



Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - March 2021

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Steve Keightley (1959-2021)

By Colin Casey

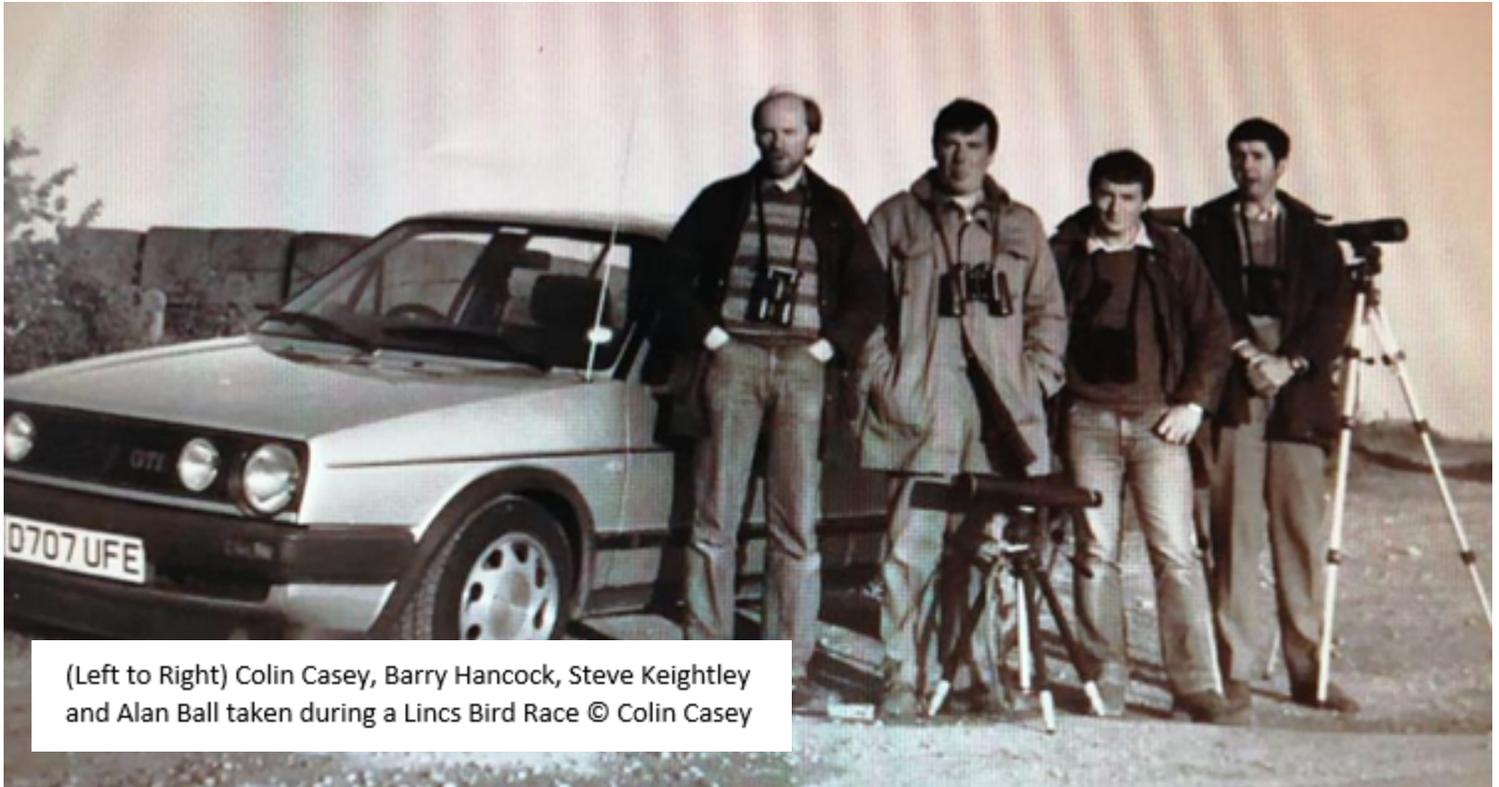
On Thursday 4th February 2021, we lost one of Lincolnshire's best known and most liked Birders. Sadly after a few days home from back surgery in Sheffield, Steve Keightley passed away in the Boston Pilgrim Hospital intensive care unit after contracting COVID 19.

I first met Steve in a chance meeting at Butterwick Marsh in about 1978. I think more than anyone else he was the person who kindled my interest in Birds. He was so helpful showing me my first Grey Plover. He was chatty and enthusiastic and eager to help, giving advice on places to go and what I could see.

I would have never thought that he would become one of my greatest friends and we would do so much together over the last 40 years. In the early years a group of us would meet up at the Kings Arms on Horncastle Road in Boston on a Thursday and Sunday and I would listen to stories of going miles to see rare birds, I thought they were all mad but with Steve's help I was soon doing the same. In 1983 I started my own business which was rewarding but very stressful and Birding with Steve was my way of relaxing.

Steve's main birding spot was Cut End which he counted for WeBs for 40 years and over the years I estimate that we did over quarter of a million miles Twitching all over the UK.

Along with my wife, Kay and Steve's wife, Sally, we did Majorca a couple of times, taking slides ready for the LWT and Bird Club members evenings. Along with Barry Hancock and Alan Ball we did the bird race with a new county record two years in a row (1986/87).



(Left to Right) Colin Casey, Barry Hancock, Steve Keightley and Alan Ball taken during a Lincs Bird Race © Colin Casey

Steve was the driving force behind the building of the Cut End Hide and I am pleased to say my company helped with a donation.

Reminiscing with Alan Ball he told me he first met Steve in 1971, In those days Alan used to do a lot of fishing, and his regular spot was on the Bargate Drain near to Steve's parents' house. They went to different schools so only knew each other through birding, either at Frampton, Freiston and via Alec Parker who was training to ring under John Marshall at Friskney Decoy Wood.

Alan would later take Steve on as a trainee ringer himself.

Alan can recall meeting Steve one day in 1981 at the Witham Mouth, when Steve invited him to ring a Shag he had rescued before its release. Alan went back to Steve's parents house on Willoughby Road and they went to the shed. When Steve opened the door, the Shag shot out, and Alan's immediate thought was "well that's gone – never to be seen again!", but the Shag just ran round and round both of them on the lawn begging for sprats. It recovered and was successfully released. Alan has many fond memories of Steve, such as the time in autumn 1984, when he came back from a net round at Seacroft with a big grin from ear to ear. When he asked him what he had, Steve wouldn't answer and simply swung his head from side to side.....trying to emulate the Wryneck that was in the bag! The next time Steve went to Seacroft he came back from a net round with a Red-breasted Flycatcher.

It was Steve that found the Lapland Buntings at Butterwick just before Christmas in 1985, they caught the first three on Christmas Eve, and Steve caught three more on Boxing Day. Prior to then only 95 had ever been ringed in the UK. Between us we went on to ring 290 over the next four winters getting two retraps in successive winters and one two winters later. I can remember taking them down to Butterwick through deep snow drifts in my 4x4 to put food out as

Steve wanted to make sure they had something to feed on in the severe weather. Some of the drifts were several feet deep and it was quite a journey.

