118 territories at 21 sites): 32 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 67, Barleycraft GP 10, Holme Fen 8, Block Fen GP 4, Brampton Wood 4, Grafham Water 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Littleport (May Farm) 3, Chippenham Fen 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Swavesey 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 30 sites holding 167 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun. If all of these records 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 220 singing males at 66 sites.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 12% (95/96) *cf.* 12% (16/17)

*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (16/17)

### **LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*

**Green List.** *Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 414. *Sites:* 95 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Apr 6th (Hemingford Grey and Marsh Lane GP) and *latest* on Sep 22nd (Cambridge and Knapwell)

*Breeding* (46 territories at 24 sites): 39 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 8, Mepal Airfield 5, Kingfishers Bridge 3, Wyton Airfield 3, Block Fen GP 2, Cambourne 2, Ditton Meadows 2, Eaton Ford 2, Grunty Fen 2, Little Wilbraham Fen 2, Toft 2 and singles at an additional 13 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 46 sites holding 89 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:* There were no records of 10+ birds, the largest count in late summer and autumn was Ferry Meadows CP 5 on Aug 1st.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 14% (95/96) *cf.* 38% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 7 (16/17)

### **WHITETHROAT (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis***

**Green List.** *Very common migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 972. *Sites:* 156 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Apr 4th (Paxton Pits) and *latest* on Sep 30th (Paxton Pits)

*Breeding* (302 territories at 43 sites): 85 records contained breeding evidence. Paxton Pits 36, Ouse Fen 27, Ouse Washes 24, Fen Drayton Lakes 20, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 16, Gullet Marsh 14, Block Fen GP 12, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 11, Kingfishers Bridge 11, Coveney Byall Fen 8, Grunty Fen 8, Mepal (New Road fields) 8, Toft 8, Burwell Fen 7, Mepal (Engine Bank) 7, Ditton Park Wood 6, Hinxton Genome Campus 6, Littleport (May Farm) 6 and 5 or fewer at an additional 25 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 102 sites holding 582 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:* Cam Washes 20 on Aug 13th, Stanground Gullet 14 on Aug 10th, Littleport (May Farm) 12 on Aug 31st and Witchford (Long Drove) 12 on Aug 31st.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 78% (95/96) *cf.* 93% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 26 (95/96) *cf.* 48 (16/17)

### **DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata***

**Amber List.** *Very rare winter visitor, occasional wanderer from resident UK populations.* 6(6) 1

*Autumn* (one record): Magog Down one on Oct 24th (RJF). A brief but well-documented observation.

### **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia***

**Red List.** *Uncommon, declined migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 151. *Sites:* 40 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Apr 6th (Wicken Fen) and *latest* on Aug 13th (Buckden GP and Wicken Fen)

*Breeding* (76 territories at 39 sites): All records submitted were assumed to relate to singing males except for one record which was of two caught for ringing and a record of a bird seen carrying food. Of the records submitted, 37 stated that they related to one or more singing/reeling birds. Chippenham Fen 9, Wicken Fen 5, Littleport (May Farm) 4, Woodwalton Fen 4, Bradley Fen 3, Fen Drayton Lakes 3, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Stanground Gullet 3, Bradley Fen 2, Burwell Fen 2, Cam Washes 2, Castor Hanglands 2, Eynesbury 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Leverington 2, Ouse Fen 2, River Cam (Baits Bite

to Clayhithe) 2, Witcham 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 was an additional 19 sites holding 48 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 6% (95/96) *cf.* 3% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (16/17)

### **SAVI'S WARBLER** *Locustella luscinioides*

**Red List.** *Uncommon summer visitor and former regular breeder until mid 19th Century.* Figures from 20th Century onwards: 21(21) **1**

*Breeding season* (one record): One heard reeling at Wicken Fen May 31st to Jun 2nd (BGD). This record has been accepted by the BBRC.

### **SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

**Green List.** *Very common migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 648. *Sites:* 82 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Mar 31st (Fen Drayton Lakes) and *latest* on Sep 21st (Kings Dyke NR extension)

*Breeding* (319 territories at 25 sites): 52 records contained breeding evidence. Nene Washes 113 (Low Wash 59, March Farmers 22, High Wash 12, Eldernell Wash 12, Counter Drain 8), Paxton Pits 56, Ouse Washes 45, Littleport (May Farm) 20, River Great Ouse (Bromholme Lane to Buckden Marina) 20, Gullet Marsh 12, Fowlmere NR 10, Kingfishers Bridge 8, Little Wilbraham Fen 6, Burwell Fen 5, Chippenham Fen 4, Block Fen GP 3, Coveney Byall Fen 3, Fen Drayton Lakes 3, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 3, Hinxton 2, Mepal (Engine Bank) 2 and singles at an additional 4 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 57 sites holding 512 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 45% (95/96) *cf.* 22% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 21 (95/96) *cf.* 7 (16/17)

### **MARSH WARBLER** *Acrocephalus palustris*

*Very rare migrant* 25(43) **1**

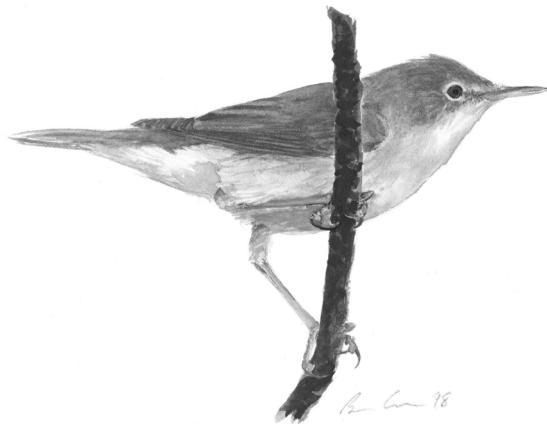
*One record:* undisclosed location, Jun 17th–19th (RBB, JLins, RGr). A singing male; sound recording and video clinched identification and acceptance.



**REED WARBLER (Eurasian Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*****Green List.** *Very common migratory breeder and passage migrant.**Total records: 879. Sites: 109 breeding season.**Earliest on Apr 5th (Grafham Water) and latest on Sep 30th (Kingfishers Bridge)*

*Breeding* (312 territories at 35 sites): 77 records contained breeding evidence. Nene Washes 63 (Low Wash 29, Counter Drain 23, March Farmers 9, Eldernell Wash 2), Paxton Pits 48, Kingfishers Bridge 37, Little Wilbraham Fen 22, Littleport (May Farm) 20, Fowlmere NR 14, Burwell Fen 12, Block Fen GP 11, Ouse Washes 11, Mepal (Carp Pit) 10, Chippenham Fen 8, Gault Hole 8, Pingles Pit 7, Hinxton 6, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 6, Ouse Fen 5, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 5, Adams Road Sanctuary 2, Manea (Carroll's Ground) 2, Mepal (Engine Bank) 2, Wyton Airfield 2 and singles at an additional 11 sites. On the definition that a 'probable' breeding bird is present defending a site over at least a week, there were 68 sites holding 583 birds where there was more than one record spaced a week apart within the period Apr to Jun.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 37% (95/96) *cf.* 22% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 19 (95/96) *cf.* 10 (16/17)

**Reed Warbler Ben Green****WAXWING (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*****Green List.** *Scarce, almost annual, irruptive winter visitor.**Latest on Apr 19th (Ramsey) and earliest n/a.*

*First winter period/spring* (26+ records): moderate numbers present following the influx in autumn 2016. Cherry Hinton (Fishers Way) single on Jan 4th rose to 10 on Jan 6th and peaked at 26 on Jan 9th, with sporadic sightings of up to 11 to Feb 8th, Stow-cum-Quy 13 on Jan 22nd, Cambridge Botanic Gardens 6 on Jan 27th rose to 12 on Mar 1st, Cambridge (Science Park) a well-watched group of up to 15 present from Jan 31st to Mar 18th and smaller numbers at several other sites within Cambridge City, Trumpington 9 on Mar 1st rose to 12 from Mar 2nd to 12th, Huntingdon 10–11 from Mar 16th to 18th and 1–9 at a further 15 sites between Jan 3rd and Apr 19th.

**NUTHATCH (Eurasian Nuthatch) *Sitta europaea*****Green List.** *Fairly common but rather local resident.**Total records: 184. Sites: 25 breeding season/36 non-breeding.**Breeding pairs (34 pairs confirmed/suspected):* Burghley Park 3, Ditton Park Wood 3 and 1–2 at a further 23 sites.*Additional sites outside of breeding season: 18 widely scattered sites.***TREECREEPER (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*****Green List.** *Fairly common resident away from fenland.**Total records: 280. Sites: 46 breeding season/56 non-breeding.**Breeding pairs (12 pairs confirmed/suspected):* single pairs at 12 sites*Spring/summer peak counts:* Littleport (May Farm) 8, Buff Wood 7, Paxton Pits 6, Wimpole Park 6, Ditton Park Wood 4, Kingfishers Bridge 4, Buckden GP 3, Wicken Fen 3 and 1–2 at a further 38 sites.*The breeding population is doubtless under-recorded.*

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 0% (95/96) *cf.* 5% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 0 (95/96) *cf.* 1 (16/17)

**WREN (Eurasian Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes*****Green List.** *Widespread and abundant resident.**Total records: 3049. Sites: 170 breeding season/174 non-breeding.*

*Breeding* (counts of 20+ pairs or presumed singing males): Paxton Pits 94, Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen) 68, Chippenham Fen 42, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 30, Ouse Washes 28, Fowlmere NR 24, Buckden GP 23, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 20, Littleport (May Farm) 20, Prickwillow 20 and River Cam (Baits Bite Lock) 20. Smaller numbers widely reported.



Wren Ann Biggs

**Wren Ann Biggs**

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 84% (95/96) *cf.* 94% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 41 (95/96) *cf.* 80 (16/17)

**STARLING (Common Starling)** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Red List.** *Very common, but declined resident; abundant winter visitor/passage migrant.*

*Total records: 2526. Sites: 131 breeding season/160 non-breeding.*

*Breeding pairs : Grantchester Meadows 18, Fowlmere 14, Foxton 14, Wyton Airfield 10 and single pairs at a further 5 sites. Much under-recorded.*

*Peak counts of 1000+ as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Sutton Gault 5000 on Feb 19th, Wimblington 5000 on Feb 23rd, Cambridge Research Park 1000 on Jan 21st and Holme (Tower Farm) 1000 on Jan 11th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Tubney Fen 12000 on Oct 10th, Wicken Fen 5000 on Nov 5th, Colne Fen GP 3500 on Sep 3rd, Littleport (May Farm) 3000 on Nov 30th, Diddington 2000 on Jul 10th, Haddenham and Aldreth 2000 on Nov 25th, Ouse Washes 1695 on Nov 20th, Ferry Meadows CP 1500 on Oct 28th, Offord D'Arcy 1500 on Oct 21st and Mepal Fen 1000 on Oct 30th.

*Visible migration:* a number of migration counts at Ferry Meadows CP with a maximum of 22135 heading west between Oct 20th and 21st and Stretham 247 on Oct 26th.

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 88% (95/96) cf. 64% (16/17)*  
*Density (individuals/10 squares): 99 (95/96) cf. 86 (16/17)*

**DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

**Amber List.** *Very rare visitor, usually in winter 3(3) 0*

*First winter period:* The previous autumn's well-watched bird at Mill Lane, Bassingbourn was again recorded on Jan 24th.

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

**Red List.** *Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in the spring (26 records cf. an average of 24/year).*

*Earliest* on Apr 7th (Ferry Meadows CP) and *latest* on Oct 26th (Coppingford and Earith).

*Spring peak counts* (21 records at 18 sites): Ferry Meadows CP on Apr 7th and Apr 21st, Folksworth on Apr 8th and 20th, Knapwell (Grange Farm) 2 on Apr 11th and a single on May 2nd, Little Wilbraham Fen 2 on Apr 17th, Paxton Pits 2 on May 2nd and singles at a further 13 sites.

*Autumn* (5 records at 4 sites including nocturnal sound records): singles at Cambridge Research Park on Aug 30th, Coppingford on Oct 26th and Earith on Oct 26th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cambs] on Oct 8th and Oct 19th

**Ring Ouzel:** total number of records per year (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Records	15	22	49	24	10	20	11	24	18	24	45	13	26

**BLACKBIRD (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula***

**Green List.** *Widespread and abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Total records: 3968. Sites: 191 breeding season/189 non-breeding.*

*Breeding pairs/territories:* Paxton Pits 67, Stanground Wash 14, Fowlmere NR 12, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 9, Ditton Park Wood 8, Farcet 8, Wansford 7, Cherry Hinton East Pit 6, Chippenham Fen 6, Kingfishers Bridge 6, Little Wilbraham Fen 6, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 5 and Nine Wells 5. No other co-ordinated counts.

*Peak counts of 20+ as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* River Cam (Baits Bite to Clayhithe) 35 on Jan 7th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 34 on Feb 14th, Peterborough (Central Park) 31 on Feb 10th, Abbots Ripton (Grange Farm) 30 on Jan 18th, Melbourn 30 on Jan 1st, Impington 27 on Feb 15th, Stanground Wash 27 on Jan 14th, Cambridge (Mill Road Cemetery) 25 on Mar 11th, Wickford (Long Drove) 23 on Jan 19th, Fen Drayton Lakes 21 on Jan 7th, Ouse Fen 21 on Jan 8th, Aldreth (Holme Fen) 20 on Jan 30th, Burghley Park 20 on Jan 30th, Godmanchester GP 20 on Jan 26th and Littleport (May Farm) 20 in January.

*Autumn/Second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 50 in November, Witchford (Long Drove) 47 on Nov 19th, Stanground Wash 34 on Sep 10th, Buckden GP 29 on Nov 29th, Ferry Meadows CP 26 on Oct 31st, Cambridge Research Park 20 on Nov 11th, Cam Washes 20 on Oct 15th and Mepal 20 on Oct 16th,

*Visible migration:* Ferry Meadows CP 132 counted between Oct 21st and Nov 20th and Kingfishers Bridge 25 on Nov 25th (thought to be mainly continental birds).

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Cambridge (Lovell Road) 75 calls registered on Nov 2nd

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 96% (95/96) cf. 97% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 91 (95/96) cf. 92 (16/17)

**FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris***

**Red List.** *Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant, particularly in autumn.*

*Total records: 910. Sites: 163 non-breeding.*

*Latest on May 22nd* (Wryde Croft) *and earliest on Oct 8th* (Castor Hanglands).

*Peak counts of 300+ as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Haddenham 5000 on Jan 6th, Caxton 1000 in January, Thriplow 500 on Jan 22nd and Melbourn 300 on Jan 3rd.

*Autumn/Second winter period:* Haddenham 600 on Nov 26th, Coates 500 on Dec 27th and Reach/Swaffham Prior 400 on Nov 29th.

*Visible migration, spring:* Littleport (May Farm) 1000 moving north on Mar 26th.

*Visible migration, autumn:* Ferry Meadows CP 1899 counted between Oct 21st and Nov 20th, Stretham (Cage Lane) 535 in 3 hours on Nov 7th, Grafham Water 190 moving north-west on Oct 28th, Cambridge (Lovell Road) 190 on Nov 7th, Coveney Byall Fen 25 on Oct 19th and Paxton Pits 14 on Oct 25th.

**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:* 1905. *Sites:* 133 breeding season/130 non-breeding.

*Breeding pairs/territories:* Paxton Pits 31, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 8, Swavesey 7, Fowlmere NR 5, Over 5, Fen Drayton Lakes 4, Little Wilbraham Fen 3, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 3, Kingfishers Bridge 3 and 1–2 at many sites.

*Peak counts of 5+ as follows:*

*First winter period/spring:* Cambridge (NIAB Trials Ground) 15 on Jan 8th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 9 on Feb 19th, Grafham Water 9 on Jan 27th, Godmanchester GP 8 on Feb 12th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 7 on Mar 15th, Buckden GP 6 on Mar 13th, Ferry Meadows CP 6 on Feb 13th, Littleport (May Farm) 6 in January, Ouse Washes 6 on Jan 3rd, Stanground Wash 6 on Feb 11th, Chatteris (Horseley Fen) 5 on Jan 20th, Colne Fen GP 5 on Jan 15th, Melbourn 5 on Jan 1st and Wicken Fen 5 on Feb 10th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 20 in November/December, Witchford (Long Drove) 11 on Oct 10th, Cam Washes 10 on Oct 15th, Chesterton [Cambs] 9 on Nov 3rd, Stretham 8 on 9th Oct, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 7 on Dec 19th, Bedford Purlieu 6 on Nov 28th and Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Oct 29th.

*Visible migration:* a large influx from early October. Ferry Meadows CP 40 on Oct 15th and smaller numbers at several other locations.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cambs] 114 on Oct 8th and 30 on Oct 18th, Cambridge (Lovell Road) 35 calls registered on Nov 2nd.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 73% (95/96) *cf.* 73% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 22 (95/96) *cf.* 22 (16/17)

**REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

**Red List.** *Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 902. *Sites:* 149 non-breeding.

*Latest on* Apr 26th and *earliest on* Sep 26th (both Linton)

*First winter/spring:* Caxton 1000 in January, Cambridge (Lamas Land) 280 on Feb 11th, Burghley Park 200 on Feb 16th, Granta Park 150 on Feb 7th, Ferry Meadows CP 100 on Mar 6th and Milton CP 100 on Mar 14th.

*Autumn/second winter:* Ferry Meadows CP 300 on Oct 23rd, Wimpole Park 300 on Dec 28th, Witcham Hythe 300 on Dec 28th, Foul Anchor 250 on Nov 8th, Foxton 203 on Nov 7th, Mepal 200 on Oct 23rd, Witchford (Long Drove) 192 on Oct 31st, Stretham (Marina) 152 on Nov 5th, Kingfishers Bridge 101 on Dec 28th and Queen Adelaide 100 on Oct 8th



**Redwing** *Ben Green*

*Visible migration autumn:* a major influx occurred from the second week of October. Ferry Meadows CP 1376 on Oct 27th, Stretham 916 on Nov 7th, Over 250 west on Oct 9th, Foxton 186 west on Nov 7th and Grafham Water 140 on Oct 16th.

*Nocturnal sound recording:* Chesterton [Cams] 450 on Oct 8th and 70 on Oct 18th.

### **MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

**Red List.** *Common and widespread resident; some passage migrants.*

*Total records:* 568. *Sites:* 66 breeding season/97 non-breeding.

*Breeding pairs/territories:* Burghley Park 4, Great Abington 2, Kingfishers Bridge 2, Littleport (May Farm) 2, Paxton Pits 2 and present in the breeding season at many locations.

*Summer/autumn* (peak counts of 10+): Shepreth 28 on Aug 17th, Tetworth Hall Estate 26 on Sep 6th, Priors Fen GP 18 on Oct 7th, Cam Washes 10 on Aug 19th and Kingfishers Bridge 10 on Sep 10th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 45% (95/96) *cf.* 32% (16/17)

*Density* (individuals/10 square): 14 (95/96) *cf.* 4 (16/17)

### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

**Red List.** *Uncommon and greatly declined, migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 92. *Sites:* 49 breeding season.

*Earliest* on Apr 19th (Soham) and *latest* on Sep 27th (Hinnton).

A further decline in reporting rates of both numbers and breeding sites.

*Breeding pairs/territories* (8 confirmed pairs): single pairs at Fulbourn Fen, Granta Park, Hinnton, Histon, Kings Ripton, Paxton Pits, Shudy Camps and Waterbeach.

*Summer/autumn* (peak counts of 4+): Wicken Fen 8 on Aug 22nd, Ferry Meadows CP 5 on Aug 22nd and Godmanchester GP 4 on Aug 30th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 8% (95/96) *cf.* 0% (16/17)

*Density* (individuals/10 square): 1 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (16/17)

### **ROBIN (European Robin)** *Erithacus rubecula*

**Green List.** *Widespread and abundant resident; some passage migrants.*

*Total records:* 3650. *Sites:* 165 breeding season/182 non-breeding.

*Breeding pairs/possible males/territories:* Paxton Pits 77, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 15, Coldhams Common 15, Fowlmere NR 15, Little Wilbraham Fen 11, Wyton Airfield 10 and smaller numbers very widespread.

*Peak Counts of 20+:* Witchford (Long Drove) 27 on Sep 19th, Buckden GP 23 on Sep 10th, Kings Dyke NR 21 on Sep 19th and Mepal 20 on Oct 9th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 76% (95/96) *cf.* 91% (16/17)

*Density* (individuals/10 square): 27 (95/96) *cf.* 57 (16/17)

**NIGHTINGALE (Common Nightingale) *Luscinia megarhynchos*****Red List.** *Uncommon migratory breeder, most in the west of the county.**Total records: 107. Sites: 16 breeding season.**Earliest on Apr 8th (Wicken Fen) and latest n/a.**Breeding pairs/possible males/territories: (34 males at 16 sites) Marsh Lane GP 7, Paxton Pits 7, Castor Hanglands 6, Grafham Water 2, and singles at a further 12 sites.***Nightingale:** approximate annual totals of singing males (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Males	90	89	70	83	64	46	56	70	102	97	80	70	34
Sites	26	22	15	18	13	15	19	16	18	20	16	15	16

**BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*****Red List.** *Scarce annual passage migrant and irregular migratory breeder (18 records cf. average of 9/year).**Breeding (2 pairs): Fordham 2 pairs nested with 4 well-grown young seen in June.**First winter period/spring migrants (7 records): Cambridge on Jan 3rd and on Mar 7th and 8th, Linton on Mar 25th to Apr 7th, Hardwick on Apr 8th, Kings Dyke NR on Apr 25th to 28th, Ouse Washes on May 7th and Wyton Airfield on May 18th.**Summer (3 records): Cambridge on Jun 12th, Hamerton on Jul 15th and Little Downham on Jul 25th.**Autumn/second winter period (6 records): St Ives on Nov 10th and Dec 10th, Wimpole Park on Nov 12th, Ferry Meadows CP on Nov 21st, Northstowe on Dec 9th and Papworth Everard on Dec 9th.***Black Redstart** *Richard Johnson***Black Redstart:** total number of confirmed/possible pairs per year (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Confirmed	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Possible	3	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



**REDSTART (Common Redstart)** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

**Amber List.** *Scarce passage migrant (18 records cf. average of 24/year); breeding last confirmed in 1987.*

*Total records: 31. Sites: 6 spring/11 autumn.*

*Earliest:* Apr 6th (Coveney Byall Fen) and *latest:* Sep 16th (Clopton)

*Spring:* (7 records from 6 sites) Coveney Byall Fen 4 on Apr 6th, Knapwell 2 on Apr 13th and on Apr 19th, Castor Hanglands 2 on Apr 16th, Clopton on Apr 16th, Paxton Pits on Apr 22nd and Ouse Washes 5 on May 5th.

