



Lincolnshire Bird Club eNewsletter



The Heron - Lincs Bird Club eNewsletter 2020 - April 2020

Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - April 2020

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Firstly, we hope you are all keeping safe and staying healthy during this COVID-19 lockdown.

We are now restricted in what we can do and have been told to reduce contact and stay at home, going out only if really necessary. We will monitor the "progress" of COVID-19 and keep you up to date with the bird club's activities, and the eventual resumption of normality at some point, through the eNewsletter and website. Please check the LBC website sites for updates. Anything could change as the epidemic evolves. Meantime stay safe and keep your local bird reports coming.

Latest Bird News and the WhatsApp Group

In keeping with the ever-changing government regulations concerning social distancing and unnecessary travel regarding the coronavirus pandemic, we are taking the opportunity to communicate the Lincs Bird Clubs position on bird news dissemination. Our members range from those with a passing interest in birds and birding to the keenest of birders. It is absolutely clear that, on the basis of government advice, travelling to see a specific bird constitutes unnecessary travel as it may facilitate the spread of this extremely contagious virus – and is likely to violate government guidelines with regard to social distancing and gatherings. It goes without saying that government guidelines should be strictly adhered to given the present state of affairs, with everyone's health and wellbeing in mind. The government advice is clear: do not travel unnecessarily and stay at home.

However, for the time being we still intend to maintain a **Latest Bird News** page (updated each evening) and the **WhatsApp Group** - sharing bird news even if it's about rare garden birds. It is good for people's sanity to keep in touch with the outside world and hopefully it will help some get through what will be a very frustrating time. However, this is a fast-evolving situation which we continue to closely monitor, and we will provide further updates as needed.

COVID-19 guidance from RSPB, LWT and BTO

The RSPB have closed all their reserves and visitor centres though the reserves remain accessible where there are public rights of way. LWT have followed the same path. Arguably you should only visit reserves that are in

walking distance of your home to take your daily exercise. Some police forces have taken a hard line on this and do not consider driving to take exercise is essential. Lincolnshire Police do not appear to have come to a view as yet. Either way prudence is the watchword!

This impacts the RSPB/LBC 2020 Willow Tit survey. Unless you can walk to your square for your daily exercise you should not be doing the survey, which finishes in any event on 15 April.

BTO have advised that none of their surveys can be viewed as essential travel, and have said that no one should travel to do any BTO survey. They will review their advice on 14 April but the way things are developing it seems unlikely it will change. That means the April WeBS survey due on 11th April is out for most surveyors and the first BBS visit which is usually done before May 15th may also be in danger. The lowland wetland wader survey has also been cancelled.

Please birdwatch mindfully....

For birdwatchers/birders, one way to get through this period is to spend time enjoying birds—just remember to keep health and safety your top priorities.

Please follow the recommendations of the government at all times, even if it means staying at home and focusing on the birds and wildlife in your garden instead.

If you do go out locally, please take precautions to ensure the wellbeing of you and those around you. There isn't specific guidance to birdwatching/birding, so here are some suggestions to ensure your activities align with current health recommendations:

- Keep your optics to yourself. Don't share your scope, binoculars, or camera with others; disinfect the eye caps of your optics after use.
- Maintain distance. If you are near others (whether they are birders or not), maintain at least 2 metres of space between yourself and other people at all times.
- Avoid touching communal surfaces. This includes railings, gate catches, doorknobs, handles, and other frequently used areas. If you touch these surfaces, wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer immediately.
- Respect restrictions and closures. Please stay local....

Birding and interacting with nature provide us with hope. Information on bird sightings is not inherently dangerous, so we will maintain the Latest News Page and the WhatsApp Group for the time being. Please make responsible decisions, and enact healthy behaviors.

IMPORTANT NEWS - LBC database changes

Over the past 3 years we have been sorting through the records in the LBC database. The first task was putting all the records we had in multiple databases into one master database. We then rationalised the 13000+ site names we had in our records to just 890; we had 226 different formats in use for Gibraltar Point for example. This had arisen because Bird Track, principally, allows individuals to define and name their own sites (making a selection from a drop-down menu would have been preferable). Nothing has been lost during this process as the observer-specific site name is now kept in the record notes - thus one 'master' site name in the LBC database will have a large number of 'subsites' within it, all records from which will still be referred to the 'master' site name in the data sorting process.

LBC taxonomic usage

The LBC committee unanimously agreed to follow the BOU and BBRC in adopting the IOC taxonomic order and species nomenclature from 2016 onwards. This involved the conversion of 2.5 million records which were then validated to check for mistakes, a process which took 70 hours and has made the results much more useful.

LBRC and BBRC record checking

Next, we added all records for BBRC species to the master database adding a BBRC reference to each one. LBRC records are receiving the same treatment so that we can ultimately give assess and summarise them at the touch of a button. Previously, much scanning of the paper reports has had to be done and some minor errors have occurred in the past. In addition, we have also updated the GLNP with our latest data which was last done in 2015. The whole process has been a huge undertaking but well worth it in the end.

Changes to world taxonomies and recent developments

A few of the changes are significant and need explaining. Since the first classification of Birds was developed by Francis Willughby and John Ray published *Ornithologiae Libri Tres* 1676 (in Latin) taxonomy has been something of a mystery to the common man. Handbook of the Birds of the World (HBW), Howard and Moore, Clements and the IOC have been the main taxonomies for a while now, but a consensus has not yet been reached (although they are rumoured to BE working towards one). Recently HBW has been taken over by the eBird group based at Cornell University and they have launched a new publication *Birds of the World* that combines *Birds of North America* and *Neotropical Birds* (originally published by the Cornell Lab) with *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive* and *Bird Families of the World* (originally published by Lynx Edicions).

In the UK the taxonomic approaches taken by the BOU, BTO, British Natural History Museum and RSPB all differ slightly and they update at different and often infrequent times. Add to this the fact that DNA analyses now split species which the human eye cannot tell apart in the field and the statement "Taxonomy is a nightmare" sums it up for us mere mortals.

LBC approach

So, what are the LBC doing? Well we base our records on the very latest version of IOC taxonomy using their recommended Latin names but varying in our use of the British common names such as Diver (not Loon) and Skua (not Jaeger) – changes to these seem unlikely to be agreed!

So, we use the binomial IOC Latin names, and for a minority of species which have recognisable races, the trinomial Latin name, e.g. Brent Goose is recorded as Brent Goose (Dark-bellied), Brent Goose (Pale-bellied) and Black Brant.

The bulk of our data is imported from Bird Track and eBird; we also have a team of volunteers adding records to a standard LBC Excel spreadsheet which is also periodically imported. Variations in the species/sub-species available to the observer when entering a record cause us some headaches at times though.

