



## Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - January 2023

<b>eNewsletter Content:</b>			
New Years Bird Race 2023	1	We need an Events Organiser	3
We need a new Treasurer!	2	Decembers Star Bird	3
Joint LNU/LBC Meeting	2	Vancouver and the Rockies	5
		BBC's 2022 Springwatch News	13
		December Bird News	14

## NEW YEARS DAY BIRD RACE 2023

We would like to invite as many birders as possible to take part in the Lincolnshire 2023 New Year's Day bird race event.

Similar to previous years, birders can choose what areas they wish to visit, whether it be your local patch or you may fancy going somewhere completely different. There are no time constraints, you can contribute for as little or long as you like on the day. It would be great to cover as many different habitat types in the county as possible to maximise the species count. We will then tally up all the species recorded collectively and see what total we can get. This event has been quite successful the last couple of years with an incredible 146 species recorded in 2022 and an equally impressive 144 species in 2021. Can this total be beaten in 2023?

Highlights from previous years have included: White-tailed Plover (East Halton - 2022), Richard's Pipit (RSPB Frampton Marsh - 2022) and Smew (Baston Pits - 2021). Not to mention other species such as Bewick's Swan, Tundra Bean Goose, Cattle Egret, Water Pipit and Caspian Gull.

The above species just go to show that you never know what you might stumble into and promises to be an enjoyable day for all. Not to mention a nice way to start your 2023 year list!

A rough set of rules for the day is outlined below...

1. Only species within the county boundary can be counted
2. Species can be counted and recorded any time between 00:00 – 23:59 on SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023
3. Observers can record independently or in groups
4. No use of tape luring allowed
5. No stringing
6. All records/sightings to be submitted via BirdTrack or eBird by January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Alternatively records can be sent by email to [rdoan@linctrust.co.uk](mailto:rdoan@linctrust.co.uk) if preferred.

## We need a new Treasurer: would you like to volunteer?

John Watt has been our Treasurer for over 15 years and has done a fine job with our finances. Given his advancing years and a run of poor health he has given us notice he will retire at our next AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

The role of Treasurer is fundamental to the Club's ability to function. It involves looking after our accounts, ensuring expenses are paid and income comes in and is properly accounted for in quarterly accounts. At the year end full accounts need to be drawn up and records made available for inspection by our Auditor. We generally have 4 or 5 committee meetings a year and an AGM which the Treasurer attends. John reckons he spends up to 6 hours a month in busy periods like January to April when most subscriptions come in but less than 4 hours per month in other months. He believes that someone with nimbler key board skills and up to date IT knowledge would spend less time than he does. It's a responsible job and efficiency and integrity are prerequisites.

If you'd be interested in taking it on or just finding out more about what is involved please get in touch with me, LBC Chair, Phil Espin on 07966 325380 or [chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk). Alternatively, if you are not up for the role yourself but know a suitable candidate please let me have their details and I would be happy to approach them. Phil Espin

## Departed Glory: The Great Bustard and other lost birds of Lincolnshire

14th January 2pm, Whisby Nature Park

A joint LNU/LBC talk by Phil Espin



## We are looking for an Events Organiser for LBC

This year 2022 we have run an events programme for the first time in many years. Chris Gunn volunteered to kick start the programme and organised a series of Zoom meetings in Jan to Apr and field trips including Alkborough in June, Donna Nook in July, a pelagic out of Grimsby to the Inner Silver Pit in August, Frampton Marsh in September and Gibraltar Point in October. Although Chris took the lead in scheduling and some specific logistics, individual trips were led by Joy Croot, Phil Espin, Phil Hyde and Kev Wilson. It's a team approach and you won't have to do everything on your own. Having got us going for which we are grateful, Chris is now stepping back and we need someone who can take the lead.



Ideally as well as Zoom meeting and field trips you would have a role in arranging our AGM and any adhoc conferences or events that the committee and you would like to attend. If you have specific ideas you would like to pursue the committee would be happy to support them.

If you are interested, please contact Phil Espin on [chair@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:chair@lincsbirdclub.co.uk).