*Summer/Autumn:* (11 records from 11 sites) Linton on Aug 6th, Ouse Washes on Aug 20th, Eldernell on Aug 20th, Kings Dyke NR on Aug 25th, Kingfishers Bridge on Aug 27th, Middle Fen on Aug 29th, Fen Drayton Lakes on Sep 2nd, Buckden on Sep 5th, Witcham 2 on Sep 8th, Cam Washes on Sep 9th and Clopton on Sep 16th.

**Redstart:** total number of records (2005–2017)

	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Records	9	20	11	33	17	22	23	20	27	15	35	36	18

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

**Red List.** *Uncommon passage migrant (more numerous in the autumn); breeding last confirmed in 1981 (at two sites).*

*Total records 52. Sites 10 spring/16 autumn.*

*Earliest:* Apr 27th (Fen Drayton Lakes) and *latest:* Oct 2nd (Ouse Washes).

*Spring:* (10 sites) Fen Drayton Lakes on Apr 27th and May 16th, Coveney Byall Fen on Apr 28th–29th and May 4th, Grafham Water on Apr 29th, Linton on Apr 29th, Eldernell on Apr 30th, Paxton Pits on May 1st, Wicken Fen on May 1st, 6th and 14th, Ferry Meadows CP on May 7th, Comberton (Westfield Farm) on May 9th and Knapwell (Grange Farm) on May 16th.

*Autumn:* (16 sites) Wicken Fen on Jul 17th and 2 on Aug 19th, Maxey GP on Aug 5th, Ouse Washes on Aug 8th and 2 on Oct 2nd, Eldernell 3 on Aug 10th, Grafham Water on Aug 20th, 23rd, 2 on Aug 27th and Sep 7th, Nene Washes (Low Wash) on Aug 20th, 25th and 4 on Sep 2nd, 2 on Sep 14th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on Aug 28th, Holme Fen 2 on Sep 2nd, Ouse Fen on Sep 2nd, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 2 on Sep 3rd, Nene Washes (High Wash) on Sep 6th, Kingfishers Bridge on Sep 10th, Linton (Camgrain ) on Sep 10th, Kings Dyke NR on Sep 12th, Burwell Fen 3 on Sep 23rd and Cam Washes on Sep 27th.

**STONECHAT (European Stonechat)** *Saxicola rubicola*

**Green List.** *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant (mainly in the fens); bred up until 1962, from 2007 to 2010 and in 2013 and 2015.*

*Total records: 315. Sites : 47 non-breeding/2 breeding.*

*Breeding* (2 pairs at 2 sites): Coates a pair raised 2 broods, Wicken Fen a pair fledged two young. The Coates 'pair' had a change of male, an unringed male was replaced by a colour-ringed bird from Norfolk, which had fledged in 2015.



*Peak counts as follows:*

*First winter period:* Ouse Washes 9 on Jan 2nd, Nene Washes 8 on Jan 2nd, Burwell Fen 6 on Jan 2nd, Littleport (May Farm) 6 in January, Tubney Fen 5 on Mar 1st, Wicken Fen 5 on Mar 3rd, Coates 4 on Jan 22nd, Cam Washes 3 on Feb 25th, Holme Fen 3 on Mar 4th and 1–2 at a further 22 sites.

*Second winter period:* Burwell Fen 13 on Nov 5th, Eaton Socon 8 on Oct 15th, Nene Washes (Low Wash) 7 on Nov 20th, Kingfishers Bridge 6 on Oct 8th, Littleport (May Farm) 5 on Nov 28th, Ferry Meadows CP 4 on Oct 30th, Wood Walton 4 on Oct 8th, Coveney Byall Fen 3 on Nov 3rd, Ouse Washes 3 on Nov 19th and 1–2 at a further 28 sites.

### **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: 175. Sites: 56 spring/31 autumn.*

*Earliest:* Mar 6th (Horseley Fen) and *latest:* Nov 15th (Littleport)

*Spring:* Ouse Washes 12 on Apr 17th, Bedford Purlieu 11 on Apr 15th, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 11 on Apr 23rd, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 9 on Apr 23rd, Littleport (May Farm) 8 on Apr 15th, Coveney Byall Fen 6 on Apr 28th, Maxey GP 6 on Apr 11th, Mepal Fen 6 on Apr 27th, Dry Drayton 5 on Apr 29th, Duxford 5 on Apr 28th, Litlington 5 on Apr 28th, Paxton Pits 5 on May 1st and 1–4 at a further 44 sites.

The record on Mar 6th at Horesely Fen (AJPS) becomes the new earliest date (cf Mar 7th 1977 at Ouse Washes and 1989 at Farcet Fen).

*Autumn:* Littleport (May Farm) 9 on Sep 11th and 1–4 at a further 30 sites.

### **GREENLAND WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa***

*Regular passage migrant. Many are indeterminate in the field.*

*Spring* (3 records): Coveney Byall Fen on Apr 15th (ORM), Mepal Airfield on Apr 28th (RDal) and Trumpington (Clay Farm) on May 17th (RJF).

*Autumn* (one record): Trumpington (Clay Farm) on Oct 22nd (RJF).

### **DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis***

**Amber List.** *Widespread and abundant resident; some evidence of passage migrants.*

*Total records: 2436. Sites: 135 breeding season/150 non-breeding.*

*Breeding pairs/singing males/territories:* Paxton Pits 49, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 14, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Ouse Fen 10, Wyton Airfield 8, Cambridge (Mill Road Cemetery) 6, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 6 and 1–5 very widely reported.

*Out of breeding season* (peak counts 20+): Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 24 on Dec 19th and Littleport (May Farm) 20+ Oct to Dec.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 69% (95/96) cf. 85% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 19 (95/96) cf. 33 (16/17)

**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus***Red List.** *Abundant but declining resident.**Total records: 1355. Sites: 92 breeding season/95 non-breeding.**Breeding pairs/counts/broods:* Mepal 5, Paxton Pits 5, Fowlmere 4, Wyton Airfield 4, Sutton 2, Cambridge (Beche Road) 1, Chatteris 1, Ouse Washes Reserve (no numbers reported) were the only breeding records submitted. Much under-recorded.*Out of breeding season (peak counts of 25+):* Melbourn 95 on Aug 15th, Stanground Wash 70 on Jan 3rd, Cottenham 56 on Mar 11th, Littleport (May Farm) 50 on Dec 30th, Grafham Water 40 on Aug 27th, Orwell 40 on Sep 1st, Foul Anchor 36 on Oct 5th, Eaton Ford 35 on Dec 23rd, Stretham 35 on Nov 18th, Ouse Washes 27 on Jan 13th, Shepreth 27 on Feb 9th and Wicken Fen 25 on Jan 8th.**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 71% (95/96) *cf.* 36% (16/17)*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 92 (95/96) *cf.* 30 (16/17)**Aberrant plumage:** a bird showing some characters of 'Italian Sparrow' *Passer italiae* at Melbourn on Dec 29th.**TREE SPARROW (Eurasian Tree Sparrow)** *Passer montanus***Red List.** *Uncommon resident and passage migrant (very local after a serious decline).**Total records: 117. Sites: 12 breeding season/16 non-breeding.**Breeding pairs:* breeding confirmed at Redmere 20 and Ouse Washes 3 and possible pairs at a further 10 sites.*First winter/spring period* (15 sites): Redmere 85 on Feb 28th, Ouse Washes 83 on Feb 8th, Colne Fen GP 21 on Jan 15th, Foxton 14 on Feb 8th, Helpston (Woodcroft Castle) 6 on Jan 23rd and 1–4 at a further 10 sites.*Autumn/second winter* (10 sites): Redmere 150 on Nov 30th, Littleport (May Farm) 28 on Dec 30th, Sutton North Fen 15 on Jul 23rd, Ouse Washes 10 on Dec 26th and 1–4 at a further 6 sites.**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 4% (95/96) *cf.* 0% (16/17)*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) *cf.* 0 (16/17)**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava flavissima***Red List.** *Fairly common but much declined migratory breeder and passage migrant**Total records: 460. Sites: 75 breeding season.**Earliest* on Mar 29th (Sutton Gault) and *latest* on Oct 14th (Chain Corner)*Breeding* (92 territories at 33 sites): Ouse Washes 45, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Nene Washes 9, Abbotsley 3 and 1–2 pairs present at a further 29 sites.*Peak counts of 15+:**Spring:* Tick Fen 25 on Apr 23rd, Littleport (May Farm) 20 on May 31st and Ouse Washes 18 on Apr 30th.*Autumn:* Nene Washes (Low Wash) 200 on Aug 20th, Littleport (May Farm) 100 on Sep 30th, Grafham Water 90 on Sep 1st, Ouse Washes 65 on Aug 26th and Nene Washes (Eldernell) 40 on Sep 19th.**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 61% (95/96) *cf.* 34% (16/17)*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 27 (95/96) *cf.* 11 (16/17)

**BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava flava*

*Scarce annual passage migrant, mainly in the spring; has bred (3 records cf. an average of 4/ year.*

*Spring (2 records): singles at Eltisley on May 10th (DG) and Ouse Washes on May 21st (BGD).*

*Autumn (one record): a single female at Grafham Water on Sep 1st (RMP).*

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

**Red List.** *Uncommon local resident.*

*Total records: 513. Sites: 38 breeding season/104 non-breeding.*

*Breeding (16 territories at 16 sites): Anglesey Abbey, Bottisham Lock, Cambridge, Cambridge Science Park, Cam Washes, Clayhithe, Earith, Grafham Water, Granta Science Park, Hauxton Mill, Hinxton Genome Campus, Linton, Maxey Cut, North Bank, Paxton Lock and Stanground Wash. In addition, there was possible breeding at a further 12 sites.*

*Winter: parties of 1–3 birds were widely distributed in suitable habitats.*

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

**Green list.** *Common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Total records: 1607. Sites: 86 breeding season/155 non-breeding.*

*Breeding (15 sites): no systematic breeding counts were received. 100+ birds were present at Littleport (May Farm) throughout the summer.*

*Peak counts (30+):*

*First winter period/spring: Littleport (May Farm) 700 across the whole farm on Jan 31st. At roosts: Whittlesford (BP/McDonalds) 250 on Feb 12th, Addenbrooke's Site 150 on Mar 4th, Cambridge (Regional College) 100 on Feb 15th and Cambridge (near Homebase) 85 on Mar 9th.*

*Autumn/second winter period: Cambridge Research Park 60 on Dec 29th*

*Daytime aggregations (30+): during both winter periods at Fen Drayton Lakes, Foxton SW, Hinxton, Littleport (May Farm), Nine Wells, Ouse Washes and Woodwalton Fen.*

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 45% (95/96) cf. 41% (16/17)*  
*Density (individuals/10 squares): 9 (95/96) cf. 8 (16/17)*

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba alba*

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring.*

*Total records: 26. Sites: 16 spring/2 autumn.*

*Earliest on Mar 25th (Burwell Fen) and latest on Sep 1st (Grafham Water)*

*Spring (17 records): Littleport (May Farm) 4 on Apr 8th and 2 on May 13th, Fen Drayton Lakes 2 on Apr 17th, Grafham Water 2 on Apr 18th, Maxey GP 2 on Apr 18th and singles at 12 further sites.*

*Autumn (2 records): singles at Grafham Water on Sep 1st and Sutton North Fen on Aug 20th.*

**TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*

**Red List.** *Scarce annual passage migrant* (8 records *cf.* an average of 8/year).

*Spring* (4 records including nocturnal sound recordings): Castor Hanglands on Apr 16th and Paxton Pits on Apr 25th.

*Autumn* (4 records including nocturnal sound recording): Paxton Pits on Aug 20th, Stretham on Sep 21st and Grafham Water on Oct 9th.

*Nocturnal sound recordings:* Chesterton [Cams] on Mar 31st, Apr 29th and Sep 2nd.

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

**Amber List.** *Common, somewhat local, resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 979. *Sites:* 49 breeding season/144 non-breeding.

*Breeding:* As usual there were very few confirmed breeding pairs. Systematic counting only from Nene Washes (Low Wash 66, High Wash 19, March Farmers 17, Ring's End 6), Littleport (May Farm) 50, Ouse Washes 23, Ouse Washes (Carrolls Ground) 3 and Dunkirk 12.

*Peak counts of 40+:*

*First winter period/spring:* Littleport (May Farm) 100 in Jan and Feb, Cam Washes 95 on Feb 26th, Ouse Washes 83 on Jan 20th, Granta Park 40 on Feb 24th, Magog Down 40 on Feb 4th, Nene Washes 40 on Mar 11th.

*Autumn visible migration:* Wood Walton 164 on Oct 8th, Littleport (May Farm) 100 all October, Coveney Byall Fen 100 on Sep 24th, Stretham 73 on Sep 27th, Bassingbourn 63 on Sep 30th, Grafham Water 60 on Oct 15th, Foxton SW 50 on Sep 28th, Eaton Ford 47 on Oct 23rd, Duxford 41 on Sep 17th and Ferry Meadows CP 41 on Sep 15th. Peak autumn passage was concentrated in the three weeks from about Sep 15th. The Wicken Fen Group had fewer sessions on Burwell Fen than in recent years and ringed 93 Meadow Pipits during this period. Hundreds of birds were passing through most days.

*Second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 100 in Nov and Dec, Ouse Washes 43 on Dec 11th and Heydon Grange 42 on Dec 31st.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 33% (95/96) *cf.* 14% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 9 (95/96) *cf.* 8 (16/17)

**ROCK PIPIT (Eurasian Rock Pipit)** *Anthus petrosus*

**Green List.** *Scarce annual passage migrant* (8 records *cf.* an average of 13/year).

*Latest* on Mar 24th and *earliest* on Sep 12th (both Grafham Water).

*First winter period/spring* (1 record): Grafham Water a single on Mar 24th.

*Autumn/second winter period* (7 records at 4 sites): singles at Grafham Water on Sep 12th-14th, Oct 5th and Nov 17th plus 5 on Oct 19th (equals the county record at the same location 1976 and 2013, MLH), Paxton Pits 2 on Oct 15th and singles at Ferry Meadows CP on Oct 23rd and at Foul Anchor on Oct 29th.

The record on Sep 12th at Grafham Water (RMP) becomes the new earliest date (*cf.* Sep 13th 2013 at Grafham Water).

**WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta***Amber List.** *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly on the Washes.**Total records: 9. Sites: 7 non-breeding.**Latest on Apr 1st (Sutton Gault) and earliest on Oct 15th (Fen Drayton Lakes).**First winter period/spring:* Ouse Washes, mainly from Earith to Sutton Gault, usually 1–5 birds, with a peak count of 28 on Jan 7th lower than in recent years. Elsewhere singles at Stretham (Marina) on Feb 4th and at Wicken Fen on Jan 8th and Feb 4th.*Autumn/second winter period:* unusually, just a single record from the Ouse Washes, 2 on Nov 18th. Elsewhere Burwell Fen 1–2 birds Oct–Dec, singles at Kingfishers Bridge, but 3 on Dec 24th, Stretham (Marina) 2 from Dec 24th and a single at Fen Drayton Lakes on Oct 15th.**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla***Green List.** *Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 93. Sites: 44 non-breeding.**Latest on Mar 26th (Littleport) and earliest on Oct 8th (Cambridge).**First winter period:* Bedford Purlieu 12 on Jan 5th, Roman Road 10 on Feb 6th, Burghley Park 8 on Mar 23rd and 1–6 at a further 10 sites, many in gardens.*Second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 36 on Dec 30th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 12 on Nov 28th, Colne Fen GP 12 on Nov 26th, Ferry Meadows CP 7 on Nov 5th and 1–4 at a further 32 sites.**CHAFFINCH (Common Chaffinch)** *Fringilla coelebs***Green List.** *Abundant resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 2930. Sites: 116 breeding season/190 non-breeding.**Breeding* (41 territories at 4 sites): Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 16, Littleport (May Farm) 10, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 8 and Kingfishers Bridge 7. Significantly under-recorded and no systematic counts.*Out of breeding season* (peak counts of 50+): Camps End 200 on Nov 5th, Ferry Meadows CP 183 vismig on Oct 26th, Thorney 125 on Feb 12th, Witchford (Long Drove) 103 on Nov 7th, Littleport (May Farm) 100 all Dec, Melbourn 80 on Dec 31st, Cambridge (Lovell Road) 71 vismig on Oct 23rd, Fen Drayton Lakes 70 on Dec 24th and Grafham Water 60 on Jan 14th.

**BBS**    *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 92% (95/96) *cf.* 96% (16/17)  
           *Density* (individuals/10 squares): 62 (95/96) *cf.* 75 (16/17)

**HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***Red List.** *Rare winter visitor and passage migrant.**Total records: 74. Sites: 37 non-breeding.**An unprecedented influx of continental birds from mid-October onwards, part of a European phenomenon, possibly triggered by a tree seed (mast) failure in eastern Europe.**Autumn* (38 records including nocturnal sound recordings during October): first noted at Eaton Ford and 2 at Little Paxton, both on Oct 14th, followed by almost daily records of generally 1–9 migrating birds, seen or heard, peaking at 17 vismig birds over Ferry Meadows CP on Oct 28th (groups of 7, 6, 2 and two singles). Three records during October related to birds not in flight, Eaton Ford on Oct 16th, Buckden 2 on Oct 29th and Cambridge Botanic Gardens on Oct 31st.

*Second winter period* (36 records including nocturnal sound recordings): passage continued strongly in the early part of November, peaking at 9 at Stretham on Nov 7th and continued to be observed up to Nov 20th when a single flew over Over, but the main interest was a well-watched flock at Wimpole Park with 14 noted on Nov 1st and 29th and good numbers of birds were still present at the end of the year. 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.

*Nocturnal sound recordings*: Chesterton [Cams] on Oct 18th, Nov 2nd, 7th and 14th.

The counts of 17 at Ferry Meadows CP on Oct 28th (MW, HWR, DTG and MWe) and 14 at Wimpole Park on Nov 1st and 29th (both MJC) represent new county records (cf 9 at Ferry Meadows CP in Feb 1993).

### **BULLFINCH (Eurasian Bullfinch)** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

**Amber List.** *Common but declined resident.*

*Total records*: 946. *Sites*: 53 breeding season/114 non-breeding.

*Breeding* (15 territories at 2 sites): Paxton Pits 13, Grafham Water 2. Significantly under-recorded. 1–4 pairs recorded at 50+ sites during May–July.

*Out of breeding season* (peak counts of 10+): Brampton Wood 20 on Dec 2nd, Foxton 20 on Sep 27th, Castor Hanglands 16 on Feb 5th, Godmanchester GP 12 on Jan 6th, Paxton Pits 12 on Jan 18th and Woodwalton Fen 12 on Jan 19th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 12% (95/96) cf. 22% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 2 (95/96) cf. 4 (16/17)

### **GREENFINCH (European Greenfinch)** *Chloris chloris*

**Green List.** *Very common but declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Total records*: 1297. *Sites*: 73 breeding season/126 non-breeding.

*Breeding*: Littleport (May Farm) 50 birds present throughout the season and Paxton Pits 15 pairs.

*Out of breeding season* (peak counts of 20+): Cambridge Botanic Gardens 120 on Jan 7th, Kings Dyke NR 50 on Aug 18th, Littleport (May Farm) at least 50 in the winter months, Dernford Fen 45 on Nov 4th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 30 on Feb 27th, Barleycraft GP 26 on Dec 31st and Ouse Fen 25 on Oct 28th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 73% (95/96) cf. 54% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 34 (95/96) cf. 14 (16/17)

### **LINNET (Common Linnet)** *Linaria cannabina*

**Red List.** *Very common but declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Total records*: 1124. *Sites*: 90 breeding season/130 non-breeding.

*Breeding*: systematic counts only from Paxton Pits 33, Littleport (May Farm) 25+, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 6, Fowlmere NR 4 and Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 2. Significantly under-recorded.

*Peak counts of 75+:*

*First winter period:* Melbourn 1250 on Jan 29th, Paxton Pits 720 on Jan 29th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 400 on Jan 16th, Aldreth 200 on Jan 29th, Rings End 200 on Jan 2nd, Cottenham (Long Drove) 150 on Jan 28th, Whitemoor 130 on Jan 2nd, Thorney Toll 100 on Jan 17th and Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 87 on Mar 15th.