Steve Keightley deploying 'chum' in The Wash during one of the many "Pelagics" he organised © Andrew Chick



In 1988 Steve (then working for NKDC as a Housing Maintenance Officer) realised that an ongoing re-roofing contract was going to prevent Swifts nesting along New Street in Helpringham and Steve somehow had the work stopped. This was one of the largest Swift colonies in Lincolnshire. Later when insulation was going to be fitted in the remaining houses, he designed a modification to continue to allow Swifts to nest, and also liaised with a construction rep from Marley to design a new Swift roof tile. Between 1988 and 2012 he and Alan ringed over 1,500 Swifts, of which nearly 1400 were chicks. They subsequently had several (8 no.) retraps of Swifts ringed as chicks returning to the street to breed in subsequent years (I think they were not really known to return to their natal area prior to this), including a few that had returned to the very same house that they were raised in. Steve and Alan subsequently went to a meeting at Chris Mead's house with a few others interested in Swift conservation and the 'Concern for Swifts' group was formed.

Steve started out as a humble carpenter, then after his time at North Kesteven Council, he moved over to the NHS becoming Estates Manager at Pilgrim Hospital where he was often on call all night so the late Alec Parker and I Twitched everything for a few years and Steve would come along when he could.

I have so many stories I could tell you but a few come to mind.

Steve, Alec Parker, Alan Ball and I, hired a fishing boat to take us to Lundy for the Ancient Murrelet and the trip saw us all standing in a 1 meter square box made from pallets, getting soaked all the way there, stopping overnight on Lundy and getting up at Sparrow fart to get to Jenny's Cove before the sun came up. Watching the bird until it disappeared in the rocks and then walking back to the boat and watching the crowd who had just arrived running to see it, but they had no chance.

In 1987 Steve was off work, in bed rather poorly when news of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Rauceby Warren broke and I went to his house and managed to get him in my car and across to see it making sure he hid below the seats when we went past the council offices where he worked. On arrival he looked very pale and obviously felt terrible but he saw the bird and i can't help feeling he was even more happy to go home to go back to bed.

Then in 1988, he returned the favour. I was at a family birthday party and considerably drunk, when at 11:30pm Steve called with news, "Least Sandpiper at Upton Warren, pick you up at 2:00am". We must have stopped 20 times for me to be sick and when we arrived Steve held me up to his scope and made sure I saw it so I could get a new tick.

Steve was county recorder from 1996 until 2009 and was responsible for the computerisation of the county records using Wildlife Recorder which we still use today and became a very accomplished photographer using Nikon gear doing slideshows all over the place.

In 2014 when my wife Kay died, Steve and Sally took it on themselves to make sure I was OK, feeding me, looking after me like an old Uncle, we then started birding more often with fantastic trips to Costa Rica (twice), Panama, The Gambia, Lesvos (3 times), Switzerland (twice), Finland, the Russian border to film Brown Bears, along with trips to Belgium to watch F1 at Spa and Birding afterwards in Belgium and the Netherlands.

We had loads more planned but it was not to be, in 2018 I was diagnosed with Myeloma (Blood Cancer) and Steve and Sally did everything they could to help me. Then in 2019 we were all surprised when Steve was found to have a 2kg cancer tumor on his adrenal gland. We both had treatment and were getting over it when COVID struck and 48 weeks of lockdown stopped a lot of our birding ideas.

Steve was without doubt one of the nicest guys you could ever meet, he was full of knowledge, would help anyone, a great friend to me and so many others. His passion in life was without doubt birds and I am proud to have known him, he will be sadly missed. RIP mate.



Steve Keightley as many of us will remember him, in the field © Neil Smith

Steve's funeral will take place on Thursday 11th March, 2021 at 3.30 pm at Boston Crematorium.

As you all know due to COVID restrictions, numbers attending funerals are very limited at the moment (just 24 at Boston). Also, Boston Council requests that people DO NOT gather in the crematorium grounds to pay respects.

With this in mind, it has been arranged for the funeral cortège to travel from Carr's Funeral Directors to the crematorium via the HORNCastle ROAD ENTRANCE, and it is asked that anyone wishing to pay their respects in person please stand on Horncastle Road roughly between Kent's Stone Masons and the cemetery entrance, of course please maintaining the usual social distancing.

Please note: The funeral cortège will not use the usual entrance on Robin Hoods Walk due to it being around 'school leaving time', and the proximity of the Haven High school.

If anyone is interested in receiving a link and password to the funeral online (valid live, and for 7 days), this will be available nearer the time please send an email to colin@otus.co.uk so i can send you details.

The family has asked that flowers are not sent as these will be family only. Any donations given will go to local wildlife charities/groups, (details still to be decided), can be sent to:

*Carr's Funeral Service,
Holman House,
2 Spilsby Road,
Boston,
PE21 9DA,*

*or to Sally Keightley,
Corner Cottage,
West Fen Drainside,
Frithville,
Boston,
PE20 1SG*

*or to Colin Casey via Paypal using
the account colin@otus.co.uk and he
will forward it on.*

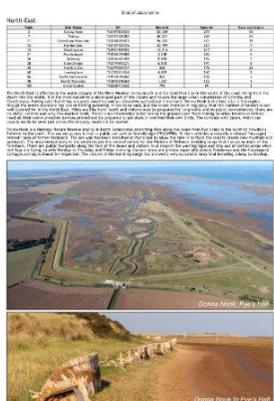
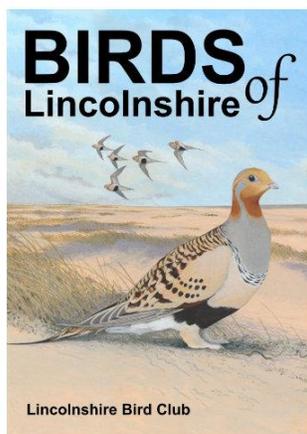


Knot at Frampton Marsh RSPB © Steve Keightley 2019

Birds of Lincolnshire: Pre-Publication Offer Closes March 8th

We've had a fantastic take up for our offer and over 140 copies have already been ordered. But that means over 220 of you could be about to miss out on the fantastic pre-publication price of £23 including postage. The price for members after March 8th will go up to £33 including postage. While for the public it will be £43 inc postage. If you wish you can buy more than one copy at the special rate of £23 provided your booking reaches us by March 8th. Ninety percent of orders have been by Paypal but you can pay by cheque if you wish. Full details at www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk.

The fantastic cover painting by well known Norfolk artist and Birdquest tour leader Nik Borrow of a Pallas's Sandgrouse resting on the dunes at Saltfleetby with a flock flying overhead is being turned into a limited edition print of 20 prints. The original was commissioned by Phil Espin. The print will not be available for sale to the public as it is intended as a thank you to those mentioned in the Acknowledgements of Birds of Lincolnshire. However all members who buy the book in the pre-publication offer will be entered into a raffle and one lucky winner will receive a copy of the print, no 10. The winner will be announced at our online Zoom AGM, planned for March 23rd. The final print, no 20 will be held back as a prize for the next finder of a Sandgrouse species in Lincolnshire. It has been nearly 122 years since the last at Holbeach Marsh on 16th March 1899, surely another is long overdue? A suitable birding location will need to be identified for it to hang pending a successful BBRC submission. Any suggestions from the main birding visitor centres in the county would be welcome.



Lincolnshire Bird Club AGM

Email pmjespin@gmail.com to sign up and receive your zoom link at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 23rd for a Question and Answer Session with Phil Espin Chair of Lincolnshire Bird Club and Co-author of Birds of Lincolnshire

The talk will be followed by the Annual General Meeting at 8pm

The Agenda can be downloaded at https://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/site/images/minutes/AGM_notice_2021.pdf

Lincolnshire Bird Atlas 1980-1999 from the BTO website

See <https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/book-reviews/lincolnshire-bird-atlas-1980-1999>

Published soon after the series of local atlases that coincided with Bird Atlas 2007-11, you might think the Lincolnshire Bird Atlas would span a similar period. You might expect a lavishly illustrated atlas with up to date distribution maps. You'd be wrong on both counts because this is a very different atlas, one from a different era. An atlas that nearly never was.