Pied and White Wagtail records are one of the most frequently encountered errors, due to a mixture of identification problems (flyovers, plus autumn juvenile plumages) and input errors. We would like observers to ensure that they select one of these options *only*:

Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>
Pied/White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>

The third choice above should be used for flyovers and difficult-to-identify autumn (mainly) birds. Please use the first two choices only when identification is certain. This sounds completely obvious, but it's not what we are seeing in our database!

Eurasian and Green-winged Teal records in eBird. In this application the user is given an either/or choice in the species checklists as these two species are not split in the Clements taxonomy. So..after entering a count please go back to select the 'Change species' button and Eurasian Teal can be individually selected.

Colin Casey and Phil Hyde.

The joys and rewards of local patch birding!

My patch is Swanpool/Boultham mere which covers the fields from in front of my house and over to the LWT reserve at the mere, about 1 mile from my house. Also in the patch is Swanpool wood, mainly deciduous, the old Skew bridge tip and the farmland off Pig lane.

I have been working this patch since 1983, the first 17 years casually and the last 20 years intensively, last year I made 331 visits to the patch. A visit usually entails walking from my house, across the middle of the patch to the mere, time spent in the hide, and then returning either over the tip down the eastern side of the patch or down Pig lane on the western side of the patch, a round trip of just over 3 miles and usually taking about 4 hours. In the spring & autumn I often do this twice a day. All of this being zero carbon which is very important these days.

Over the years I have got to know the area extremely well and know just where to find all the regularly occurring birds and have noted changes which have happened. I have lost 4 species which used to breed regularly, these are as follows with the year of last sighting, Turtle Dove 2008, Little Owl 2008, Willow Tit 2018 and it now looks like Lesser Spotted Woodpecker which I only recorded on 2 dates last year. This last species is a hard felt loss as I have been privileged to study their successful breeding over the years.

The only addition has been Little Egret, which I first recorded in 2009 and is now an everyday bird with a maximum count of 18 on one field.

All of my visits are recorded on BirdTrack that I started using in October 2013 and since that date I have entered 90,811 records from 2,235 complete lists. This type of data is invaluable to the BTO as they can determine trends from constant monitoring. I also take part in Patchwork challenge each year and really enjoy trying to better my previous years efforts. Over the last 12 years I have averaged 122.5 species a year with my best year being 2017 when I saw 139. Virtually all of these are self found

The joys of patch work are numerous and include rarities as well as common birds which are not usual for the patch, the most recent example of the latter being a Dark-bellied Brent goose which dropped in to the mere on 21st February, a common enough bird but totally unexpected on the patch.

Over the years I have had a great many highlights with some of the more notable being a Marsh Sandpiper, seen by myself & Dean Nicholson. Singing Icterine Warbler in the pouring rain. A Corncrake flushed from under my feet off a rough weedy field. Wryneck on the cow field, found by Kev Durose. Singing Savi's Warbler at the mere for a week, also found by Kev who used to live opposite me. 3 Blue-winged Teals, found by Dean & texted to me in Australia, luckily still present when I returned & enjoyed by many visitors. Purple Heron flying over. Wood Warbler singing in the wood. The sight & sound of a herd of 121 Whooper swans on the mere on a March morning. 3 Corn Buntings in a spell of severe snowy weather. Spotted Crake & drake Ring-necked Duck at the mere. Regular wintering Bitterns with a maximum of 3 one year. A male Ring Ouzel briefly in a hedge. Firecrest one winter. 2 male Black Redstarts in the spring. Kittiwakes, Glaucous, Iceland & Little Gulls. Black, Sandwich,

Little & Arctic Terns. 2 Green-winged Teals, Scaup, Common Scoters, Red-breasted Merganser & Long-tailed Duck and many, many more.

The first Great White Egret was only recorded in 2015 but 2018 turned out to be an incredible year with 128 bird days being recorded with a maximum of 5 birds present on 29th September. The following year there were just 2 bird days & one so far this year.

Most autumns I get Spotted Flycatchers & Redstarts in the superb cow field hedges and Whinchats & Wheatears on the fields.

The cow fields also flood most winters & these often attract waders if they remain wet into the spring, much appreciated as the mere does not have any wader habitat unless we have a very hot summer, oh for the means to lower the water levels in autumn.

Even in these times of lock down I am able to continue recording on my allowable daily exercise walk, fortunately I see very few other people and if I do I can avoid any close contact.



If you have a local area, which you can work, I would thoroughly advise it. Stay safe and enjoy your birding.

Andy Sims (Photograph - a male Greenfinch “wheezing” on Andy’s TV aerial 29.03.2020 © Andrew Sims)

Online Lincolnshire birding!

The Len Pick Trust camera is active.

Keep watching! Two owls in residence.

<https://www.lenpicktrust.org.uk/owl-project/4593449091>



No Excuse Now! Lincolnshire records submissions for 2019

We are processing 2019 records as I type and would like all of your records in by the end of **March 2020** if possible and by whatever means at your disposal, although if you are not a BTO Bird Track or eBird user, please contact Colin & Sheila Jennings for an LBC spreadsheet template which saves a lot of inputting time.

Most, if not all, records of BBRC and county rarity records have been fielded and submitted. The LBRC now monitors and collects data on county rarities in ‘real’ time which makes the task easier with respect to identifying the finder(s) and assessing the record at the time - most of the evidence is “published” on social media these days and LBRC assessors can more easily complete the (volunteer) work through the year rather than being confronted with 100+ to look at after the end of the current year. Phil Hyde (County Recorder) and James Siddle (LBRC Chairman).

