

Lincolnshire Bird Club eNewsletter



The Heron - Lincs Bird Club eNewsletter 2020 - August 2020

Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - August 2020

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Cranes return to breed in Lincolnshire after 400 years



Common Crane with juvenile at Willow Tree Fen (Image © Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust)

During lockdown, wildlife responded to the relative tranquillity of our nature reserves. Bitterns boomed at nature reserves in the south of the county as well as at Far Ings in the north. Several pairs of skylark and meadow pipit nested close to paths. But most dramatic was the return of cranes to Lincolnshire; the last piece of the fen's jigsaw!

A pair of cranes arrived at Willow Tree Fen in late April. They saw off several other pairs of cranes, indicating that they were holding a territory, and stayed on site. Cranes are very vulnerable to disturbance, preferring secluded sites away from human activity. As lockdown eased, we kept Willow Tree Fen closed in the hope that they would stay. This decision paid-off. Early in June, a crane chick was spotted, making them the first cranes to breed in Lincolnshire for over 400 years.

The pair probably arrived from the nearby breeding population on the Ouse and Nene Washes in Cambridgeshire. It's only about 20 miles as the crane flies.

They are likely to be breeding for the first time and as such, the chances of success are still low. It takes a lot to bring up young crane chicks. But they become better parents with experience and we hope that, even if they are not successful this year, they will return in future years.

In Medieval England cranes represented the noblest quarry and formed an important part of Medieval feasts. In 1465, to celebrate George Neville's enthronement as Archbishop of York, the banquet included 204 cranes. But, due to habitat loss and hunting, they went extinct in the UK. The last evidence of breeding in England was in 1542.

However in the late 1970s, they returned to Norfolk and successfully bred in 1981. Cranes have bred in the UK every year since. The most recent survey revealed a record 56 breeding pairs in 2019, with 47 attempting to breed and successfully rearing 26 chicks, bringing the total population to an estimate of more than 200 birds.

Please note at the time of writing Willow Tree Fen is closed (check LWT website for updates). The paths, birdwatching hides and toilet facilities are also closed. There is very limited car parking provided with views over the reserve. Telescopes are recommended. No dogs. This article first appeared in the Summer 2020 LWT Lapwings Magazine (via Rachel Shaw https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/)

LBC Membership Issues.

For a number of years now the administration of the membership has been handled by the membership team of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust from their headquarters in Horncastle. They provide a similar service to the Lincs Naturalists Union. It has become apparent though that due initially to staff sickness but more recently to personnel changes and furloughing that some services have been delayed. It became apparent that new members who had joined since the New Year hadn't received their enrolment package.

This has now been addressed and thank you for your patience. The packaging and distribution of the 2018 report, normally handled by LWT, during lockdown has this year been done in house. Everyone should have received their report towards the end of April but if anyone hasn't received a copy please get in contact.

Mike Harrison

Honey Buzzard Survey 2020-21

Just a reminder there is a national Honey-buzzard Survey planned for 2020 and 2021. This survey is being coordinated by Rob Clements, Steve Roberts and Ken Shaw who have been working on this species for many years, with support from the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Following travel relaxations across Britain, it now permissible to conduct fieldwork for this survey during July and August 2020, as planned. However, because of the limited opportunities for fieldwork preparations earlier this year, it is currently expected that the survey will continue in 2021. Fieldworkers should only undertake Honey-buzzard surveys if relevant Covid-19 legislation and guidelines continue to permit, and only if volunteers are able to follow relevant social distancing and other health and safety practices, and that they respect the wishes of landowners and managers. As this survey is intended to run over two years, we expect to be able to achieve good survey coverage regardless of the impact of Covid-19 in 2020.

Rob, Steve and Ken are keen to encourage local raptor workers to spend some time looking for Honey-buzzards in suitable habitat this year, mainly in July and August. There is more detailed information about the organisation and methodology on the RBBP website (http://www.rbbp.org.uk/rbbp-surveys-HZ.htm).