There's a temptation with any atlas to jump straight to the maps but I always recommend readers look carefully at the introductory chapters so they understand how to interpret what follows. This is especially important with the Lincolnshire Bird Atlas because it details the rocky road this project took, from inception in 1980, mothballing in the late 1990s, and three failed revivals in the 2000s before the project was finally brought to publication during 2017-20.

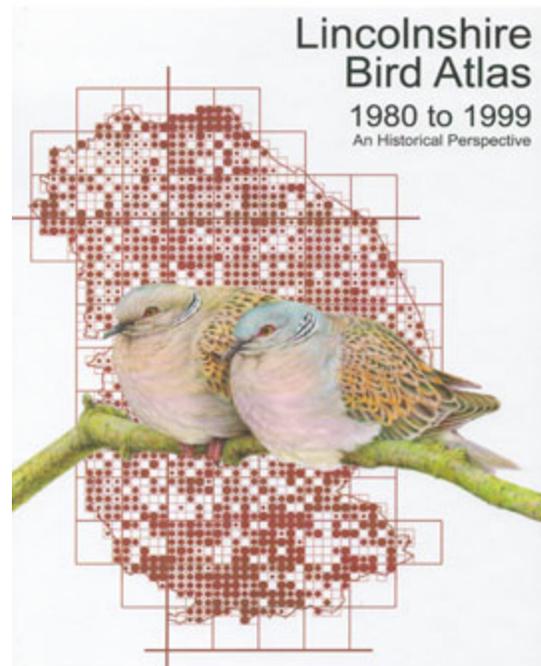
It describes how 'IT archaeology' was required to access and extract maps and species accounts produced in the late 1990s. These have been faithfully reproduced, providing a snapshot into the past - not only revealing what bird distributions looked like in the late 20th century, but also what the experts of the day knew about the birds of their county. It documents the distribution of 129 breeding species based on fieldwork between 1980 and 1995, plus short accounts for a further 241 non-breeding species recorded up to 1999. Without the benefit of latterly arriving egrets, buzzards and kites, it is a stark reminder of what we have lost - wall-to-wall Turtle Doves, Redshanks breeding in every saltmarsh-dominated tetrad, and Swallows in over 90% of tetrads.

This book is an important baseline documenting the status and fine-scale distribution of birds in England's second largest county. I grew up in the Lincolnshire Fens, and fieldwork for this atlas was the first systematic surveying I ever did, so I am delighted to see it published. It brings back memories of finding breeding Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers and searching for Long-eared Owls in Fenland spinneys.

The Lincolnshire Bird Atlas may not be as colourful or elegantly designed as some modern atlases, but there are very good reasons for that and I think it would be a mistake to judge it harshly. It contains a wealth of information that was almost lost, but here it is preserved for future generations of researchers and birders

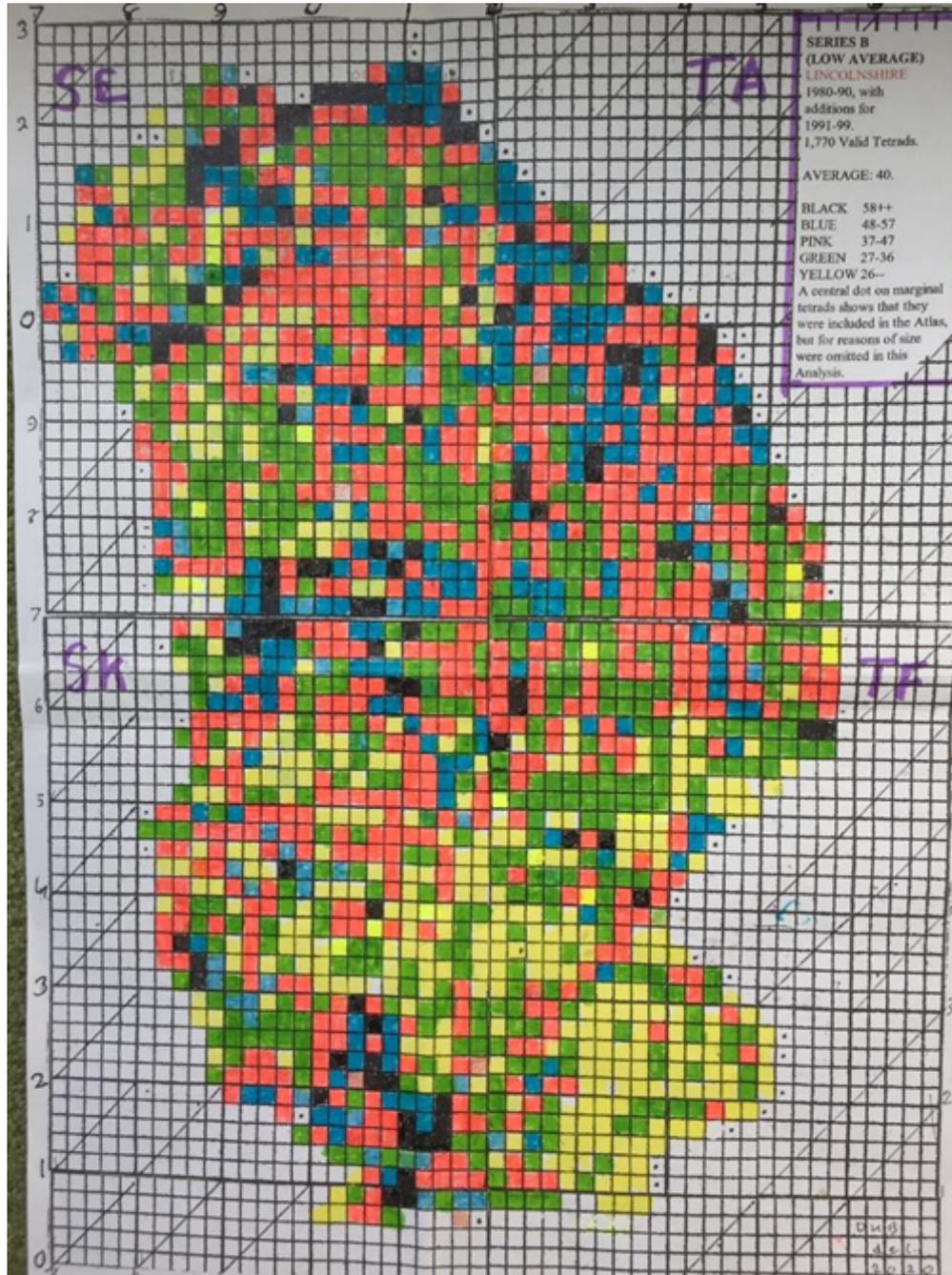
I recommend this book to everyone who took part and to anyone with an interest in Lincolnshire's birds.

Book reviewed by Simon Gillings (BTO)



Further News on the Lincolnshire Bird Atlas

David Ballance the author of *Avifaunas, Atlases and Authors A Personal View of Local Ornithology in the United Kingdom from the Earliest Times to 2019* published in 2020 took a keen interest in the Lincolnshire Bird Atlas project and sent letters to several committee members over many years to encourage it's publication. He has reviewed the Atlas for the BOU journal, *The Ibis* and sent me an advance copy. He believes his review will be published shortly. For me, the take home quote is his description of the Atlas as being "of exemplary clarity".