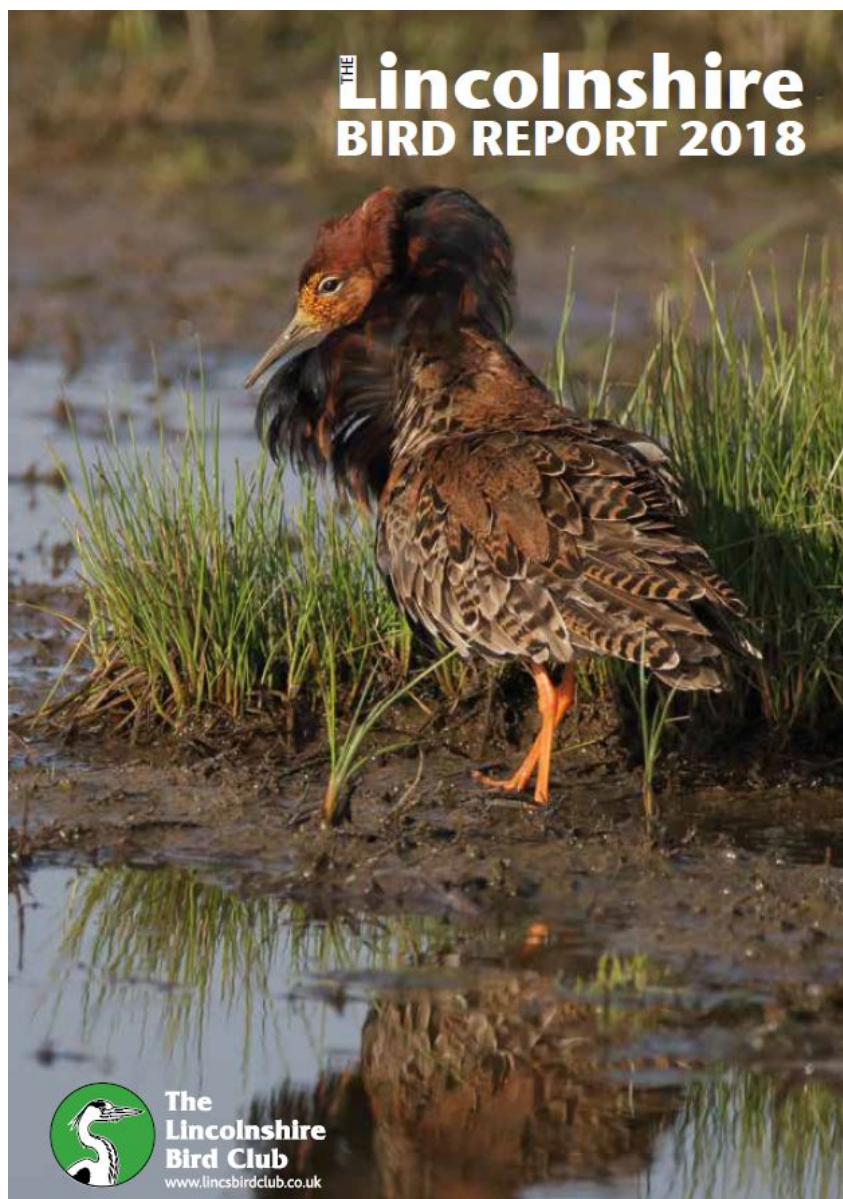
The Lincolnshire Bird Report 2018

The LBC 2018 report has been delivered by the printers and was posted on 31st March 2020.

The publication of the Bird Report involves a **huge amount of work**, with many individuals involved in its publication. Thanks are due to the observers and organizations who submit and share records to LBC.

We have had two bird recorders for more than ten years but when **John Clarkson** retired at our March 2019 AGM, **Phil Hyde** agreed to continue as Recorder for the whole county on a trial basis. We'd like to thank both of them for all their hard and dedicated work.

The Lincolnshire Bird Records Committee (LBRC) vets our records, **Roy Harvey** has provided stalwart support as secretary of the LBRC and thanks to **James Siddle** for recently taking on the role of Chair of LBRC. Particular thanks are due to **Colin and Sheila Jennings** for all the work undertaken in converting the raw data into the building blocks of the report, **Colin Casey** has continued to improve our Wildlife Recorder database most especially by developing machine means to convert external data into our database which continues to radically improve our data management for the purpose of report writing. We are extremely grateful to him and Jack Levene of Wildlife Recorder for the work they have done.



The report was sent out on 31/03/2019 and should be with you in the next few days!

In the meantime, please make sure your membership is still valid to avoid disappointment! Basically, if you can still log into the LBC website then your membership is still valid. You can re-subscribe online at www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk... If you have forgotten your password and are having issues with the website, please contact me on info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk...

Thank You!

Birding Opportunity at Hall Farm, Messingham

Jamie Quinn and Sue Oliver have contacted LBC with the following invitation. "We would like to invite you into our farm to carry out a bird survey and/ or ringing if you are interested. We farm approximately 100 acres , most of which is set to pasture. We have seen Snipe, Grey Partridge, nesting skylarks, nesting and fledged lapwings, buzzards and kestrels on the land. We have also seen barn owls and little owls. Part of our land is a hay meadow which is tussocky grass which attracts nesting birds. If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact Jamie or Sue 07940205147."

So if you live near Messingham and would be interested in visiting their farm to record what species they have please contact Jamie and Sue and let us know how you get on.

Phil Espin

Can you help LBC and yourself with Wildlife Recorder 4? Great money saving offer.

Wildlife Recorder 4 is the leading British software package that can be used to record birds worldwide and many other taxa from mammals to insects. It is the software on which LBC maintains its own bird database. LBC would like to see more Wildlife Recorder users in the county for two reasons 1. It's great software for naturalists to use to keep their own records. 2 We could use some expert assistance with our own database from people who are IT literate and willing to help. Colin Casey our database supremo is good friends with Jack Levene who owns and writes Wildlife Recorder software. To assist take up of WR4, Jack is willing to offer the following to LBC members. The World Pro Version of WR4 usually retails at £97.50, there is also a £15 per year charge thereafter for updates and support.

If an LBC member wants to buy WR4 to find out how to use it and help LBC, he will arrange vouchers for them at a discount of £82.50 each. This means you will pay just £15 for the first year (Support and upgrades) and £15 each year after (support and upgrades). If we can find one or more users who are interested , Colin will do a presentation to them all about WR4 and the LBC records and what we can do with them. Members will also be able to keep their own world records on WR4 along with Butterflies, Moths Etc etc. This is a very generous offer and you can find more details on WR4 here: <https://www.wildlife.co.uk>. If you decide to take up this offer and would like to tap into Colin's expertise, please contact Phil Espin on chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk in the first instance.

BOOK REVIEW

CURRENT travel and accommodation restrictions have limited opportunities for overseas birding adventures, but all is not lost - we can read about them instead!

Step forward a Lincolnshire-based expert known to many of our club's members, Robert Oates, who has just published a fascinating book with an unusual title: **Grey-haired Global Birding - Exploring The World's Birds in Later Life**.

Recently retired, Robert has decided to pursue his lifelong quest to experience "as much as possible of the beauty and novelty of the world's 10,000-plus bird species".

At the same time, he is committed to sharing, in book form, both his sense of fun and excitement and his concerns about the escalating perils faced by most, if not all, of the planet's birds.

With the latter consideration in mind, he will donate any profits from sales of Grey-haired Global Birding to the RSPB's sister-charity, Birdlife International.

It has to be said that this is a superb first book, written in a fluid, fast-paced and entertaining style, with plenty of humorous anecdotes along the way.

