



## Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - April 2021

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## Welcome to the April 2021 eNewsletter

The sun is out and the migrants are arriving! At the time of writing chiffchaffs are singing in all local woodlands and blackcaps are just starting to be heard. There is a trickle of sand martins, occasional swallows and even house martins and the first reports of singing sedge warbler (in March!). Given the modification of Covid lockdown rules, please refer to the relevant websites to confirm information on any Covid-related changes regarding access to the countryside and use of local reserves for birding.....

The LBC Online AGM was held on March 23rd 2021 but for those that didn't attend, here is a copy of the Chairman's address. A full copy of the minutes can be found at

[https://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/site/images/minutes/2021\\_03\\_23\\_LBC\\_AGM\\_2021.pdf](https://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/site/images/minutes/2021_03_23_LBC_AGM_2021.pdf)

### Chairman's 40th AGM address by Phil Espin

Welcome everyone to our 40th AGM, following the postponement then cancellation of the 2020 event owing to Covid restrictions. The September issue of The Heron carried a quasi annual report with an address from me covering the period 1 Jan 2019 to 31st August 2020 and the annual accounts to 31 December 2019. The committee understand their constitutional obligations to hold an AGM and to be accountable to our members so we are pleased to have this Zoom event this evening. Many of us attended the joint LBC BTO conference in January and it was the success of that event that encouraged this experiment. I hope it works for us all.

Covid has now been with us a year and had a massive impact on all of us. The true horror of its impact was brought home to me and many of us last month by the death of Steve Keightley our highly regarded former County Recorder. Steve was a good friend to many and a well known regular at Frampton Marsh and Cut End. He will be greatly missed by his wife Sally, family, close friends and LBC members and as sign of our respect and affection I'd now like us to take one minutes silence to remember him and all those around the world who have suffered as Steve and his family have.

Steve will be remembered in many ways, not least from his own birding legacy and as a first step the Club have taken the decision to rename the Cut End Hide, Steve Keightley Cut End Hide.

Despite these sad times, the ordinary business of the club continues. Yesterday the 2019 Bird Report was posted out and hopefully you will have it shortly. It carries a new design look as following our Horncastle based printer, Cupits going out of business last year we have switched to Swallowtail of Norwich who are well known for their Bird Reports. The cover remains the same and I look forward to your reactions to the changed internal design. The report carries a preface from our Honorary President, Professor Ian Newton reflecting on the role of bird clubs in the ornithological life of the nation. Once again the production of the report has been a big team effort with thanks to everyone involved from all our members who submit their records in myriad forms to those involved in processing the records and the production of the report. This year I'd particularly like to thank Phil Hyde our county recorder who oversees the records collection process and the team of writers. Phil has had a very busy year for reasons I'll come on to in a moment and still delivered a fantastic new look bird report on schedule.

The other big event of the last few months has been the publication by the club of the first new Lincolnshire Avifauna for 32 years: Birds of Lincolnshire. The authorship team included Colin Casey, Phil Hyde, John Clarkson and myself and the project was delivered in just under 9 months from start to publication a fantastic achievement that built on several years of hard work by Colin and Phil revalidating our bird records database. I am not going to go on about it now but I am very happy to answer any questions you have on any aspect of it when I finish my address.

One of many positive outcomes of the book has been to see and hear of the genuine pleasure the book has brought to so many people. Another positive outcome has been the pre-publication offer to members which helped to boost our membership up from around 330 to 400 over the last 3 months. Some 257 members took part in the offer and the committee are very grateful to the membership for their support of the publication. In the March issue of The Heron we announced that one participant in the offer would win a copy of a limited edition print of the Pallas's Sandgrouse painting by Norfolk artist Nik Borrow which made such a striking cover to the book. The draw has been held and the lucky winner was Saltfleetby member Mike Tarrant. This is kind of spooky because Saltfleetby Dunes is the setting for the painting. Mike isn't with us tonight but we'll get the print to him as soon as we can.

Birds of Lincolnshire came hard on the heels of the Lincolnshire Bird Atlas from the same team so I think its fair to say most of us are now booked out but not Colin. His capacity for hard work is insatiable and further works are in the pipeline of which more will be revealed in due course as ideas materialise. It's great to see the County getting such enthusiastic coverage and as Mark Avery commented in his excellent review of Birds of Lincolnshire let's hope the authors of the book are rewarded for their hard work by a Lincolnshire Pallas's Sandgrouse this year!

The Club is in a strong financial position which our Treasurer John Watt will mention when talking about our annual accounts a little later. That has enabled us to support 2 Peregrine webcams at St Wulframs Church Grantham and St James's Church Louth which will both be livestreamed through our website this spring. At the moment it looks like the Grantham pair may have shifted elsewhere but the Louth pair look as if they will lay any day. Hopefully this will give members something to focus on through what we hope will be the last few weeks of staying at home. The committee would like to thank Bob Sheppard and Alan Ball for their work at Grantham and Geoff Mullett for his work at Louth aswell as the church authorities who have been so accommodating of these fine raptors and our interest in them. Last and by no means least Andrew Chick has put a lot of effort into making sure you get the pictures with technical back up from Colin Casey.

I am pleased to say all the officers and committee are continuing in their roles and there have been no nominations or motions received that require your attention this evening. The only change to the committee is a single new co-opted member Joy Croot from the north east of the county. Joy has joined us for 2 committee meetings

so far and is getting to understand what we do and will find a role over the coming months. I should add we are always open to new ideas and new committee



members. Most of the committee already have their hands full and we are all volunteers. If anyone has good ideas about new directions the club might take by all means put them forward but please if you genuinely want to see them taken up why not join us and be prepared to take your idea forward yourself with our support.

Looking forward to this spring and summer the club is involved in several projects which we hope you'll support and get stuck into.

The RSPB Turtle Dove survey is taking place from mid May to July. Please sign up for a square to support the survey, even if you suspect that your local area has no Turtle Doves, the evidence you gather is helpful to RSPB in making conservation decisions that may impact on the return of this beautiful bird to areas it has been lost from. The Heron newsletter will carry details of signing up for a square in the April edition.

BTO are holding a Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows Survey this summer. Their website has full details on how you can help at [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org). The BTO currently have a scheme for donors to pass unwanted optical equipment to youngsters here and in the third world. If you can help please do.

This June/July we again intend to support the Lincs Wildlife Trust effort to maximise the breeding success of shorebirds at Gibraltar Point. This will be with sponsorship cash and time, if you can volunteer your time for shore bird day time wardening or overnight duties that would be a great help. I spent a night on the point last July and it was an unforgettable experience.

Writing the sites section of Birds of Lincolnshire reminded me just how important LWT is to our birding lives. They manage 11 out of 20 of our top birding sites and I'd like to thank them for the important work they do without which the county would be a poorer place for birders.