*Second winter period:* Littleport (May Farm) 400 in Dec, Haddenham/Aldreth Fens 300 on Oct 31st, Chrishall Grange 200 on Dec 31st, Grafham Water 200 on Sep 6th, Nene Washes (March Farmers) 200 on Dec 31st, Mepal Fen 175 on Oct 7th, Colne Fen 150 on Nov 26th, Hilton 140 on Sep 4th, Melbourn 140 on Dec 31st, Heydon Grange 120 on Dec 31st, Manea 120 on Nov 28th, Kingston 110 on Oct 30th, Magog Down 100 on Oct 27th and Stretham (Marina) 90 on Dec 24th,

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 69% (95/96) *cf.* 71% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 41 (95/96) *cf.* 52 (16/17)

**LESSER REDPOLL** *Acanthis cabaret*

**Red List.** *Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Former breeder, last confirmed in 2002.*

*Total records:* 210. *Sites:* 47 non-breeding.

*Spring/summer:* apart from two singles in March and another on Apr 2nd, for the first time in several years there were no further records before late September.

*Non-breeding season peak counts of 25+:*

*First winter period:* Woodwalton Fen 145 on Jan 19th. No other records of greater than 6 elsewhere.

*Second winter period:* Ferry Meadows CP 50 on Nov 22nd, Woodwalton Fen 30 on Dec 28th, Drysides BP 30 on Oct 27th and Little Shelford 30 on Oct 18th.

**COMMON REDPOLL (Mealy Redpoll)** *Acanthis flammea*

**Amber List.** *Scarce annual winter visitor.*

*First winter period* (4 records at one site): Woodwalton Fen singles on Jan 1st and 19th, then 2 on Feb 17th and Mar 17th.

*Second winter period* (3 records at 2 sites): Fen Drayton Lakes single on Oct 8th and Woodwalton Fen 3 on Dec 9th, 5 from Dec 16th into 2018.

**COUES'S ARCTIC REDPOLL** *Acanthis hornemanni exillipes*

*Very rare winter visitor.* 7(9) 1

*Second winter period:* a single at Woodwalton Fen on Dec 9th (RMP). This record has been accepted by the BBRC.

**CROSSBILL (Red Crossbill)** *Loxia curvirostra*

**Green List.** *Scarce annual visitor. Last confirmed breeding 1998.*

*Summer post-breeding dispersal* (3 records at 3 sites): singles at Cambridge on Jun 11th (JHe), Woodhurst on Jul 13th (DM) and Orwell on Jul 25th (RGre).

**GOLDFINCH (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis***

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

*Total records: 3060. Sites: 108 breeding season/172 non-breeding.*

*Breeding 1–20 records from 108 sites during May–Jul. No systematic counts.*

*Out of breeding season (peak counts of 100+): Nene Washes (High Wash) 600 on Sep 6th, Coveney Byall Fen 180 on Oct 19th, Cam Washes 150 on Sep 3rd, Gault Hole 150 on Oct 4th, Kingfishers Bridge 150 on Aug 24th, Witcham Gravel 150 on Oct 1st, Burwell Fen 130 on Sep 26th, Grafham Water 120 on Nov 17th and Great Fen Project 109 on Jan 14th.*

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 65% (95/96) cf. 84% (16/17)*

*Density (individuals/10 squares): 23 (95/96) cf. 66 (16/17)*



**Goldfinches** Jan Wilczur

**SISKIN (Eurasian Siskin) *Spinus spinus***

**Green List.** *Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Occasional breeder.*

*Total records: 209. Sites: 3 breeding season/31 non-breeding.*

*Summer: very few records; singles at Aldreth, Foxton and Great Abington were probably post-breeding dispersal birds. For the first time in recent years there was no sign of behaviour suggestive of local breeding.*

*First winter period: Fewer than in most years. Chippenham Fen 70 on Feb 10th and Ferry Meadows CP 60 on Jan 17th. Elsewhere parties of 10–15 at a further 4 sites.*

*Second winter period: Continuing low numbers. Chippenham Fen 55 on Dec 22nd, Woodwalton Fen 30 on Nov 25th and Dec 9th, Ferry Meadows CP 26 on Oct 24th and parties of 10–20 at a further 4 sites.*



**LAPLAND BUNTING** *Calcarius lapponicus*

**Amber List.** *Scarce, almost annual passage migrant and winter visitor, usually singly. 53(92) 1*

*First winter period (one record): Ouse Washes (Earith) on Feb 26th (RMP).*

**CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra*

**Red List.** *Fairly common but much declined local resident.*

*Total records: 601. Sites: 53 breeding season/68 non-breeding.*

*Breeding: systematic counts of pairs only from Littleport (May Farm) 25 and Ouse Washes 8 but a further 18 sites specifically mentioned singing males. Significantly under-recorded.*

*Peak counts of 40+:*

*First winter period: Littleport (May Farm) 82 on Jan 25th, Coveney Byall Fen 60 on Jan 28th, Trumpington (Clay Farm) 55 on Mar 12th, Melbourn 55 on Feb 6th, Woodwalton Fen 55 on Jan 1st, Little Staughton Moat 46 on Mar 16th, Ouse Fen 40 on Jan 22nd and Witchford (Long Drove) 40 on Mar 2nd.*

*Second winter period: Foxton 100 on Oct 12th, Heydon Grange 63 on Dec 31st and Littleport (May Farm) 53 on Dec 17th,*

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 45% (95/96) cf. 24% (16/17)*  
*Density (individuals/10 squares): 18 (95/96) cf. 6 (16/17)*

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

**Red List.** *Common but declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Total records: 776. Sites: 74 breeding season/101 non-breeding.*

*Breeding: systematic counts only from Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 20 pairs, Mepal 12, Comberton (Westfield Farm) 10 and Paxton Pits 7. Significantly under-recorded.*

*Peak counts of 50+:*

*First winter period/spring: Hinxton (Lordship Farm) 150 on Mar 4th, Barton (Lark Rise Farm) 113 on Apr 6th, Paxton Pits 100 on Feb 4th, Grafham Water 90 on Jan 14th, Comberton 70 on Feb 18th, Ickleton Grange 60 on Feb 10th and Melbourn 60 on Jan 29th.*

*Second winter period: significantly under-recorded: no counts above 50.*

**BBS** *Distribution (% squares occupied): 67% (95/96) cf. 79% (16/17)*  
*Density (individuals/10 squares): 28 (95/96) cf. 34 (16/17)*

**REED BUNTING (Common Reed Bunting) *Emberiza schoeniclus***

**Amber List.** *Common but declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Total records:* 1927. *Sites:* 89 breeding season/114 non-breeding.

*Breeding:* systematic counts mainly from RSPB reserves. Nene Washes 147 (Low Wash 68, March Farmers 45, High Wash 26, Eldernell Wash 8), Ouse Fen 106 pairs, Ouse Washes 90, Littleport (May Farm) 50, Paxton Pits 46 and Ouse Washes (Carrolls Ground) 6. Significantly under-recorded.

*Peak counts of 40+:*

*First winter period:* Melbourn (Summerhouse Farm) 370 on Feb 9th, Littleport (May Farm) 200 in Jan, Ouse Fen 200 on Jan 22nd, Stirtloe 105 on Jan 22nd, Foxton 100 on Jan 27th, Hinxton (Lordship Farm) 100 on Mar 4th, Cam Washes 50 on Feb 17th and Colne 43 on Jan 15th.

*Autumn/second winter period:* Fowlmere NR 610 to roost on Oct 31st, Littleport (May Farm) 200 in Nov and Dec, Barway 100 on Oct 26th and Wood Walton (Middle Farm) 54 on Nov 19th.

**BBS** *Distribution* (% squares occupied): 61% (95/96) *cf.* 70% (16/17)  
*Density* (individuals/10 squares): 22 (95/96) *cf.* 28 (16/17)



**Yellowhammer** *Ben Green*

**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 2017.

**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)**

6 sites/28 records

Ouse Washes from Mar 23rd to May 12th, with 2 associating with Whooper Swans on Mar 26th, River Great Ouse (Brampton) on Apr 29th, Fen Drayton Lakes from May 26th to Dec 27th, St Ives on Sep 18th, Buckden & Stirtloe GP on Nov 19th and Grafham Water 2 on Dec 4th and a single on Dec 28th.

**ROSS'S GOOSE** *Anser rossii***Breeds mainly north-east Canada, winters southern USA and north Mexico**

4 sites/13 records

The long-staying escape was recorded at Burwell Fen, Cam Washes, Kingfishers Bridge and Wicken Fen from Jan to the middle of May and then seen again at Kingfishers Bridge and Wicken Fen in November.

**BAR-HEADED GOOSE** *Anser indicus***Breeds Mongolia and Tibet, winters around Indian sub-continent**

7 sites/19 records

A pair seen together around the centre of the county, at Sutton North Fen GP from Jul 17th to Sep 10th, Ouse Fen on Sep 24th and then commuting around Burwell Fen, Cam Washes, Kingfishers Bridge, Stretham and Wicken Fen from Oct 5th to Nov 26th.

**SWAN GOOSE (Chinese Goose)** *Anser cygnoides***Breeds Mongolia and adjacent areas of Russia and China, winters Korean peninsula and Southern China**

3 sites/9 records

Ouse Fen from Feb 4th to 21st, a pair at Cambridge Research Park on May 21st and Jul 5th, with a single on Nov 9th, and Brownhill Stauch on Jun 14th. The likelihood is all refer to the domesticated form 'Chinese Goose', as some were seen to have morphological characters typical of this form (a large knob on the bill) and this is the most likely form to be kept in captivity and thus find its way into the wild.

**RUDDY SHELDUCK** *Tadorna ferruginea***Breeds Mongolia and Tibet, winters around Indian sub-continent***One site/6 records*

One Maxey GP from Sep 23rd to Oct 16th.

**MUSCOVY DUCK** *Cairina moschata***Central America and northern South America west of the Andes***Breeding:* 10 broods at one location. At Ely (Riverside), young broods were noted in April, June (2 broods), July (3 broods), August, September (2 broods) and October. A minimum of 65 young were seen, of which perhaps 14 survived to fledging. Brood sizes ranged from 3 to 17.*3 sites/22 records including table:* Eye Green 3 on Dec 14th and Fowlmere NR 3 on Apr 18th.*Peak monthly counts at selected site:*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ely	25	17	17	8	13	25	10	23	17	21	18	18

**WOOD DUCK (Carolina Wood Duck)** *Aix sponsa***North America***One site/2 records*

Longstowe Hall, pair on a private lake, on Apr 19th and May 7th; female partially leucistic.

**WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (Bahama Pintail)** *Anas bahamensis***South America and the Caribbean Islands***One site/one record*

Old Weston on Oct 31st.

**RHEA sp** *Rhea sp.***Southern South America***One site/one record*Melbourn, one from 2016 seen on Jan 1st. Possibly a Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*.**INDIAN PEAFOWL (Peacock)** *Pavo cristatus***Indian Subcontinent (and introduced populations e.g. Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and Florida)***One site/one record*

Cambridge on Jul 3rd, a male on the side of Madingley Road.

**REEVE'S PHEASANT** *Symaticus reevesii***Central China***2 sites/3 records*

Barway (Hainey Farm) a male on Mar 20th and Littleport (May Farm) 20 in Nov and Dec thought to be released by a nearby shoot.

**HARRIS'S HAWK** *Parabuteo unicinctus***Southern USA, Mexico and widespread across South America***2 sites/2 records.*

*Breeding:* male attempted to pair with Common Buzzard at Barton (Lordsbridge). Frequently seen displaying and interacting with a Common Buzzard during Feb–Mar, but a male Common Buzzard turned up in late March and displaced the Harris's Hawk. The Harris's Hawk remained in the territory and continued to display into May nonetheless. Although eggs were thought to have been laid and incubated, the Common Buzzard nesting attempt did not produce any young.

Barton (Lark Rise Farm/Lordsbridge area) recorded every month except October and Witcham on Sep 29th and Oct 5th.

**ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET** *Psittacula eupatria***South and south-east Asia***One site/one record*

Conington [Cambs], the bird seen in 2016 was found shot dead in the village on Mar 14th.

**APPENDIX III****HYBRIDS****ROSS'S GOOSE x GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser rossii x Anser anser**One site/10 records*

Kingfishers Bridge 14 on Jan 22nd, single on Feb 4th, 2 on Apr 8th, and 1–2 through the autumn. Sometimes referred to as Snow Goose hybrids, but given the long presence of an escaped Ross's Goose in the area it is assumed all 'pied' hybrid geese are most likely to involve the Ross's Goose in the parentage. One of the hybrids paired with a Greylag and had a brood on Apr 23rd.

**CANADA GOOSE x GREYLAG GOOSE** *Branta canadensis x Anser anser**10 sites/24 records*

Ouse Washes 3 on Jan 2nd and a single on Nov 18th, Burwell Fen on Mar 19th, Apr 4th and 13th, 2 on Apr 29th, 2 on May 10th and 6 on Dec 26th, Paxton Pits on Apr 2nd and Sep 30th, Berry Fen on May 14th, Kingfishers Bridge on May 21st, 8 on Oct 8th, and a brood of 7 fledged young in October, Ely (river) in May and June, Fen Drayton Lakes on Jul 9th and 21st, Sutton North Fen 2 on Sep 10th and 3 on Oct 8th, Stretham 9 (two broods of 6 and 3) on Oct 26th and St Neots on Nov 2nd.

**SWAN GOOSE x GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser cygnoides x Anser anser**One site/2 records*

Grafham Water 3 on Aug 12th and 2 on Dec 17th.

**HYBRID GOOSE***6 sites/10 records*

Unspecified hybrids reported from Burwell Fen, Cam Washes, Fen Drayton Lakes, Kingfishers Bridge, Ouse Fen, and Sutton North Fen. Given their overwhelming presence in the area Canada

x Greylag are the most likely parents. One group of 50 at Ouse Fen on Feb 26th stands out as an anomalously high count.

#### **TUFTED DUCK x POCHARD** *Aythya fuligula* x *Aythya ferina*

4 sites/11 records

Fen Drayton Lakes on Jan 6th and 22nd, Barleycraft GP on Feb 12th and 25th, Ouse Washes on Mar 26th and Grafham Water regularly recorded between Jul 26th and Oct 21st. Where described, all records refer to a 'Scaup-like' male which is presumably the same bird that has been around for some years.

#### **SCAUP x TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya marila* x *Aythya fuligula*

One site/one record

Paxton Pits on Nov 11th.

#### **TUFTED DUCK x RED-CRESTED POCHARD** *Aythya fuligula* x *Netta rufina*

One site/one record

Ouse Washes on Jan 1st.

### **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. 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.

Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>		2017
Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>		2017
Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		2017
Taiga Bean Goose <i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>	2(5)	2014
Tundra Bean Goose <i>A. f. rossicus</i>		2017
Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		2017
White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>		2017
Greenland White-fronted Goose <i>A. a. flavirostris</i>	2(12)	2003
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>		2017
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>		2017
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>		2017
Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>		2017
Pale-bellied Brent Goose <i>B. b. hrota</i>	3(3)	1997
Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		2017
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		2017
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>		2017
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>		2017
American Wigeon <i>Anas americana</i>	8(8)	2014
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>		2017

Baikal Teal <i>Anas formosa</i>	1(1)	2014
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>		2017
Green-winged Teal <i>Anas carolinensis</i>	21(21)	2016
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		2017
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>		2017
Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>		2017
Blue-winged Teal <i>Anas discors</i>	10(11)	2013
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>		2017
Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>		2017
Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>		2017
Ring-necked Duck <i>Aythya collaris</i>	c. 20(20)	2016
Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	c. 29(32)	2012
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>		2017
Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>		2017
Lesser Scaup <i>Aythya affinis</i>	3(4)	2006
Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	17(153)	1996
Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	41(51)	2015
Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>		2017
Surf Scoter <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	2(2)	1989
Velvet Scoter <i>Melanitta fusca</i>	51(80)	2015
Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>		2017
Smew <i>Mergellus albellus</i>		2017
Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>		2017
Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>		2017
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		2017
Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		2017
Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i>		2017
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>		2017
Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		2017
Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>		2014
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
Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	58(59)	2010
Sooty Shearwater <i>Puffinus griseus</i>	1(1)	2013
Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	43(43)	2017
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	11(11)	2012
Leach's Petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	c. 25(28)	2017
Gannet <i>Morus bassanus</i>		2016
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		2017
Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		2017
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		2017
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>	21(31)	2017
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>		2017
Great White Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>		2017
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>		2017

Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	41(41)	2017
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>		2017
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		2017
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		2017
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		2017
Slavonian Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>		2016
Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		2017
Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2017
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	6(6)	2013
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>		2017
White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	8(8)	2010
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		2017
Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>		2017
Northern Harrier <i>Circus hudsonius</i>	1(1)	2013
Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	2(2)	2011
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>		2016
Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		2012
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2017
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>		2017
Rough-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	68(75)	2017
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		2017
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		2017
Spotted Crane <i>Porzana porzana</i>		2017
Little Crane <i>Zapornia parva</i>	2(2)	1864
Baillon's Crane <i>Zapornia pusilla</i>	4(4+)	2012
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>		2017
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		2017
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>		2017
Crane <i>Grus grus</i>		2017
Little Bustard <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	4(4)	1848
Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i>	6(7)*	1880
Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>		2017
Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	24(40)	2017
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		2017
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		2017
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		2017
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		2017
American Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	17(17)	2017
Pacific Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	3(3)	2013
Dotterel <i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		2017
Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	2(2)	1976
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		2017
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>		2017
Sociable Plover <i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	3(3)	1991
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		2017
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	10(11)	2004



Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	1(1)	1854
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		2017
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>		2017
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>		2017
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>		2017
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>		2017
Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>		2017
Ruff <i>Calidris pugnax</i>		2017
Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	2(2)	2006
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		2017
Stilt Sandpiper <i>Calidris himantopus</i>	1(1)	1963
Red-necked Stint <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	1(1)	2001
Temminck's Stint <i>Calidris temminckii</i>		2017
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>		2017
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>		2017
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>		2017
White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	4(4)	2012
Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	1(1)	1983
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	9(10)	2009
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	c. 82(88)	2017
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	1(1)	2007
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>	53(57–72)	2015
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		2017
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i>	2(2)	1994
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>		2017
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>		2017
Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	1(1)	1992
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>		2017
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	8(8)	2016
Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	6(6)	1995
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>		2017
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>		2017
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>		2017
Long-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	1(1)	2012
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		2017
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		2017
Great Snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	9(9)	2012
Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	4(4)	2009
Black-winged Pratincole <i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	3(3)	2014
Pomarine Skua <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	21(34)	2015
Arctic Skua <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		2016
Long-tailed Skua <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	11(12)	2014
Great Skua <i>Stercorarius skua</i>	c. 78(349+)	2017
Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	36(39)	2009
Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>	8(9)	1996

Little Auk <i>Alle alle</i>	72(73)	1999
Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>	21(26)	2005
Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>		2017
Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	1(1)	2017
Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	5(5)	1991
Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	9(9)	2010
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>		2017
White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	29(32–33)	2017
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		2017
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>		2017
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	6(6)	2006
Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		2017
Ivory Gull <i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	1(1)	1938
Sabine's Gull <i>Xema sabini</i>	17(24)	2017
Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		2017
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		2017
Little Gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		2017
Laughing Gull <i>Larus atricilla</i>	3(3)	2007
Franklin's Gull <i>Larus pipixcan</i>	2(2)	2016
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		2017
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>		2017
Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	5(5)	2012
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>		2017
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>		2017
Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>		2017
Azorean Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus m. atlantis</i>	1(1)	2014
Caspian Gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>		2017
Iceland Gull <i>Larus glaucoides</i>		2017
Kumlien's Gull <i>L. g. kumlieni</i>	6(6)	2013
Glaucous Gull <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		2017
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>		2017
Pallas's Sandgrouse <i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	11(155)	1888
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i>		2017
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>		2017
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>		2017
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		2017
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		2017
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>		2017
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>		2017
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>		2017
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>		2017
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>		2017
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>		2017
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	26(26)*	2017
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>		2017
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	12(12)	2006
Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	81(81)	2016
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater <i>Merops persicus</i>	1(1)	1982
Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	6(6)	2017

Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1(1)	1835
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>		2017
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>		2017
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>		2017
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2017
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dryobates minor</i>		2017
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		2017
Red-footed Falcon <i>Falco vespertinus</i>	38(40)	2017
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>		2017
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>		2017
Gyr Falcon <i>Falco rusticolus</i>	1(1)	1940
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>		2017
Ring-necked Parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>		2017
Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		2015
Isabelline Shrike <i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	1(1)	2000
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	19(19)*	2016
Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>		2017
Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator</i>	1(1)	1840
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>		2017
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		2017
Nutcracker <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	9(9)	1987
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula spermologus</i>		2017
Nordic/Eastern Jackdaw <i>C. m. monedula/soemmerringii</i>	39(53)	2013
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		2017
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>		2017
Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix</i>		2014
Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>		2017
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>		2017
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		2017
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	5(7+)	2014
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		2017
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>		2017
Coal Tit <i>Pariparus ater</i>		2017
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>		2006
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>		2017
Bearded Tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>		2017
Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	1(1)	1882
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	38(43)	2015
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>		2017
Shore Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris flava</i>	9(13)	2017
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>		2017
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>		2017
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>		2017
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>	11(12)	2017
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>		2017
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		2017
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1(1)	1998
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	27(27)	2017

Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		2016
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>		2017
Siberian Chiffchaff <i>P. c. tristis</i>	11(11)	2017
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		2017
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		2017
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>		2017
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	6(6)	2014
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>		2017
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>		2017
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	6(6)	2017
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>		2017
River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	2(2)	1995
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	21(21)	2017
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	9(9)	2015
Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	2(2)	1955
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		2017
Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	1(1)	2012
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	25(43)	2017
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		2017
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	4(4)	2016
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>		2017
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>		2017
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>		2017
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		2017
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		2017
Rose-coloured Starling <i>Pastor roseus</i>	12(12)	2003
Dipper <i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	3(3)	2017
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>		2017
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>		2017
Black-throated Thrush <i>Turdus atrogularis</i>	1(1)	1996
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>		2017
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2017
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>		2017
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		2017
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>		2017
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		2017
Thrush Nightingale <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	1(1)	1984
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		2017
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	9(9)	2012
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		2016
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2017
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		2017
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		2017
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		2017
Siberian Stonechat <i>Saxicola maurus</i>	2(2)	1979
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		2017
Greenland Wheatear <i>O. o. leucorhoa</i>		2017
Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	1(1)	2016

Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	1(1)	2001
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>		2017
Alpine Accentor <i>Prunella collaris</i>	1(2)	1822
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>		2017
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>		2017
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>		2017
Blue-headed Wagtail <i>M. f. flava</i>		2017
Grey-headed Wagtail <i>M. f. thunbergi</i>	6(6)	1999
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		2017
Pied Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>		2017
White Wagtail <i>M. a. alba</i>		2017
Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus richardi</i>	19(21)	2014
Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	2(2)	1972
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>		2017
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>		2017
Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>	1(1)	1991
Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>		2017
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		2017
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		2017
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		2017
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		2017
Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	1(1)	2011
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		2017
Northern Bullfinch <i>P. p. pyrrhula</i>	4(5)	2004
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>		2017
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>		2017
Twite <i>Linaria flavirostris</i>		2017
Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>		2017
Common (Mealy) Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>		2017
Greenland Redpoll <i>A. f. rostrata</i>	1(1)	2011
Arctic Redpoll <i>Acanthis hornemanni</i>	7(9)	2017
Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		2017
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		2017
Serin <i>Serinus serinus</i>	7(8)	2016
Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>		2017
Snow Bunting <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		2016
Lapland Bunting <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	53(92)	2017
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1(1)	1993
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>		2017
Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	42(63)	1981
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		2017
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		2017
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1(1)	2013
Rustic Bunting <i>Emberiza rustica</i>	1(1)	1994

With the addition of Gull-billed Tern the county total now stands at 342.