Revealing information abounds, not just about a wide spectrum of mouth-wateringly stunning species but about the habitats where the author has seen them, his birding companions and, importantly, the challenges sometimes posed by unfriendly terrain, monotonous food and sweltering, energy-sapping daytime temperatures (the sort of stuff you don't find in birding holiday brochures!)

Most of the action involves four expeditions - to Ethiopia and the highlands of Africa (2015), to the coast and sierras of California (2016), to the forests of Colombia (2017) and to the tropical rainforests of Malaysia (also 2017).

Happily, there are no glossy photographs to distract the reader. Such is the colour and liveliness of the author's style that they would only get in the way.

The author's accounts are so vivid that, for the reader, it almost like being out there with him as a companion in these exotic locations.

There is also an absorbing concluding chapter in which Robert describes how, back in the UK, he devoted part of late-summer, 2018, to guiding a friend from Colombia, Carlos Mario Wagner, on a part-camping holiday that took in Rutland Water, RSPB Titchwell and notable birding habitats in Scotland and its isles.

Carlos was obviously thrilled to encounter a long list of lifers, but his pleasure was clearly matched, if not surpassed, by that experienced by Robert in helping him to find them.

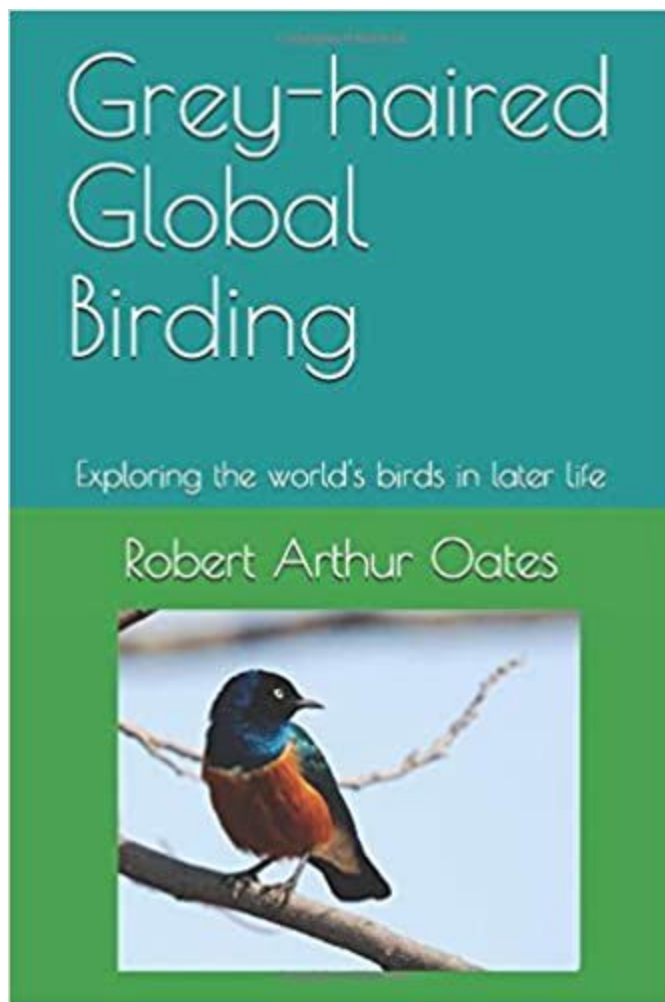
Grey-haired Global Birding is available as a paperback via Amazon or as an e-book on devices such as Kindle.

Here's hoping it will a) enjoy the bumper readership it merits b) that is a forerunner to other titles by the same author and c) that it serves to encourage other county birders to follow Robert's example by publishing accounts of their own travels.

Jim Wright

Stock Dove Counts.

In the March Newsletter there was news that Dean Nicholson had a huge Stock Dove count in a field near Normanby by Spital on the 11th February 2020 when he counted a minimum of 220 feeding with 500+ Woodpigeons. Is this a county record?



Well now the county records are all in one database (Wildlife Recorder) we can use it to query records in seconds, something we could not do until last year.

So is 220 a county record? Well no, far from it, there are 14 records over 200 and another 20 of exactly 200 with the county record holder being Graham Catley with 550 at Donna Nook on 19/11/2009.

Donna Nook has recorded 4 counts over 200, and counts of 500 were made at Swallow and Grainthorpe in 2007; Blankney and Anwick also have higher counts and the last big count was of 378 at Gibraltar Point on 13/11/2018.

Colin R Casey

CAN you make a living out of watching birds, photographing them, giving talks and conducting tours?

Yes, judging by the impressive record of Warwickshire-based Ashley Grove who gave up selling vacuum cleaners door-to-door in order to carve out a new freelance career.

Operating, at first, from his own studio, his focus was on general photography - for instance, weddings and portraits of children, family groups and pets.

But in recent years, his work has been entirely wildlife-based.

He is recently back from his umpteenth guiding tour of Gambia - one of his favourite destinations along with such as other exotic locations as Trinidad and Tobago, Sri Lanka, Portugal, Hungary, Sweden and the Spanish Pyrenees (good for vultures!)

He regularly hosts popular five-days birdwatching breaks at hotels in Devon, the Scottish Highlands and other parts of the UK.

And he reckons to give no fewer than 50 talks - daytime or evening - per year to a wide range of organisations including WIs and RSPB groups (over the past decade he has spoken to no fewer than 56 of the latter - some of them no longer in existence).

In February, he was a guest of the RSPB Grimsby group where he gave an entertaining illustrated presentation of some favourite birds - common as well as rare - that he has photographed at UK locations ranging from The Shetlands to the Scilly Isles and including patches nearer home in the West Midlands.

On Fetlar in the Shetlands, he never captured the close-up photographs he had hoped for of breeding red-necked phalaropes - they were too far away - but there was more than ample compensation soon afterward when he secured a cracking shot of a Terek sandpiper - the first record of the species for this part of the UK.

Other scarce birds he has snapped in Britain over the years include American robin, woodchat shrike, and squacco heron.

But, for Ashley, it isn't just about rarities. He said it is too easy to overlook the captivating beauty in the plumage of everyday species such as blue tits, blackbirds, goldfinches and particularly the iridescence and spotting of breeding-plumage starlings. Wetland birds have a particular appeal - not just in their own right but also because of the patterns of light, colour, reflection and movement that bounce off the water.

The evidence was provided in his superb shots of wigeon, tufted duck, pintail, pochard, mallard, avocet, turnstone, redshank, little ringed plover, Slavonian grebe, little grebe, kingfisher, glossy ibis, oystercatcher, purple sandpiper and coot.

He confessed a special spot for grebes. "There are just 27 species in the world," he said. "If I won on the Lottery, I'd go and see them all!"