Again more details of the Gib Point project will be in The Heron and thanks to Chris Grimshaw and Andrew Chick who have made our eNewsletter an even more vital part of the life of the club under lockdown. In conclusion its been a difficult time for many of us but let's look forward to a great and bird filled spring.

# Join in Global Big Day - 8 May, 2021

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Following the success of the New Year's Day bird race we would like to propose scheduling another event on **Saturday 8th May**.

This date coincides nicely with '**Global Bird Day**'. See <https://globalbirding.org/>

The aim of the Big Bird Day event would be to simply record as many species as possible in Lincolnshire during a single day. The event will also help raise valuable awareness of the counties avian diversity. It would be great to have as many birders involved as possible on the day covering a wide range of different habitats and areas. This will help maximise the potential for a greater number of species to be recorded. It will be fascinating to see what total could be achieved collectively in the county during a single day. The event would be slightly different (and more relaxing!) to a bird race which typically requires lots of rushing around in order to achieve a good species count. Birders have the option of either sticking to their local patch or choosing an area in which to focus on.

Hopefully the Covid-19 restrictions will have lifted by May and will allow people to visit areas that were not possible to cover on New Year's Day. Despite the restrictions imposed over the New Year's Day event an impressive total of 144 species were recorded! It will be very interesting to see what total can be achieved in May with migration in full swing, lingering winter migrants (particularly wildfowl), incoming summer migrants and the potential for some scarce or even rare species. Could we achieve 160-170 species collectively?! **More details will appear in the May 2021 eNewsletter**

### Steve Keightley Cut End Hide (*nee* Cut End Hide) News

With the sad passing of Steve Keightley there is no longer a system to issue keys for the Cut End Hide. At the last committee meeting future arrangements for issuing of keys was discussed and this will be published in a future eNewsletter.

### Request for an EVENTS manager

At the AGM meeting the need for an **EVENTS MANAGER** was discussed. If this is something you would be interested in please email [chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk).

## Lincolnshire records for 2020

The majority of the rare and scarce records for 2020 have been submitted and dealt with by the LBRC; of those submitted to the BBRC, the accepted records have been published by them on their Twitter feed, others await their verdict. Some reports of birds seen in the county and posted on social media but for which no details have been received include the following:

**Balearic Shearwater:** One south at Chapel Observatory, February 25th; one past Sutton on Sea, August 30th (with a Sooty Shearwater).

**Chough:** One flew over Scunthorpe, March 26th.

**European Bee-eater:** One flew south over Glentham, August 14th.

**Purple Herons:** (1) Stamford water meadows July 4th, flew off at 10.55.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher:** One near Market Rasen, May 2nd. **Numerous claims** from the autumn.

Note that the only submitted/accepted records to date were 3, Donna Nook, Oct 3rd-4th; 1, Wolla Bank Pit, Oct 3rd.

**Richard's Pipit:** One, Donna Nook, October 5th; one reported between Huttoft-Anderby Creek, October 13th.

**Rough-legged Buzzard:** One, Sandtoft, January 12th; one, Potterhanworth, November 25th.

**Serin:** One flew south, Anderby Creek, October 29th.

**White Stork:** One, Long Sutton, August 5th; one, Alford, September 2nd.

### Request for information - finder of an Icterine Warbler, Donna Nook, 31-Aug-2021

This bird was also present on Sept 1st, seen by several observers and photographed, but we have no information on the finder on August 31st.



## 2021 RSPB/BTO/LBC Turtle Dove Survey

### Volunteers Needed

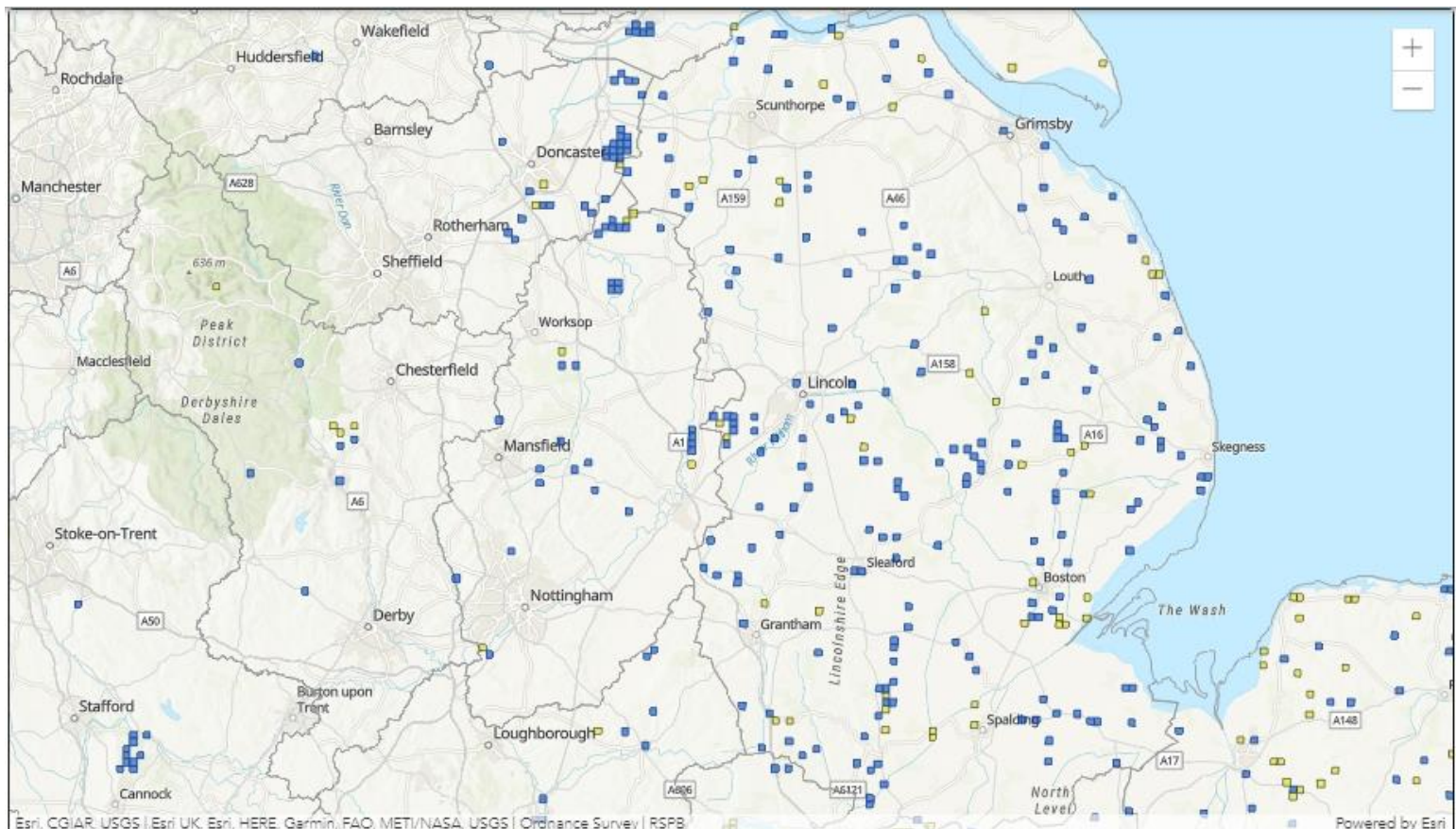
The Turtle Dove is our summer visitor that has experienced the greatest decline in population over the last 50 years. The Lincolnshire population which was estimated at 3200-7000 pairs in the 1980s in Lincolnshire Bird Atlas (2020) is now thought to be down to less than 30 pairs. This survey will focus on 1 km squares which have held birds in the last 10 years.