## SUMMER MIGRANTS: EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATES

Excludes occasional mid-winter records; NR: no records received.

SPECIES	EARLIEST 2017	EARLIEST EVER
Garganey	Mar 11th (2 sites)	Feb 17th 2013 (Mare Fen)
Quail	May 11th (Fleam Dyke)	Apr 16th 2005 (Ouse Fen)
Osprey	Mar 27th (Eaton Ford)	Mar 5th 2007 (Little Gransden)
Spotted Crake	May 10th (Nene Washes)	Mar 13th 1959 (Fulbourn Fen)
Corncrake	Apr 30th (Nene Washes)	Apr 19th 1960 (Odsey)
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 18th (2 sites)	Mar 4th 2003 (Isleham)
Whimbrel	Apr 17th (Ferry Meadows CP)	Mar 14th 1995 (Cambridge)
Wood Sandpiper	Apr 30th (3 sites)	Apr 11th 2006 (Ouse Washes)
<b>Black Tern</b>	<b>Apr 2nd (Pymoor)</b>	<b>Apr 2nd 2017 (Pymoor)</b>
Sandwich Tern	Apr 9th (3 sites)	Mar 16th 2013 (Grafham Water)
Common Tern	Mar 28th (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Mar 14th 2011 (Ouse Washes)
Arctic Tern	Apr 11th (Grafham Water)	Mar 14th 2012 (Isleham Washes)
Turtle Dove	Apr 17th (Abbots Ripton)	Apr 3rd 1987 (Ferry Meadows CP)
Cuckoo	Apr 14th (Paxton Pits)	Mar 9th 2014 (Aldreth)
Swift	Apr 20th (Paxton Pits)	Mar 8th 1989 (Monks Wood)
Hobby	Apr 13th (Grafham Water)	Apr 3rd 2002 (Wicken Fen)
Sand Martin	Mar 14th (Ferry Meadows CP)	Mar 26th 2009 (Fowlmere NR)
Swallow	Mar 21st (Paxton Pits)	Feb 27th 1994 (Nene Washes)
House Martin	Mar 17th (Fowlmere NR)	Mar 7th 1983 (Impington)
Willow Warbler	Mar 25th (Coldham's Common)	Mar 4th 2001 (Paxton Pits)
Garden Warbler	Apr 3rd (Burwell Fen)	Mar 12th 1957 (Babraham)
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 6th (2 sites)	Mar 28th 1999 (Morbome Hill)
Whitethroat	Apr 4th (Paxton Pits)	Mar 31st 1987 (Cambridge)
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 6th (Wicken Fen)	Mar 29th 1998 (Fowlmere)
		Mar 30th 1989 (Wicken Fen)
		Mar 30th 1989 (Woodwalton Fen)
		Mar 30th 2012 (Nene Washes)
Sedge Warbler	Mar 31st (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Mar 25th 2002 (Paxton Pits)
Reed Warbler	Apr 5th (Grafham Water)	Mar 29th 2014 (Fen Drayton Lakes)
Ring Ouzel	Apr 7th (Ferry Meadows CP)	Mar 12th 1995 (Paxton Pits)
Spotted Flycatcher	Apr 19th (Soham)	Apr 15th 1967 (Cambridge)
Nightingale	Apr 8th (Wicken Fen)	Apr 4th 1999 (Paxton Pits)
		Apr 4th 2002 (Paxton Pits)
Redstart	Apr 6th (Coveney Byall Fen)	Mar 25th 1995 (Waterbeach)
Whinchat	Apr 27th (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Mar 5th 1994 (Ferry Meadows CP)
<b>Wheatear</b>	<b>Mar 6th (Horseley Fen)</b>	<b>Mar 6th 2017 (Horseley Fen)</b>
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 29th (Sutton Gault)	Mar 13th 2006 (Ouse Washes)
Tree Pipit	Apr 16th (Castor Hanglands)	Mar 28th 2007 (Ouse Washes)

**Changes for 2017:** Wheatear

## SUMMER MIGRANTS: LATEST DEPARTURE DATES

Excludes occasional mid-winter records; NR: no records received.

SPECIES	LATEST 2017	LATEST EVER
Garganey	Nov 18th (Ouse Washes)	Dec 8th 2014 (Ely BF)
Quail	Sep 13th (St Neots)	Oct 31st 1952 (Southoe)
Osprey	Sep 14th (Burwell)	Nov 28th 2006 (Ely)
Spotted Crake	NR	Sep 14th 1953 (Chesterton Fen)
		Sep 14th 2014 (Ouse Washes)
Corncrake	Jul 30th (Nene Washes)	Oct 12th 2012 (Nene Washes)
Little Ringed Plover	Oct 27th (Littleport)	Oct 29th 1973 (Cambridge SW)
Whimbrel	Aug 30th (Chesterton [Cams])	Nov 24th 2012 (Grafham Water)
Wood Sandpiper	Sep 26th (Burwell Fen)	Oct 27th 1991 (Grafham Water)
		Oct 27th 2006 (Paxton Pits)
Black Tern	Oct 8th (Grafham Water)	Nov 5th 1994 (Grafham Water)
Sandwich Tern	Sep 6th (Chesterton [Cams])	Oct 30th 1994 (Block Fen GP)
Common Tern	Oct 6th (Grafham Water)	Dec 6th 1953 (Landbeach GP)
Arctic Tern	Sep 22nd (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Nov 21st 2015 (Ferry Meadows CP)
Turtle Dove	Sep 3rd (Over)	Nov 16th 1957 (Cambridge)
Cuckoo	Aug 13th (Buckden GP)	Nov 4th 1957 (Cambridge)
Swift	Sep 15th (2 sites)	Dec 16th 2015 (Barleycraft GP)
Hobby	Oct 27th (Littleport)	Dec 7th 2005 (Priory Park)
Sand Martin	Oct 3rd (Littleport)	Nov 17th 1968 (Ouse Washes)
Swallow	Nov 5th (Wicken Fen)	Dec 16th 2005 (Caldecote [Cams])
House Martin	Oct 21st (Dry Drayton)	Dec 17th 1977 (Wistow)
Willow Warbler	Oct 3rd (Kingfishers Bridge)	Nov 30th 2012 (Wicken Fen)
Garden Warbler	Sep 8th (Stanground Wash)	Nov 21st 2003 (Queen Adelaide)
Lesser Whitethroat	Sep 22nd (2 sites)	Nov 25th 2003 (Ferry Meadows CP)
Whitethroat	Sep 30th (Paxton Pits)	Nov 22nd 2002 (Cottenham)
Grasshopper Warbler	Aug 13th (2 sites)	Oct 8th 1993 (Fowlmere NR)
Sedge Warbler	Sep 21st (Kings Dyke NR)	Dec 10th 2003 (Padholme Pumping Station)
Reed Warbler	Sep 30th (Kingfishers Bridge)	Dec 12th 1987 (Ouse Washes)
Ring Ouzel	Oct 26th (2 sites)	Dec 23rd 2015 (Lode)
Spotted Flycatcher	Sep 27th (Hinxtun)	Oct 23rd 1989 (Ouse Washes)
Nightingale	NR	Sep 6th 1996 (Bainton)
Redstart	Sep 16th (Clopton)	Nov 11th 2003 (Stuntney)
Whinchat	Oct 2nd (Ouse Washes)	Dec 5th 1976 (Whittlesford)
Wheatear	Nov 15th (Littleport)	Nov 24th 1957 (Melbourn)
Yellow Wagtail	Oct 14th (Chain Corner)	Dec 5th 1982 (Eye)
Tree Pipit	Oct 9th (Grafham Water)	Nov 3rd 1952 (Cambridge SW)

Changes for 2017: None

## WINTER MIGRANTS: LATEST DEPARTURE DATES

Excludes occasional mid-summer records; NR: no records received.

SPECIES	LATEST 2017	LATEST EVER
Bewick's Swan	Apr 10th (Ouse Washes)	May 13th 2000 (Nene Washes)
Whooper Swan	May 7th (Ouse Washes)	May 23rd 2001 (Nene Washes)
Pink-footed Goose	Mar 27th (Eldernell)	May 14th 1959 (Central Fens)
White-fronted Goose	May 12th (Ouse Washes)	May 27th 2008 (Paxton Pits)
Scaup	Apr 20th (Coveney Byall Fen)	Jun 18th 2001 (Grafham Water)
Smew	Mar 19th (Bainton GP)	Apr 23rd 2009 (Barleycraft GP)
Great Northern Diver	Mar 22nd (Grafham Water)	May 25th 2015 (Grafham Water)
Hen Harrier	Apr 21st (Maxey GP)	Jun 30th 2007 (Wicken Fen)
Rough-legged Buzzard	Feb 26th (Wryde Croft)	May 6th 1975 (Holme Fen)
Jack Snipe	Apr 24th (Nene Washes)	May 29th 1953 (Ouse Washes)
Iceland Gull	Apr 21st (Dogsthorpe Tip)	May 7th 2005 (Flag Fen)
Glaucous Gull	Apr 2nd (Cottenham (Long Drove))	Apr 27th 1991 (Nene Washes)
Merlin	Apr 8th (2 sites)	May 24th 2003 (Fowlmere)
		May 24th 2003 (Stilton)
Great Grey Shrike	Apr 11th (Wicken/Burwell Fens)	May 17th 1978 (Marholm)
Waxwing	Apr 19th (Ramsey)	May 5th 1979 (St. Ives)
Fieldfare	May 22nd (Wryde Croft)	May 24th 1980 (Ouse Washes)
Redwing	Apr 26th (Linton)	Jun 4th 1975 (Hilton)
Rock Pipit	Mar 24th (Grafham Water)	May 12th 2014 (Paxton Pits)
Water Pipit	Apr 1st (Sutton Gault)	May 13th 2000 (Wicken Fen)
		May 13th 2007 (Paxton Pits)
Brambling	Mar 26th (Littleport)	May 8th 1978 (Ouse Washes)

**Changes for 2017:** none



## WINTER MIGRANTS: EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATES

Excludes occasional mid-summer/breeding records; NR: no records received.

SPECIES	EARLIEST 2017	EARLIEST EVER
Bewick's Swan	Nov 5th (Wicken Fen)	Sep 22nd 1997 (Ouse Washes)
Whooper Swan	Sep 20th (Isleham)	Sep 1st 2007 (Nene Washes)
Pink-footed Goose	Oct 6th (2 sites)	Sep 7th 2016 (Littleport)
White-fronted Goose	NR	Sep 30th 1994 (Nene Washes)
Scaup	Aug 3rd (Coveney Byall Fen)	Jul 7th 2009 (Paxton Pits)
Smew	Nov 19th (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Oct 20th 1971 (Ely BF)
Great Northern Diver	Nov 10th (Grafham Water)	Oct 8th 2010 (Grafham Water)
Hen Harrier	Aug 17th (Haddenham)	Jul 19th 2012 (Eltisley/Waresley)
Rough-legged Buzzard	NR	Sep 21st 1968 (Ouse Washes)
		Sep 21st 1976 (Hinchingsbrooke CP)
Jack Snipe	Oct 8th (Colne Fen GP)	Jul 26th 1935 (Burwell Fen)
Iceland Gull	Dec 29th (Cottenham)	Nov 21st 1999 (Grafham Water)
Glaucous Gull	Dec 29th (Cottenham)	Oct 25th 2011 (Dogsthorpe Tip)
Merlin	Sep 19th (Nene Washes)	Jul 5th 1997 (Godmanchester GP)
Great Grey Shrike	NR	Sep 23rd 1994 (Ouse Washes)
Waxwing	NR	Oct 23rd 2016 (March)
Fieldfare	Oct 8th (Castor Hanglands)	Sep 2nd 1989 (Hilton)
Redwing	Sep 26th (Linton)	Sep 1st 1979 (Ramsey)
<b>Rock Pipit</b>	<b>Sep 12th (Grafham Water)</b>	<b>Sep 12th 2017 (Grafham Water)</b>
Water Pipit	Oct 15th (Fen Drayton Lakes)	Sep 13th 2001 (Grafham Water)
Brambling	Oct 8th (Cambridge)	Aug 30th 1950 (Great Paxton)

**Changes for 2017:** Rock Pipit.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

These guidelines apply from January 1st 2016.

The following categories give an 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](http://www.bbrc.org.uk)).

### COUNTY RECORDS (INCLUDING COUNTY RARITIES)

**(a) Species or subspecies (latter in *italics*) requiring descriptions** (all records required)

Tundra Bean Goose ( <i>rossicus</i> )	Rough-legged Buzzard
Taiga Bean Goose ( <i>fabalis</i> )	American Golden Plover
Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>flavirostris</i> )	Kentish Plover
Pale-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>hrota</i> )	Purple Sandpiper
American Wigeon	White-rumped Sandpiper
Green-winged Teal	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Ring-necked Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper
Ferruginous Duck	Red-necked Phalarope
Lesser Scaup	Grey Phalarope
Eider	Pomarine Skua
Long-tailed Duck	Arctic Skua
Surf Scoter	Long-tailed Skua
Velvet Scoter	
	Puffin
Red-throated Diver	Razorbill
Black-throated Diver	Little Auk
Great Northern Diver	Guillemot
	White-winged Black Tern
Fulmar	Roseate Tern
Sooty Shearwater	Sabine's Gull
Manx Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
Storm Petrel	Kumlien's Gull ( <i>kumlieni</i> )
Leach's Petrel	
	Nightjar
Night-heron	Alpine Swift
Cattle Egret	Hoopoe
Purple Heron	Bee-eater
White Stork	Red-footed Falcon
Glossy Ibis	Ring-necked Parakeet
Slavonian Grebe	Golden Oriole
Red-necked Grebe	Red-backed Shrike
	Great Grey Shrike (must exclude other possible races/forms)
Honey-buzzard	Woodchat Shrike
Black Kite	
White-tailed Eagle	
Montagu's Harrier	Hooded Crow
Goshawk	

Penduline Tit	Red-spotted Bluethroat ( <i>svecica</i> )
Continental Coal Tit ( <i>ater</i> )	White-spotted Bluethroat ( <i>cyanecula</i> )
Willow Tit (should include call)	
	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Short-toed Lark	
Woodlark	Grey-headed Wagtail ( <i>thunbergi</i> )
Shore Lark	Richard's Pipit
Red-rumped Swallow	
	Common Rosefinch
Pallas's Warbler	Northern Bullfinch ( <i>pyrrhula</i> )
Yellow-browed Warbler	Twite
Scandinavian Chiffchaff ( <i>abietinus</i> )	Greenland Redpoll ( <i>rostrata</i> )
Siberian Chiffchaff ( <i>tristis</i> )	Arctic Redpoll not to subspecies
Barred Warbler	Serin
Dartford Warbler	
Icterine Warbler	Snow Bunting
Blyth's Reed Warbler	Lapland Bunting
Marsh Warbler	Cirl Bunting
	Little Bunting
Rose-coloured Starling	
Dipper	

**(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 with contact details and names of other observers at the time.
- (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/subspecies.

**Submitting records**

Records can be submitted via BirdTrack or to the County Recorder by email or on paper. The spreadsheet can be downloaded from the CBC website or is available by 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 2017**

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 2017**

Yellow-browed Warbler	Yaxley	Nov 30th
Ortolan Bunting	Cambridge	Sep 3rd

An increasing number of records remain unsubmitted. The CBCRC will always welcome any late submissions.

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## GULL-BILLED TERN, NEW TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE

May 15th 2017

*Jonathan Taylor, Richard Johnson*

### **Ouse Washes (Jonathan Taylor):**

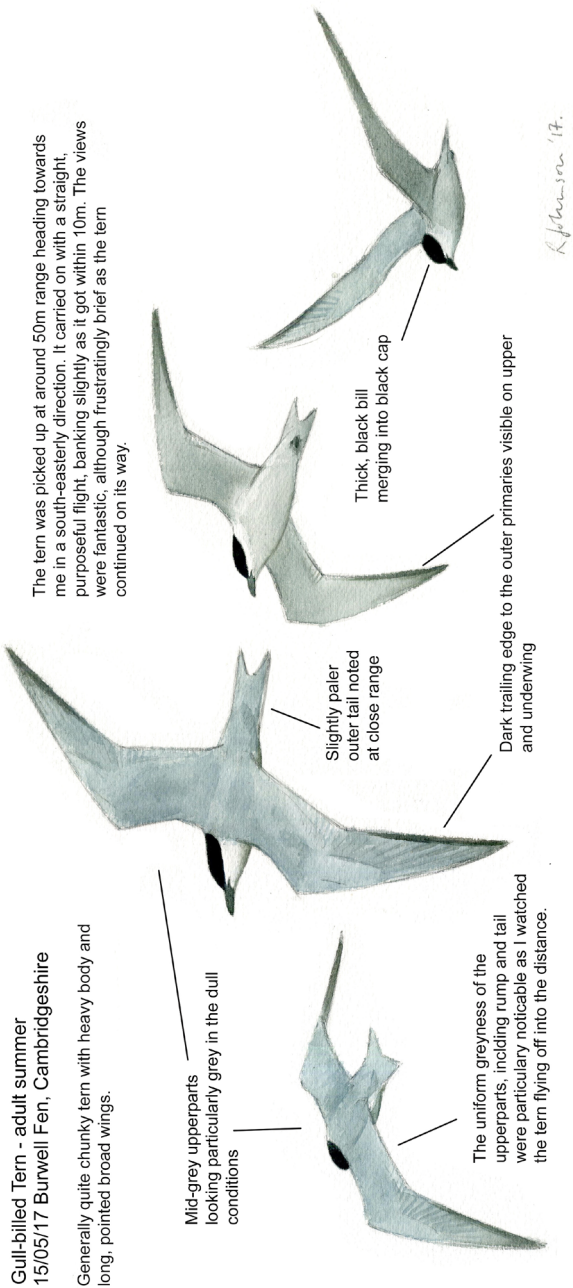
Whilst driving along the rather undulating approach road between Purl's Bridge and Welches Dam, where I work for the RSPB, I could see to my right several Black-headed Gulls at about 150m distance, feeding over a beet field that was just showing its first shoots of green. Much closer I caught sight of a far more acrobatic tern-like bird that suddenly and fortuitously passed adjacent to the car and even though I was still moving at around 20mph, I could see with the bare eye that it could only be a Gull-billed Tern! Frankly amazing; if I'd passed a few seconds earlier or later I would have probably never seen it, as for most of the 20 minutes that it remained in sight, it was mostly 250–300m away, and moved rapidly over the field. Behaviourally - unlike any other UK tern in that it spent the whole time feeding more like a gull, quartering the bare field and occasionally diving down to grab items (presumably insects) from the surface. A very mobile bird, with noticeably powerful long and broad wings (for a tern), whilst remaining very graceful and agile. Luckily I was able to grab some shots with my digi-scoping gear especially when it made one final pass and momentarily hovered over a nearby ditch, when I also heard it uttering a rather maniacal 'hyaena' like call. The tern then flew over the Ouse Washes barrier bank, adjacent to Stockdales pool. I then headed to the reserve office to pick up the wardening staff, hoping it would be present on the scrape. Alas, there was no sign of it, however we were treated to the sight of a Black-winged Stilt perched upon its new nest, a first of a different kind!