Ashley described how the sex of goldfinches could be determined by the extent of red on their faces masks and queried whether it was right to describe blackcaps seen in the UK at this time of year as "overwintering" birds.

"It's more likely they are birds that have come year after having bred in Scandinavia," he maintained.

Having spent so much of his life watching birds, inevitably there have been curious moments. Once, while photographing a particularly handsome male wheatear, he felt a whoosh past his left ear. A sparrowhawk had made a swoop for the wheatear which made to escape by scuttling down a rabbit hole. To Ashley's surprise, the fleeing bird was actually followed down the hole by the hawk - but to no avail. It came out of the hole empty-beaked and flew off to seek new quarry. What of the wheatear? It emerged unscathed, moments later, and carried on feeding as if nothing had happened.

Ashley was asked if there was any species on the British list that had so far eluded him and that he would particularly like to see.

After reflecting for a few moments, back came the reply: "the corncrake". However, he hasn't done badly. There are not many British birds he has missed. When he reached his 50th birthday in 2018, he thought it would be nice to see 500 different birds over the next 12 months. Did he achieve his target ?

"I did a lot of overseas travel that year," he replied. "I ended up with 867 - 10 per cent of the world's known species!"

Ashley's website is www.experiencenature.co.uk

Jim Wright



Advertisement

Cornwall Calling

Helen and Alec Grimsey have been in touch with Lincolnshire Bird Club.

They have a rental holiday home - great for birders - on the coast at Columb Major between Padstow and Newquay.

Bookings from LBC members are welcome for both short and long breaks, and they still have some vacancies for spring and beyond.

Cornwall is an ace county - one of the best in Britain - for seeing rare and unusual birds, especially marine species and wind-blown vagrants from North America.

Just in the first two months of 2020, its list includes such mouth-waterers as American buff-bellied pipit, bufflehead, Pacific diver, ring-necked duck and three rare gulls - Caspian, Kumlien's and ring-billed.



The couple's website is: <http://www.cornishholiday.info/> For more details (and to request a copy of their seabirds newsletter), contact the couple at: enquiries@cornishholiday.info

Lincolnshire Bird News - March 2020

Compiled by Chris Grimshaw

This Lincs Latest Bird News is available on the LBC Website and is updated on a regular basis, to provide a convenient news service to scarce & rare birds found within Lincolnshire. This is a free service and members wishing to get more up to the minute information should check commercial news services. The Sightings page and @Lincsbirding Twitter feed are intended to alert birders to rare (**RED**) and scarcer (**BLUE**) species that they might be interested in seeing within the County.

If your sightings are missing from the list, then please let us know by emailing recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk. Records of more common species are still very important and should be submitted to the county Recorder (again, send all records to recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk) or submitted online using the **BTO BirdTrack** or **eBird Apps**. ALL records will then be added to the Lincolnshire Bird Club data-base, to be included in the Annual Reports. **PLEASE NOTE** that none of these reports have been verified or checked by the Lincolnshire Bird Club Records Committee. Please note that the close off date for records for the 2019 Lincs Bird Report is 1st May 2020, after this we cannot guarantee inclusion.

31/03/2020

Brumby Woods

2 Nuthatch, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Grantham

2 Red Kite, 5 Wigeon (over)

Huttoft Pit

Spoonbill (over)

Langtoft

Common Scoter (large flock heard over in the early hours)

Skewbridge (Lincoln)

16 Common Teal, Pied Wagtail

30/03/2020

North Thoresby

3 Collared Dove, Coal Tit 2, Mistle Thrush

New Waltham

Tawny Owl

29/03/2020

No sightings reported on social media.

28/03/2020

Teal Lake, Lincoln

2 Garganey, Mandarin on Millennium Green a couple of days ago

Near Rippingale

800 Common Gull

27/03/2020

Alvingham

2 Kingfisher

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Swallow, 2 2 Avocet

Baston Fen

Great White Egret

Bottesford

2 Collared Dove, 12 Cormorant, 30 Goldfinch, 50 Starling, 6 House Sparrow

Kettleby Quarries

5 Buzzard, 5 Chiffchaff, Sand Martin, Ringed Plover, Swallow,

26/03/2020

Gibraltar Point

Brambling, 5 Buzzard, Marsh Harrier, 2 Kestrel, Stonechat, Green Woodpecker,

Lincs Coast

Rough-legged Buzzard, 2 Firecrest (no location given)

Swanpool

2 Little Ringed Plover

25/03/2020

Gibraltar Point

Common Crane, Marsh Harrier, Black Redstart, 43 Redwing

Grimoldby

Chiffchaff

Louth

Red Kite

Theddlethorpe

3 Chiffchaff

Sutton on Sea

Black Redstart

Swanpool

Blackcap

24/03/2020

Alkborough Flats

4 Water Pipit

Fulbeck

2 Oystercatchers, 2 Teal

Gibraltar Point

Brambling, 4 Buzzard, Merlin, 42 Siskin, Grey Wagtail

Grantham

2 Red Kite

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush, Red Kite

Howdens Pullover

Hen Harrier, Stonechat,

Lincoln

Buzzard, 2 Peregrine Falcons on the Cathedral

Mablethorpe

Red Kite

Rimac

Linnet, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Swanholme Lakes

Chiffchaff

23/03/2020

Anderby Creek

Red Kite

Deeping St Nicholas

Rough-legged Buzzard

Healing

Chiffchaff

Lincs Coastal CP

2 Grey Plover, **Purple Sandpiper**

Swanpool cow-field flashes

2 Little Ringed Plover

Willow Tree Fen

Garganey

22/03/2020

Alkborough Flats

Hen Harrier (ring-tail)

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Short-eared Owl

Deeping High Bank

Rough-legged Buzzard

Gibraltar Point

Short-eared Owl, Water Pipit, Jack Snipe, 3 Siskin

Grimsby

Glaucous Gull, **Black-throated Thrush**

Killingholme

75 Avocet, 1 Curlew, 14 Redshank 2 Redshank

New Holland to Goxhill Haven

Whinchat

Rosper Road Pools

100 Teal, 20 Shoveler

21/03/2020

Alkborough Flats

Hen Harrier (ring-tail)

Deeping High Bank

Rough-legged Buzzard

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Bar-tailed Godwit

Fulbeck

Stonechat (Female)

Gibraltar Point

Red Kite, Jack Snipe, Water Pipit, Cetti's Warbler

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Trent Port, Marton

Chiffchaff, 20 Gadwall, 17 Lapwing, 6 Oystercatcher, 12 Redshank, 5 Shelduck, 2 Shoveler, 12 Whooper Swan, 30 Teal, Treecreeper, 250 Wigeon