### Survey timings and method

Surveys will aim to detect the presence and abundance of singing male Turtle Doves within each selected 1km-square. Ideally you'll survey your square twice, with a minimum of four weeks between visits. The **first visit should happen between the 11th of May and the 20th June, and the second visit between the 21st of June and the 31st of July. Visits should be made between sunrise and 9:00am as after this time turtle dove activity reduces significantly.** Each visit should take no more than 2 hours to complete.

Each survey should be undertaken between sunrise and 0900: 70% of singing males should be detected within the first 2 hours after sunrise, after which vocal activity decreases markedly. The time taken for the survey will depend on the density of field boundaries. More details can be found at <https://national-turtle-dove-survey-rspb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/take-part>

The map below shows the available squares as of Mid-March - so sign up now to get a local area!



## Lincolnshire Bird Club Report 2019

The report was sent to members Mid-March 2021. If you didn't get your copy please contact [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)

# THE Lincolnshire BIRD REPORT 2019



## Humber Nature Partnership conference March 2021

Between 50 and 60 delegates 'zoomed' in to an a virtual Humber Nature Partnership conference to discover the latest research data from this globally-important estuary. There were four outstanding speakers, and the proceedings were expertly 'compered' by host-for-the-morning Daryl Burdon.

### Jackson Sage: The Problems of Bird Disturbance



Almost all British wildlife is all-too-familiar with human disturbance. Sometimes it is intermittent only, but, at other times, it is relentless - in which case it flees the scene. In his absorbing presentation, Jackson Sage reviewed the most pressing threats - from jet-skis to free-roaming dogs - and their impact. At the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's showcase at Far Ings, near Barton-upon-Humber, off-road bikers are almost of daily concern.

A growing problem in summer is the use of disposable barbecues - sometimes in areas of dry grass or other vegetation and sometimes even inside wooden bird-watching hides. On the plus side, the installation of signage seems to have reduced the problem of off-road vehicles at East Halton Skitter, near Immingham, and talks with paraglider organisations have had a positive outcome. Said Jackson: "We want people to enjoy the estuary and its surroundings, but we also them to behave responsibly and be respectful of Nature."

### Wes Payne: Nocturnal Surveys on The Humber Estuary

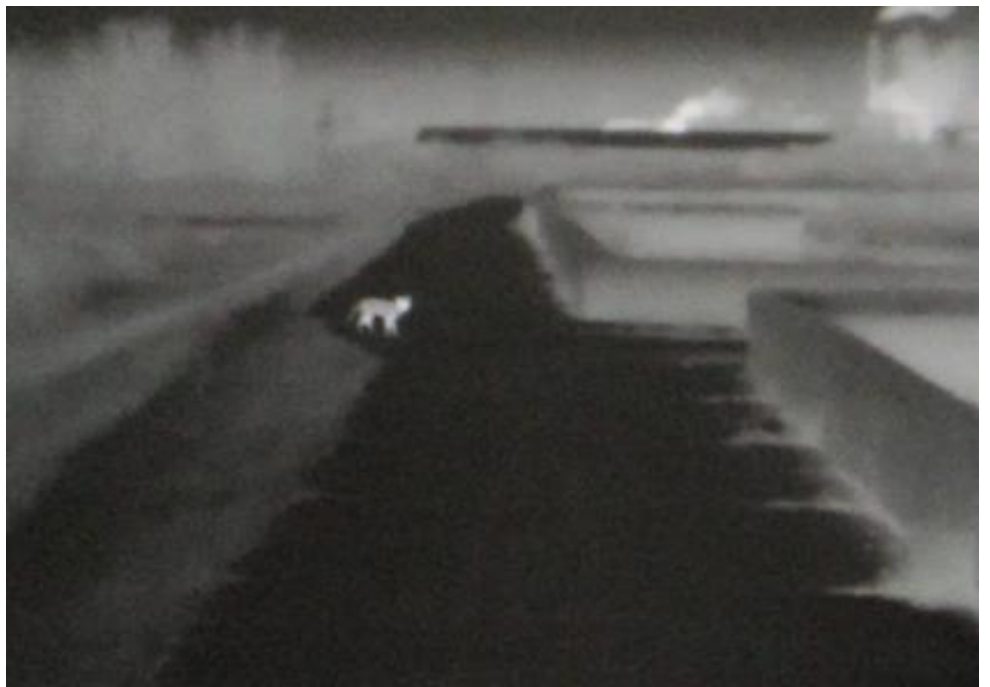


Artificial light in heavily industrialised estuaries could be helping wading birds according to Wes Payne.

"They are better able to detect not just food but also approaching predators," he declared. Wes, a final-year PhD student at Hull University, provided fascinating insights (and photographs) on night ornithology and the equipment he uses - some of it customarily targeted at the ghost-hunting market. For instance, he likes to carry firstly a £799 Sony video camera with an £185 infrared illuminator and

secondly a £1,5000 Pulsar Axion xm 305 thermal camera. Night-videoining tends to be of notably low quality in moist conditions but identification of species is generally good.

Meanwhile, because it detects heat, thermal equipment is excellent for detecting creatures that are hidden or camouflaged, but species-identification is tricky (except with long-billed birds such curlews and oystercatchers. It is hoped that, after he has completed his studies in October, Wes' thesis will be published on the Hull University website.



**Photo:** Wes Payne's night-captured images of a fox on the estuary wall footpath at Pyewipe, Grimsby.

### Lucas Mander: Curlew Movements on The Humber



The life of over-wintering estuary curlews was the subject of Dr Lucas Mander - a long-time student of this iconic species. From locations such as Kilnsea, near Spurn, and the Welwick pools and saltmarsh, he has amassed a wealth of data about the feeding activities and habitat - on mud or grass - of these birds which tend to be faithful to specific sites. Cannon-nets, colour rings and geolocators are all part of the tools of his trade as a researcher. "Because they live to ages of between 10 and 20, they give us plenty of opportunity to provide great data," he commented.