### **Burwell Fen (Richard Johnson):**

After a morning spent wandering around Burwell and Wicken Fen I was heading back to my car at about 12:10. Walking along a path that cuts across the south-eastern part of Burwell Fen I noticed a tern heading straight at me at about 50 metres range. As soon as I got my bins onto the bird I immediately knew it was a Gull-billed Tern, partially because I had prior knowledge of what had to be the same bird on the Ouse Washes about 3 hours earlier, but mainly because of the features described below. The tern continued to head towards me, about 2-3 metres above the ground, lifting in elevation to about 8 metres as it crossed about 10 metres in front of me, but dropping back to the lower flight path when it had passed. The bird carried on in a strong south-easterly direction and I was able to quickly set up my scope and follow it further as it headed off into the distance. Unfortunately, at this moment a squally shower had started and the rain was hampering viewing, and I lost the bird at about 600 metres range amongst a few Black-headed Gulls that had lifted from a field. I thought this might have been a good place for the tern to settle and feed, so I quickly headed over there, but despite a thorough search I failed to relocate it again and the bird had more than likely carried on through.

**Size, structure and plumage:** on first noticing the bird and getting it in the bins I immediately realised I had a medium sized tern coming towards me. Head-on I was immediately confronted by a short, thick black bill which merged into a black cap. This impression instantly confirmed the ID as Gull-billed Tern. It rapidly approached with a steady, direct flight and was soon passing at close range. The body was quite heavy, the long, pointed wings were broad and a shortish, shallow forked tail, give the impression of a quite thickset tern overall. At close quarters, the upperparts were mid-grey, including the rump and tail, with the outer tail feathers noted as being slightly paler when the tern was at its closest. The wings showed a dark trailing edge to the outer hand. As the day had now become overcast the overall greyness was accentuated — the impression of a uniform grey tern, lacking any contrast in the upperparts being most obvious when observing the tern heading off into the distance

through the scope. Unfortunately the whole encounter was too quick to obtain any images, especially as I only have a digi-scoping setup. Setting this up did cross my mind as it passed, but I settled for keeping my eyes on the bird with the hope it would hang around. Alas, this was not to be.



## MANAGEMENT OF ARABLE LAND FOR FARMLAND BIRDS

*Georgina Bray, Ian Dillon, Derek Gruar and David Buckingham*

### ABSTRACT

Farmland birds in the UK have declined by 50% overall since the 1970s which can be largely attributed to rapid changes in farming practices. Hope Farm<sup>1</sup>, 181 hectares of predominantly arable farmland in Knapwell, Cambridgeshire, was purchased by the RSPB to demonstrate that it is possible to have abundant, diverse wildlife on a conventional arable farm whilst maintaining reasonable crop yields and profits. Annual bird surveying has taken place to track the change in farmland bird species, showing that these breeding birds have increased in abundance by 226% and winter birds have increased in abundance by 1739% since 2000.

### INTRODUCTION

The decline in farmland birds in the last half century underlines a pressure put on birds' abilities to maintain stable populations where they rely on arable land for at least part of their life cycle. Agricultural practices have changed considerably since the late 1960s, under an agricultural revolution that is occurring faster than some species can adapt (Chamberlain *et al.*, 2000). These changes occurred due to an increasing pressure on our countryside to produce enough food for an increasing human population, driven by changes in policy particularly entry into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that pushed for increasing production often regardless of the cost to wildlife and the environment, and considerable advances in technological capabilities which farmers readily embraced.

Hope Farm was managed as a typical South Cambridgeshire farm for centuries, and changes in the abundance of farmland birds were also typical of other farmland in the area. A mixed farm of animals and crops had been simplified to a rotation of winter wheat and winter oilseed rape, fields had become much larger with fewer hedgerows, and arable wild weeds had become highly controlled and scarce in the landscape. These agronomic changes on the farm were all undertaken to take advantage of changing incentives, policy drivers, market conditions and technological advances.

The RSPB purchased Hope Farm in 2000, with the aim of demonstrating that conservation management could be introduced to benefit farmland wildlife without negatively impacting on the core farm business. Over the last 18 years, birds have been monitored in the breeding season and winter, to observe how effective carefully placed conservation management practices can be in halting the decline in farmland birds.

### METHOD

After purchasing the farm, the previous owner's conventional management practices were maintained for two cropping rotations to establish a baseline measurement of bird abundance in summer and winter.

Breeding bird abundance was measured using Common Bird Census (CBC) methods to estimate accurately the number of territories of key species across the farm. Analysis was targeted at the 19 Farmland Bird Index species identified by Defra, which rely on farmland for at least part of their life cycle, although all species encountered were recorded. CBC took place between early March and early July, with 10 to 12 visits being completed annually. A composite index using a geometric mean was then devised to create a temporal trend, allowing comparisons with the same species across England over the same time period. Winter bird abundance was measured using a whole area approach in which transects were walked along every field boundary and across every field so

<sup>1</sup> "Hope Farm" is the RSPB project name. It is referred to elsewhere in this report as Knapwell (Grange Farm)

that surveyors reached within 25m of every point on the farm. The birds' locations and activities were mapped using BTO codes, by either sight or sound, and replicates were removed before analysis. Winter surveys were undertaken three times each winter in December, January and February and an average abundance of the three surveys used to calculate a winter farmland bird index.

After establishing a baseline for farmland bird abundance, conservation measures were introduced, and the farm entered the European Union CAP-funded Entry Level Stewardship Scheme in 2005 to 2017, evolving to the mid-tier Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 2018, supplemented by habitat creation under Fair to Nature requirements in 2015. To diversify the crop rotation, Spring Beans, Spring Barley, Winter Barley, Spring Wheat, Millet, Winter Linseed, Peas and over-winter cover crops of Phacelia and Black Oat have also been grown on the farm. Direct drilling was implemented in more recent years to see if maintaining the soil structure in the field may maintain a more stable ecosystem, better suited to ground-dwelling invertebrates that provide a source of bird food throughout the year. With the changes to farming methods, it was essential that profitability of the farm remained consistent, accounting for fluctuations experienced by every farming business.

## RESULTS

Overall Hope Farm's Farmland Breeding Bird Index has increased by 226% since 2000 (Figure 1). This increase is in stark contrast to the continuing overall decrease in farmland birds across the UK in the same time.

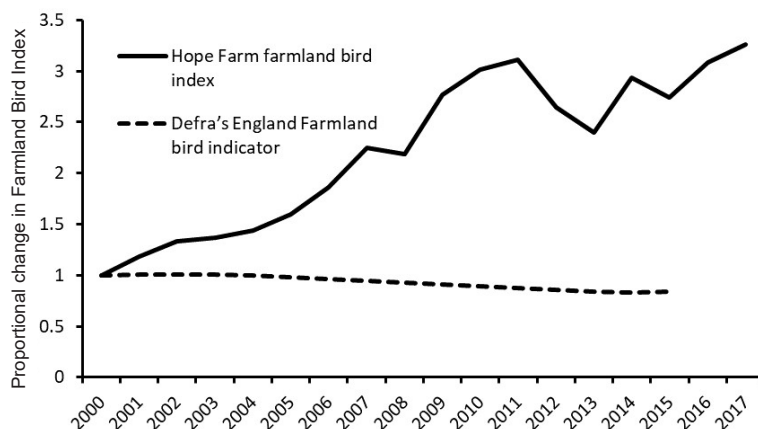


Figure 1: Change in the Hope Farm breeding bird indicator and Defra's England Farmland breeding bird indicator between 2000 and 2017. Farmland bird indices are drawn as a proportion of the breeding bird index in year 1 of experiment, 2000.

Of the 19 Farmland Bird species, Hope Farm has managed to increase the breeding abundance of 15 species (Figure 2) with 6 species colonising the farm since 2000. The only species to have declined since 2000 is the Greenfinch. Turtle Doves have not held a territory on the farm since 2011. Multiple red list species have increased in abundance including Grey Partridge, Skylark, Yellow Wagtail, Starling, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Corn Bunting. Rook and Tree Sparrow have failed to hold a territory on the farm during the RSPB's ownership.



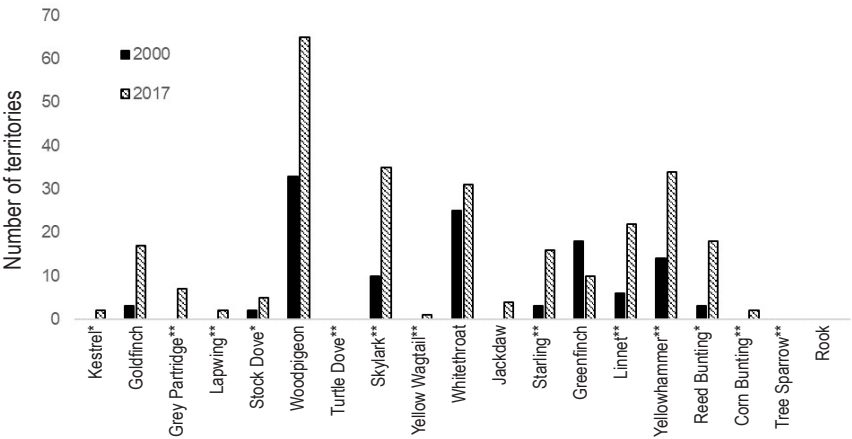


Figure 2: Comparison of the number of territories held by Farmland Bird Species at Hope Farm between 2000 and 2017. Species' names followed by an \* indicate amber listed species, whilst \*\* indicates red list species.

Hope Farm's wintering farmland bird abundance increased by 1739% during the RSPB's ownership (Figure 3). Of the 16 Farmland Index species that are not summer migrants, all species except Greenfinch increased in abundance (Figure 4).

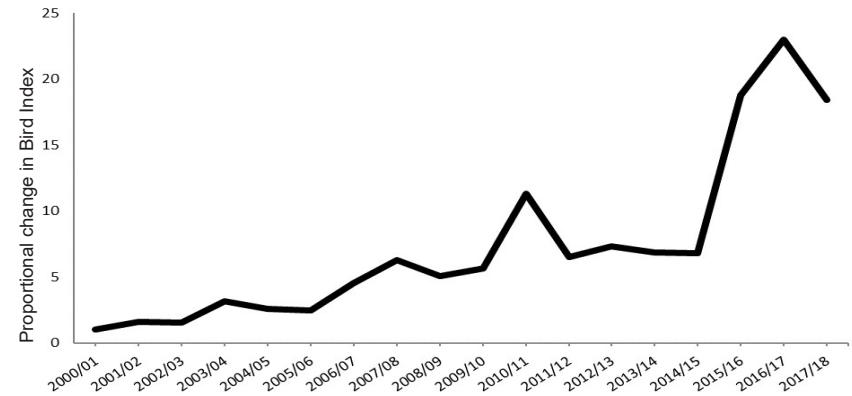


Figure 3: Change in the abundance of wintering birds at Hope Farm between 2000/01 and 2017/18. Index is drawn as a proportion of the wintering bird index in year 1 of experiment, 2000/01 using a geometric mean.

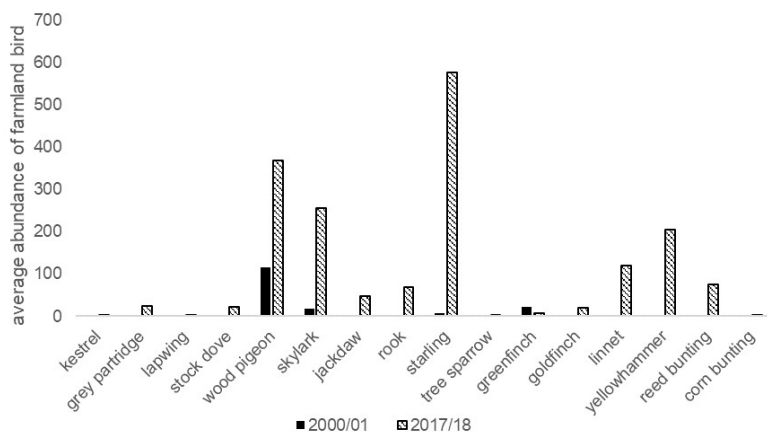


Figure 4: Comparison of the abundance of wintering farmland bird species at Hope Farm in 2000/01 and 2017/18. Wintering farmland bird abundance is taken as an average across the three surveys in December, January and February of each winter.

## DISCUSSION

### Farmland Breeding Birds

The increase in breeding bird territories can be largely attributed to the provision of appropriate summer food and nesting habitats which have likely increased breeding success, and winter food which has likely improved over-winter survival for many species at Hope Farm. During the RSPB's ownership, nesting habitat has been provided to suit the different ecologies of breeding birds at Hope Farm.

Thick scrubby vegetation around the hedges and ditches improve the nesting success of Yellowhammers for example, as seen by Kyrkos (1997). Indeed, Biber (1993) found that Yellowhammers selected habitat based on herbaceous vegetation on farmland. Stoate & Szcur (2001) found that this herbaceous vegetation around field boundaries also had a positive impact on nestling survival, suggesting that the habitat provided at Hope Farm is not just providing more attractive habitat, but also habitat that increases the chances of Yellowhammers successfully fledging young. It is likely that these management changes (Douglas *et al.*, 2009) contributed to the over 142% increase in Yellowhammers between 2000 and 2017.

Wide grass and wildflower enriched margins are found around almost every field boundary at Hope Farm, often next to suitable hedge and scrubby nesting habitat. These margins ensure an abundance of insect food to feed chicks in the summer, and the close proximity between nesting habitat and nestling food is very important for farmland birds like Whitethroats (Stoate and Szcur, 2001), which often only forage within approximately 30m to find food from the nest. Providing this appropriate breeding habitat has helped to increase the number of Whitethroat territories by 24% in the RSPB's ownership of Hope Farm.

In the field, leaving fallowed areas ensures safer nesting for the Skylark and Lapwing. Research undertaken at Hope Farm between 2002 and 2003 found that leaving two 4m x 4m undrilled patches

per hectare could increase breeding success for Skylarks by 50% in winter cereals. These Skylark plots increased the accessibility into the crop to forage and nest later in the breeding season comparable to spring crops that Skylarks had evolved to successfully breed in (Morris *et al.*, 2003). This is the only measure undertaken for Skylarks at Hope Farm that also gives us the best value for money in our stewardship scheme, increasing the number of Skylark territories at Hope Farm by 240% since 2000. Similarly, fallow plots of approximately two hectares in size in the middle of fields help to provide nesting habitat for Lapwing (Hoodless & MacDonald, 2014). Recent research has found that Corn Buntings prefer higher tiller densities in crops as this provides a better support for nests above the ground in crop (Setchfield & Peach, 2016), and small experimental areas have been introduced in recent years to aid Corn Bunting recovery.

Starlings have also benefited from maintaining 4% of our land as short grassland vegetation with sheep grazing with the addition of nest boxes in suitable locations throughout the farm. Starling nests have been monitored for survival since monitoring began at Hope Farm, as a red list farmland species that has declined by over 60% since 1995 (BTO Breeding Survey Data). In 2000 a small number of Starlings nested in the few trees found around Hope Farm, but by 2005, 50 nest boxes were put in place. CBC methods identified an increase in the number of territories from 3 in 2000, to an average of 15 territories a year since 2005.

It is worth noting that while some species have responded very positively to the management and resources provided at Hope Farm we are still well short of recovering all bird populations to the levels found in the late 1960s. Tree Sparrows were an abundant breeding species then but have not yet recolonised despite wintering in small numbers in recent winters. Corn Bunting breeding numbers also remain low despite apparently suitable habitat and abundant food resources. Greenfinches did increase in abundance up to 2010, but have since declined, almost certainly due to the widespread impact of Trichomonosis (Lawson *et al.*, 2012). The Turtle Dove has been lost as a breeding bird on the farm since 2011, resulting from unfavourable pressures on many parts of the species' ecology, occurring partly outside of the UK, and the widescale reduction in abundance and distribution that has been observed across England.

### **Winter Farmland Bird abundance**

One of the primary reasons for the loss of many farmland birds has been the reduction in availability of winter food leading to starvation and decreased survival (Peach *et al.*, 1999; Siriwardena *et al.*, 2008). At Hope Farm, 3.5ha of winter bird seed mixes are sown to produce abundant seed food throughout the winter. By providing both large and small seeds with cereal grains and the smaller *Brassica* plant seeds, species including Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Linnet, Corn Bunting and Tree Sparrow are provided with much more food to increase over-winter survival, strongly increasing chances of survival and population recovery.

Seed resources in the winter seed mix plots are often depleted by January (the Hungry Gap). To ameliorate this lack of seed in late winter we have begun spreading 25kg of mixed seed food near areas where finches and buntings are regularly feeding right through until April when some natural early seeding plants begin providing seed food and insect food starts to become more abundant for those species that change diets in the breeding season (Siriwardena *et al.*, 2008).

More recently since the winter of 2015, over-winter cover crops have been used in the farm between harvest and spring cropping. This agronomical change has correlated with a sharp increase in our winter farmland bird index. It is thought the cover crops provide a micro climate of more plentiful insect food for birds such as Skylark, Lapwing and Starling. All these species have increased in abundance since the introduction of over-winter cover crops. Direct drilling also means that the crop

grows through a stubble rather than bare ground, increasing the abundance of ground dwelling invertebrates for birds to feed on during winter.

## Summary

Over the 18 years of the RSPB's management of Hope Farm, remarkable increases in bird numbers both breeding and wintering on the farm have occurred. Although this has only been on a single farm, the staggering increases in birds can almost certainly be attributed to the careful provision of suitable nesting, wintering and food habitat for farmland birds and thus act as a clear and unambiguous demonstration that it is quite possible to have abundant diverse wildlife on a modern farm whilst maintaining reasonable profits and yields.

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## SAND MARTIN RESEARCH IN 2017

Robert Brown

### INTRODUCTION & METHODS

In 2017 members were asked to survey Sand Martins in Cambridgeshire. Ten known, recently-occupied sites were selected for surveys, of which 9 were visited, and are listed below. All bar Sutton North Fen were visited, and that was not visited as it is currently an active extraction site to which no access was possible. Members were free to suggest other sites for surveying; it is not known whether any such visits were made which resulted in no observations, but one positive site, Stanground, was submitted. The fundamental purpose of the research was to get a better idea of location and breeding success in the county, and to assess what issues from extractive industries, amenity use or development may need to be considered.

### RESULTS

The counts are summarised in the table below. AON = Apparently occupied nest holes

Site	AON	Site	AON
Kingfishers Bridge	16–21	Sutton North Fen	not visited
Dunkirk	50+	Colne Fen	unspecified
Kings Dyke NR	30+	Ferry Meadows CP	35
Peterborough Town Bridge	10–20	St Ives Bridge	1
Thornhaugh Quarry	20	Paxton Pits	80
Stanground	1		

At Kingfishers Bridge, Ferry Meadows CP and Dunkirk, colonies have developed in artificially-provided, purpose-built walls, the latter two having built-in access to the back of the nest chambers to facilitate monitoring and ringing of the birds. At Ferry Meadows CP in Peterborough, the specification is spot on, so the birds colonised it almost immediately. The site is on an island giving it some security. Easy access is provided for maintenance from the back of the “box”. The tunnels can be cleaned at the end of the season eliminating parasites. It helps with the ringing programme and has enabled CCTV to be installed, the pictures relayed to the park’s cafe. The site itself is readily visible from the main footpath/cycleway separated by about 20 metres of water. Numerous people pause and have a perfect view of the colony. It’s a splendid sight in the breeding season to see loose flocks of birds perhaps 70 or 80 strong returning to feed the nestlings.

There are two sites within old bridges. In Peterborough, Town Bridge was built nearly 100 years ago. It is a slab-sided concrete structure served by French drains. These are not a positive piped system leading to a surface water sewer, but are small porous pipes laid in a gravel trench. Those on Town Bridge drain directly from the slab sides on to surrounding land. In time, they partially fill with sand and gravel – an excellent site for Sand Martins. It is not clear when they moved in, but by the 1990s there was a thriving colony. There is considerable pedestrian movement across the bridge and 7 days a week movement in the adjacent office and car park. Numbers varied and in some years the colony was completely abandoned. Maintenance work, growth of vegetation or the build up of parasites could have caused this. The site is currently in a major redevelopment area and at present is abandoned completely by Sand Martins. However, the 2017 survey revealed a “new” site just a 100 metres or so from the original. Again the colony makes use of French drains in a vertical embankment. It is situated just beneath a busy pedestrian area between residential flats and the River Nene. A lively

pub/restaurant is on the opposite bank. There are between 10 and 20 occupied tunnels.

In St Ives, the old bridge over the river used to have several nest holes, again using drains. During the survey there was only one observed active nest hole.

The colony at Kings Dyke NR illustrates the ephemeral nature of nest sites within extractive industry facilities. There are between 30 and 40 nest tunnels constructed by the martins in the mixed overburden above the brick clay. There is considerable industrial activity and some active quarrying. In these circumstances the martins, with their legal protection can become something of a "challenge". Faces left uncovered for even a few hours can be colonised. Likewise, some of the products subsidiary to the brick making process involve stockpiles of sandy material. If left, even for just a few days, these can become colonised. It illustrates the speed with which the birds' opportunism can come into play.

## **THE FUTURE**

Sand Martins are opportunistic. Colonies come and go depending on the available resources at a particular site. There are not large numbers of sites in the county, and away from the artificial sites they are not well monitored, partly due to access not always being possible to active gravel or sand pits. The establishment of artificial sites seems to provide the biggest colonies in the county, and undoubtedly the sites with least risk of hole collapse, removal or redevelopment.

Can and should we try to increase numbers? Provision of nest sites has been successful, and careful placing of further sites in the county could increase the colonies further. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the survey.

