

Lincolnshire Bird Club committee minutes, March 16 (7.30pm) via Zoom

Attendees: Phil Espin, Joy Croot, John Badley, Andrew Chick, Phil Hyde, Mike Harrison, John Watt, Bill Sterling, Colin Casey, Jim Wright

Chairman welcomed members for the event which was held via Zoom

Apologies for absence

Nick Tribe

Minutes of the January 12 meeting, as posted on the website, were approved

Matters Arising

Access arrangements for Cut End hide. Committee approved a proposal by JB that a combination lock (the number to be changed quarterly) would be preferable to having keys cut. CC agreed to liaise with locksmith.

Steve Keightley - proposal to honour his memory

Discussion have been held with Sally Keightley. The Cut End hide is to be re-named "Steve Keightley Cut End Hide" after Steve, and other ideas are under consideration - for instance, the creation of a ringing area with constant effort ringing sessions (open to public observation) at RSPB Frampton, a summer barbecue at Frampton and child-friendly projects. JB was happy to make RSPB facilities available for this. A collection has raised £580, and CC stated he would bring this up to £1,000. PE asked if an osprey nesting platform at RSPB Frampton might be an option, but JB, reserve warden, doubted if the circumstances were appropriate for this species. JWa said it was important that Sally K should be kept informed on initiatives.

Peregrine monitoring schemes at two county churches

a) Grantham

AC reported that the pair expected to take up residence "seemed to have disappeared". He commented: "They have been conspicuous by their absence."

b) Louth

AC said the pair had been really active and egg-laying was expected imminently.

Committee heard that peregrine viewers had, to date, donated £30 by Paypal.

PE said he was promoting the project through Facebook and suggested other committee members might do likewise. JW to liaise with AC and PE re local publicity when the first eggs are laid.

Feedback from LBC-BTO conference

PE described this as an "excellent event" which had been enjoyed by attendees, including several from out-of-county. He thanked JB, one of the speakers. Following the success, there might be a joint LBC-RSPB venture at a later date, perhaps November 21, possibly with a keynote presentation on the RSPB's aspirations for Lincolnshire - notably its two "priority landscapes", The Wash and the Humber. JC suggested that North East Lincolnshire Council's ecology officer, Rachel Graham, might be invited to talk on wetland bird mitigation sites on the Humber. JB noted that it might be helpful for the club to appoint an Events Secretary. It was agreed that a complimentary copy of *Birds of Lincolnshire* should be to Chris Gunn in gratitude for her work on organising the recent conference and others over the last ten years.

2019 Lincolnshire Bird Report

Committee noted that the printers, Swallowtail Print, will be posting copies to paid-up members early in the week commencing 22 March. The price for non-members will be £15. The print-run is 600 copies, of which 100 will be held by WildSounds for sale on 50 per cent commission. Storage will be at Swallowtail on the same pallet as *Birds of Lincolnshire* at a total rate of £15 per month for the next six months.

ISBN numbers

PE confirmed that six or seven numbers, purchased at 20 years ago had been re-registered, for use on future titles to be published by the club. He saw no point in adding these retrospectively to past publications, even if this were feasible.

Update on arrangements /agenda items for 2021 AGM

PE noted that 31 attendees had indicated intent to "attend" the event which will be held via Zoom. There is no guest speaker, and, after the formal business, he will invite a Q&A. CC agreed to be event joint administrator in charge of "mute" control procedures etc. JC reminded committee of the value of Zoom's "chat" facility for attendees wanting to ask questions or make comments. Following observations by JB about "electronics quality" issues, PE said he would seek to rectify these in advance of the meeting.

Special committee meeting (January 28)

The minutes, as posted on website, were approved.

Matters arising from Special meeting:

Committee approved revised printing /publishing arrangements for *Birds of Lincolnshire* as authorised by the chairman. These are as follows:

- a) Print run of 700 copies at a total cost of £7, 543 by Swallowtail Print.
- b) Recommended retail price for non-members: £40 plus postage.
- c) Discount pre-publication price until March 9 for Existing Members: £23 (inc postage) per copy.
- d) Discount price after March 9 (for both existing members and new ones who join after that date): £33 (inc postage) per copy.
- e) The four authors to buy as many copies as they wish for £12.61 each, representing a further discount, this in regard to their efforts in producing the publication.
- f) Storage of copies to be managed by Swallowtail at a rent of £15 per month for a period of six months.
- g) Retail sales to be handled by WildSounds Ltd who will buy from LBC at £22 each and retail at £39.99 (inc postage) each.
- h) Members noted that the title had been publicised online by Rare Bird Alert (with a link to WildSounds) and by Mark Avery with a review

published both on his blog and on RBA. PH said there had also been numerous tweets on Twitter. JC suggested that publicity should also be extended to Birdwatching and Birdwatch magazines. JWr agreed to send press releases to local media outlets. JB said RSPB Frampton would be willing to host an authors' book signing, post-lockdown, at RSPB Frampton if required.