Questioned by a conference delegate, he noted that the curlews seen on or near the Humber are not UK breeders but fly here from their nesting territories in Scandinavia - chiefly Finland or Sweden - and North-east Russia.

### Lucy Mitchell: Tracking Our Flying Visitors



The conference was concluded by Dr Lucy Mitchell who emphasised the often-overlooked importance of small birds and bats as "pest regulators and pollinators". An expert on migrants, and an attendee at conventions on migratory species, she is now at the forefront of UK initiatives to introduce the relatively new Canada-developed Motus tracking technology.

It is now at a pioneering stage in no fewer than 31 countries, with transmitter stations at Spurn and in East Anglia and the South-east. She cited an example of a wheatear that was first detected on Heligoland, then "bumbling about" in Germany before flying to Suffolk. Other records were of a starling that flew down the Dutch coast before crossing to the UK and of a robin that flew from Denmark to Kent.

In time, it is hoped that Motus will provide precision data about the migration routes of rarer species such as yellow-browed warblers and two of Lucy's favourites, nightjar and turtle dove. Long-term, it is hoped that the technology might be attached to the towers of wind turbines, both onshore and offshore, to track how bats and birds, such as migrating redwings and waxwings, interact with them.

"Motus is an exciting development," enthused Lucy. "It is a great way to engage people with the many fascinating facets of migration."

Reports by Jim Wright



## Lincolnshire Bird Club Webcams

Don't forget to check out the **TWO** peregrine webcams from St James's Church Louth and St Wulframs Church Grantham on the bird club website at <https://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/site/>.





## Informative and entertaining - Devon birder's new book

PLAUDITS to Devon birder Geoff Green for his absorbing new book, *British Birds - Their Fascinating Stories*, which is available both as a paperback (£12) and a Kindle e-book (£8).

It is crammed with information - pretty well everything known about birds: song, feathers, feet, migration, eyesight and much more including a topical survey of the threats, such as hunting and pesticides, posed by man.

Geoff has also gathered much fascinating material from literary sources, dating right back to observations in the Old Testament and the works of Aristotle. There is also a chapter on the numerous references to birds in folklore, in legends and in scores of everyday sayings.

Geoff has remembered to include this enigmatic quote: "A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song."

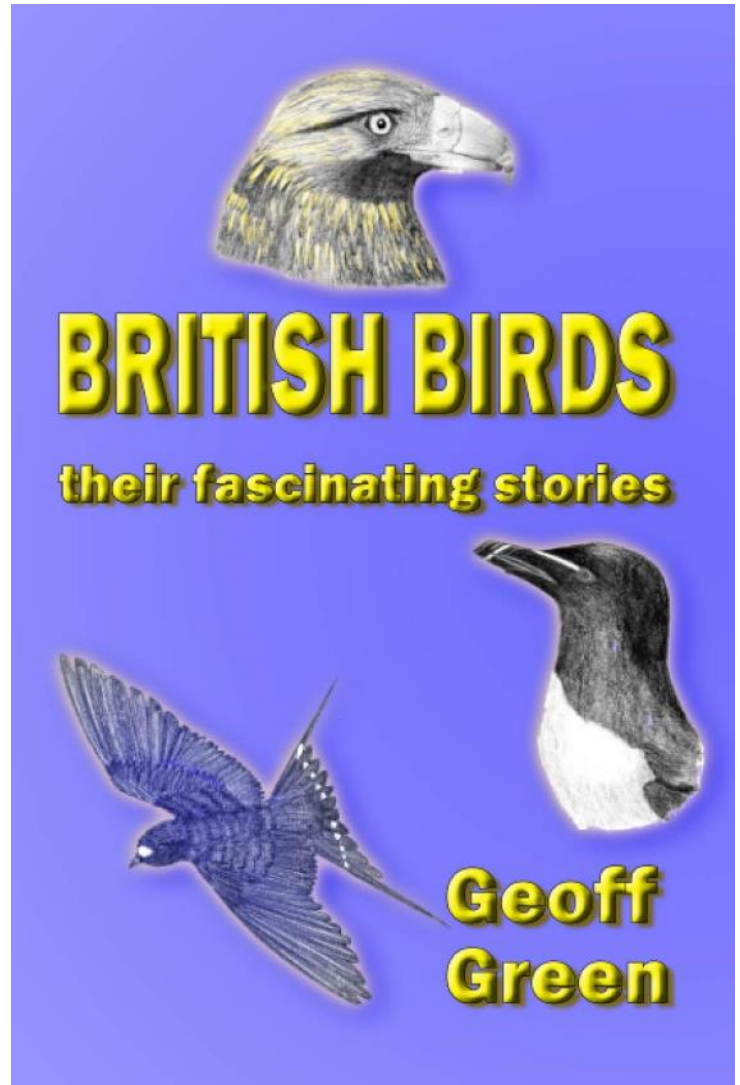
What is the source? Having done his research, the author reckons it is an old Chinese proverb.

He also refers to the musings of the 18th Century philosopher, Kant, "who wondered why we never tire of listening to bird song whereas if humans endlessly repeated a few notes we'd get fed up!"

Although much of the focus is on British species, most of the material relates to birds wherever they are found.

This is a really informative and entertaining addition to avian literature - a title to refer to again and again.

Jim Wright



## Birds of Lincolnshire - Members Offer



The Lincolnshire Bird Club Committee are pleased to announce the publication of a new county avifauna:

Due to COVID restrictions copies will be posted out at special reduced price to members at **£33.00 including postage**.

The pre-publication volumes have now been sent to all participants in the offer. If you haven't received your copy please contact [chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk).

Birds of Lincolnshire is a full county avifauna in A4 size Hardback book containing 240 pages in full colour including over 870 images.

Featuring a front cover painting by Nik Borrow commemorating the first Pallas's Sandgrouse invasion at Saltfleetby in April 1863.

It covers all 402 BOU Cat ABC bird species recorded in the county up to 2019 and certain key records for 2020.

Species in Cat DE are also covered along with escapes.

The status of each species is described and sightings listed for the more rare and scarcer species.

Each species account is accompanied by local photographs or drawings and in most cases distribution maps of sightings and graphs of abundance changes where appropriate.

There are also chapters on habitats, the best birding sites and breeding birds of the county as well as a photo gallery and a full BOU checklist of species recorded in the county.

The team of authors writing and producing the book include Colin Casey the Database Manager for the Lincolnshire Bird Club, Philip Espin the Chair of LBC and current and former Lincolnshire County Recorders Philip Hyde and John Clarkson. All four have been involved in the writing and production of the annual Lincolnshire Bird Report over the past decade and have been members of LBC since it was founded in 1979.