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD RINGING REPORT 2017

*Michael Holdsworth*

After last year's record-breaking result (now bafflingly revised by the BTO to 23,872 from the 24,084 when this Report was published in 2016\*), 2017 settled back down to the average of the previous six years. The year's grand total was 19,671, and that recent average is 19,286. It is only since 2005 that the annual total has been regularly above 10,000.

As an altogether average year for numbers, 2017 was notable for the small range of species ringed – just 88. Most recent years have comfortably sailed past 90, with 2011 and 2012 tied as the best years ever at 98. This simple year-on-year comparative total always conceals a degree of complexity: 14 species ringed in 2016 are not on the 2017 list; and nine species were ringed in 2017 but not in 2016. Among these nine was a Cormorant, which I believe is the first ever for the County, and one of just six full-grown birds encountered nationally in 2017. Regular readers of this Report will not be surprised to learn that this individual made the huge mistake of dozing off outside Tony Martin's back door...

Overall, it was what might be described as the 'scarce regulars' which failed to add glamour to ringing sessions; species such as Hobby, House Martin, Moorhen, Water Rail and Yellow Wagtail all failed to show in 2017. No Bewick's Swans or gulls were ringed; and the MP3 brigade failed to raise another Yellow-browed Warbler. Cambridgeshire (perhaps like most places these days) has become pretty much a county of garden and feeder ringers anyway, and this is reflected as ever in the top species ringed.

The table below shows the tallies and rankings of the top twenty species:

	Species	2017	2016*
1	<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>2,546</b>	2,572
2	<b>Goldfinch</b>	<b>1,582</b>	1,403
3	<b>Great Tit</b>	<b>1,389</b>	1,616
4	Reed Bunting	<b>1,180</b>	1,296
5	Blackcap	<b>1,159</b>	1,099
6	Reed Warbler	<b>892</b>	1,830
7	<b>Blackbird</b>	<b>781</b>	939
8	Chiffchaff	<b>731</b>	702
9	<b>Robin</b>	<b>627</b>	807
10	<b>Duncock</b>	<b>622</b>	708
11	Sand Martin	<b>618</b>	467
12	<b>Greenfinch</b>	<b>610</b>	1,047
13	<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	<b>587</b>	579
14	<b>Wren</b>	<b>530</b>	635
15	<b>Starling</b>	<b>475</b>	602
16	<b>House Sparrow</b>	<b>469</b>	326
17	<b>Chaffinch</b>	<b>453</b>	705
18	Redwing	<b>423</b>	<b>348</b>
19	Whitethroat	<b>339</b>	<b>295</b>
20	Sedge Warbler	<b>316</b>	<b>831</b>

\*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, sometimes by a considerable amount. Where this is the case, and where earlier Ringing Reports had a different number, the revised, current, total has been shown here in italics. Long-term statistical comparisons relate to numbers as published in the CBRs at the time.

Most of these top species are, as usual, the garden and/or feeder birds, which are shown above in bold. Twenty-eight percent of all birds ringed in Cambridgeshire in 2017 were Blue Tits, Great Tits or Goldfinches. Goldfinch numbers continue their inexorable rise; it's only a few years since their numbers rarely exceeded 500 a year. It is also a while since this sort of table told us anything substantive about the relative fortunes – the rises and the falls – of individual species populations. It is now all about ringer behaviour: fishing – as they say – where the fish are. This means specifically targeting species which are easy to catch. Some will be garden feeder species, and some will be particularly responsive to sound-luring in late summer, such as Blackcap and Chiffchaff – or in winter, such as Redwing. Even the big reductions or even non-appearances in this top twenty may not mean much either. Ringers maybe gave less attention in 2017 at critical times of year to Reed and Sedge Warblers, Meadow Pipits (best year ever 2014:530), and Pied Wagtails (2014:438).

Further on trends, this Report has in the past regularly published a long-view table of ringing totals since 1968. An update for 2013–17 is due this year. It can be found towards the end of this Report. The big story told in this 'quinquennials' table is, of course, the growth of ringing in the County, from 18,684 in the five years 1968–72 to 100,113 in 2013–17. The infant Wicken Fen Group accounted for 70% of the total in that first period; it's down to 20% nowadays. Deriving any analysis of population trends from these raw totals would, of course, depend on rendering an individual species' total as a proportion of the total of all species caught during the period, rather than on looking at absolute values. This will still work for a species such as Willow Warbler, which isn't particularly targeted or susceptible to sound-lures. 783 Willow Warblers in 1968–72 isn't very different from 833 in 2013–17. But expressed as a percentage, the first period represents 4% of all birds ringed, and the most recent a mere 0.08%; this shows how much the species has declined. The BTO East of England BBS trend shows a similar decline of 80% just over the 23 years 1995–2016. For most species, however, all the biases inherent in changing ringer behaviour mentioned earlier would probably apply. There was very little farmland or roost ringing before the 2000s, and the intensive use of sound-luring (outside the breeding season) has only taken off much more recently.

Nonetheless the table shows some evidence of our only-too-well-documented species declines and losses — Golden Oriole, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Tree Sparrow and Willow Tit. There are, however, possibly more counterbalancing gains and increases — Avocet, Bearded Tit, Buzzard, Cetti's Warbler, Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers, Grey Wagtail, Hobby, Nuthatch and Sparrowhawk. But what we may have gained perhaps in species-richness we have lost in an appalling attrition of absolute numbers (even though this is not reflected in these ringing totals), in particular those humid-zone migrants — Cuckoo, House Martin, Nightingale, Spotted Flycatcher, Turtle Dove and Whinchat; and our beleaguered farmland specialists — Corn Bunting, Skylark and Yellowhammer.

Attention might be drawn to some highlights:

- The landfill gull ringing at Godmanchester and Milton in the mid-1980s, which was briefly revived at Milton in 2013–14, still produces ring-recoveries and sightings. The EU's Landfill Directive has now put paid to all that.
- There has been a welcome increased focus on project-based conservation ringing: Bewick's and Whooper Swans, Corncrake, Black-tailed Godwit and our struggling farmland specialists: Turtle Dove, Yellow Wagtail, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Corn Bunting.
- Cambridgeshire has become a key player in light-level and GPS geolocator tagging, again for conservation research: cutting-edge work on Swifts, Nightingales and Spotted Flycatchers.
- The big-box birds show regular cycles: Barn Owls and Kestrels. There was none of this before 1980. A record 2,787 Barn Owls since 2013 now keeps Cambridgeshire alongside Lincolnshire as the most important counties for this species' conservation and recovery.



- The colonisation and recolonisation of Cetti's Warbler makes for an interesting story. The first Cambridgeshire record was in 1977, with first proven breeding at Wicken Fen in 1980. The very local population at that time, centred on Wicken Fen, failed to pull through the 1984/5 winter and there were subsequently no records before birds reappeared at two different sites (neither was Wicken) in 2004. The rest is history, but there still remain some odd gaps in their distribution. Why are there no Cetti's at Chippenham Fen and so few at Little Wilbraham/Teversham Fens and Kingfishers Bridge?
- Cambridgeshire Redpolls have had changing fortunes. They were once an abundant breeding species but had pretty much been extirpated by 2000. Redpolls are now just a visitor from Northern Britain in winter, when they are widely ringed at garden feeders.

The totals from the last century for this 'quinquennials' table will not be entirely accurate, and will be understated, since they depended at the time on ringers submitting their totals to the CBC annual report. For example, there are no figures included for the extensive WWT duck ringing at Peakirk/Borough Fen Decoy in the 1980s. We nowadays instead have access to the BTO's published database figures. It's possible that even the species list itself, at an impressive 157, may not be complete.

There are singleton ringing records for fourteen somewhat random species. Credit for a disproportionate number of these is shared between the Wicken Fen Group and Tony Martin. They are Cormorant (TM), Egyptian Goose (TM), Golden Plover, Great Grey Shrike, Great Reed Warbler (WFG), Iceland Gull, Little Bunting (TM), Red-backed Shrike (WFG), Red-rumped Swallow, Short-eared Owl (WFG), Spotted Crake (WFG), Tree Pipit (WFG), Turnstone and Wood Sandpiper. One wonders what will be next; we still manage a new species most years.

Nest recording and pullus recording in the County continued at its normal low level. It comprises three main components: the big-box work for Barn Owls and Kestrels from Peter Wilkinson and his network; tits in boxes — some structured studies (such as Madingley Wood and Monks Wood), some less so; and special projects. 2017 came in at a low 2,295 pulli ringed (12% of the total), well below average, because the first two of these categories fared badly (at least it does not seem to have had anything to do with effort). Both Barn Owls and Kestrels had a middling to poor year, due to weather or food or both. Barn Owls (all ages) managed 395 (2016:776; 2015:156) and Kestrels (all ages) 108 (146; 79). Nestbox tit numbers were also low, but for presumably different reasons. Blue Tits dropped to 525 (798; 760) and Great Tits to 229 (608; 835). The two Sand Martin projects, at Dunkirk and at Ferry Meadows improved to 519 (316; 104). The recent focus on Chiffchaffs at Wicken Fen helped that total to 35; otherwise there was very little open-nest pulli ringing anywhere. Five Avocets were the first since 2014. 27 RSPB Corn Buntings were most of the national total (38).

Seventy-three pulli Spotted Flycatchers were a by-product of the geolocator project, as were 17 new adults (since 2017 was a season focussed on tag retrieval, rather than on marking new birds). Nineteen breeding adults of both sexes had been tagged in 2016, together with a control cohort, also nineteen, without tags but colour-ringed, to assess any differential survival effect from the tag harnesses. During the 2017 retrieval season nine of the nineteen tagged birds were re-found, and seven were recaptured. The other two came back to their precise ringing location, one even as a tag/control pair, but then vanished and couldn't be relocated. Eight of the nineteen birds in the control cohort returned. These are astonishing survival rates for a small long-distant migrant passerine. A comparator project in Devon, also 2016–17, run by the RSPB, had tagged 21 birds, of which eight returned, with five of their geolocators retrieved. Ten of these combined project birds had wintered in Angola, and one each in Cameroon and the DRC. A full report on this project and on Cambridgeshire Spotted Flycatchers in general is in preparation. Nineteen more flycatchers were tagged in 2018.

Richard Broughton and Marta Maziarz continued their work at Monks Wood and Holland/Wennington Woods on Marsh and Coal Tits. These projects are now additionally being run as BTO RASs and continue to generate a steady stream of research papers. Their 2017 totals in the three woods were 43 new Marsh Tits and 31 Coal tits. The Marsh Tit study was in its 15th year in 2017, the Coal Tit in its third year. Two colour-ringed Marsh Tits ringed as adults in September 2010 and February 2011, in Wennington and Holland Woods respectively, were still alive throughout 2017, making them both at least eight years old (and one was still alive in March 2018 too, making it almost nine+). There was some evidence of rare local immigration and emigration of Coal tits from Monks Wood: one bird was an immigrant from Woodwalton Fen (5 km in), and another was ringed in Monks Wood and then relocated in Wennington Wood (5 km out). The Blue and Great Tit pulli ringing by Shelley Hinsley has now ended after about 20 years.

The national ringing total in 2017 for Britain and Ireland once again crept just over the one million to 1,020,356 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 2017	Britain and Ireland	County ranking and percentage of national total	Top county and total
Teal	16	719	Fifth – 2%	North Yorks (276)
Black-tailed Godwit	31	152	Third – 20%	Suffolk (59)
Green Woodpecker	15	309	Fifth – 5%	Kent (72)
Sand Martin	618	13,128	Fifth – 5%	Leics (2,450)
Cetti's Warbler	97	1,720	Fifth – 6%	Suffolk (279)
Spotted Flycatcher	90	875	First – 10%	
Pied Wagtail	174	2,973	Second – 6%	NE Scotland (186)
Corn Bunting	29	51	First – 57%	

For two of our project species, Spotted Flycatcher and Corn Bunting, we ringed the greatest number of individuals of any area of the country. We feature for Sand Martin and for Cetti's Warbler for the first time. The table also shows how low the national totals are for some species. Our continuing success with Green Woodpeckers is intriguing, as is the fact that for most species the top-scoring county remains the same each year.

Ringing sessions for the Wicken Fen Group took place at several different sites on 138 different days in 2017, somewhat fewer than in recent years. The year's ringing total was 3,644 new birds of 48 different species. In addition to the new birds, 697 retraps (birds already bearing rings) had been originally ringed at the Fen, and a further 15 were controls ringed elsewhere. Despite the reduced overall effort, several species had totals of over 100, with the highest scores being Blackcap 378, Reed Bunting 371, Blue Tit 359, Chiffchaff 334, Reed Warbler 311, Redwing 261, Great Tit 205, Wren 155, Robin 109 and Meadow Pipit 105. The Redwing and Cetti's Warbler (77) totals are all-time Wicken records. The more unusual species remained much the same as in recent years — Kingfisher 7, Jay 6, Sparrowhawk 5, Green Woodpecker 3, Spotted Flycatcher 2, and one Cuckoo. This is the lowest range of species since 2006 (also 48). Unsurprisingly no new species was added to the Group's overall list, which thus remains at 106.

Apart from Wicken I have received individual 2017 totals for a few additional Cambridgeshire ringing sites (with new bird ringing totals >200) Dunkirk 768, RAF Wyton 675, Chippenham Fen 550, Bainton 528, Ely Beet Pits 520, Great Stukeley 444, Holt Island 441, Kingfishers Bridge 346 and Lordship Farm 317.

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 Gruar) and Wicken Fen (now three sites: 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 2017**

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.

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2017	Retrapped	Recovered
Mute Swan	3	12	27		42	251	52
Shelduck			2		2	2	1
Gadwall			2		2		
Teal		3	13		16		5
Mallard		2	12		14		6
<i>Pochard</i>							1
Tufted Duck			2		2		1
Cormorant			1		1		
Sparrowhawk	2	10	7		19		
Avocet	5				5		3
Corncrake			4		4	5	
Lapwing	3				3		
Bar-tailed Godwit	26		5		31	1	
Ruff			1		1		
Dunlin			1		1		
Redshank	1				1		1
Snipe		2	4		6		
Common Tern	1				1		
<i>Black-headed Gull</i>						1	5
<i>Lesser B-b Gull</i>						25	
<i>Herring Gull</i>							2
<i>Yellow-legged Gull</i>							1
Stock Dove	22		5		27		
Woodpigeon	4	1	11		16	1	
Collared Dove		4	9	1	14	1	
Cuckoo			2		2	1	
Barn Owl	369	1	25		395	19	47
Little Owl	2	1	2		5		
Tawny Owl	10				10		1
Swift	21		7		28	4	
Kingfisher		15	6		21	3	
Green Woodpecker		10	5		15	5	
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	22	23	4	49	22		1
Kestrel	107		1		108	1	3
Peregrine	2				2		1
Magpie		8	1		9		
Jay		2	7		9	3	
Jackdaw	15	1	5		21	2	2
Rook		1			1		
Goldcrest		202	43	33	278	68	1
Firecrest			1		1		
Blue Tit	525	1,537	483	1	2,546	1,237	14
Great Tit	229	784	371	5	1,389	975	5
Coal Tit	9	98	19	7	133	94	
Marsh Tit		55	10	3	68	91	153
Bearded Tit		22	11	7	40	43	3
Skylark	10				10		
Sand Martin	519	16	83		618	114	3
Swallow	98	39	4		141		3

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2017	Retrapped	Recovered
Cetti's Warbler		57	18	22	97	87	2
Long-tailed Tit		75	201	311	587	404	1
Willow Warbler		97	62	17	176	30	1
Chiffchaff	35	475	162	59	731	121	176
Blackcap		906	236	17	1,159	110	3
Garden Warbler		42	35	2	79	19	1
Lesser Whitethroat		51	27		78	2	1
Whitethroat	4	281	54		339	27	1
Grasshopper Warbler	1	6	9		16	1	
Sedge Warbler	3	214	99		316	105	12
Reed Warbler	23	621	248		892	214	10
Nuthatch		4	4	11	19	24	1
Treecreeper	1	44	25	9	79	55	
Wren	5	361	159	5	530	234	
Starling	70	182	207	16	475	78	2
Blackbird	16	283	479	3	781	392	13
Fieldfare		8	11		19	4	
Song Thrush	4	88	44	3	139	43	
Redwing		316	103	4	423		1
Mistle Thrush			3		3		
Spotted Flycatcher	73		17		90	23	2
Robin	15	398	212	2	627	344	4
Nightingale		1	5		6	1	
Redstart		2	1		3		
Stonechat		3	2		5		
Duncock	1	334	282	5	622	421	5
House Sparrow	1	244	142	82	469	137	1
Tree Sparrow			3	9	12		
Grey Wagtail		1	1		2		
Pied Wagtail		71	103		174	6	
Meadow Pipit		179	12	2	193	1	
Water Pipit				2	2		
Brambling		11	3		14		
Chaffinch	4	216	231	2	453	70	1
Bullfinch	2	90	98		190	101	
Greenfinch		325	280	5	610	35	5
Linnet	16	25	33		74	2	1
Lesser Redpoll		98	40	1	139	9	1
Common Redpoll			1		1		
Goldfinch	7	782	787	6	1,582	130	10
Siskin		2	5		7		1
Yellowhammer		71	71	1	143		2
Reed Bunting	4	657	461	58	1,180	110	6
Corn Bunting	27			2	29		
	2,295	10,469	6,190	717	19,671	6,279	602

**Ringing totals, five-year periods 1968 to 2017**

	68-72	73-77	78-82	83-87	88-92	93-97	98-02	03-07	08-12	13-17	from 1968
Mute Swan			2	3		21	13	50	152	319	560
Bewick's Swan						14	9	11	31	25	90
Whooper Swan							3	1	4	3	11
Greylag Goose										2	2
Canada Goose		14		3					1		18
Egyptian Goose										1	1
Shelduck								16	5	3	24
Wigeon							97	638	23	1	759
Gadwall							8	185	8	3	204
Teal				2	6			16	249	241	514
Mallard		5	29	2	3	2		101	396	312	850
Pintail								29	5		34
Garganey							1	1			2
Shoveler								5	10	2	17
Tufted Duck					1				1	2	4
Goldeneye								2			2
RL Partridge		6	3	1	1		1				12
Grey Partridge								3		1	4
Cormorant										1	1
Shag					2	1					3
Grey Heron				5					9		14
Little Grebe				1	1	1			2		5
Red Kite									27		27
Marsh Harrier					8	1		1	14	3	27
Montagu's Harrier						4					4
Sparrowhawk				2	83	48	21	58	83	78	373
Buzzard							1		5	1	7
Water Rail		1	2		1		3	2	8	7	35
Spotted Crake				1							1
Corncrake								2	27	57	86
Moorhen		3	9	4	12	237	3	43	56	7	374
Coot					1	1		45	2		49
Oystercatcher							4		5		9
Stone-curlew			1	1	10	2			1		15
Avocet								3	59	25	87
Golden Plover					1						1
Lapwing		1	37	34	33	5	1	515	273	198	1209
Little Ringed Plover			2	5	33	10	1	1	10	9	73
Ringed Plover			1	6	20	7		5	3		42
Black-tailed Godwit					9			152	71	142	374
Turnstone						1					1
Ruff				4	9					2	16
Dunlin				1	12	2				1	17
Little Stint					2						2
Common Sandpiper				10	37	9			2	1	59
Green Sandpiper			1	4	11					4	26
Greenshank			2	1	3						6
Wood Sandpiper					1						1
Redshank			13	20	10	1		6	6	24	89
Jack Snipe		1			1			2	1		5
Woodcock		3	3	5	8	2	1	1	10	11	44

	68-72	73-77	78-82	83-87	88-92	93-97	98-02	03-07	08-12	13-17	from 1968
Snipe	30	63	213	505	8	2	1	10	12	46	890
Common Tern					24	30	13		18	48	133
Black-headed Gull		3	1	1755	6344	38		7	7	602	8757
Mediterranean Gull										2	2
Common Gull				67	184						251
Lesser BB Gull				1	64					236	301
Herring Gull				3	140					46	189
Yellow-legged Gull										3	3
Iceland Gull										1	1
Great BB Gull					8					5	13
Stock Dove			9	11	12	5	20	126	235	232	650
Wood Pigeon	10	22	17	62	14	29	15	34	88	62	353
Collared Dove	5	3		9	23	37	42	103	58	50	330
Turtle Dove	13	30	12	9	8	8	3	8	8	15	114
Cuckoo	12	17	6	34	9	20	3	8	26	18	153
Barn Owl				8	15	83	364	1615	2239	2787	7111
Little Owl		1	4	13	7		6	17	33	43	124
Tawny Owl	5	7	9	14	10	12	25	40	63	80	265
Long-eared Owl	2	5			3			3			13
Short-eared Owl			1								1
Swift	2	40	3	343	236	90	151	92	188	126	1271
Kingfisher	68	90	42	17	42	32	22	59	95	126	593
Wryneck		1							2		3
Green Woodpecker		2	3		7	14	17	41	89	93	266
GS Woodpecker	4	4	6	15	26	40	54	115	175	205	644
LS Woodpecker	4	6	18	14	3	1	1	1			48
Kestrel		4	20	44	131	155	152	287	556	653	2002
Hobby					7	3		1	6	7	24
Peregrine									3	5	8
Golden Oriole					11	12	3				26
Red-backed Shrike	1										1
Great Grey Shrike		1									1
Magpie		1	1	1	6	13	2	13	25	33	95
Jay	8	23	22	28	27	52	25	40	79	58	362
Jackdaw			3	2	26	18	6	21	146	346	568
Rook		5	3	11	2	1		3	13	2	40
Carriion Crow			10	3	3	2	1		10	5	34
Goldcrest	76	146	153	171	291	230	169	311	626	1114	3287
Firecrest				1	4		1	2	5	5	18
Blue Tit	1064	1595	2853	2767	3923	6042	6446	7216	10068	12186	54160
Great Tit	338	514	1214	1385	2003	4673	5092	7734	7845	8024	38822
Coal Tit	27	27	27	53	61	176	178	181	312	594	1636
Willow Tit	152	94	55	65	45	54	9	2			476
Marsh Tit	4	3	11	1	45	96	240	586	593	349	1928
Bearded Tit	1	32	8	49	16	4		10	121	376	617
Skylark	7	5	3	17	12	5	145	227	72	119	612
Sand Martin	1	43	44	182	287	672	572	102	601	1963	4467
Swallow	1191	1809	843	1489	503	319	265	1504	1987	2065	11975
House Martin	2	335	238	440	35	4		128	109	169	1460
RR Swallow									1		1
Cetti's Warbler		1	17	13		1		38	166	281	517
Long-tailed Tit	378	506	325	397	910	1369	937	1176	1993	2278	10269
YB Warbler										2	2
Wood Warbler			1			1	1				3