## December 2022 Star Bird!

The star bird of the month has to go to an inland Red-flanked Bluetail found by visiting birders (from Devon) on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November and then relocated by Paul Bolton on 2<sup>nd</sup> December before going AWOL again!



**Red-flanked Bluetail** at Deeping Lakes, Lincs © Paul Bolton

The following text on Red-flanked Bluetail was taken from the Birds of Lincolnshire;

The first British and county record was in Sep 1903 at North Cotes, apparently an adult male, seen by Caton Haigh and is keeper, but the record wasn't submitted as he was unable to shoot it. The record was eventually published in full in *British Birds* in 1954 (*British Birds*, 47, 28-29). Given the time lapse between the sighting and its appearance in the literature it was prefixed by the editors of *British Birds* as 'probable' but there was no good reason to doubt it and it has been I accepted as the first British record.

Since then, there have been another 10 records between 1978-2016, all in the autumn between Sep 15th-Nov 15th. This recent increase is concomitant with the species' recent and continuing increase on its nearest breeding grounds in Finland where the record was broken in 2020 when 730 territorial males were counted.

From 1990-99 there was an average of one British record per year (including the popular one at Winspit, Dorset in Oct 1993); this increased to four per year 2000-09 and then 14 per year, 2010-18.

It became ex-BBRC in 2016. There were three county records in 2016, but despite its increasing frequency of occurrence it remains one of the most sought after 'self-found' rarities.



**Red flanked Bluetail** Deeping Lakes © Will Bowell

## Vancouver and the Rockies August 2007 not a birding trip!

Our family holiday for 2007 was going to be a bit of a big spender, two weeks touring the Rockies and Vancouver Island in August, peak time for tourists and costs with unbroken sunshine and a few birds and mammals hopefully thrown in. Having decided on an itinerary taking in the usual hot spots of Banff and Jasper, Wells Gray Park then on to Vancouver Island for the Pacific Rim we booked flights out from Manchester to Calgary and back from Vancouver cutting out a lot of return driving.

Accommodation was booked in advance at B&B's, the cheaper option and in most cases excellent value but it of course meant that there was no flexibility in the itinerary. To demonstrate my commitment to the family part of the trip I had failed to do any research on birding spots or even what I was likely to encounter until the last couple of days before we left when I found that apparently no-one goes birding on this route in late August! The only trip report I came across suggested that I was not likely to see many birds at all as most of the summer visitors would have left the mountains and most sites people had visited produced very few birds. So what was the point in taking the scope and tripod an unnecessary addition to the bulging luggage pile, and with all the camera gear to carry as well; plus it added to the family side of the commitment! Mistakes numbers one and two; do some research and don't leave the scope at home.

Arrival in Calgary and it was not so hot, or sunny but dull and cloudy and this was set for two or three days according to the sages but a relatively short drive to Canmore and we were on the edge of the Rockies; impressive scenery and Ring-billed and California Gulls just outside the restaurant window amongst a gaggle of Brewer's Blackbirds. Maybe it was not quite so bird less after all. Having checked the sunrise and sunset times on the BBC weather site on the web for Vancouver I was up bright and early at 05:00



and wandering around on a nice boardwalk through a little marsh in Canmore in the dark for one and half hours; entertaining but not good birding; of course I had not taken into account that Vancouver was 1 hour different to the Rockies; mistake number three. As it eventually got light birds started to call; then others called and sparrows called and warblers called and chipped and ticked and maybe I should have swatted up on my calls before leaving. But in spite of the noise the only visible birds were American Crows and Ravens. Then just before having to leave for breakfast birds became visible; American Robins and Audubon's Warblers, all seemingly dropping to bits in moult, Oregon Juncos and Lincoln's Sparrows also moulting and scruffy and a Yellow Warbler perching nicely in front of the lower window of a house by the roadside. Maybe the residents of Canmore are used to opening their curtains and seeing a birder with a telephoto lens staring into their window or maybe not;

quick exit needed. Day one we headed back to Calgary on the recommendation that a drive south to Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump was an essential spot to visit. Only two hours south of Calgary— indeed but I had forgotten in five years since my last trip to Canada just how many sets of traffic lights there are in every village! Three hours down the road through wide open prairies we were passing large shallow lakes, Prairie Potholes, covered in wildfowl and waders but we were on a mission and I couldn't see a way to get off the highway anyway and we needed food from the café as well. Not all things go as planned though as anyone who has been on birding trips with me will realise.



Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump

Our arrival at the historic site just happened to coincide with a funeral of one of the key members of staff so after our 4 hour drive the café was closed for the day; it was blowing a gale, red hot and dusty; birds one Gray Catbird seriously abraded to say the least and a Say's Phoebe; all the Cliff Swallow nests were empty and vacated. Now I had to work out how to try and get into one of those potholes as the party were ravenous and there didn't appear to be any eateries within 100 miles! Passing numerous Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks on the long drive back we managed to get some dodgy fast (I miss typed this as fats which may seem appropriate) food at a small habitation called Nanton and just across the road was a track which went apparently quiet close to a rather nice looking wetland. Just an hour folks. Access seemed easy but the high barbed wire surrounding fences seemed to suggest that birders were not too welcome except in the corner near the slaughterhouse where the fence had fallen down to allow people to walk in, obviously. It was windy and muddy but what a place; in a scan of the nearby waders I managed to locate 8 Killdeer, 8 juv Baird's sands, 3 juv Least and 10+ Semi-p Sands, a Solitary Sand, 2 juvenile Stilt Sands, a Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sand, 30+ Lesser Yellowlegs and at least 40 Wilson's Phalaropes. This was not to mention the 30 odd Blue-winged Teal, a tern probably and Forster's which flew off before I had chance to have a good look and the skulking sparrows some of which were Savannah.

In an hour I managed to photograph quite a few of these stunning juvenile waders before the crew needed to move on and it was back to Canmore via 700 sets of traffic lights in Calgary.

The following morning I headed into the edge of Banff National Park and stopped at a decent looking picnic site. Quickly it became apparent that passerines were in flocks, mobile flocks, calling but seldom staying in one place for more than a few deci-seconds; not good for identification or photography but all you have to do is pish, a golden rule. Well it did seem to have a few results first time around and then all the birds seemed to completely ignore my attempts. Audubon's and Wilson's Warblers were obvious and a fine Townsend's appeared and vanished amongst the juncos and Red-breasted nuthatches but a singing male White-winged Crossbill seemed to be a good find. Back on the tourist trail we visited Lake Louise, oh dear another big mistake, then on to Moraine Lake where the sunny summer weather meant a force 5 wind off the glacier and adding all layers of clothing available.



Golden Mantled Ground Squirrel

Although knee deep in tourists the trail up the lake side did produce a stunning male Varied Thrush and an obliging party of Gray Jays with a Slate-coloured Fox Sparrow and Audubon's Warbler feeding young just out of the nest vying for attention with the Golden Mantled Ground Squirrels. The drive back though produced the big mammal; a huddle of vehicles on the roadside and a group of people squatting on a railway track revealed a grazing Grizzly just 40m away; a photographic bonanza before the park ranger moved everyone on; Yogi would have been disappointed.