20/03/2020

233 Whooper Swan

Deeping High Bank

Rough-legged Buzzard

Gibraltar Point

2 Buzzard, Tawny Owl, Water Pipit, Spotted Redshank, Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

East Halton Skitter

Hen Harrier

19/03/2020

Anderby Creek

10 Chiffchaff, **Firecrest**

Barton Pits

Red-crested Pochard, Willow Warbler

Deeping High Bank

Rough-legged Buzzard (flying towards Deeping St Nicholas but was lost from view and not relocated by dusk)

Frampton Marsh

100+ Avocet, Mediterranean Gull, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Water Rail, Spotted Redshank

Gibraltar Point

Great White Egret, Short-eared Owl, 8 Water Pipit, Water Rail

Grasby

Red Kite

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Sandtoft

2 Common Crane, 42 Whooper Swan

Toft Newton

Red Kite

18/03/2020

Anderby Creek

3 Chiffchaff

Cleethorpes

100 Red Knot, 2 Stonechat, 2 Wheatear,

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier (male), Water Rail, Whimbrel

Gibraltar Point

2 Brambling, c680 Chaffinch, 70 Eider Duck, Mandarin Duck, Short-eared Owl, Water Pipit, 2 Water Rail, 6 Siskin, 2 White Wagtail, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker,

Huttoft

Chiffchaff

Louth

Peregrine Falcon

Rippingale

Chiffchaff

Wolla Bank

Chiffchaff

17/03/2020

Boultham Mere

8 Buzzard, Chiffchaff, 2 Goosander, Marsh Harrier, 2 Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Branston Fen

C500 Whooper Swan

Fiskerton Fen/Short Ferry

Great White Egret, Marsh Harrier

Gibraltar Point

3 Brambling, 6 Buzzard, Crossbill, 6 Eider, Peregrine Falcon, 2 Firecrest, 2 Red Kite, 2 Sand Martin, 5 Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin, 21 Water Pipit, Water Rail, Woodlark. An excellent day at Gib Point. [See their blog for a more comprehensive list](#))

Grimsby

[Black-throated Thrush](#)

RAF Woodhall Spa

Northern Wheatear

Rippingale

[Lesser Spotted Woodpecker](#)

Riseholme Lake

70 Gadwall, Great Crested Grebe

16/03/2020

Frampton Marsh

53 Avocet, Buzzard, Bar-tailed Godwit, 850 Black-tailed Godwit, 850 Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Hen Harrier, 9 Red-breasted Merganser, 35 Whooper Swan, 4 Cetti's Warbler,

Gibraltar Point

26 Corn Bunting, 3 Chiffchaff, Merlin, 400 Wood Pigeon, 7 Water Pipit,

Grimsby

[Black-throated Thrush](#)

East Halton to Dawson City

Black Redstart

Hartsholme Park

4 Great Crested Grebe, 6 Grey Heron, Tawny Owl, Song Thrush, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker

Huttoft Pits

Green Sandpiper

Millenium Green (Lincoln)

3 Chiffchaff

15/03/2020

Anderby Creek

C1000 Chaffinch

Branston Fen

104 Mute Swan, 482 Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

100 Avocet, Mediterranean Gull, Hen Harrier (ring tail), Water Rail, Spotted Redshank, 30 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

East Halton to Dawson City

72 Avocet, 168 Curlew, 4 Goldeneye, Marsh Harrier, 2 Kingfisher, 4 Water Pipit, 61 Redshank, 26 Snipe, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler, Wheatear (first of the year?)

Marston

White Wagtail

Rimac

230 Chaffinch

14/03/2020

Boultham

81 Pink-footed Geese

Frampton Marsh

80 Avocet, Buzzard, Chiffchaff, 80 Dunlin, Peregrine Falcon, Black-tailed Godwit, Pink-footed Goose, 5 Marsh Harrier, Water Pipit, 2800 Golden Plover, 30 Ringed Plover, 2 Water Rail, Spotted Redshank, 60 Ruff, Cetti's Warbler

Grimsby

Red Kite, Black-throated Thrush

Howden's Pullover

Hen Harrier (male)

Nettleton

Buzzard, 3/400 Golden Plover, Skylark

Nocton Fen

412 Whooper Swan

Short Ferry

Spotted Redshank

Skidbrooke

16 Whooper Swan

Toft Newton Reservoir

4 Black-necked Grebe, 2 Pintail, 33 Whooper Swan



The four Black-necked Grebe at Toft Newton - Image © Roy Harvey

Witham Mouth

2 Eider, 40 Red Knot, 8 Red-breasted Merganser, 3000 Oystercatcher

13/03/2020

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl, 3 Spotted Redshank, Little Stint

Gibraltar Point

25 Corn Bunting, Red Kite, 64 Water Pipit, Green Sandpiper

Grimsby

[Black-throated Thrush](#)

Messingham

2 Bullfinch, 6 Goldeneye, 26 Gadwall, 4 Oystercatcher, 8 Red-crested Pochard, 12 Shelduck, 6 Siskin, Cetti's Warbler

Saltfleet Haven

Hen Harrier

Wolla Bank

Siberian Chiffchaff

12/03/2020

Anderby Marsh

46 Curlew, 6 Dunlin, 2 Little Egret, 4 Lapwing, 2 Ringed Plover, 14 Sanderling, Shelduck, 500 Starling, 34 Teal

Deeping Lakes NR

1 Sand Martin

Freiston Shore

Firecrest

Gibraltar Point

9 Corn Bunting, 35 Chaffinch, 23 Little Egret, 14 Greenfinch, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, 2 Tawny Owl, Short-eared Owl, Water Pipit, 14 Redwing, c150 Siskin, Jack Snipe, 2 Sparrowhawk, Stonechat, 2 Mistle Thrush, 6 Song Thrush, Bearded Tit, Treecreeper, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

11/03/2020

Frampton Marsh

150 Avocet, Chiffchaff, 6 Dunlin 400 Black-tailed Godwit, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Grey Plover, Skylark, 60 Whooper Swan, 30 Ruff, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

Peregrine Falcon, Kingfisher, 4 Red Kite, 2 Hen Harrier (male). Merlin, 83 Water Pipit, 2 Stonechat, Grey Wagtail, 2 Cetti's Warbler, Woodlark

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Lincoln Cathedral

Peregrine Falcons (showing well)

Marston

2 Green Sandpiper

10/03/2020

Anderby Creek

203 Chaffinch, 184 Red-throated Diver, 3 Great Crested Grebe, 2 Marsh Harrier, Little Owl, 200 Golden Plover, 73 Common Scoter, **Whimbrel**