David has connections with the Fens and for him one of the real values of the Lincolnshire Bird Atlas was as a final piece of the jigsaw in completing a block of seven contiguous county atlases, five of which cover the Fens in their entirety. He has a particular interest in species richness and has gone to the trouble of counting the species in each tetrad and producing a hand drawn coloured map which he has shared with us, of the species density in each tetrad in the county. The map is of considerable interest and reproduced below. The black and blue squares reflect the greatest species richness and the green and yellow the lowest. The production of such a map is a feature of most county atlases but sadly when producing the Lincolnshire Atlas we could not trace a copy of an original map and in keeping with the values of our production we did not, perhaps mistakenly, attempt to recreate one.

He notes the average number of species per tetrad in the Lincolnshire Atlas was 40 which is in line with averages for most large counties like Devon and Northumberland. One notable difference being that our highlands contain more species than our lowlands in contrast to most of the country. He attributes this to the particularly intensive farming of the Fens.

David Ballance's Avifaunas book contains:

- An account of the development of local ornithology, conforming with current recording areas and including biographical details of authors.
- A critical discussion of county atlases.
- A bibliography of local book and pamphlets
- Listings of national and local journals
- An Appendix on school natural history societies
- A4 ringbound, 350 pages, 180 maps and illustrations

It is published by Calluna Books and costs £25, full details on their website at www.callunabooks.co.uk.

The Lincolnshire Bird Atlas is available for purchase from sales@lincsbirdclub.co.uk at £30 plus p&p.

Philip Espin Chair, Lincs Bird Club, follow me on twitter @philespin

BirdTrack - Updating your sites

With the Lincs Bird Club incorporating BirdTrack records in our annual reports, your sightings are a very valuable source of information. One easy way to make your records more accessible to recorders is to check your sites in 'My places' and ensure they have descriptive names, for example avoiding generic names such as 'My garden', perhaps using your street name and town instead. You can edit the site names by clicking on 'Edit' next to the place name, typing in a new site name and saving.

Similarly, it is very helpful for recorders to check any sites you may have that cover very large areas, 10km sites for example, and adjusting them using the polygon tool. This is especially useful if the site crosses one or more county borders. You can find out how to use this tool at <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/birdtrack/taking-part/adding-records/my-places>.

Peregrine Webcams

At the moment we have setup two Peregrine Webcams

St Wulframs, Gratham, see LIVE feed on YouTube and read the Blog at

<https://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/site/index.php/information/lbc-articlebloglist/629-peregrine-project-stwulframsblog>



And, St James's Louth, see LIVE images and follow the action at

<https://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/site/index.php/information/lbc-articlebloglist/630-peregrine-project-st-james-2021-blog>



THE **Lincolnshire** **BIRD REPORT 2019**



The 2019 Lincs Bird Report is at the printers....

As the Lincolnshire Bird Report went to press, news reached us that former County Bird Recorder Steve Keightley passed away on February 4th 2021. A full obituary will appear in LBR 2020. The cover photo for the 2019 report is his photo of the Black-winged Pratincole at Frampton Marsh taken on Jun 18th 2019. Members should expect their copy from late March

The long-running study on the south bank of the Humber, carried out annually since 1992, revealed 14 males and 15 females which fledged 26 young (2PC). This was the lowest count of females since 2005. Elsewhere in the county the coast reported one confirmed pair fledging two young and three probable pairs. The Wash had two confirmed pairs with four fledged young and inland there were five confirmed pairs fledging one young and five probable pairs. A total for the year of 33 pairs included 23 confirmed and ten probable pairs fledging a total of 53 young, which was down from a total of 57 pairs fledging 66 young in 2018. The downward trajectory continues, and a full survey of this species now looks long overdue. In the early winter period in Jan around 51 birds were reported, up from 41-43 in 2018. These were split between the Humber (15), coast (4), inland (13) and The Wash (19) with a max of eight at Dawsmere in Jan. The peak count across the county was in Sep when the combined peak total came to 86. These were split between the Humber (24), coast (17), inland (24) and The Wash (21). Apart from 15 at Frampton Marsh in Jun, other large counts included 10 at Holbeach St Matthew in Nov and at Winteringham in Jul, nine at Witham Mouth in Jun and eight at Frampton Marsh in Aug and Alkborough Flats in Sep.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-May; rare in summer. Bred to 1872. This species has become less numerous since the 1990s. Former roosting sites on The Wash used to hold double figures throughout the winter periods. Red List. RBBP
The highest counts for the year were five at both Frampton Marsh (Mar 8th) and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe (Jan 25th). Recorded in 11 months of the year there were 431 observer sightings from 39 sites. Those sites recording at least two in any month are tabulated.

Site Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frampton Marsh	3	4	5	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2
Gibraltar Point	2	2	3	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	3
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Donna Nook	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Tetney	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Wainfleet	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dawsmere	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holbeach St Matthew	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Boston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* and Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Mid-Lincolnshire Dec 2019 © GRAHAM CATLEY



Wintering birds from 2018 remained in the county at up to 15 sites in Jan-Mar and one or two were still at coastal sites into Apr-May; the last birds were singles at Gibraltar Point May 1st-13th with two there Jun 2nd. An early autumn bird returned to Frampton Marsh Aug 4th-10th and another was at Moulton Marsh Aug 29th, possibly the same bird. More single birds were seen in Sep with records from four coastal sites, with more arriving in Oct, mainly singles, apart from two at Anderby Creek Oct 7th and at Gibraltar Point Oct 30th. Inland birds were also at Branton Booths, Marston, Nocton and Scunthorpe areas. Nine sites hosted Hen Harriers in Nov, mainly on The Wash with two inland at Boston GP Nov 16th-17th, up to two at Frampton Marsh and Gibraltar Point. The picture remained the same into Dec with 14 sites recording them and a maximum of three at Gibraltar Point Dec 15th. Adult/sub-adult males were recorded during the year at about eight sites, most regularly on The Wash and one was inland at Marston STW Dec 13th. A few clues as to the origin of wintering birds have been gleaned in the past from a few ringing recoveries of birds ringed in Scotland (Sep 1973), Netherlands (Dec 1972) and Sweden (1985). Colour-ringed birds seen alive include a Scottish female (Dec 2005) and a Scottish male (Dec 2002 and again Jan 2005).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor, though breeding irregularly. Amber List. RBBP
To repeat the depressing narrative of the 2018 report, the dire state of this species in Lincolnshire continues to suggest that a year with no records is not far away. The last successful nest was in 2012 and the last nesting attempt in 2014. It is worth remembering that as recently as 2001 four pairs fledged five young in The Wash.
The first bird of the year was identified as the female that bred successfully on the upper Humber in 2014 and 2015 and was first seen at Alkborough Flats on May 1st.



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* male and female Alkborough Flats May and Jun 2019 © GRAHAM CATLEY

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Rare/very scarce migrant. S. Europe. LBRCC
No records of this species were received in 2019 but note a corrected date range for this 2014 record: The 1CY+ bird at Covenham Reservoir, Oct 1st-8th, 2014 (Corrected in BRCC record, British Birds 113: 585-655).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant in spring and autumn. RBBP American Black Tern *C. n. sahamaensis* is a vagrant. BRCC. Green List. Threshold for international importance: 7,500; for national importance: no data.