All records of Honey-buzzards collected as part of the survey should be submitted to the survey coordinator for the country in question (or can be sent to secretary@rbbp.org.uk). The RBBP recommends the use of this form to submit records and also to ensure the recording of survey effort when Honey-buzzards were not detected.

The survey team strongly encourages observers to submit all records directly to the relevant County Recorder, As in many other counties, Honey-buzzard is a rarity in Lincolnshire requiring a description to be submitted for acceptance.

Phil Hyde.

Rose-coloured Starling influx

Rosy Starlings are well-known as an occasionally irruptive, nomadic species originating in eastern Europe and Asia. Such an event began in mid-May with a significant number racing the UK from the end of May summarised in this Bird Guides article https://www.birdguides.com/news/rosy-starling-invasion-gathers-pace/. Hundreds have been logged in France and in the UK to date there have been a minimum of 115 records.

Lincolnshire has had just two confirmed records, typically both seen in private gardens and reported by local householders, one in Skegness known from a photograph only and a second in Mablethorpe witnessed by several LBC members and other birders. There have been one or two other, as yet unconfirmed reports, too. LBC would like to log all records of this species in 2020 so please send us the details. As here, they are commonly reported by householders who see them at a garden feeder with Common Starlings.



Image of mablethorpe 2020 bird © Owen Beaumont



Update - Cut End Bird Hide

As you may know the lock to the Cut End Hide was vandalised earlier in the year.

In July 2020 Steve Keightley arranged for a locksmith to repair the lock. The lock is again working and still works with the original keys.

After the repair the hide was swept out, cleaned and the rubbish was removed.

We would like to encourage members/visitors to take rubbish home with them as getting rubbish from hide to car park in any quantity is problematic without gate keys.



A photo of the Cut End Hide rubbish!

The Lincolnshire Bird Club would like to thank Steve Keightley for organising the repair of the lock and for Antony Bentley (RSPB) for getting vehicle access along the sea bank for the locksmith!

Novel Common Crane record

The club receives some unusual records from people's gardens from time to time including descriptions submitted from the website. However, a recent submission challenged even the Records Committee. The record was apparently of a Common Crane sighting, but the real reason for the submission became evident on reading down the form:

Optical aids - a pair of reading glasses.

Distance from bird - on my knee.

Visibility etc - Lamp light.

Description - Made out of wool felt and took a while. All handmade. Just like making birds but not seen any personally. It lives in a cupboard but is for sale to anyone interested. £70.

Photos included with the description:

Congratulations to the lady submitting the form in finding a novel way to advertise. We regret the record will be omitted from the 2020 annual bird report!





A blast from the past - reproduced from the Lincolnshire Bird Bulletin October 1969

NUMBER 14 OCTOBER 1969

EDITORIAL

This periodical is now in its fourth year and it is to be hoped that it has made some contribution to the success of Lincolnshire ornithology. However it is perhaps time for a change of control. At the next A.G.M. of the L.B.B. the editor feels that he should make way for new blood.

We would like to hear from anyone who is willing to stand for this post and while anyone is welcome, perhaps one of the few but severe critics of our actions in the past should step forward and stand for election.

Winter is already having its effect on us with the first winter visitors arriving and the bulk of summer migrants leaving for warmer climes. There are, however, several indications that the exceptionally fine and warm autumn has delayed this process with several late records of warblers and the noticeable lack of fieldfares. Wader migration this year has been particularly interesting with very large numbers of sightings (and ringing) of curlew sandpiper and wide distribution of spotted redshank. A Temminck Stint ringed at Bardney Ponds was probably only the fourth of that species ringed in this country.

The 'small bird' migration seems to have been less spectacular this year although several interesting species have been recorded. Raptors have been well represented with red footed falcon inland and spotted eagle at Gibraltar point, although there appear to be doubts as to the wild status of the latter. In its favour, however, is the fact that another individual was seen in the British Isles at about the same time.