### The Sunday Book Review - The Bird of Lincolnshire

By Mark Avery (from his Blog dated 14th March 2021) *reproduced with permission.....*

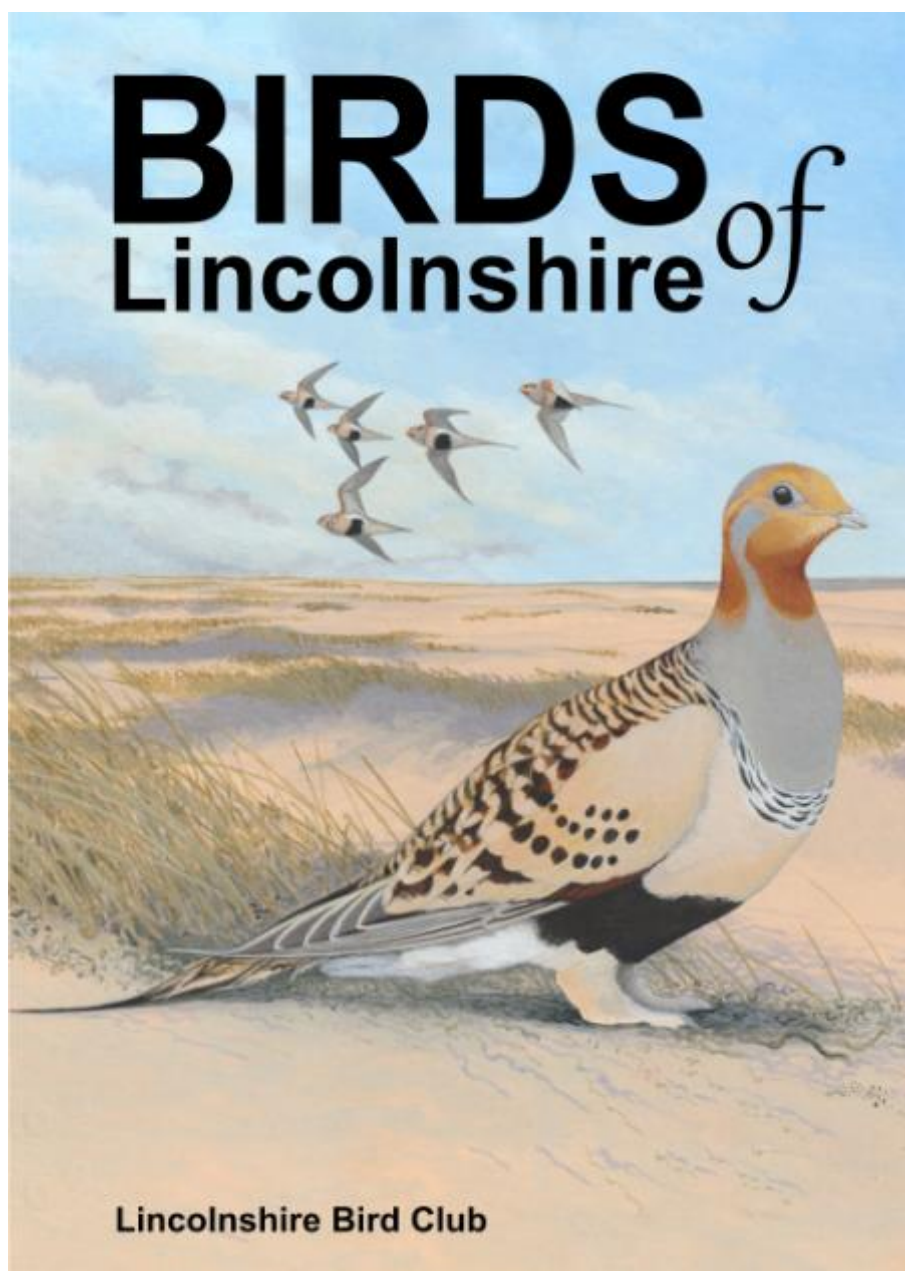
If you live in Lincolnshire you will want to own this book and it will be an invaluable reference source for your everyday birding for years to come. This volume follows a 1989 predecessor, and much has changed and occurred in the last 30+ years.

It appears that this book was conceived as a way of doing something useful during lockdown and the fact that it is now available, and of high quality, is quite remarkable given that timescale. Even a certain Bearded Vulture, present in Lincolnshire as late as October 2020, appears, with text and photographs, in these pages.

To some extent this book follows a fairly normal and logical format in its 230 pages. The last 40-odd pages have an index, a checklist, references, acknowledgements and in this case a 30-page gallery of excellent photographs of birds (some rare, some common). The first 25 pages set the scene about the genesis of the book, the important birding sites in the county, previous avifaunas, the growth in records – all the slightly dull stuff which is actually important and to which you will have to refer often if you use this book regularly so it must be there. And that leaves 160 pages for a systematic list of species.

Anyone considering producing a county avifauna (and my adopted county of Northamptonshire needs one (but no, not me)) might be drawn in either of two main directions. Does one give prominence to the rare birds of the recent decades (rare breeders and vagrants) as the stars or does one document the broader scale changes in time, such as declines in once-common birds such as those found on farmland. Let me say that I think the authors have navigated that issue pretty well in these pages. But it is the perennial issue for any news editor; few stories are important and interesting, and if only one, then the interesting tend to win over the important. And its worse for the authors of an avifauna which is expected to say something about every species because, for some, there may be nothing important or interesting to say!

As one works through the systematic list one encounters species such as Yellow-nosed Albatross (a single record photographed very well by a fisherman at a lake and seen on one day and by no birdwatcher), Golden Eagle (5 records, last seen 1928) and Blyth's Reed Warbler (four records (one pending acceptance by British Birds Rarity Committee) all since the previous avifauna). Rare birds such as these are listed by locality and have a county map with dots showing their locations. Common species often have their Breeding Bird Survey graphs with Lincolnshire trends compared with east of England and England – this is a good idea.





I think the authors have been over generous with photographs of birds. Over generous? How can that be? Well, I don't need three images of male Blackcaps to read about Blackcap trends in Lincolnshire, nor do I need much of a reminder of what a Blackbird is. Do I need a headshot of a Golden Eagle to read about those five ancient records? Even the Yellow-nosed Albatross has three images of the same bird looking...errr...the same in all three (the middle one is best as it shows a Mute Swan in the background). Given that there is a gallery of images later in the book – and this is very pleasing on the eye – I'd have considered cutting a whole bunch of images.

I'd also have considered cutting out some of the maps showing the sightings of rare species – they don't add much really because there are an awful lot of dots on a few well-watched coastal sites and in any case the locations are tabulated or mentioned in the text. They take up space which could have been better used in my opinion.