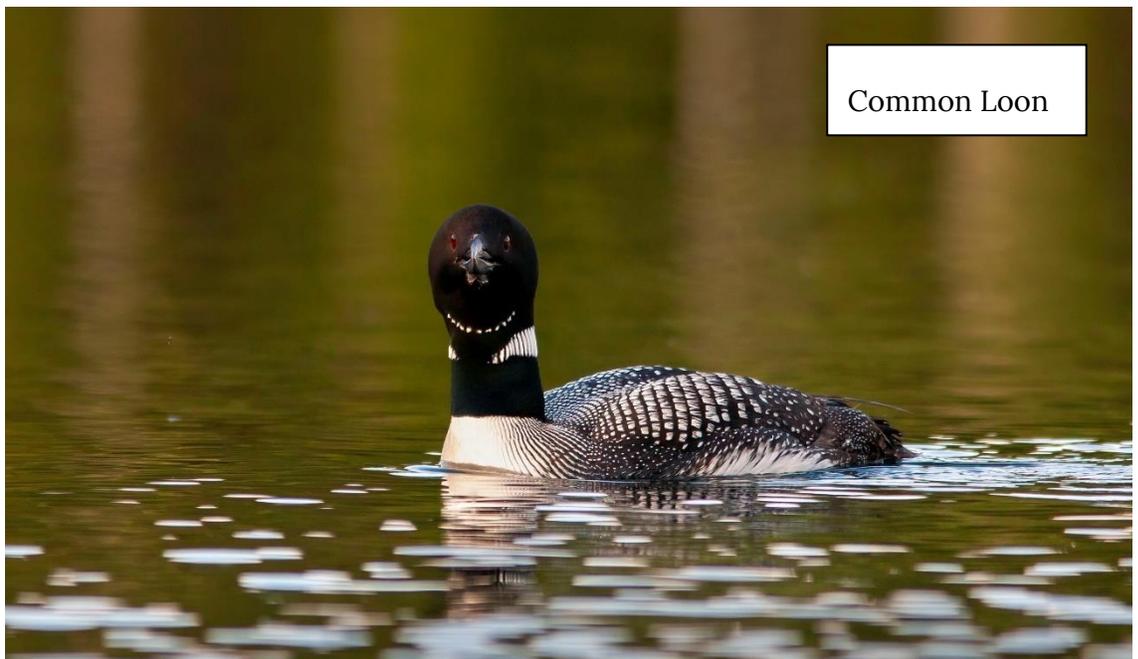


The following morning I managed to identify a passing Baird's Sand on call and realised that all Chickadees were scruffy along with Kinglets while Northern Waterthrushes have a truly loud and distinctive call but fool you by calling from the top of 30 foot high trees. I managed to flush a Sora so now I can ID them in flight and it was onto the Icefields Parkway. Nice scenery, too many people, lots of cloud, amazing numbers of White-winged Crossbills singing in all spruce woods, some moulting (becoming a dominant theme) grouse I couldn't ID, an unexpected encounter with a Prairie Falcon, a few Clarke's Nutcracker and Gray Jays and we were heading for our next overnight stop at Hinton 50 miles east of Jasper. My early morning ventures at Hinton taught me another important fact; Nearctic birds are nothing like as easy in autumn as they are in spring; sparrows can be more than a bit tricky and are incredibly flighty and empids just vanish without trace once you have had a brief glimpse of them in the open. I did manage to find Clay-coloured, Savannah and Chipping Sparrows and American Redstart but I also found out that most of the migrants do two things in a morning; they appear out of their roost about an hour after first light and then they explode upwards calling and disappear; frustration was high on the birding experience list. At Hinton there was a nice little marsh with a boardwalk which went right across to the beaver lodge and produced some nice birds including another in flight Sora (easy) plus some pished out and pished off Northern Waterthrushes, they see you and dive back into cover, and three Hooded Mergs plus Beaver and Muskrat. Convinced the family of the benefits of a gondola trip up the Whistler peaks I managed to wander off long enough to add White-tailed Ptarmigan to my list and photograph Columbian Ground Squirrel and Hoary Marmot but a fly by Buff-bellied Pipit disappeared without trace and I failed to find the hoped for Gray-crowned Rosyfinches but the rain held off while we descended. A brief Black Bear up Maligne Lake road, some very accommodating White-winged Crossbills, a couple of Harlequins and a possible Pacific Slope Flycatcher rounded off our last day in the Rockies.



### Peyto Lake Icefields Parkway

En route to Clearwater we passed Mount Robson National Park where I had a stake out for Caliope and Rufous Hummingbirds on the feeders by the café. Well it just so happened that the old guy who used to put out the feeders had left or died or something similar anyway the familiar theme was now developing; no feeder to fill the feeders = no hummers. Well's Gray Provincial Park came highly recommended as a quiet alternative to the heavily visited National Parks in the Rockies with good chances of Black Bear. Our arrival after a long drive revealed that the information centre staff although very friendly and willing to supply lots of information actually did not know of a good spot to see anything. A Common Nighthawk flying around the car park at 14:00hrs in bright sunshine and temperatures of 23C