Make your Bird App Records Count!











The bird club uses records from the BTO Birdtrack and eBird Apps in the annual report. We are now having to assess 10,000's of records each year from Bird Apps. Therefore, for your records to count, please take some time to name your sites sensibly and in a way we can use them!

My Garden	X	Louth, Garden	~
Snipe Dales LWT	~	Nature Reserve	×
Fox Covert	X	Fox Covert, Coleby	~
Gibraltar Point	~	53.096086, 0.33130	×

Try and change Auto Select locations to something meaningful!

eBird Users - Auto Select locations are <u>NO GOOD TO US!</u>
<u>eBird Hotspots</u> are <u>BEST!</u>

Thank you!

Lincolnshire Bird News - July 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.

31/07/2020

Doddington Hall

2 Buzzard, Chiffchaff, Gadwall, 4 Little Grebe, 4 House 4 Martin, Garden Warbler, 4 Swallow

Fiskerton Fen

3 Green Sandpiper, 20 Yellow Wagtail

Frampton Marsh

Spotted Redshank, 8+ Spoonbill

Gibraltar Point

600 Sandwich Tern

Spilsby

Hobby

30/07/2020

Gibraltar Point

Kingfisher, Wheatear, Whimbrel, Whinchat

29/07/2020

Boultham Mere

Kingfisher

Frampton Marsh

Little Owl, Curlew Sandpiper, 3 Wheatear, Whooper Swan

Freiston Shore

Wood Sandpiper

Gibraltar Point

Wood Warbler

28/07/2020

Alkborough Flats

7 Spoonbill

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Turnstone

Frampton Marsh

Curlew Sandpiper

Belton Park Woods

Spotted Flycatcher

Boultham Mere

Garganey

Freiston Shore

4 Arctic Tern, 260 Common Tern, Roseate Tern (probable)

26/07/2020

Anderby Marsh

Cuckoo

Boultham Mere

Kingfisher

Frampton Marsh

Turtle Dove, Black Necked Grebe, 2 Greenshank, Pink-footed Goose, Red Kite, 6 Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper,

21 Spoonbill, Whimbrel

Freiston Shore

54 Eider, 10 Whimbrel

Gibraltar Point

4 Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, Wood Sandpiper, Roseate Tern (south)

Pyewipe, Grimsby

Mediterranean Gull, 6650 Common Shelduck

Spilsby

At least 4 Ring-necked Parakeets photographed flying over

Swanpool

11 Grey Partridge (a pair with 9 juveniles)

25/07/2020

East Halton Skitter

2 Spoonbill

Frampton Marsh

20 Spoonbill, 6 Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Whooper Swan, Yellow Wagtail, 2 Northern

Wheatear, Whimbrel

Stallingborough

Bee-eater (briefly)

Witham End

Osprey

24/07/2020

Frampton Marsh

Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon, Black Necked Grebe, Water Rail, 27 Spoonbill, Wood Sandpiper, Whooper Swan

Freshney

2 Goosander

Gibraltar Point

3 Spotted Redshank, 16 Spoonbill

23/07/2020

Fiskerton Fen

7 Little Egret, 5 Green Sandpiper, Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Red Knot, Wood Sandpiper, 18 Spoonbill, Little Stint

Gibraltar Point

Great White Egret

Willow Tree Fen

3 Common Crane

Alkborough Flats

Bittern, 8 Dunlin, 50 Little Egret, Greenshank, Red Kite, 10 Spotted Redshank, 8 Ruff, 17 Spoonbill Baston & Langtoft Pits

Red Knot

Frampton Marsh

4 Spotted Redshank, 2 Curlew Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, 2 Wood Sandpiper. 19 Spoonbill, Whooper Swan Freiston Shore

the possible Roseate Tern (still present)