The highest count for the year was 27 at Barton on Apr 25th. Recorded in five months of the year, there were 63 observer sightings from 18 sites. Birds were divided equally between coastal and inland sites as can be seen from the table below.

Site Name	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Barton	-	27	3	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Reservoir	-	-	16	-	-	-	1	-
Whisby NP	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	5	-	1	2	1	-
Deeping St James	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	1	2	3	1	-	-
Toft next Newton	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-

The first bird of the year was a single at Barton Pits on Apr 19th-20th, followed by up to seven at Barton on Apr 22nd. Three days later on 25th the highest count of the year of 27 was also recorded there. Two other double-figure totals were recorded on May 8th: 16 at Covenham Reservoir and 14 at Whisby NP and the adjacent North Hykeham Pits. Two going east in Lincoln city centre along the River Witham towards Washingtonborough on May 13th was unusual. The last birds of the spring were on May 18th at Covenham and Toft Reservoirs.

Autumn passage was marked by birds at Gibraltar Point on Jul 26th and Frampton Marsh on Jul 28th but was generally very light with the highest counts being of just three birds at Chapel Point Observatory on Aug 2nd and Gibraltar Point on Aug 24th. The final bird of the year was one at Covenham Reservoir on Sep 29th.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Fairly common autumn passage migrant, mainly August to November and rare in winter and spring. Rare inland. Amber List.

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gibraltar Point	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	30	11	8	1
Anderby-Huttoft coast	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	16	20	1
Sutton on Sea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Chapel St Leonards	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	11	-

There were 74 observer sightings recorded during the from 13 sites; the table above shows all sites with a double-figure count in at least one month. There were only three records in the first half of the year, singles at Anderby Creek on Jan 9th, at Gibraltar Point on Jan 10th and at Grantthorpe on Apr 19th. Return passage began on 30th Jul with single birds at Anderby-Huttoft, Chapel St Leonards and Gibraltar Point. Records increased slightly during August with from one to two birds at Gibraltar Point on five dates, two at Anderby-Huttoft and singles at Chapel St Leonards and Thushorpe. The greatest proportion of the year's records occurred in Sep when the highest single counts of the year were also recorded: of 30 birds

at Gibraltar Point on the 5th and 16th and with notable counts there also of 17 on the 17th and 11 on the 7th. Anderby Creek also recorded 11 birds on Sep 28th, with six at the Witham mouth on 16th and four at Frampton Marsh on the 7th. On Oct 1st, 11 birds were at Gibraltar Point and 16 birds were at Huttoft with 12 at the latter site on the 20th. Otherwise, most records in Oct were of five birds or fewer. Early Nov saw 20 birds at Huttoft, 14 at Sutton on Sea, eight at Gibraltar Point and four at the Witham Mouth, all on the 5th. Later in the month, 11 birds were observed at Anderby-Huttoft and (presumably the same birds) at Chapel St Leonards on the 15th. A single bird at Gibraltar Point on Dec 24th was the only record for the month and the final bird of the year.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Generally scarce autumn passage migrant, although occasional larger movements, mainly September to November. Rare in winter and spring and exceptional inland. Green List.

Site Name	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sutton on Sea	-	-	42	-
Gibraltar Point	3	5	27	2
Huttoft	3	1	22	-
Anderby	-	1	7	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	7	-	-
Chapel St Leonards	-	-	7	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	4	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	1	-
Donna Nook	-	-	1	1
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	-
Barton upon Humber	-	-	1	-



Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Donna Nook Dec 3rd 2019 © PAUL CDOMBS

CONFERENCE REPORT: BTO - LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB

More than 130 logged in to last month's virtual conference organised jointly by the BTO and the Lincolnshire Bird Club and held via Zoom.

In his introduction, LBC chairman Phil Espin commended co-organiser Chris Gunn for her passion, drive and organisational flair. He went on to express delight that attendees were logged in from all over England, plus one in the Isle of Man.

Phil Espin

Phil went on to publicise the LBC's latest publication, Lincolnshire Bird Atlas 1980-1999: An Historical Perspective and its forthcoming sister-volume, Birds of Lincolnshire, due out this month. Then he handed over to Dawn Balmer who expertly chaired the proceedings.

Jenny Gill

The impressive population expansion of black-tailed godwits in Iceland and the UK was the focus of a presentation by Prof Jenny Gill, chairperson of the BTO board.

This surge has been measured not so much by technology as by old-fashion colour-ringing carried out by observers - "godwiteers" - across Europe.

Apart from providing pointers to distribution and migration, this methodology has revealed that some birds live into their early 20s.

The species appears to have been a beneficiary of global warming.

New breeding habitat has appeared in parts of Iceland that were formerly too cold, and egg-laying dates are now earlier.

And research has revealed that chicks hatched earlier are more likely to survive - possibly because quicker-growing grass conceals nestlings and eggs alike from predators such as Arctic foxes, ravens and skuas.

The breeding success has resulted in a "dramatic increase" in migrating and over-wintering birds in British estuaries.

Most of those seen further south and west are likely to be older birds while those in Eastern England are predominantly first-winter newbies.



Any downsides? Apart from predators, the main threat is ash thrown from erupting Icelandic volcanoes which is likely to kill the invertebrates on which godwits feed.

John Badley

Fascinating insights into the management of the RSPB reserve at Frampton Marsh, near Boston in Lincolnshire, came from senior site manager John Badley who is also a Lincolnshire Bird Club member.

John took over the reins some 20 years ago having previously worked alongside shorebird expert Peter Potts in The Solent, the strait that separates the Isle of Wight from the mainland.

The site at Frampton was first earmarked by the charity as a superb location for a reserve largely on the basis of its massive saltmarsh which has always attracted huge numbers of redshank, Brent geese and various species of raptor.



Since its creation in 1984, funding from a National Lottery grant has enabled expansion of the site, allowing creation of freshwater habitat with water that is pumped in from ditches to sit atop the silt-clay base.

A peat-rich soil would probably be preferable - not least for encouraging black-tailed godwits to nest - but, notwithstanding, the reserve has been a huge success, both for birds and for birders (more than 50,000 visitors a year).

On the subject of waders, John said: "We can't make them come to Frampton but we can encourage them to want to stay."

Apparently scrapes are relatively straightforward and inexpensive to create, and, in these, nesting avocets quickly became established. In a short space of time, there were no fewer than 100 pairs either at Frampton or, subsequently, at its sister reserve at nearby Freiston Shore.

These flourished early on because rotting vegetation attracted invertebrates.

However, as expected, their numbers dipped in later years because an increase in fish provided competition for the invertebrates.

John introduced a concept that was probably unfamiliar to many of the conference attendees - that of the "hydrological unit"

For the sake of diversity it is preferable to have a variety of watery habitats rather than one alone.

Managing such units needs to be rigorously monitored but it has consistently paid off in attracting large numbers of a huge wetland species - from whooper swans to little ringed plovers (19 pairs at the last count) to lekking ruff at the end of May.

Known as "dynamic transient management", the methodology, which involves rotating scrapes and intermittently allowing them to lie fallow, then flooding them, is scrupulously plotted.

The dividends come in the form of one mouth-watering rarity after another.

Enthused John: "Stilt sandpiper, red-necked phalarope, black-winged pratincole we live for moments like this.

Inevitably, every day brings new challenges.

Proliferation of reed rush is an issue but John and his team believe the proposed introduction of grazing Highland cattle could help to tackle it.