Special membership offer for those under 21 or in full time education

Following brief discussion, led by PE, of the principle and practicalities of such a scheme, this item was put on hold pending further consideration by members at a later meeting.

Officer reports

a) Chairman

PE provided written report including updates on

- i) Sales of Birds of Lincolnshire
- ii) Direct debit membership arrangements with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- iii) Database management liaison with CC
- iv) Key arrangements/ stewardship - Cut End Hide
- v) AGM attendees

b) Secretary

JWr reported on an initiative by North East Lincolnshire Council and Blackrow Engineering to install a two-metre tall steel globe sculpture on Cleethorpes Prom. A stated aim is to highlight "the fascinating array of wading birds that visit Cleethorpes and show the vital role the resort plays in the international phenomenon of bird migration". Sponsorship is being sought. Committee agreed to contribute £100.

c) Treasurer

JWa provided a written report, plus verbal commentary. He said the club was in "a strong financial position", largely thanks to income generated via a data sales arrangement with the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. The 2018 annual report cost £609 more to produce than the 2017 edition. IT costs had increased as a result of an arrangement with a commercial organiser to maintain the website.

d) Membership secretary

MH identified recurring issues with establishing up-to-date information on memberships processed via the club's longstanding direct debit subscription arrangement with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Following comments from PE, CC, JWa, and AC, it was noted that further work was required to clarify data on membership - those who pay by direct debit, those who use Paypal and those who pay by cash/cheque.

e) Sales secretary

BS reported on a busy start to the year with 70 publications sold to date, thereby spreading the word about the club and lightening the load in his loft where unsold bird reports and other titles are stored. He supplied a written report. Copies of the 2018 annual report are now sold out.

f) County recorder

PH provided a progress report on preparations for the 2020 report. Clarification was still awaited on whether the Grimsby Black-throated Thrush had been accepted. CC would require all 2020 records to be with him by the end of April. Committee agreed with PH's proposal for a special mid-April edition of *The Heron* newsletter to be published to publicise the RSPB's initiative to establish the current UK breeding status of the Turtle Dove.

g) Webmaster/ *The Heron* newsletter editor

i) AC reported recent increased use of the website Forum. He noted that a temporary glitch affecting members' postings had been remedied. However, it may need to be taken down for a day or two shortly to allow for an upgrade to the template. In response to a query by JC, neither he nor website designer CC were able to explain the reason for the term "karma" which is incorporated into the software. Replying to a question from JWr, AC said member classifications such as "elite", "platinum" and "senior" were based on frequency of postings.

ii) AC expressed thanks for contributions to recent editions of *The Heron*. However, he was light on content for April and would welcome articles.

Any other business

AC provided an update on the Motus Wildlife Tracking System that uses radio telemetry to monitor the movements of birds and bats. Following committee agreement that LBC would contribute to funding, if required, AC said he would have talks with Dr Lucy Mitchell, of Hull University, who is driving initiatives in the UK, and Kev Wilson about establishing a

recording aerial at Gibraltar Point. Other potential sites include RSPB Frampton, Chapel Point, Saltfleetby and Water's Edge or Far Ings in Barton-on-Humber. CC said he was willing to offer personal sponsorship.

b) MH noted that a member, John Littlewood, had reported not having received a copy of the *Lincolnshire Bird Atlas*. PE confirmed that a copy could be made available once membership had been verified and a delivery address supplied.

c) JB suggested that the format of *Birds of Lincolnshire* might provide a blueprint for sister volumes - for instance, on Frampton/Freiston, Gib Point and elsewhere. He said he had "made a start" on a Frampton title. CC said Richard Doan was working on something similar for Gib.

d) JB asked that feedback in respect of inadvertent omissions from *Birds of Lincolnshire* - should be collated in the event of a second version being published in 5-10 years. He noted that records for Dipper (Frampton) and Sabine's Gull (Freiston) had not been included. He also queried the identity of the observer for a Gull-billed Tern at the mouth of the River Witham in 1975 (the 1975 report indicates it was RCB and FB). CC noted that "10 or 15 errors" - for instance, two missing Little Buntings - had been reported to him. There had also been a confusion over photographer identities. It was agreed that data relating to overlooked records should be emailed to PH in his capacity as county recorder.

e) JB said a new 50-cover cafe was in prospect for RSPB Frampton subject to planning consent from Boston Borough Council. This will consist largely of glass and will offer panoramic views over the reedbed. It would provide employment for a catering manager and assistants. It was hoped the Frampton venture could be open by Easter next year. Other Frampton projects in the pipeline include upgrading a footpath, an art project, installing old navigation buoys and providing fun facilities for children.

Date/ time/ place of next meeting

This will be at 7.30pm on July 13, 2021, at a venue to be arranged. Special meetings for funding issues would be held as the need arises.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 10.11pm.