Willow Tree Fen (note Reserve closed at present)

3 Common Crane, (2 adults and a chick) Seen as the first breeding in Lincs for 400 years

21/07/202

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Red Knot

Chapel Observatory

10 Dunlin, Great Crested Grebe, 15 Red Knot, 4 Common Tern. Little Tern, 350 Sandwich Tern Frampton Marsh

Black-necked Grebe, Brent Goose, Marsh Harrier, Red Knot, 2 Wood Sandpiper, 19 Spoonbill, several Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Wood Sandpiper, 19 Spoonbill, Caspian Tern, summering Whooper Swan Freiston Shore

Roseate Tern (See photograph below © Paul Sullivan)

Huttoft Pit

Water Rail

Huttoft Car Terrace

8 Dunlin, 26 Gannet, 8 Oystercatcher, 3 Common Tern, 8 Sandwich Tern

Trent Port Marton

Cuckoo, Caspian Gull, 50 Lapwing, Comman Sandpiper, Siskin, 3 Lesser Whitethroat

Paradise Pool

5 Dunlin, Little Egret, 8 Black-tailed Godwit



Frampton Marsh

Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Wood Sandpiper, 14 Spoonbill, Caspian Tern, Whooper Swan

Trent Port, Marton

45 Lapwing, Grasshopper Warbler

Saltfleet Haven

Whooper Swan

Winteringham Haven

7 Crossbill

19/07/2020

Alkborough Flats

200+ Avocet, Bittern, Peregrine Falcon, Spoonbills, Bearded Tits, Grasshopper Warbler Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler Frampton Marsh

Corn Bunting, 3 Garganey, 2 Black Necked Grebe, 4 Spotted Redshank, Green Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, 15 Spoonbill, Little Stint, Whooper Swan, Caspian Tern, Whimbrel

East Halton

2 Wheatear

Linwood Warren

Cuckoo

Toft Newton Reservoir

Great White Egret

Paradise Pool

114 Dunlin Black-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Kingfisher, 3 Common Sandpiper

Whitton Sands

2 Ruddy Shelduck

18/07/2020

Alkborough Flats

22 Spoonbill

Frampton Marsh

3 Black Necked Grebe, 2 Spotted Redshank, 14 Spoonbill, 3 Curlew Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Little Stint, Caspian Tern, Whooper Swan, Wood Sandpiper

Swanholme Lakes

Buzzard, 3 Grey Heron, 3 Swift 13 Long-tailed Tit

RAF Woodhall

2 Black-tailed Godwit, 6 Green Sandpiper

17/07/2020

Frampton Marsh

2 Black Necked Grebe, Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, 10 Spoonbill, Little Stint, Caspian Tern



A superb shot of the Caspian Tern at Frampton Marsh - Image © Graham Catley

Alkborough Flats
15 Spoonbill
Frampton Marsh
2 Black Necked Grebe, 3 Greenshank Hobby, Little Stint, 7 Spoonbill, Whooper Swan, Caspian Tern
Mablethorpe
Rosy Starling

15/07/2020

Frampton Marsh Caspian Tern

14/07/2020

Barrow Haven
12 Common Sandpiper south
Frampton Marsh
Caspian Tern in front of Vistor Centre again
Huttoft Pit
Caspian Tern briefly
Mablethorpe
Rosy Starling

Alkborough Flats

32 Little Egret, 2 Marsh Harrier, 3 Spoonbill, 2 Spotted Redshank,

Anderby Creek

Marsh Harrier

Frampton Marsh

Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Spoonbill, Little Stint

Huttoft Pit

Cuckoo, Water Rail, 3 Sandwich Tern

Mablethorpe

Rosy Starling

12/07/2020

Alkborough Flats

2 Spoonbill

Frampton Marsh

4 Black Necked Grebe, 2 Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, 4 Spoonbill, Caspian Tern (early but flew off NE and wasnt seen again) Whooper Swan