But the beasts will have to be managed or they are liable to trample on ground-based nests.

New Zealand pygmy weed is also a nuisance because it loves to colonise bare mud - the very type of habitat favoured by many small waders.

Meanwhile, foxes, badgers and even otters present an ever-lurking menace to birds, so mammal proof fencing has been installed at those points of the reserve deemed most vulnerable.

The team at Frampton are always learning, and they swap ideas and notes with other RSPB reserves such as those at Minsmere, Titchwell and Dungeness

"We're never satisfied," says John. "We're always tweaking."

Any prediction of which wader species might next choose to breed at this fabulous Lincolnshire reserve?

"Who knows," he says. "Glossy ibis is on the cards. And maybe black winged stilt - yes that, too, is definitely on our radar."

Dawn Balmer

Dawn Balmer, who is head of surveys at the BTO's HQ at Thetford in Norfolk, focused her presentation on how birding records are collated across Europe by a range of organisations

It was enlightening to see the extent to which species populations in Britain are mirrored by those in other parts of continental Europe.

For instance, while willow warblers are in decline, blackcaps are increasing.



Particularly fascinating was Dawn's exploration of the online Europe Bird Portal which captures the densities of bird distribution at any given time.

Most swallows, for instance, are just beginning their migration north but some have already reached France, with a few even further north.

Because it is such an iconic species - and obviously of particular interest to conference attendees - Dawn swooped on the waxwing.

So far, though currently widespread in Finland and Sweden, this delightful bird has been sparsely distributed in Britain for most of this winter.

Simon Gillings

Things that go 'tseep' in the night - that was the intriguing title of the presentation from Simon Gillings of the BTO.

It proved to be a fascinating run-through of the extraordinary range of birds he has audio-recorded after dark at his home in a relatively built-up area on the outskirts of Cambridge.

Over the past couple of decades, the advent of advanced listening and recording technology has increased the popularity of monitoring 'nocmig' - nocturnal migration.

It may lack the poetry of listening out for the call-notes of redwings or seeking to detect the silhouettes of birds as they fly across the face of a full moon.

But it has a romance of its own - and is definitely more efficient.

"Nocmig has definitely taken off over the past few years," said Simon. "It has been especially popular during lockdown. It has given a new dimension to birding"

For him, it all started on March 15, 2017, when the species that drew his attention was a calling moorhen.

This has proved to be something of a regular 'night-owl', with birds - apparently participating in territorial flights - heard almost every night in spring and summer.

But more remarkable have been some of the other species - the likes of whimbrel, quail, whooper swan, ring ouzel, little grebe, spotted redshank and even sandwich tern.



Although redwings are frequently picked up, fieldfares seem to be more silent at night, while warblers are virtually mute.

Unfortunately, the equipment that records the bird is unable to detect the height of the birds - for that, radar would be required.

At the last count, Simon had logged no fewer than 87 different species over his home - not to mention quite a few that, to date, remain unidentified.

"One of these is possibly an ortolan bunting," he says ruefully. "But along with a fair few others, it remains in the file marked 'Pending'.

Jim Wright

BOOK REVIEW: *Common & Spotted Sandpipers* by Phil Holland

Common Sandpiper "typically starts alarming when a person is 75 metres away".

This nugget of research is supplied in ***Common & Spotted Sandpipers***, a highly impressive book by Phil Holland, a gifted writer and an expert on both species.

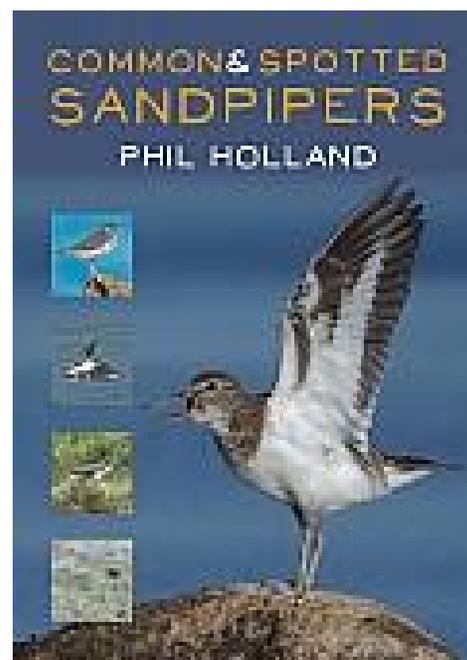
Based both on historical literature and in-depth field research, the study is full of fascinating insights covering every angle - feeding, breeding, migration, distribution, habitat, impact of global warming, recreational threats and more.

In the section on predation, the author notes that sandpipers are adroit at evading peregrines or other raptors by diving under water and remaining immersed for as long as 30 seconds.

Eggs and chicks are vulnerable to magpies, mink and stoats but adult sandpipers seem to be mostly resilient, though Holland cites one improbable record of a Common Sandpiper seen being "attacked" by a Willow Warbler.

What could have prompted that episode, and what was the outcome? Unfortunately, this extra piece of information has gone unrecorded. Birds are apparently vulnerable to losing toes or feet when stray sheep's wool gets entangled round them, but the main long-term threat, as ever, is loss of habitat both here and in their wintering grounds. Sandpipers are chiefly birds of the waterside, but, in some countries, such as Russia, they dwell in forests well away from lakes or streams.

In Lincolnshire, they are often seen, on passage, at locations such as Covenham Reservoir, but, according to Holland, such sites are likely to provide limited food resources.



He notes: "Reservoir edges, though often easy to observe, are poor quality habitat for passage birds and thus used for resting rather than serious feeding." Every year, a few Common Sandpipers winter in southern Britain, but what about in Lincolnshire?

If so, a typical place, says the author, would be a few kilometres up a tidal river where they "lurk" under banks and are evidently nowhere near as conspicuous as in summer when their three-note call and low flickering flight soon gives away their presence.

Holland is refreshingly candid about the impact that birders, including himself, might have on sandpipers. He writes: "How much effect have our own activities, watching and ringing birds, had? It will have had some.

"Our aim is to catch a bird only once and mark it with colour rings, then it can be observed from afar for the rest of its life." He adds, amusingly: "They rarely get re-trapped as they know what we were up to!"

This entertainingly informative book is published by Scottish firm Whittles Publishing Ltd which has built up an impressive portfolio of ornithological and natural history titles.

<https://www.whittlespublishing.com>

The recommended retail price is £18.99, but, until April 12, there is a 20 per cent discount by inserting the code **WPLINCS20** at the online checkout.

Jim Wright



Wood Sandpiper (not Common or Spotted...) taken in 2019 at Frampton Marsh RSPB by Steve Keightley.

Lincolnshire Bird News - February 2021

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.

Lincolnshire Bird Club - COVID-19 (Full Lockdown) Update

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 Club's position on bird news dissemination. From January 4th Lincolnshire is in full lockdown. However, we are still permit outdoors for exercise. Therefore, local birding should be ok as long as no other rules are broken especially regarding social distancing.

We will continue to maintain our **Latest Bird News** page (updated each evening) and the Lincs Rare Birds **WhatsApp Group** - members sharing bird news. The bird club committee believe this helps reduce social isolation by allowing members to keep in touch with the outside world and hopefully it will help some get through what will be a very frustrating time. However, we will continue to closely monitor the situation, and we may change our policy if events suggest that is required. There is of course no compulsion on members to share bird news should they consider local circumstances are such that they prefer not to.