	68-72	73-77	78-82	83-87	88-92	93-97	98-02	03-07	08-12	13-17	from 1968
Chiffchaff	261	141	156	154	501	533	431	1005	2423	2876	<b>8481</b>
Willow Warbler	783	593	590	687	1475	1450	609	643	1036	833	<b>8699</b>
Blackcap	483	558	585	679	1274	1312	1157	2319	5270	5779	<b>19416</b>
Garden Warbler	69	84	67	134	357	451	281	386	664	503	<b>2996</b>
Barred Warbler			1							1	<b>2</b>
Lesser Whitethroat	128	203	124	137	318	305	117	239	336	340	<b>2247</b>
Whitethroat	132	83	90	80	467	762	261	680	1516	1494	<b>5565</b>
Grasshopper Warbler	65	44	34	12	31	47	11	36	78	119	<b>477</b>
Sedge Warbler	1304	1191	887	703	1239	1587	677	793	2495	3123	<b>13999</b>
Marsh Warbler		1		1	1					1	<b>4</b>
Reed Warbler	1686	2565	2392	2059	2045	2798	2001	2862	6214	6978	<b>31600</b>
Great Reed Warbler	1										<b>1</b>
Nuthatch				1	1		9	12	42	79	<b>144</b>
Treecreeper	77	109	134	118	150	173	89	152	263	315	<b>1580</b>
Wren	691	906	750	903	1700	1522	922	1324	1723	2474	<b>12915</b>
Starling	102	542	1226	2863	1255	716	584	586	1048	2670	<b>11592</b>
Blackbird	1202	1417	2091	3101	3384	2121	1076	1860	3388	3678	<b>23318</b>
Fieldfare	11	73	320	548	294	9	4	76	374	168	<b>1877</b>
Song Thrush	1058	1205	951	1189	765	450	193	424	651	727	<b>7613</b>
Redwing	95	262	321	241	157	90	65	373	607	993	<b>3204</b>
Mistle Thrush	2	4	16	29	19	8	12	10	15	14	<b>129</b>
Spotted Flycatcher	112	156	147	214	160	43	21	67	26	255	<b>1201</b>
Robin	575	806	1024	885	1593	1627	986	1521	2567	3160	<b>14744</b>
Nightingale	8	3	13	19	18	8	25	53	108	58	<b>313</b>
Black Redstart					2				1		<b>3</b>
Redstart	6	7	1	3	4	9		1	9	17	<b>57</b>
Whinchat	1	4	1			5	1	2		5	<b>19</b>
Stonechat						1		6	2	13	<b>22</b>
Wheatear			1					1	2		<b>4</b>
Pied Flycatcher		5		2		2					<b>9</b>
Dunnock	1077	1432	1361	1241	1662	1343	742	1269	2125	2587	<b>14839</b>
House Sparrow	11	28	159	143	238	340	596	746	717	1415	<b>4393</b>
Tree Sparrow	826	544	446	1922	279	27		66	131	37	<b>4278</b>
Yellow Wagtail	3	3	4	16	6	8	53	307	55	192	<b>647</b>
Grey Wagtail								10	40	38	<b>88</b>
Pied Wagtail	7	72	41	186	83	17	28	140	302	1374	<b>2250</b>
Tree Pipit	1										<b>1</b>
Meadow Pipit	8	16	3	6	4	25	40	82	464	1679	<b>2327</b>
Water Pipit										13	<b>13</b>
Brambling	24	9	17	1	16	11	1	26	46	22	<b>173</b>
Chaffinch	243	339	436	469	1195	1198	638	1692	2629	2636	<b>11475</b>
Bullfinch	1117	1258	892	805	823	636	462	799	1161	1003	<b>8956</b>
Greenfinch	518	845	1856	2743	4925	4214	1759	5817	2787	3682	<b>29146</b>
Linnet	307	337	404	350	382	216	28	124	458	1105	<b>3711</b>
Lesser Redpoll	642	914	454	261	75	19		75	472	653	<b>3565</b>
Common Redpoll								2	28	13	<b>43</b>
Goldfinch	323	492	187	188	305	204	238	1637	3021	4819	<b>11414</b>
Siskin	37	31	6	1	44	87	32	7	80	271	<b>596</b>
Yellowhammer	308	219	242	291	243	253	377	649	889	541	<b>4012</b>
Little Bunting										1	<b>1</b>
Reed Bunting	947	1957	649	332	440	600	433	1078	2573	4464	<b>13473</b>
Corn Bunting	8	41	23		1	5	9	2	271	63	<b>423</b>
	<b>18684</b>	<b>25054</b>	<b>25406</b>	<b>33960</b>	<b>43835</b>	<b>39672</b>	<b>30786</b>	<b>53412</b>	<b>79213</b>	<b>100113</b>	<b>450135</b>



## Ring-recoveries

The full geographical coordinates of the locations listed below can be found in the BTO *Online Ringing and Nest Recording Report*.

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### Pochard

GF59266	First-year Male	05-02-1996	Borough Fen Decoy
	Dead	25-11-2017	Burgas, <b>Bulgaria</b> 2,354km ESE 21y 9m 20d

There have been several hundred Pochard recoveries north and east to Russia but this elderly male is the third-ever GB&I bird south to Bulgaria. The other two were from Peakirk in the 1980s.

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### Avocet

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 8km S 12y 7m 24d

Avocets aren't very good at rearing young, but, once adult, survival is high. The GB&I longevity record is nearly 25 years.

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### Black-headed Gull

NLA	First-year	05-01-2004	Zuiderhogeweg, Drachten <b>The Netherlands</b>
3612546	Ring read	06-03-2017	Parker's Piece, Cambridge 415km WSW 13y 2m 1d

### Mediterranean Gull

SVS	Nestling	08-06-2016	Norroren, <b>Sweden</b>
6171554	Colour rings	09-11-2017	Ferry Meadows Country Park 1,051km WSW 1y 5m 1d

Gulls provide excellent subjects for enthusiastic ring readers. This elderly Black-headed Gull was a good find in central Cambridge; and the Mediterranean Gull is the first-ever GB&I exchange with Sweden.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**

GG77617	Nestling	17-07-2005	Orfordness, Suffolk
	Colour rings	21-05-2008	Blackborough End, Norfolk 101km NW 2y 10m 4d
	Colour rings	03-05-2009	Orfordness, Suffolk 3y 9m 16d
	Colour rings	31-07-2009	Calais, France 129km S 4y 14d
	Colour rings	24-12-2009	Cambridge Research Park 98km WNW 4y 5m 7d
	Colour rings	01-04-2010	Calais, France 129km S 4y 8m 15d
	Colour rings	01-01-2011	Cambridge Research Park 98km WNW 5y 5m 15d
	Colour rings	03-04-2011	Calais, France 129km S 5y 8m 17d
	Colour rings	28-04-2011	Blaringham, France 168km SSE 5y 9m 11d
	Colour rings	10-10-2011	Cottenham Long Drove 99km WNW 6y 2m 23d
	Colour rings	05-04-2012	Blaringham, France 168km SSE 6y 8m 19d
	Colour rings	07-04-2012	Umicore, Calais, France 126km S 6y 8m 21d
	Colour rings	13-04-2013	Quai de la Loire, Calais, France 128km S 7y 8m 27d
	Colour rings	02-06-2014	Quai de la Loire, Calais, France 128km S 8y 10m 16d
	Colour rings	04-04-2015	Quai de la Loire, Calais, France 128km S 9y 8m 18d
	Colour rings	19-01-2016	Cambridge Research Park 98km WNW 10y 6m 2d
	Colour rings	10-04-2016	Quai de la Loire, Calais, France 128km S 10y 8m 24d
	Colour rings	19-07-2016	Calais, France 128km S 11y 2d
	Colour rings	20-01-2017	Cambridge Research Park 98km WNW 11y 6m 3d

This is only a selection of the 22 sight-records which track the life-story so far of LBBG GG77617 over its first twelve years. After the usual few years of wandering as an immature, it isn't clear if s/he bred in Suffolk in 2008 or 2009, or was merely checking things out. After that, a clear pattern emerges of a somewhat salt-water-shy bird alternating between summers in urban Calais and winters focussed on the Milton tip. Blaringham too is a landfill site for Calais; the Umicore factory is a brownfield gull colony in that city; and Quai de la Loire is the ferry port. On the other hand, there might have been clandestine side-trips to North Africa with no-one there to record them.

**Great Tit**

S080129	First-year Female	16-03-2016	Old Weston
	Caught by ringer	31-12-2016	Near Kettlestone, Norfolk 104km ENE 9m 15d

Only ten Cambridgeshire Great Tits have ever moved more than 100km.

**Bearded Tit**

Z992660	Full-grown Male	18-09-2016	Ely Beet Pits
	Caught by ringer	17-03-2017	Wicken Fen 12km SSW 5m 27d
	Caught by ringer	30-04-2017	Ely Beet Pits 7m 12d
	Caught by ringer	21-05-2017	Ely Beet Pits 8m 3d

An interesting excursion, and not by a dispersing juvenile. How did it know to find Wicken? Could it have been there before, or hatched there? Anyway, it didn't like what it found...

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**Sand Martin**

Z887927	Adult	27-06-2016	Dunkirk, Little Downham
	Caught by ringer	10-08-2016	Tour aux Moutons, <b>France</b> 594km SSW 1m 14d
	Caught by ringer	09-05-2017	Dunkirk, Little Downham 10m 12d
FRP	First-year	26-07-2014	Saint-Seurin-d'Uzet, <b>France</b>
7283424	Caught by ringer	27-05-2016	Ferry Meadows Country Park 783km N 1y 10m 1d
	Caught by ringer	23-05-2017	Ferry Meadows Country Park 783km N 2y 9m 27d

A couple of examples of Cambridgeshire birds intercepted *en route* south. Tour aux Moutons is better known as an *Acrocephalus* warbler hotspot.

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**Chiffchaff**

HYY506	Juvenile	15-07-2017	Wicken Fen
	Caught by ringer	27-10-2017	El Coronil, <b>Spain</b> 1,762km SSW 3m 12d

There have been eight Cambridgeshire exchanges (out of a GB&I total of 167) to and from Spain, which is about as far as most Chiffchaffs will normally go. There are, however, a handful of national ring-recoveries as far south as The Gambia and Senegal.

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**Dunnoch**

NOS	First-year	02-10-2016	Skjoldastraumen, Tysvaer, <b>Norway</b>
EE40605	Hit glass	17-01-2017	St Ives 864km SSW 3m 15d

Winter conditions force Dunnocks to be facultative migrants in Northern Europe. Most which reach the UK are from Norway (39 in both directions to date in the national database) but this — from just south of Bergen — is the first overseas ring-recovery of the species for Cambridgeshire.

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**Chaffinch**

S080095	Adult Male	11-03-2016	Old Weston
	Predated	28-12-2016	West Felton, Shropshire 181km WNW 9m 17d

This hard-to-interpret ring-recovery was the only long-distance movement for Chaffinch in 2017.

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**Lesser Redpoll**

Y741881	First-year Male	27-07-2014	Ty Rhyg, Rosebush, Pembrokeshire
	Caught by ringer	23-04-2016	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd 95km N 1y 8m 27
	Caught by ringer	19-12-2017	Oakington 336km E 3y 4m 22d

Popular with garden ringers and thus a reliable source of ringer-to-ringer controls, our winter Redpolls in Cambridgeshire hail from the North and West of Britain.

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**Goldfinch**

S08086	First-year Male Caught by ringer	31-10-2016 24-03-2017	Old Weston Wirwignes, <b>France</b> 241km SE 4m 21d
S520214	Adult Male Caught by ringer	11-11-2016 18-01-2017	Meldreth Wirwignes, <b>France</b> 198km SE 2m 7d
BLB 14557078	First-year Female Caught by ringer	08-02-2017 13-10-2017	Bois-de-Lessines, <b>Belgium</b> Wicken Fen 309km NW 8m 5d

58,000 Goldfinches were ringed in GB&I in 2017, taking the species into third place behind Blue and Great Tits, and ahead of Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs. This generates a lot of ring-recoveries, mainly at feeders. There remain, however, many unanswered questions about Goldfinch migration. The main direction of movement for GB&I-ringed birds is south-westerly into France and Spain, with only a single recovery ever from Germany. A disproportionate number of ring-recoveries in southern France and Spain have historically resulted from a bias introduced by hunting and trapping. It is possible that most birds just move far enough into northern France to find suitable winter feeding conditions but that relatively fewer of the birds doing this are encountered as ring-recoveries. And, of course, a significant proportion of (or most?) Goldfinches do not move at all, but stay in Britain. Are there age or sex differences in migration strategy? Do birds of more northern origin leapfrog past birds breeding in the south? To what extent are British Goldfinches joined by continental birds? Is each individual hard-wired to a particular (obligate) strategy or do some birds stay in Britain one winter and holiday in Spain the next? Whatever the answers to these questions, the operation — whatever it is (a keen garden ringer?) — in the village of Wirwignes, just inland from Boulogne, seems to produce more than its fair share of GB&I ring-controls, and not just from Cambridgeshire. Are those passage birds, or birds settled locally for the winter?

**Reed Bunting**

S071310	Full-grown Female Caught by ringer	24-03-2016 23-09-2017	Kingfishers Bridge Lund, Steigen, <b>Norway</b> 1,893km NNE 1y 5m 30d
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Compare the Dunnock above. There are 39 ring-recovery exchanges with Norway on the GB&I database. It's likely that birds crossing the North Sea are the exceptions to the general rule that Fenno-Scandian birds mainly move due south through Denmark and the Low Countries to escape the winter freeze. This bird is the first-ever overseas Reed Bunting ring-recovery for Cambridgeshire after some 13,000 ringed in the county. It is probably also the furthest north of the national 39 — from way above the Arctic Circle, on the coast just south of Narvik.

## HIGHEST EVER COUNTS UP TO AND INCLUDING 2017

Dates show month and year. Changes for 2017 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
Mute Swan	890	12/200	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
Bean Goose	118	1/2005	Ouse Washes	
Pink-footed Goose	5000	2-3/1958	Fens	Mainly around Nene Washes
White-fronted Goose	450	3/1986	Castor Hanglands	Two migrating parties (one of which was later seen at the Nene Washes)
Greylag Goose	2305	9/2014	Barleycraft GP	
Canada Goose	1378	11/2008	Ouse Washes	
Barnacle Goose	104	2/2007	Paxton Pits	Mainly from Bedfordshire (all naturalised birds)
Brent Goose	200	1/1987	Nene Washes	
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
Wigeon	38398	2/2006	Ouse Washes	
Gadwall	1694	2/2006	Ouse Washes	
Teal	9012	2/2010	Nene Washes	
Mallard	5300	1/1969	Grafham Water	
Pintail	5000	3/1969	Nene Washes	
Garganey	127	8/2012	Ouse Washes	
Blue-winged Teal	2	1/1969	Grafham Water	
Shoveler	2131	3/2005	Ouse 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
Long-tailed Duck	4	12/79-1/80	Grafham Water	
Common Scoter	73	11/1994	Fen Drayton Lakes	
Velvet Scoter	5	1/1964	St Ives GP	
	5	1&5/1985	Grafham Water	Note: 5 in both January and May

Goldeneye	348	3/1999	Paxton Pits	
Smew	35+	2-3/1956	Ouse Washes	Harsh winter of 1955/56
	34	2/2011	Needingworth GP	
Red-br. Merganser	60	2/1956	Ouse Washes	Harsh winter of 1955/56; count of 130 for the whole site
Goosander	156	1/1997	Grafham Water	
Ruddy Duck	121	1/2002	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	Graham Water	
Fulmar	3	3/2001	Grafham Water	
Leach's Petrel	3	12/2006	Grafham Water	
Gannet	9	9/2010	Cambridge	
Cormorant	880	1/1994	Paxton Pits	Roost count; revised peak count
Shag	41	1/1993	Paxton Pits	
Bittern	8	12/2010	Site withheld	
Cattle Egret	5	5/1992	Ouse Washes	
Little Egret	299+	6/2014	Nene Washes	
Great White Egret	5	9/2014	Nene Washes	
Grey Heron	140	8/2012	Ouse Washes	
White Stork	2	4/2004	St Neots	Flew north
Glossy Ibis	7	9/2009	Ouse Washes	
Spoonbill	7	9/2014	Ouse Washes	
Little Grebe	91	09/2009	Colne Fen GP	
Great Crested Grebe	950	2/1985	Grafham Water	Harsh winter of 1984/85
Red-necked Grebe	11	2/1979	Ferry Meadows CP	Harsh winter of 1978/79
Slavonian Grebe	5	10/1973	Grafham Water	
	5	4/2004	Grafham Water	
Black-necked Grebe	10	3/1998	Grafham Water	
Honey-buzzard	3	9/1998	Cottenham	
	3	10/1998	Godmanchester GP	
Red Kite	110	12/2015	Belsize Wood	Roost count
Marsh Harrier	25	8/1995	Nene Washes	Roost count
Hen Harrier	17	11-12/1979	Ouse Washes	Roost count
Goshawk	2	2/1986	Fen Drayton Lakes	Harsh winter of 1985/86
Buzzard	30	9/2011	Nene Washes	
Rough-l. Buzzard	3	10/1966	Wennington Wood	One from 10/1966 to 4/1967
Osprey	4	8/2005	Stibbington GP	Family party from Rutland
Water Rail	27	10/2007	Kingfishers Bridge	
Spotted Crake	13	6/1998	Nene Washes	
Corncrake	22	5-6/2014	Nene Washes	Singing males holding territory
Moorhen	540	12/2007	Ouse Washes	
Coot	4867	1/2013	Ouse Washes	
Crane	34	12/2016	Nene Washes	Roost count
Stone-curlew	120	1950s	South Cambs	
<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4/2017</b>	<b>Nene Washes</b>	
Avocet	72	4/2010	Dunkirk	
Oystercatcher	66	7/2013	Four Gotes	Roosting on bank of tidal Nene
Am. Golden Plover	2	10/2001	Swaffham Prior Fen	
Golden Plover	13000	2/2005	Nene Washes	
Grey Plover	20	9/1990	Nene Washes	

Lapwing	35520	12/1997	Ouse Washes	
	7500/h	12/1961	Milton (Cams)	Harsh winter of 1961/62
Little Ringed Plover	50	8/1975	Grafham Water	
Ringed Plover	140	3/2009	Nene Washes	
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	
Black-tailed Godwit	5000	2/2008	Fen Drayton Lakes	
	5000	2–3/2008	Nene Washes	
Bar-tailed Godwit	289	4/2007	Wicken Fen	Parties of 130, 95, 60 and 4 north-east
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	Maxey GP	
Dunlin	790	2/2000	Ouse Washes	
Purple Sandpiper	2	8/1982	North Bank	
Little Stint	106	9/1996	Grafham Water	
Buff-b. Sandpiper	2	9/1975	Grafham Water	
Pectoral Sandpiper	4	9/2012	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	
Spotted Redshank	35	9/1968	Ouse Washes	
Greenshank	35	8/2012	Ouse Washes	
Wood Sandpiper	77	9/1968	Ouse Washes	
Redshank	402	3/2005	Ouse Washes	
Jack Snipe	26	12/2002	Fletton BP	
Woodcock	50	12/1981	Gamlingay	
Snipe	1629	11/2001	Ouse Washes	
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 Cams
<b>Great Skua</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9/2017</b>	<b>Foul Anchor</b>	<b>In six parties</b>
Puffin	2	11/1953	Over	
	2	10/1969	Over	
Razorbill	2	2/1983	Dog-in-a-Doublet	
Little Auk	2	11/1870	Ramsey	
Guillemot	5	2–3/1983	Dog-in-a-Doublet	
Little Tern	10	8/1983	Grafham Water	
Black Tern	440	9/1992	Grafham Water	
White-w. Black Tern	2–3	8–9/1968	Ouse Washes	
Sandwich Tern	43	9/1989	St Ives GP	Autumn total in 1989 was an estimated 175 at 5 sites
Common Tern	283	8/2005	Grafham Water	
Arctic Tern	460	5/2014	Grafham Water	2 flocks in heavy rain and strong NE wind
Sabine's Gull	7–8	10/1987	Grafham Water	Displaced from Biscay by hurricane