Grantham

Common Quail

Killingholme Pits

Spotted Redshank

Mablethorpe

Rosy Starling

11/07/2020

Chamber's Farm Wood

6 Crossbill (over car-park)

Frampton Marsh

6 Black Necked Grebe, 100000 Red Knot, 4 Spotted Redshank, 2 Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, 2 Spoonbill, Caspian Tern

Mablethorpe

Rosy Starling (photo © Mark Johnson)





Rosy Starling at Mablethorpe 11th July 2020 © Mark Johnson

New Holland Common Sandpiper Read's Island 450 Avocet, 250, Curlew, 400 Common Shelduck 10/07/2020 Donna Nook Little Owl (on the road in) Frampton Marsh Curlew Sandpiper, Caspian Tern



Unusual sighting together Whooper Swan and Caspian Tern at Frampton Marsh - Image © Steve Keightley

Gibraltar Point 9 Spoonbill Mablethorpe Rosy Starling

09/07/2020

Boultham Mere

c 50 House Martin, c200 Sand Martin, 150 Common Swift

Frampton Marsh

1000's Red Knot, Spoonbill

Gibraltar Point

Spoonbill

Pyewipe Grimsby

Glaucous Gull

Mablethorpe

Rosy Starling

Manby Wetlands

8 Avocet, 7 Dunlin, 82 Black-tailed Godwit, 2 Greenshank, 3 Ruff, 12 Green Sandpipper, 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Wood Sandpiper

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Black Necked Grebe, 82 Red-crested Pochard

Boultham Mere

Hobby, 200 Sand Martin

Frampton Marsh

Dunlin, Black Necked Grebe, Red Knot, Little Ringed Plover, Ruff, 5 Spoonbill

Manby Wetlands

Wood Sandpiper



Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit and Knot at RSPB Frampton 8th July 2020 © Roy Harvey

07/07/2020

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Black Necked Grebe

Frampton Marsh

Just one Brent Goose, Possibly 10000 Red Knot, 5 Oystercatcher, 2 Common Sandpiper then the rain arrived, 15 Swallow, 6 Common Swift

Lincs Coastal Country Park

Three flock of Common Crossbill over

06/07/2020

Baston & Langtoft Pits Black Necked Grebe Frampton Marsh

Red Knot, Spoonbill

Pyewipe Grimsby

Glaucous Gull

River Welland Stamford

Purple Heron

05/07/2020

East Halton area

3 Common Crossbill, 8 Little Egret, 2 Little Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper

04/07/2020

Frampton Marsh

Spotted Redshank, 2 Ruff, Common Sandpiper, 3 Green Sandpiper

Pyewipe, Grimsby

Glaucous Gull

03/07/2020

Frampton Marsh

Whooper Swan

Pyewipe, Grimsby

Glaucous Gull

Huttoft Car Terrace

45 Gannet

Toft Newton Reservoir

2 Little Ringed Plover, 2 Redshank, Common Scoter

02/07/2020

Alkborough Flats

14 Spoonbill

Anderby Creek

2 Spoonbill

Cleethorpes

Common Sandpiper

Tetney Lock

Corn Bunting, Greenshank

Theddlethorpe

294 Common Scoter

01/07/2020

Alkborough Flats

2 Spoonbill

Barton Pits

Great White Egret

Witham Mouth

Gannet, Sandwich Tern

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/

Nature Lister - http://www.naturelister.co.uk

Wildlife Recorder - https://www.wildlife.co.uk

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-plantsL

ove Lincs Plants Twitter feed @LoveLincsPlants

Sir Joseph Banks Society

http://www.ioseph-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.ht

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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.willev@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/rur

al-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/lvme-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/projec

ts-and-reports.php

Lincs Amphibian and Reptile Group

The Lincolnshire ARG (Amphibian & Reptile Group)

Ashley Butterfield - <u>learningoutdoors@btinternet.com</u>

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