28/02/2021

Crowland

Red-throated Diver

Fillingham Lake

2 Chiffchaff

Job's Lane

3 Little Egret, Egyptian Goose, Mediterranean Gull, Smew, Green Woodpecker

Doddington Park

c200 Lesser Redpoll

27/02/2021

Bardney Lock

Pintail, 50 Whooper Swan

Cleethorpes

Snow Bunting, 200 Pink-footed Goose, Sparrowhawk, 2 Stonechat, Water Rail

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver

Doddington Park

90 Lesser Redpoll, 3 Siskin, Great Spotted Woddpecker

Gibraltar Point

Lapland Bunting, Hen Harrier

Marston

8 Twite

Long Sutton

House Martin (very early)

North Thoresby

20 Fieldfare, 2 Little Owl, 6 Redwing, 6 Skylark, 1 Mistle Thrush, 5 Song Thrush

Trent Port, Marton

75 Lapwing, Red Kite, Barn Owl, 13 Redshank, 11 Snipe

26/02/2021

Alkborough Flats

Avocet, 10 Dunlin, 8 Little Egret, 38 Black-tailed Godwit, Barnacle Goose, 4 Marsh Harrier, 4 Grey Heron, 3 Pintail, 2 Water Rail, 28 Redshank, 30 Shelduck, Sparrowhawk, 4 Stonechat, Tawny Owl, 10 Cetti's Warbler

Boultham Mere

3 Goosander (all female), 2 Kingfisher, 40 Lesser Redpoll, 2 Song Thrush

Crowland Abbey

Red-throated Diver

Chapel St Leonards

412 Pink-footed Goose, **Slavonian Grebe**, 374 Red-throated Diver

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver



Slavonian Grebe at Chapel St Leonards - Image © Garry Wright

Doddington Park

90 Lesser Redpoll, 2 Siskin, Sparrowhawk

Fiskerton Fen

4 Great White Egret

Grantham

Lesser Redpoll, Sparrowhawk

Lincoln Cathedral

Peregrine Falcon

Linwood Warren

2 Crossbill, Green Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Teal, Mistle Thrush, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Irby

Red Kite

Tennyson Sands

10 Avocet, 2 Pochard, Water Rail, 2 Cetti's Warbler 150 Wigeon

Shep Whites

5 Bewick's Swan, 300 Whooper Swan

Swanpool

2 Lesser Redpoll, Green Woodpecker

Wainfleet

Hen Harrier

25/02/2021

Crook Bank

Velvet Scoter

Doddington Hall

7 Buzzard, 41 Fieldfare, Red-legged Partridge 3 Mistle Thrush

Doddington Park, Lincoln

Common Redpoll, 80 Lesser Redpoll

Far Ings

Bittern

Frampton Marsh

Avocet, Red Kite

Gibraltar Point

8 Avocet, Lapland Bunting, Great Northern Diver, 200 Red-throated Diver, Red-necked Grebe (south), Sandwich Tern

Gipsey Bridge

Barn Owl

Huttoft Bank Pit

Slavonian Grebe

Messingham

250 Tufted Duck, 8 Goldeneye, Oystercatcher, 43 Pochard, 4 Red-crested Pochard, 2 Willow Tit, 26 Siskin Cetti's Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Rippingale Fen

2 Chiffchaff

24/02/2021

Anderby Creek

Buzzard, 2 Marsh Harrier, Water Pipit, 11 Shelduck, 38 Stonechat

Deeping Fen

550 Whooper Swan

Far Ings

3 Bittern, Peregrine Falcon, 2 Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl, Starling (murmuration), 10 Stonechat, 11 Cetti's Warbler

Gooseman's Field

Stonechat

Ingoldsby

Red Kite, Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Marsh Tit

Saltfleetby

Red Kite



Barn Owl in private garden in Gipsey Bridge this morning - Image © Colin Casey

23/02/2021

Chapel St Leonard's

Slavonian Grebe (present for its fourth day)

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver

Deeping Lakes

Greater Scaup

Linwood Warren

2 Crossbill, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Hartsholme Park

Little Egret, 5 Grey Heron, Tawny Owl

Manby Wetlands

50 Whooper Swan

Messingham SQ

4 Red-crested Pochard

Skegness

Chiffchaff, 25 Woodcock

Wainfleet

Hen Harrier

22/02/2021

Black Bank

Peregrine Falcon, Jay, Grey Partridge, 2 Redwing, Skylark, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Boultham Mere

Goosander, Kingfisher, Raven, 60 Lesser Redpoll, Treecreeper

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver, Short-eared Owl

Deeping Lakes

Greater Scaup, Shag

Doddington Park

1 Common Redpoll, 94 Lesser Redpoll, 4 Siskin

Freiston Shore

8 Greater Scaup

Jobs Lane

6 Fieldfare, 2 Egyptian Goose, Mediterranean Gull, 4 Mistle Thrush, 2 Song Thrush, 15 Redwing, Smew (drake),

Green Woodpecker

Wroot

Hen Harrier

21/02/2021

Boultham Mere

Goldcrest, 3 Goosander, Oystercatcher, Treecreeper, 3 Yellowhammer

Cress Marsh

35 Black-headed Gull, Buzzard 17 Gadwall, 71 Herring Gull, 278 Lapwing, 35 Linnet, 3 Little Egret, Pochard, 5 Shelduck, 2 Skylark, 113 Teal

Doddington Park

186 Lesser Redpoll (in private garden), 4 Siskin



Near enough 156 Lesser Redpoll shown in this photo of the c186 that were present this morning - Image © Chris Grimshaw

- Far Ings
- Barn Owl, 2 Bittern, Starling (murmuration), 6 Stonechat
- Grantham
- 10 Lesser Redpoll
- Job's Lane
- Smew
- Trent Port, Marton
- 2 Goosander, Greenshank, 15 Lapwing, 19 Pintail, 35 Golden Plover, 2 Redshank, Shoveler, Snipe, 3 Stonechat
- Rimac
- 2 Great Northern Diver, Iceland Gull
- Wainfleet
- Hen Harrier (ringtail), 3 Short-eared Owl
- Willow Tree Fen
- 111 Goosander

- 20/02/2021
- Alkborough Flat
- Spoonbill
- Deeping Lakes

Greater Scaup

Doddington Park

90 Lesser Redpoll, 2 Sparrowhawk

Far Ings

Bittern

Grantham

Peregrine Falcon

Lincoln Cathedral

2 Peregrine Falcon

Messingham

Egyptian Goose, **Red Kite**

Millennium Green

Mandarin Duck

Stubton

200 Fieldfare, 40 Redwing

Tallington Lakes

3 Red Crested Pochard (2 males 1 female)

19/02/2021

Deeping Lakes

Greater Scaup

Doddington Park

120 Lesser Redpoll, 2 Sparrowhawk

Far Ings

Bittern

Tallington Lakes

Ring-necked Duck (1st winter female)

Tongue End

6 Bewick's Swan

18/02/2021

Anderby Creek

3 Marsh Harrier

Doddington Park

120 Lesser Redpoll, Siskin, Sparrowhawk

Gibraltar Point

2 Corn Bunting, 273 Cormorant, **2 Eider Duck**, **Gannet**, **2 Woodcock**, Green Woodpecker

Huttoft Marsh

Great White Egret

Jobs Lane

Smew (male), 2 Oystercatcher

Marston

20 Snipe

17/02/2021

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver

Doddington Park

c100 Lesser Redpoll, 1 Siskin

Job's Lane

Smew (male)