The species texts are very good. Many of them were individually delightful reads and taken together make this a really good book. I am, I must confess, a words man. Only where a map, graph or table really does do the job better (as they often can) should they be allowed to cramp the style of someone who has something to say in the written word. And in this case those written words could usefully have been longer accounts in some places and in larger font in all cases. A slight step up in font size would have made the book look more inviting.

There are some very good photographs in this book but some of them get a bit lost. Some of the images of sites and habitats are wonderful and should have been given more prominence, for example Early morning at Kirkby Moor LWT (p49), A rough day at Pyewipe, Grimsby (p94), Lincolnshire wolds (p131) and others and maybe they should have had a bit of the photo gallery to themselves.

Lincolnshire to the east of the A1 is off the beaten track – you don't go through Lincolnshire to get anywhere else (except to the Humber Bridge) – and I was amused to read that Henry VIII described it as our 'most brute and beastly shire' which seems unduly harsh these days. I've had some good days in this county and most of them have been birding. It's a great county for birds, both now and in the past, and this book shows that it also has a thriving and dynamic birding community.

It is endearingly eccentric to have a species not seen in the county in the twentieth century, and not expected to reappear in the twentyfirst, as the cover illustration. Well done! I enjoyed reading of the flocks of Pallas's Sandgrouse that flew through Lincolnshire in the late nineteenth century invasions and that type of recollection is entirely appropriate in a county avifauna. The cover illustration was painted by Nic Borrow and it is charming and striking. The four authors, the county and its birders ought to be rewarded by a Lincolnshire-only sandgrouse invasion this October – it would be a just reward for producing such a good book with this choice of pin-up bird for its cover.

By Mark Avery

<https://markavery.info/2021/03/14/sunday-book-review-birds-of-lincolnshire-lincolnshire-bird-club/>



## Lincolnshire Bird News - March 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 March 29th the rules changed and 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.

**31/03/2021**

#### **Baston & Langtoft Pits**

2 Little Gull, 2 Garganey

#### **Doddington Park**

6 Lesser Redpoll, Siskin, Sparrowhawk

#### **Far Ings**

28 Blackcap, 48 Chiffchaff, Sedge Warbler, 3 Willow Warbler

#### **Frampton Marsh**

Corn Bunting

#### **Lincolnshire Wolds**

2 Raven

#### **Manby Wetlands**

37 Avocet

#### **Stamford**

Common Scoter (flock over - sound recorded - early morning

#### **Swanholme Lakes**

Blackcap, Buzzard, Chiffchaff, 5 Song Thrush, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker

#### **Woodhall Spa Golf Course**

31 Lesser Redpoll, 3 Siskin, 3 Treecreeper, Woodlark

**30/03/2021**

**Alkborough**

Whooper Swan

**Ancaster**

5 White Wagtail, 3 Wheatear

**Billinghay**

Buzzard

**Far Ings**

Blackcap, Brambling, 11 Buzzard, 4 House Martin, 80 Sand Martin, Spotted Redshank, Swallow

**Frampton Marsh**

Water Pipit, Little Ringed Plover

**Gibraltar Point**

Black Redstart

**Huttoft**

Bearded Tit, Red Kite, 4 Wheatear, Willow Warbler

**Limewoods**

Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Osprey, 4 Marsh Tit

**Lincoln**

6 Buzzard, 33 Lesser Redpoll (Doddington Park)

**Marston**

Marsh Harrier

**Saltfleetby**

Blackcap, Little Ringed Plover, 7 Wheatear, Willow Warbler



Marsh Harrier At Marston - Image © Steve Nesbitt

**Sandtoft**

Hen Harrier

**Whisby**

2 Little Ringed Plover

**Willow Tree Fen**

2 Garganey

**RAF Woodhall**

80 Whooper Swan

**29/03/2021**

**Appleby**

20 Whooper Swan

**Doddington Park**

44 Lesser Redpoll, 3 Siskin

**Far Ings**

**2 White Stork**

**Frampton Marsh**

**Merlin**, 4 Swallow 11 Whooper Swan

**Gibraltar Point**

19 Avocet, 2 Grey Partridge, **2 Black Redstart**

**Huttoft**

46 Curlew, **4 Water Pipit**, 2 Wheatear

**Messingham**

10 Buzzard, Red Kite

**Millennium Green**

Blackcap, Cettis Warbler , 10 Chiffchaff, 8 Goldeneye

**Rimac**

2 Avocet, 2 Marsh Harrier, Whooper Swan

**Saltfleetby**

**Lapland Bunting**, 7 Chiffchaff, **2 Little Gull**, Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, **4 Water Pipit**, Little Ringed Plover, **Black Redstart**, **Jack Snipe**, Barn Swallow, 7 Wheatear

**28/03/2021**

**Alkborough**

Little Ringed Plover, 4 Spoonbill

**Doddington Park**

41 Lesser Redpoll, 2 Siskin

**Louth**

Chiffchaff, Grey Wagtail

**Whisby**

Chiffchaff, Peregrine Falcon, 6 Oystercatcher, Treecreeper, Green Woodpecker

**27/03/2021**

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Yellow Wagtail

**Deeping High Bank**

Wheatear

**Doddington Park**

32 Lesser Repoll, 2 Siskin

**Gibraltar Point**

**2 Black Redstart**, Spoonbill, White Stork

**Middlemarsh Farm**

Water Pipit, White Stork

**Sudbrooke**

**White Stork (over)**

**Tunman Woods**

2 Buzzard, 18 Fieldfare

**Willow Tree Fen**

**Garganey**

**26/03/2021**

**Deeping Lakes**

Greater Scaup

**Deeping St James**

Black Redstart (in private garden)