Frampton Marsh

150 Avocet, 600 Black-tailed Godwit, Cetti's Warbler, Otter & Stoat

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Witham Mouth

Chiffchaff, 2 Eider, Peregrine Falcon, 5 Red-breasted Merganser, 2 Stonechat

09.03/2020

Cleethorpes CP

2 Waxwing

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier (ring-tail)

Gibraltar Point

Hen Harrier (male), Short-eared Owl, 13 Water Pipit

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Tetney Marshes

Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Harrier, Merlin

08/02/2020

Cleethorpes CP

2 Waxwing

East Halton to Dawson City

47 Avocet, Chiffchaff, Red Kite, 2 Oystercatcher, 4 Water Pipit, 35 Snipe, Stonechat, Whooper Swan, 2 Cetti's Warbler,

Far Ings

Bittern (possibly up to three booming)

Fiskerton Fen

Great White Egret

Frampton Marsh

59 Avocet, Hen Harrier (ring tail), Red Kite, Merlin, 60 Whooper Swan,

Gibraltar Point

38 Corn Bunting, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 2 Tundra Bean Goose, Marsh Harrier, Short-eared Owl, 62 Water Pipit

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Trent Port, Marton

10 Shelduck, 2 Golden Plover, 10 Skylark, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker

07/03/2020

Anderby Marsh

46 Curlew, Pink-footed Goose, 2 Marsh Harrier, 15 Sanderling, Stonechat, 17 Teal, Cetti's Warbler

Cleethorpes

Snow Bunting

Cleethorpes CP

Waxwing



A stunning photo of the waxwing at Cleethorpes CP (near ca-park) today - Image © John Clarkson

Fiskerton Fen/Short Ferry

Cattle Egret, Great White Egret

Frampton Marsh

49 Avocet., Chiffchaff, 4 Goldeneye, 3 Hen Harrier, Merlin, Water Rail, 30 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

2 Tundra Bean Goose, Mediterranean Gull, 18 Water Pipit

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

06/03/2020

Alkborough Flats

Avocet, Water Rail, Bearded Tit

Baston Fen

Water Pipit

Cleethorpes CP

Waxwing

Deeping St Nicholas

Short-eared Owl

Far Ings

2 Bittern

Gibraltar Point

Brambling, 32 Corn Bunting, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, c900 Pink-footed Geese, 2 Tundra Bean Goose, Marsh Harrier, Short-eared Owl, 44 Water Pipit, Stonechat, Cetti's Warbler, Green Woodpecker,

Grimsby

[Black-throated Thrush](#)

Bellingham's Drove, Spalding South Fen

Short-eared Owl

05/03/2020

Chapel Point

Great Northern Diver (flew south)

Cleethorpes CP

Waxwing

Frampton Marsh

73 Avocet, 2000 Brent Geese, Hen Harrier (1 male, 2 female), Merlin, c3000 Golden Plover, 2 Spotted Redshank, Stonechat, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

26 Corn Bunting, Nordic Jackdaw, Water Pipit, Water Rail

Grimsby

[Black-throated Thrush](#)

04/03/2020

Boultham Mere

2 Shelduck

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Far Ings

Chiffchaff, Stonechat

Frampton Marsh

Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, 18 Goldeneye, 1500+ Brent Geese, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Barn Owl, 3 Spotted Redshank, 30 Ruff, Common Sandpiper, Tree Sparrow, Stonechat, 154 Whooper Swan, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler,

Gibraltar Point

2 Tundra Bean Goose, Marsh Harrier, 3 Siskin, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, 2 Tawny Owl, 91 Water Pipit, Woodcock

Grimsby

[Black-throated Thrush](#)

Nocton Fen

16 Redwing, 28 Whooper Swan (over), 600 Starling

Whisby

Water Rail



Beautiful photo of a Water Rail foraging in the frostat Whisby - Image © Jackie Spindley

03/03/2020

Dunsby

4 Chiffchaff

Frampton Marsh

48 Avocet, Chiffchaff, Peregrine Falcon, 45 Pink-footed Geese, 3 Hen Harrier (2m, 1f)

Gibraltar Point

36 Corn Bunting, Red-throated Diver, Eider, 1170 Pink-footed Geese, Red-breasted Merganser, Hen Harrier (male), Short-eared Owl, 68 Water Pipit, Stonechat,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Messingham SQ

Buzzard, 20 Cormorant, 40 Tufted Duck, 2 Goldeneye, 2 Great Crested Grebe, Kestrel, Red Kite, 5 Oystercatcher, 50 Golden Plover, 15 Pochard, 2 Red-Crested Pochard, 6 Shelduck, 10 Mute Swan, Treecreeper

02/03/2020

Alkborough Flats

6 Avocet, 3 Marsh Harrier, Water Rail, 3 Whooper Swan, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler

Anderby

Hooded Crow (but flew south)

Far Ings

24 Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

46 Avocet, Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, 632 Brent Goose Hen Harrier (2 males 1 female), Marsh Harrier, Pintail, 5000 Golden Plover, Common Sandpiper, 15 Snipe, 2 Cetti's Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Gibraltar Point