A distant Smew at Job's Lane - Image © Andy Sims

Messingham
Greater Scaup
Walesby Hill
Raven

16/02/2021

Deeping High Bank

Ted-throated Diver

Gibraltar Point

Hen Harrier

Job's Lane

2 Oystercatcher, Smew (drake)

Doddington Park, Lincoln

74 Lesser Redpoll

Tallington Lakes

Greater Scaup

Whisby

2 Bittern

15/02/2021

Boultham Mere

15 Reed Bunting, 3 Goosander, c60 Linnet, 28 Grey Partridge, 36 Teal, c80 Skylark, 14 Shoveler, 3 Tree Sparrow

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver

Doddington Park, Lincoln

5 Cormorant (over), 3 Jay, 62 Lesser Redpoll, 6 Siskin, Song Thrush, 2 Sparrowhawk

Grantham

Peregrine Falcon

Louth Canal

Kestrel, Kingfisher, Redwing

Saltfleetby NNR

20 Snow Bunting

14/02/2021

Baston Fen

19 Bewick's Swan, 57 Whooper Swan

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver

Doddington Park

Buzzard (over), 75 Goldfinch, 75 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Redwing, 4 Siskin, Song Thrush

Manby Wetlands

2 Great White Egret, 5 White-fronted Goose, 72n Whooper Swan

Tallington Lakes

Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup

Trent Port, Marton

7 Bullfinch, Goldcrest, 2 Shelduck, 2 Siskin, Snipe, 122 Teal. 220 Wigeon

13/02/2021

Barton upon Humber

Smew

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver, 3 Great White Egret, 16 Goosander, **Shag**,

Doddington Park

55 Goldfinch, c25 Lesser Redpoll, 6 Siskin, Songthrush

Gibraltar Point

Kingfisher, **Water Pipit**

River Ancholme (near Toft Newton)

2 Jack Snipe

Tallington Lakes

Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup

12/02/2021

Cress Marsh, Stallingborough

5 Dunlin, **Iceland Gull**, 210 Linnets, **Mediterranean Gull**

Deeping High Bank

Red-throated Diver

Gibraltar Point

Hen Harrier

Manby Wetlands

2 Bewick's Swan, 65 Whooper Swan

Tongue End

20 Bewick's Swan, 62 Whooper Swan

11/02/2021

Beesby Wood

Jay, Nuthatch, **Raven**, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker

Deeping St Nicholas

13 Bewick's Swan, 315 Whooper Swan, 2 Turnstone

Far Ings

2 Bittern

Gibraltar Point

Water Pipit

Grantham

Marsh Tit (in private garden)

Messingham

2 Crossbill (possibly four), 18 Cormorant, Goldcrest, Lesser Redpoll, 27 Shelduck, 2 Siskin, Sparrowhawk, 2 Mistle Thrush, Great Spotted Woodpecker

10/02/2021

Gibraltar Point

600 Dark-bellied Brent Goose, 147 Pink-footed Goose, White-fronted Goose, 11 Woodcock

Lincoln Cathedral

Peregrine Falcon

Snitterby

Great White Egret

09/02/2021

Bottesford Beck

Little Egret, 4 Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Stonechat

Boultham Mere

6 Goosander, 60 Lapwing, 22 Grey Partridge, 33 Shoveler, 3 Common Snipe, 1 Jack Sipe, 95 Teal, Grey Wagtail,

Broadholme/Saxilby

Great White Egret

Tongue End

15 Bewick's Swan, 30 Whooper Swan

Hartsholme Park

2 Tawny Owl, Common Gull, 5 Grey Heron



Common Gull, Hartsholme Park - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Swanholme Lakes

9 Goosander (4 male 5 female), 2 Great Crested Grebe, 28 Common Gull, 2 Shoveler

08/02/2021

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl
Grimsby
Woodcock
Tallington Lakes
Greater Scaup

07/02/2021
Baston & Langtoft Pits
Smew (Drake)
Grantham
5 Lesser Redpoll
Huttoft Bank
Little Gull



Little Gull at Huttoft - Image © Garry Wright

06/02/2021
Lincs Coastal CP
2 Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan
Doddington Park, Lincoln
c100 Goldfinch, c60 Lesser Redpoll, c6 Siskin
Far Ings
2 Bittern

Frampton Marsh

Woodcock

Friskney

1 Bewick's Swan, 58 Whooper Swan

Waitrose's Car-park. Lincoln

Raven

Gibraltar Point

100 Pink-footed Goose, Short-eared Owl

Mablethorpe

18 Snow Bunting

Trent Port, Marton

440 Lapwing, 4 Shelduck, 9 Whooper Swan

Sleaford

Woodcock

05/02/2021

Pyewipe, Grimsby

Hen Harrier (ringtail)

Sturdy Hill, Manby

6 Russian White-fronted Goose

Tongue End

8 Bewick's Swan, 52 Whooper Swan

04/02/2021

Bardney Lock

Great White Egret

Boultham Park

2 Jay, 3 Nuthatch, 3 Redwing, Song Thrush, Treecreeper

Covenham Reservoir

2 Buzzard, Cormorant, Gadwall, Goldeneye, Goosander, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Wigeon

Gibraltar Point

537 Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Pale -bellied Brent Goose, 2 Russian White-fronted Goose

Gohill Haven

3 Greater Scaup

Grantham

5 Lesser Redpoll, Red Kite (over private garden)

Messingham

3 Bullfinch, Cett's Warbler, Coal Tit, 10 Cormorant, Goldcrest, 7 Mute Swan, 82 Gadwall, Little Grebe, Pochard, 19

Shelduck, 18 Shoveler, 15 Teal, 130 Tufted Duck, Water Rail, 20 Lesser Redpoll, 35 Siskin, Mistle Thrush, Song

Thrush Willow Tit

Saltfleetby NNR

Snow Bunting

Wainfleet

Tundra Bean Goose



Nuthatch in Boultham Park - Image © Chris Grimshaw

03/02/2021

Callans Lane Wood

12 Common Crossbill, c 39 Fieldfare, 4 Nuthatch, 5 Lesser Redpoll, c60 Redwing, 2 Treecreeper, 2 Woodcock

Deeping High Bank

9 Short-eared Owl

Deeping Lakes

Greater Scaup

Swanholme Lakes

14 Goosander (7 male 7 female), 2 Great Crested Grebe

Wainfleet

617 Curlew, 4 Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, 2 Merlin

02/02/2021

Deeping Fen

11 Bewick's Swan, 30 Whooper Swan

Grantham

Grey Wagtail

Sutton Bridge

Grey Partridge

01/02/2021

Boultham Mere

5 Goosander, 7 Grey Partridge

Cleethorpes

10 Snow Bunting

Doddington Hall

2 Buzzard, 11 Grey Partridge, 24 Fieldfare, Kestrel, 2 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Pied Wagtail

Doddington Park, Lincoln

2 Lesser Redpoll, Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Marston

Fieldfare, Marsh Harrier, Grey Partridge, Red Kite, Redwing, Grey Wagtail

New Holland

2 Peregrine Falcon

Pig Lane Lincoln

2 Common Snipe, Jack Snipe



Whooper Swans at Kirton Marsh - January 2019 © Steve Keightley

Contact Information & Useful Lincs Websites

Lincs Bird Club Website

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

Twitter [@Lincsbirding](https://twitter.com/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-plants>

Love Lincs Plants Twitter feed [@LoveLincsPlants](https://twitter.com/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