**Doddington Park**

25 Lesser Redpoll, 4 Siskin

**Gibraltar Point**

Water Pipit, Black Redstart

**Marston**

Osprey

**Stowgate**

2 White Wagtail

**Swanpool**

House Martin

**25/03/2021**

**Anderby Creek**

Great White Egret, Red Kite, Water Pipit, Jack Snipe

**Boultham Mere**

1 Pink-footed Goose, 3 Lesser Black-backed Gull, Pochard, Sparrowhawk

**Deeping Lakes**

Greater Scaup

**Doddington Park**

18 Lesser Redpoll, 2 Redwing, 2 Siskin

**Donna Nook**

Great White Egret





Splendid shot of a Great White Egret at Donna Nook - Image © John Clarkson



**Frampton Marsh**

Chiffchaff, 4 Greenshank, Mediterranean Gull, Little Ringed Plover, Whooper Swan

**Gibraltar Point**

Black Redstart

**Pig Lane**

3 Skylark

**Trent Port**

2 Goosander, Greenshank, 19 Pintail, 2 Redshank, Snipe, 35 Golden Plover, 3 Stonechat

**24/03/2021**

**Boultham Mere**

11 Chiffchaff, Sand Martin, Stonechat

**Deeping Lakes**

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

**Deeping St James**

Cattle Egret

**Frampton Marsh**

Spotted Redshank

**Frognell**

Cattle Egret

**Gibraltar Point**

Hen Harrier

**Millenium Green**

Cetti's Warbler

**Tunman Woods**

2 Buzzard, 12 Chiffchaff, 70 Fieldfare, 22 Redwing

**Rigsby Wood**

6 Bullfinch, 13 Buzzard, 2 Chiffchaff, 3 Red Kite, Woodcock, Green Woodpecker,

**23/03/2021**

**Deeping Lakes**

Great Scaup

**Doddington Park**

28 Lesser Redpoll, 4 Siskin, Sparrowhawk

**Gibraltar Point**

Woodlark

**Grantham**

Chiffchaff

**Theddlethorpe**

Black Redstart

**22/03/2021**

**Boultham Mere**

17 Whooper Swan

**Cleethorpes CP**

Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff

**Doddington Park**

24 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Siskin



17 Whooper Swan over Boultham Mere - Image © Andy Sims

**Far Ings**

2 Bittern

**Frampton Marsh**

Peregrine Falcon, Pink-footed Goose, **Bearded Tit**, Stonechat, 75 Whooper Swan, **American Wigeon**

**Gibraltar Point**

5 Buzzard, Chiffchaff, Corn Bunting, Pink-footed Goose, Merlin, Woodcock

**Messingham**

2 Buzzard, 2 Pink-footed goose, 2 Water Rail, 16 Shelduck 3 Oystercatcher, 3 Red-crested Pochard, 37 Common Pochard, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Nebraska Wetlands**

Red Kite harassed by 4 Buzzard, Corn Bunting, 30 Pink-footed Goose, 50+Linnet

**Wolla Bank**

**Brambling**, **Iceland Gull**, 2 Red Kite, **Bearded Tit**

**21/03/2021**

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

40 Lesser Redpoll, **Mealy Redpoll**

**Deeping Lakes**

**White-tailed Eagle**, **Cattle Egret**, Dark-bellied Brent Goose

**Doddington Park**

40 Lesser Redpoll, **Mealy Redpoll**, 4 Siskin, Sparrowhawk

**Job's Lane**

Chiffchaff

**Linwood Warren**

**34 Common Crossbill**

**Trent Port**

5 Bullfinch 32 Cormorant, 60 Fieldfare, 2 Redshank, 2 Shelduck

**Willow Tree Fen**

350 Whooper Swan (in six flocks)

**Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth**

White-tailed Eagle

**20/03/2021**

**Baston & Langtoft Pit**

White-tailed Eagle. Red Knot

**Boultham Mere**

29 Whooper Swan

**Denton Reservoir**

38 Whooper Swan

**Doddington Park**

33 Lesser Redpoll (dwindling flock), 7 Siskin, Sparrowhawk

**Frampton Marsh**

Peregrine Falcon, 3 Mediterranean Gull, Short-eared Owl

**Gibraltar Point**

10 Snow Bunting, 5 Buzzard, 17 White-fronted Goose, Caspian Gull (2nd winter), 2 Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, Barn Owl, Pintail

**Grimsby**

Red Kite

**Manton Warren**

50 Whooper Swan, Woodlark (displaying)

**Market Rasen**

35 Whooper Swan

**Marsh Yard**

Barn Owl, 2 Buzzard, Kestrel, Red Kite

**Marton**

47 Linnet, 2 Grey Partridge, 300 Golden Plover, 46 Whooper Swan, 12 Yellowhammer

**Sleaford**

Buzzards, Red Kite, 50 Whooper Swan

**Toft Newton**

70 Whooper Swan, 1 White Wagtail

**19/03/2021**

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Red Knot

**Bourne**

100 Whooper Swan

**Deeping Lakes**

2 Whooper Swan, 2 Pink-footed Goose

**Doddington Park**

62 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Siskin, Sparrowhawk

**Dunsby**

150 Whooper Swan

**Far Ings**

Spoonbill (west)

**Grantham**

100 Whooper Swan

**Langtoft**

40 Whooper Swan

**Trent Port, Marton**

65 Whooper Swan

**Marsh Yard**

**Osprey**

**West Pinchbeck**

300 Whooper Swan

**Rippingale**

80 Whooper Swan

**Sleaford**

200 Whooper Swan

**Swanholme Lakes**

Goosander, Song Thrush

**18/03/2021**

**Doddington Park**

45 Lesser Redpoll, 3 Siskin

**Frampton Marsh**

Peregrine Falcon, 5 White-fronted Goose, Little-ringed Plover, Water Rail, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Linwood Warren**

2 Buzzard, **11 Crossbill**, 3 Jay, 4 Nuthatch

**Swanpool**

150 Redwing

**RAF Woodhall**

2 Chiffchaff, 45 Cormorant, 8 Redshank, 3 Snipe 37 Pied Wagtail

**17/03/2021**

**Boultham Mere**

2 Whooper Swan

**Gibraltar Point**

**24 Russian White-fronted Goose**

**Rimac**

**Water Pipit**

**Stowgate**

**Cattle Egret**

**Swanholme Lakes**

2 Goosander, 4 Jay, 12 Siskin, 2 Shoveler, 60 Tufted Duck, 60 Wigeon

**16/03/2021**

**Covenham Reservoir**

**2 Raven**

**Frampton Marsh**

**30 Russian White-fronted Goose**

**Gibraltar Point**

Short-eared Owl

**Toft Newton**

Sand Martin, 2 White Wagtail

**Woodhall Spa**

**4 Crossbill**, 30+Siskin, **Woodlark**

**15/03/2021**

**Alkborough Flats**

A pair of Greater Scaup

**Boultham Mere**

37 Gadwall, Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, Water Rail, Shoveler, Siskin, 19 Teal

**Branston**

Water Rail

**Doddington Park**

54 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Siskin

**Frampton Marsh**

Chiffchaff, Peregrine Falcon, Goldeneye, Barnacle Goose, 16 White-fronted Goose, 24 Pink-footed Goose, 1000 Golden Plover, Water Rail, Stonechat, 64 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler, Wheatear

**Gibraltar Point**

2 Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 30 Russian White-fronted Goose, Short-eared Owl

**Marston**

Bearded Tit

**Tunman Wood**

2 Grey Partridge, Green Woodpecker

**14/03/2021**

**Alkborough Flats**

A pair of Greater Scaup



Infrequent visitors to Alkborough Flats - pair of Scaup - Image © Neil Drinkall

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

2 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Doddington Park**

54 Lesser Redpoll, 7 Siskin, Tawny Owl (heard about 00.30)

**Frognall**

Cattle Egret

**Marston**



Rock Pipit

**Theddlethorpe**

Dunlin (one Leucistic)