Kittiwake	200	4/1969	Milton/Waterbeach	Single flock south
	876	2/1999	Ouse Washes	One-day count (all south-west)
Black-headed Gull	100000	2/1975	Ouse Washes	Roost count
	150000	9/1979	Ouse Washes	Estimate: mostly Black-headed Gulls
	20000	1/1962	Farcet	Westerly passage to the coast during the harsh winter of 1961/62
Little Gull	113	4/1987	Ouse Washes	
Mediterranean Gull	6	8/2006	Grafham Water	
Common Gull	19000	2/1972	Grafham Water	Roost count
L. Black-backed Gull	5424	9/2012	Grafham Water	Roost count
Herring Gull	7000	1/2004	Ouse Washes	Roost count
Yellow-legged Gull	130	9/2012	Grafham Water	Roost count
Caspian Gull	10	12/2015	Cottenham (Long Drove)	
Iceland Gull	3	1/2008	Grafham Water	Roost count
Glaucous Gull	4	2/1942	Earith	All adults; spell of cold weather
G. Black-backed Gull	1050	1/2004	Grafham Water	Roost count
Pallas's Sandpouse	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
Collared Dove	485	10/1997	Cambridge	
Turtle Dove	450	9/1956	Balsham	
Cuckoo	50	6/1974	Woodwalton Fen	Feeding on Drinker Moth caterpillars
Long-eared Owl	10–13	11/2002	Site withheld	Roost in the west of the county
	10	1/1976	Coveney	Roost count during invasion year
Short-eared Owl	65	11/2004	Nene Washes	Unprecedented numbers of voles
Swift	5000	5/1976	Grafham Water	
Wryneck	2	4/1968	Cambridge	
	2	9/1970	Whittlesey	
Green Woodpecker	15	8/2011	Buckden GP	
Great Sp. Woodpecker	10	10/2007	Croydon Hill	
Kestrel	50	11/2002	Nene Washes	Unprecedented vole eruption
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	6–10/2014	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
Magpie	225	11/2004	Elm	
Jay	200	10/1983	Fletton BP	Big influx of Continental birds
Jackdaw	6000	?/1982	Milton Park	Roost count
Rook	15000	1930s	Madingley	Roost count
Carion Crow	400	1/2004	Ferry Meadows CP	
Hooded Crow	15–20	3/1926	Berry Fen	
Raven	6	9/2017	<b>Warboys</b>	
Goldcrest	200–300	10/1980	Woodwalton Fen	



Penduline Tit	2+	10/1990	Ely BF	
	2	12/2012	Ouse Fen	
Blue Tit	150	9/2002	Paxton Pits	Feeding on blackberries
Great Tit	180	9/2002	Paxton Pits	Feeding on blackberries
Coal Tit	40+	10/2007	Upton Wood	
Marsh Tit	100+	8/2007	Monks Wood	
Bearded Tit	45	3/1973	Ely BF	Migrants from Norfolk/Suffolk
Woodlark	2	8/2001	Chippenham Fen	
	2	10/2002	Trumpington	
Skylark	2000	2/1986	Paxton Pits	Harsh winter of 1985/86
	750	1/1962	Milton (Cambs)	South per hour (peak count)
	18000	1/1962	Milton (Cambs)	South per day; harsh winter 1961/62
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	
	<b>3000</b>	<b>9/2017</b>	<b>Grafham Water</b>	
Red-rumped Swallow	2	4/2014	Cam Washes (Upware)	
Cetti's Warbler	23	4/2014	Wicken Fen (Baker's Fen)	
Long-tailed Tit	67	1/2015	Holme Fen	
Chiffchaff	45	8/2011	Buckden GP	
Savi's Warbler	3	7/1979	Ouse Washes	
Marsh Warbler	10	7/1956	Hauxton	
Waxwing	190	1/2013	Ferry Meadows CP	
Treecreeper	25+	10/2007	Upton Wood	
Wren	70	2/1947	Wicken Fen	Roost in chicken coop in very severe winter of 1946/47
Starling	millions	1977–78	Buckworth	Roost dispersed by Ministry officials
	3100	11/1986	Hilton	Westerly passage per hour
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 from 19th to 20th
Redwing	5000	10/1974	Borough Fen Decoy	Roost count
	18000	10/1991	Grafham Water	Westerly passage from 19th to 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	
Alpine Accentor	2	11/1822	Cambridge	Frequented King's College (female shot, the other taken by a cat)

House Sparrow	4000	10/1972	Milton (Cams)	
Tree Sparrow	4000	1/1977	Nene Washes	
Yellow Wagtail	500	9/1975	St Ives GP	Roost count
Grey Wagtail	13	12/2001	Cambridge SW	
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
<b>Rock Pipit</b>	5	10/1976	Grafham Water	
	5	10/2013	Grafham Water	
	<b>5</b>	<b>10/2017</b>	<b>Grafham Water</b>	
Water Pipit	46	4/2016	The Gullet	Roost count
Brambling	thousands	3/1972	Kirtling	'Several thousands' flying to roost
Chaffinch	380	3/2002	Holme Fen	
	1339	10/2008	Coploe Hill	Migrants west per 4 h
<b>Hawfinch</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10/2017</b>	<b>Ferry Meadows CP</b>	<b>Over during a vismig session</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>11/2017</b>	<b>Wimpole Park</b>	<b>Settled flock all month</b>
Bullfinch	60	1/2013	Castor Hanglands	
Greenfinch	870	1/1984	Nene Washes	
Linnet	5000	12/1971	Lime Kiln Hill	
Twite	300	1-4/1976	Ouse Washes	Regular wintering flocks
Lesser Redpoll	1500	1975	Holme Fen	
Mealy Redpoll	60+	1-4/1996	Woodwalton Fen	
	60	1/2011	Bainton	
Arctic Redpoll	3	1-4/1996	Woodwalton Fen	
Crossbill	52	1/1998	Southey Wood	
Goldfinch	900	10/1978	Ouse Washes	
Siskin	450	2/2011	Ferry Meadows CP	
Snow Bunting	70	1959-60	Northey GP	Wintering flocks peaked in 1970s
Lapland Bunting	10+	2/1978	Nene Washes	
Corn Bunting	800	12/1986	Fowlmere	
Cirl Bunting	6	10/1943	Grantchester	
Yellowhammer	460	1/1984	Brinkley	
	723	2/2016	Knapwell	Whole farm count
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.

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Peter Bircham	PMMB
Michael E. Bird	MEBi
Birdguides	Birdguides
Sean Blackmore	SBlA
Steve Blain	SBl
James Blake	JB
M. G. Blamire	MBGI
John Bleby	JSB
P. Bolton	PBol
Chris Boness	CBon
Chris Bowden	CBow
Richard Bradbury	RBB
Dave Bradley	DBra
Neil Bramwell	NBra
Mark Brandon	MBrAn
Cathy Brant	CMB
Richard Brasher	RiBr
James Bray	JaBr
Ken Bray	KBr
D. Briggs	DBri
Donald Broom	DMB
Richard Broughton	RKB
Chris Brown	CGB
Phil Brown	PhBr
Matt Bruce	MJB
Philip Bubb	PJBu
Sam Buckton	SBuc
Rebecca Buisson	RMB
Roger Buisson	RSKB
Alan Bull	AJB
Michael Burdekin	MB
Ian Burfield	IBu
Ellie Burke	EBur
Malcolm Busby	MBu
Howard Butler	HB
Warren Butterworth	WDB

#### C

James Cadbury	CJC
Lucy Cadbury	LGC
Michael Cadney	MCad
C. Cairns	CCai
Neil Calbrade	NAC
David Calcutt	DCal
D. K. Campbell	DKCa

Richard Caney	RC
Michael Cant	MCA
Joshua Carter	JoCa
Richard Cavey	RCav
David Chambers	DCh
David Chandler	DC
Peter Charles	PCha
Kieran Claiden-Yardley	KC-Y
F. C. Clark	FCC
Philip Clarke	PhCl
Saimon Clarke	SCLa
Peter Clement	PC
F. A. Clements	FAC
Adrian Coe	ACoe
Jonathan Coe	JCC
Josh Coe	JCoe
Richard Coles	RCol
David Collins	DRC
Peter Cook	PCo
Ade Cooper	ALC
Ali Cooper	AJC
James Cooper	JaCo
Steve Cooper	SLC
Terry Cooper	TCO
Rick Cousins	RiCo
Gillian Cox	GCo
Robin Cox	RAFC
Pauline Cozens	PEC
Vic Cozens	VC
Paul Craske	PCra
Michael Creighton	MGC
S. Creighton	SCre
Roger Cresswell	RCr
Nick Croft	NCr
Mike Crosby	MJC
Neil Crossman	NJC
Robert Crozier	RCro
CRT monitoring team	CRT
Godfrey Curtis	GC

#### D

Richard Dale	RDal
Nick Dando	NDan
David Darrell-Lambert	DD-L
Carlos Davies	CaDa
G. Davies	GDa
Ken Davies	KJD
A. P. Davis	APDa

Martin Davis	MD	Dave Gandy	DGa	Mark Hawkes	MLH
Ian Dawson	IKD	Steve Gann	SG	I. M. Hayward	IMH
John Day	JDay	Andrew Gardener	AGA	M. Hazleton	MHazz
John De Jager	JDJ	Don Gardener	DTG	David Heath	DMH
Gavin Deane	GaDe	Garnett William	WGar	Fred Heath	MFH
Anthony Deans	ADea	Neal Gates	NGa	Jonathan Heath	JHe
Dave Deboo	DJD	Nick Geisler	NGei	Colin Helliwell	CHel
Tim Dee	TDe	Alastair Giddings	AGi	Peter Herkenrath	PHe
William Devine	WDev	Pete Gilhead	PGil	Jean Hewitt	JHew
Ian Dickerson	IJD	Aidan Gill	APG	James Heywood	JaHe
Sheila Dickerson	SHD	Ed Gill	EGi	J. P. Hickerton	JPHi
Nina Dimitrova	NDim	Simon Gillings	SGi	Mark Hill	MHi
John Dingemans	JMD	N. Godden	NGod	Duncan Hilliard	DuHi
Joy Dingley	JDi	Andrew Golding	AGol	Dale Hing	DaHi
Brendan Doe	BGD	Ian Gordon	IGo	Graham Hiron	GHir
Andy Dove	ADov	Su Gough	SuG	James Hitchcock	JHit
Iain Downie	ISD	Sian Grant	SAG	Lisa Hives	LHiv
Peter Dryburgh	PDry	David Green	DEG	Pauline Hogg	PaHo
Krittika D'Silva	KrD	Tom Green	TGre	Jem Holding	JDH
Kevin Du Rose	KD	Mark Gregory	MRG	Michael Holdsworth	MYH
Steve Dudley	SPD	Richard Gregory	RGre	Malcolm Holley	MH
Euan Dunn	ED	Sean Gregory	SDG	David Hollin	DHol
Steve Dutton	SDut	Ben Greig	BGr	Mark Holling	MHol
<b>E</b>		R. Grice	RGr	Andy Holmes	AnHo
M. Easterbrook	MEas	Bel Griffiths	BGr	Peter Holt	PJH
Mark Eaton	ME	David Griffiths	DGr	Ken Hook	KAH
David Elliott	DE	Richard Grimmett	RGr	M. S. Hooper	MSHoo
Dave Ellis	DMEl	Derek Guar	DG	P. J. Hopkin	PJHo
Ian Ellis	IDE	Peter Guar	PeGr	David Hopkins	DHop
Lee Evans	LGRE	Beth Guy	BGu	John Hoppett	JHop
Mark Evans	MEv	Lyn Guy	LGu	Roger Horton	RHor
Mike Everett	MJE	<b>H</b>		Carl Howard	CHow
<b>F</b>		Chris Hainsworth	CHai	Neil Howard	NPH
Andre Farrar	ARFa	John Hall	JH	Sarah Howlett	SKH
Gary Fenwick	GJF	Roger Halsey	RHal	Tom Howson	THow
Rose Ferraby	RFer	S. A. Halsey	SAHa	Bob Humphrey	REH
Tom Finch	TFin	Kevin Hand	KHan	M. S. Hunt	MSHu
David Fisher	DFi	James Hanlon	JAH	Frances Hurst	FMH
Matt Fitzgerald	MFit	Andy Hannaford	ACH	James Hutchinson	JHu
J. Flack	JFla	John Harding	JCH	<b>J</b>	
Vin Fleming	VF	Gordon Harland	GHar	Mark Jackson	MJac
Mike Foley	MFPF	Vicki Harley	VH	Richard Jackson	RJac
Tristan Folland	TDF	Dean Harlow	DH	Frank James	FJ
Martin Fowle	MFo	Ron Harold	RHa	Steph James	SJam
Richard Fowling	RJF	Geoff Harries	GeHa	L. Jaques	LJaQ
Ben Fraser	BFr	Paul Harrington	PEH	Bob Jarman	BJ
Nick French	NFr	Kevin Harris	KSH	Sue Jarrett	SJa
Andy Frost	ARF	Nigel Harris	NGH	Andrew Jennings	AJen
Tim Fryer	TFr	P. Harrison	PHar	Richard Johnson	RJ
Dr Tony Fulford	TF	Andy Harrold	AHarr	B. Jones	BJon
<b>G</b>		Rob Hart	RHar	Ceri Jones	CMJ
Paul Gallagher	PDG	Stephen Hartley	SHa	Chris Jones	CJ
Barrie Galpin	BGa	M. S. Harvey	MHar	Christopher Jones	CJon
		Wendy Hatton	WAH	David Jones	DaJo

Dennis Jones	DeJo	<b>M</b>		<b>O</b>	
Ifor Jones	IfJ	Duncan Mackay	DMac	Darren Oakley-Martin	DO-M
Jo Jones	JoJo	Alan MacNeill	AMcN	Martin O'Leary	MJO
Josh Jones	JJ	Andrew Maddocks	AMa	Roger Orbell	RO
Richard Jones	RJJ	I. Manfield	IMan	Daniel Osborne	DJO
T. D. Jones	TDJ	Guy Manners	GRM	John O'Sullivan	JO'S
Carol Josephson	CJos	Bob Mansfield	RCM		
<b>K</b>		Many Observers	m.o.	<b>P</b>	
Sarah Kelman	SKe	Monica Marks	MRM	James Page	JPag
Colin Kirtland	CAEK	Owen Marks	ORM	John Paice	JP
Charlie Kitchin	CK	Simon Marsh	SDMa	Debbie Pain	DP
James Knightbridge	JKn	Bruce Martin	BSM	Dave Palmer	DAP
Ann Knowles	AKn	J. P. Martin	JPM	Richard Palmer	RAP
Mike Knowles	MKn	R. Martin	RMa	Gill Parish	GPar
Marcus Kohler	MK	Tony Martin	ARM	Chris Park	CP
		Vivian Mash	VMa	Philip Parker	PPa
<b>L</b>		Paul Mason	PMa	Neal Parkin	NP
Roger Lane	RoLa	R. Mason	RMas	Kathryn Parsons	KPar
J. Lanfear	JLan	Tim Mason	TMas	Rob Partridge	RGP
Langdyke Trust	LT	V. A. Matthews	VAM	Paul Pateman	PaPa
Nick Langley	NLan	Malcolm Maudsen	MaMa	Gavin Paterson	GP
Derek Langslow	DRL	Steve May	SM	Richard Patient	RMP
Neil Larnar	NLa	Stephen Mcavoy	SMca	Stephen Patmore	SPat
Nick Laughton	NLau	Donald McCarthy	DoMc	Breeding Paxton	PBBS
Stella Laughton	SLau	M. McCarthy	MMcC	Pam Peacock	PP
Lewis Lawes	LLa	Rob McEwen	RMc	Mark Peck	MSP
Brian Lawrence	BL	David McKee	DMcK	Martin Peers	MFP
Jim Lawrence	JFL	N. T. McKenna	NTM	Chris Percival	CPer
John Le Gassick	JLG	Duncan McNiven	DM	Toni Piccolo	APi
Vincent Lea	VJL	David Mead	DMe	Brian Piercey	BPi
Diana Leach	DLea	John Meed	JMe	M. Pittaway	MPit
Martin Leader	ML	Matthew Mellor	MRMe	Rob Pople	RGPo
Christina Leadlay	CML	Giles Merritt	GMe	David Powell	DGP
R. Leavett	RLea	Andy Merryweather	AM	Duncan Poyser	DPo
David Lee	DCLe	Sara Miller	SaMi	Thomas Pringle	TPr
Peter Leonard	PGL	Brian Milne	BSMi	<b>Q</b>	
David Leverington	DLev	Jeremy Milne	JSM	Tim Quantrill	TMJQ
G. H. Lewis	GHL	J. Mole	JMo	<b>R</b>	
Hugh Lewis	HLew	Chris Monk	CM	Doug Radford	DJR
John Lewis	JLew	Roger Morris	RMor	Hugo Rainey	HRai
Steve Lewis	SL	Steve Mumford	SMu	Rare Bird Alert	RBA
Jeremy Lindsell	JLins	Sarah Munro	SMun	Norman Ratcliffe	NRa
Rita Lingard	RML	D. P. Murray	DPM	John Raven	JRav
Nigel Lister	NL	Alexey Murzin	AIMu	Gary Rawlings	GAR
Steve Lister	SLi	Andy Musgrove	AMu	Neil Rawlings	NDR
James Littlewood	JLit	<b>N</b>		Tim Rea	TSR
Keith Livesey	KLiv	Jane New	JNew	Petru Rednic	PRed
Steve & Liz Lonsdale	SLL	Dick Newell	RGN	Mike Redshaw	MJR
Alex Lord	ALor	Robert Nibbs	RJBN	Graeme Reed	GR
Peter Loudon	PLo	Steven Nichols	SNic	Gareth Rees	DGR
Steve Lowe	StLo	Ian Norman	INor	Chris Rider	CRi
Tony Lowe	TL	Barbara North	BNo	Gareth Riley	GRil
				Jeff Riley	JRil

Duncan Ritchie	DR	Josie Sutton	JSut	Nigel Westwood	NJW
Tony Roberts	AJR	Steven Swain	StSw	Julian Wheel	JuWh
B. D. Robertson	BDR	Andy Symes	ASy	Alyson Wheeler	AIWh
J. J. Robertson	JJR	<b>T</b>		Mark Whiffin	MWh
James Robinson	JRob	Jonathan Taylor	JPT	Gwyn Williams	GWi
Irene Robson	IRob	Kevin Taylor	KTa	Mark Williams	MarW
John Roote	JRoo	L. J. Taylor	LJT	Sharon Williamson	ShWi
Kathleen Rosewarne	KR	Mike Taylor	MTa	Kevin Wilson	Kwil
Viola Ross-Smith	VRS	Paul Taylor	PT	Matthew Wilson	MaWi
Tony Rowe	ToRo	Stefan Taylor	STa	John Winterbottom	JWin
Kevin Royles	KPR	L. Thaxter	LTh	David Withrington	DWit
RSPB	RSPB	Iain Thomas	IT	Mike Wood	MWo
Nigel Russell	NR	Mike Thomas	MTh	Pete Wood	PeWo
<b>S</b>		Richard Thomas	RT	Karen Woods	KWo
David Saunders	DS	Gary Thornton	GTho	P. J. Woods	PJW
Trevor Sawyer	TSaw	Martin Tickler	MTi	James Woolfenden	JWoo
Alex Scott	AJPS	Keith Tinworth	KT	Hugh Wright	HWr
Ann Scott	EAS	Bob Titman	RCET	WWT	WWT
Liz Scott	LSC	Mike Toms	MPT	Bartow Wylie	BWy
Ian Seamark	IS	Phil Townsend	PTo	<b>Y</b>	
Clive Searle	CSe	Clive Tregaskes	CTr	Barbara York	BY
Dave Seilly	DJS	Sue Twigger	STwi	Julian Young	JY
Rosemary Setchfield	RSe	Mick Twinn	MTw	<b>Z</b>	
Martin Shadbolt	MSh	<b>U</b>		Christoph Zöckler	CZ
Martin Shelagh	MShe	Calum Urquhart	CaU		
R. Sheldon	RShe	<b>V</b>			
Stewart Short	SSho	Hugh Venables	HJV		
Nick Sibbett	NSib	Ken Venus	KVe		
Norman Sils	NSi	David Viles	DVi		
Bill Simmonds	WS	<b>W</b>			
R P Simmonds	RPS	Luke Wake	LWa		
A. C. Sims	ACS	Sean Walls	SSW		
Clive Sinclair	CS	George Walthew	GFW		
Howard Slatter	HAS	Mark Ward	MAW		
Nicholas Small	NSma	P. E. Ward	PEW		
Bob Smith	BoSm	Robin Ward	RWar		
R. H. Smith	RHSm	Tony Warne	TWar		
Simon Smith	SSmi	Tim Watling	TW		
Graham Smy	GWS	Rhona Watson	RhW		
Lesley Sortwell	LJS	Iain Webb	IW		
T. Speller	TSpe	Mat Webb	MW		
N. Spicer	NWS	WeBS counters	WeBS		
Claire Spottiswoode	CSp	Mike Weedon	MWe		
Rob Spragg	RSp	David Wege	DCW		
Tony Stachnicki	IAS	Martin Weir	MaWe		
A. J. Steele	AJSt	Sue Welch	SWel		
Graham Stevens	GLS	Jamie Wells	JW		
Jim Stevenson	JS	John Wells	JNW		
G. Stewart	GStw	Joshua Wells	JosW		
Nathan Stimppy	NaSt	Peter Wells	PWe		
Simon Stirrup	SAS	R. P. West	RPW		
Brian Stone	BHS	Anthony Weston	AWes		
Alex Stratton	AStr				

Organisations submitting records:  
 Birdguides, CRT monitoring team  
 (CRT), RAF Ornithological Society  
 (RAFOS), Rare Bird Alert (RBA)  
 RSPB Reserves (RSPB), Wildfowl  
 and Wetlands Trust (WWT).