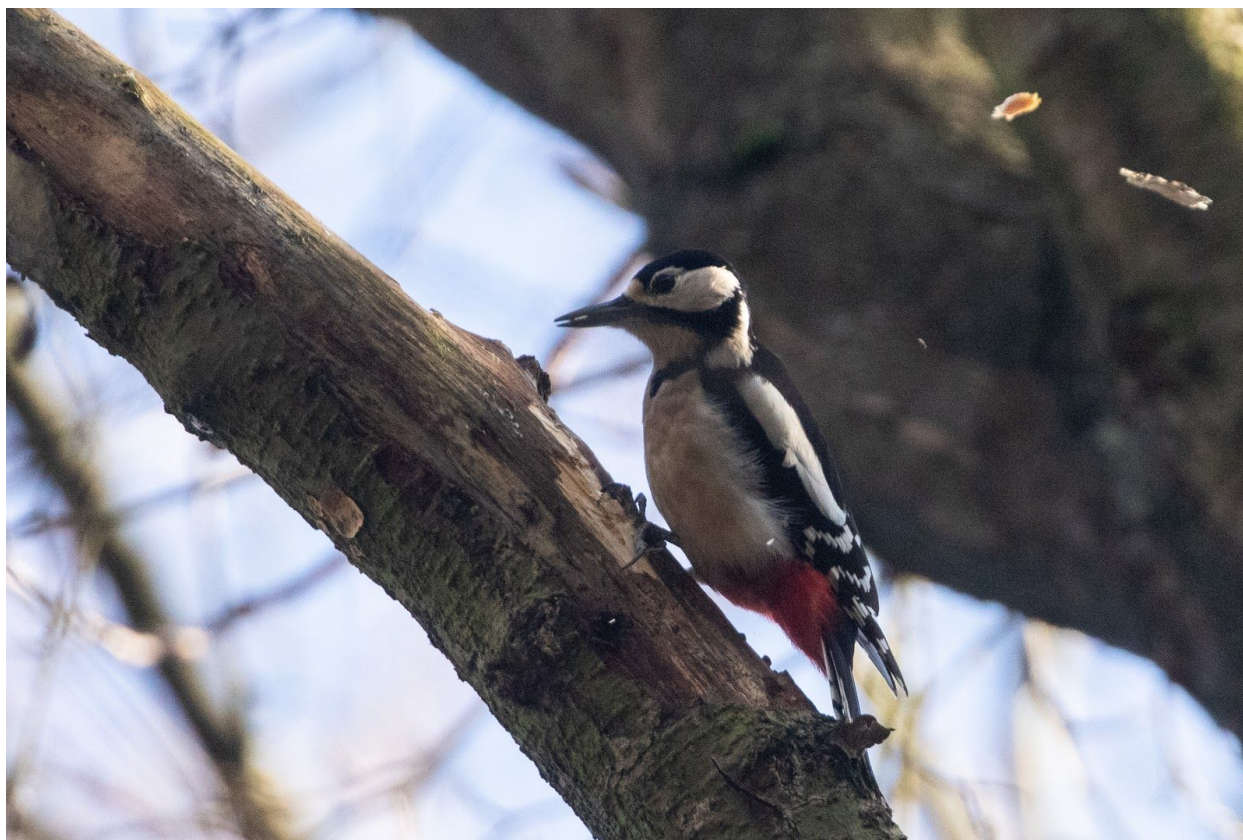
18 Avocet, Blackcap, 16 Corn Bunting, 77 Curlew, 3 Goldcrest, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 504 Dark-bellied Brent Goose, 900 Pink-footed Goose, Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, Merlin, 10 Pintail, 27 Redwing, 2 Siskin, 2 Sparrowhawk, 96 Teal, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, 2 Tawny Owl, Stonechat, 8 Song Thrush, 2 Mistle Thrush, 2 Treecreeper, 13 Water Pipit, 292 Wigeon, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Hartsholme Park

2 Buzzard, 5 Grey Heron, 1 Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker



Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hartsholme Park - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Whaplode Drove

2 Waxwing (Farrow Road briefly)

01/03/2020

Boultham cow-fields

8 Lesser Black-backed Gull, Mistle Thrush, 16 Redwing

Boultham Mere

3 Little Egret, 3 Goosander, 6 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5 Shoveler, pair of Stonechat (about ½ mile down the drain towards the bypass)

Gibraltar Point

37 Corn Bunting, Hen Harrier (male), Barn Owl, 97 Water Pipit

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Marston

Oystercatcher



Oystercatcher just returned to Marston - Image © Dave Roberts

Short Ferry

2 Dunlin, 36 Redshank, Spotted Redshank (still), 2 Ruff, c45 Golden Plover, 10 Snipe

Trent Port, Marton

10 Bullfinch, 7 Coot, 25 Fieldfare, 6 Great Black backed Gull, Barn Owl, 30 Wigeon, Green Woodpecker, 8 Skylark, 2 Teal

Whaplode Drove

2 Waxwing (Farrow Road)

Contact Information & Useful Lincs Websites

Lincs Bird Club Website

Website: <http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk>

Twitter [@Lincsbirding](#)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LincolnshireBirdInformation/>

LBC County Bird Recorder

Phil Hyde recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk

BTO - <https://www.bto.org>

RSPB - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

Birdguides - <https://www.birdguides.com/>

Rarebird Alert - <https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/>

Recording

BTO Birdtrack - <https://app.bto.org/birdtrack/login/login.jsp>

eBird - <https://ebird.org/home>

iRecord - <https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>

Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union Website

<http://lnu.org/>

LNU e-mail: info@lnu.org

Love Lincs Plants

<https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/what-we-do/love-lincs-plants>

Love Lincs Plants Twitter feed [@LoveLincsPlants](#)

Sir Joseph Banks Society

<http://www.joseph-banks.org.uk>

enquiries@joseph-banks.org.uk

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

<http://www.lincstrust.org.uk/>

Lincolnshire Bat Group website

<http://www.lincsbatgroup.co.uk/>

Butterfly Conservation Lincolnshire Branch

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/300/lincolnshire-branch.html>

FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME

Rural Crime Officer

Pc 160 Nick Willey

Force Wildlife, Rural Crime Officer

Force Dog Training Establishment

Lincolnshire Showground.

Grange-De-Lings.

Lincoln

nicholas.willey@lincs.pnn.police.uk

OFFICE: 01522-731897

MOBILE :07768-501895

PAGER : 07654-330877

Rural Crime News -

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/news-campaigns/news/2019/rural-crime-news/>

STAYING SAFE

EasyTide

<http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/EasyTide/index.aspx>

Met Office Severe Weather E-mail Service

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/guide-to-emails>

Environment Agency Flood Information/Floodline

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/default.aspx>

Lyme Disease

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDING

Botany

Botanical Group in South Lincs

Contact: Sarah Lambert - sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com

Also see: <http://bsbi.org/south-lincolnshire-v-c-53>

LNU Sawflies, Bees, Wasps and Ants Recorder

Dr. David Sheppard - d.a.sheppard@btinternet.com

Lincolnshire Mammals

Chris Manning, Chris.LincsDeer@gmail.com

Mammal Atlas

You can download and print off a hard copy or view it online.

<http://www.glnp.org.uk/our-publications/biodiversity/projects-and-reports.php>

Lincs Amphibian and Reptile Group

The Lincolnshire ARG (Amphibian & Reptile Group)

Ashley Butterfield - learningoutdoors@btinternet.com

Local Bat Helpline

Grounded bats, bat problems, advice and information.

Contact Annette and Colin Faulkner on

01775 766286 or e-mail: annettefaulkner@btinternet.com

Confidential Bat Records

You may send confidential bat records direct to Annette

Faulkner on: annettefaulkner@btinternet.com

USEFUL WILDLIFE CONTACTS

Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

<http://www.glnp.org.uk/>

Contact: charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk

or for more general queries:info@glnp.org.uk

Natural England

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Lincolnshire Environmental Awards

www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk

Life on the Verge and Wildflower Meadow Network Project

<http://www.lifeontheverge.org.uk/>



Lincolnshire Bird Club
Follow us on twitter @lincsbirdclub
<http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk>

The Lincolnshire Bird Club, supporting the recording & conservation of wildlife in Lincolnshire