**Whisby**

Peregrine Falcon

**Witham Mouth**

Black-necked Grebe

**13/03/2021**

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

2 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Doddington Park**

85 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Siskin, Sparrowhawk

**12/03/2021**

**Boultham Mere**

Goldcrest, 2 Goosander, Kingfisher, Water Rail

**Doddington Park**

c62 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Siskin

**Dunsby Fen**

Stonechat



Stonechat at Dunsby Fen - Image © Ian Misselbrook

**Fiskerton Fen**

24 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Frampton Marsh**

17 Russian White-fronted Goose, Northern Wheatear

**Frognall**

Cattle Egret



Frognall's long staying Cattle Egret - Image © Will Bowell

**RAF Woodhall Spa**

Sand Martin

**11/03/2021**

**Bardney Lock**

Curlew, Oystercatcher

**Croft Marsh**

30 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Doddington Park**

1 Common Redpoll, 80 Lesser Redpoll

**Frampton Marsh**

17 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Frognall**

Cattle Egret

**10/03/2021**

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

2 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Doddington Park**

150 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Siskin

**Frognall**

Cattle Egret

**Sturton by Stow**

Gannet (over)

**09/03/2021**

**Anderby Creek**

Water Pipit

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

2 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Cleethorpes CP**

Water Rail



Water Rail at Cleethorpes CP - Image © Jim Wright

**Croft Marsh**

30 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Doddington Park**

42 Lesser Redpoll

**Frampton Marsh**

Avocet, Chiffchaff, Peregrine Falcon, Pink-footed Goose, White-fronted Goose, Pintail, Water Rail, Spotted Redshank, Stonechat, Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

**Frognall**

Cattle Egret

**Gibraltar Point**

Water Pipit, Jack Snipe

**Market Rasen**

Brambling, 15 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Siskin

**Messingham**

Chiffchaff, 120 Tufted Duck, Pink-footed Goose, 4 Oystercatcher, 40 Common Pochard, 4 Red-crested Pochard, Water Rail, 17 Shelduck

**Sturton by Stow**

Willow Warbler

**Whisby**

4 Chiffchaff

**08/03/2021**

**Bardney**

Chiffchaff

**Doddington Park, Lincoln**

80 Lesser Redpoll, 4 Siskin

**Frognall & Stowgate**

Cattle Egret

**Marston**

Pintail, Shelduck

**Rimac**

Woodlark





Woodlark at Rimac - Image © Owne Beaumont

**07/03/2021**

**Cress Marsh**

Buzzard, 31 Great Black-back Gull, 2 Green Sandpiper, 50 Linnet, 2 Little Egret, Redshank

**Doddington Park**

86 Lesser Redpoll

**Frognall**

Cattle Egret

**Gibraltar Point**

Lapland Bunting, Jack Snipe

**Rimac**

4 Snow Bunting, Iceland Gull (adult)

**Tunman Wood**

2 Chiffchaff (one singing), Peregrine Falcon, Goldcrest, Stonechat, 20 Lesser Redpoll

**06/03/2021**

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Russian White-fronted Goose

**Deeping High Bank**

Pink-footed Goose, Russian White-fronted Goose

**Doddington Park**

62 Lesser Redpoll

**Fiskerton Fen**

Pink-footed Goose, 30 Russian White-fronted Goose

**05/03/2021**

**Deeping High Bank**

1 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Croft Marsh**

31 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Far Ings**

Bittern, 2 Mediterranean Gull, 11 Snipe, 6 Jack Snipe

**Fiskerton Fen**

12 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Gibraltar Point**

Pale-bellied Brent Goose

**Hartsholme Park**

Grey Heron (nesting), 2 Nuthatch, Treecreeper

**Marston**

Siskin (small flock), 2 Oystercatcher, 2 Snipe, Marsh Harrier, Stonechat

**Messingham**

Bittern, 60 Common Pochard, 6 Red-crested Pochard, 10 Lesser Redpoll, 40 Redwing, 25 Shelduck, 4 Siskin, Sparrowhawk, 5 Cettis Warbler

**Moulton Sea End**

Wheatear

**Pig Lane**

20 Lesser Redpoll, Green Woodpecker

**Snipe Dales**

40 Bullfinch, 8 Pink-footed Goose, 40 Siskin, 2 Willow Tit

**Tetney Blow Wells**

Marsh Harrier

**Trent Port**

Chiffchaff, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

**04/03/2021**

**Bardney**

Raven

**Black Bank**

2 Goosander, Kestrel, 2 Grey Partridge, 10 Yellowhammer

**Chapel St Leonards**

Slavonian Grebe

**Deeping High Bank**

Russian White-fronted Goose

**Far Ings**

Bittern, Kingfisher, Marsh Harrier, 15 Common Snipe, 5 Jack Snipe, 2 Stonechat, Cetti's Warbler

**Job's Lane**

Red Kite

**Swanpool Cow-fields**

140 Redwing

**Whaplode Fen**

320 Golden Plover

**03/03/2021**

**Hartsholme Park/Swanholme Lakes**

Great Crested Grebe, Goldcrest, Jay Nuthatch, Siskin, Song Thrush, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Swanpool**

2 Common Crossbill





One of the two Crossbill that briefly landed in the unlikely location of Swanpool - Image © Andy Sims

**02/03/2021**

**Chapel St Leonards (Orby Drain)**

Slavonian Grebe

**Cleethorpes**

3 Snow Bunting, Purple Sandpiper

**Croft Marsh**

29 White-fronted Goose, 2 Hen Harrier, 2 Short-eared Owl, Pintail

**Doddington Park**

75 Lesser Redpoll, 1 Mealy Redpoll, 1 Siskin

**Job's Lane**

Smew (drake)

**Walesby**

10-15 Crossbill

**01/03/2021**

**Deeping High Bank**

Red-throated Diver, 2 Bewick's Swan

**Doddington Park**

150+ Lesser Redpoll, 4 Siskin

**Tetney Blow Wells**

Marsh Harrier, 8 Water Rail, 3 Snipe, 2 Cetti's Warbler

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:d.a.sheppard@btinternet.com)

#### Lincolnshire Mammals

Chris Manning, [Chris.LincsDeer@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:annettefaulkner@btinternet.com)

Confidential Bat Records

You may send confidential bat records direct to Annette Faulkner on: [annettefaulkner@btinternet.com](mailto:annettefaulkner@btinternet.com)

### USEFUL WILDLIFE CONTACTS

#### Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

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

Contact: [charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk](mailto:charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk)

or for more general [queries:info@glnp.org.uk](mailto:queries:info@glnp.org.uk)

#### Natural England

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

#### Lincolnshire Environmental Awards

[www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk](http://www.lincsenvironmentalawards.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