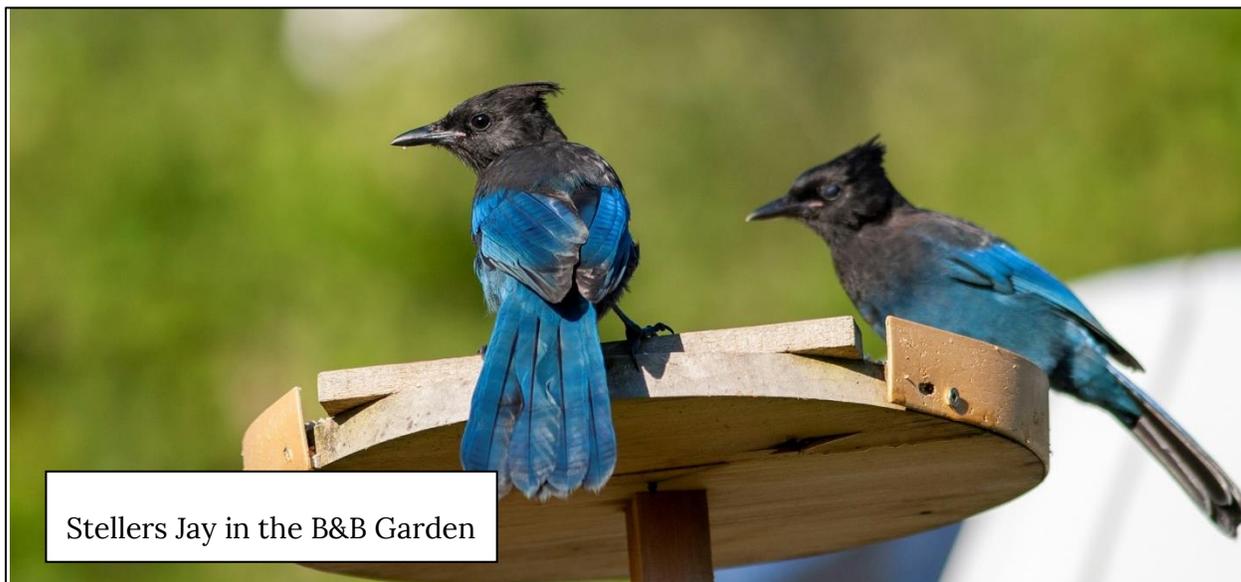


Common Loon

seemed rather incongruous and turned out to be the only one I saw. An initial foray up the one road into the park did produce a Black Bear crossing the road but from then on the 35 mile road revealed that you couldn't see the bears for the trees as it were. Fortunately, and it is uncanny how often this sort of thing happens, we headed for a recommended restaurant on the lake side and having time to spare in the hot sun a bit of boating seemed in order. A rowing boat was hired at the extortionate cost of \$7 and the children had to row me round the lake. Having left the camera in the car for safety sake it was rather galling when we managed to approach rather close to an adult Common Loon which appeared to take no interest in us whatsoever. A quick reverse trip picked up the camera and although the sun had annoyingly by then passed behind a low cloud the shots, as they say, were in the bag and it even called when we were right alongside it in response to the appearance of a bald Eagle. Next day Wells Gray at dawn produced another of those frustrating passage flocks of warblers, vireo, kinglets and empids while a water puddle in an upturned boat in the B&B garden produced rather less than elegant Evening Grosbeak and Western Tanagers. A long drive through the park was pretty bird and bear less but rich in feasting mosquitoes. A small party of Red-eyed Vireos enlivened the pre breakfast stroll on the following morning and then a very long drive in often torrential rain took us in the direction of Pemberton, near Whistler, for another mosquito rich stop over. The lake held Wood Ducks and Pied Billed Grebes and a mixed flock of American Robins and Swainson's Thrushes adorned some berry bearing bushes briefly but as with so many of the birds encountered their appearance was brief. Next stop Vancouver Island and lots of birds to be had from the ferry crossing!

Ticking North-western Crow in the harbour and adding, Glaucous-winged Gull, Pelagic and Brant's Cormorants to the trip list in hot sunny weather, at last, and we were eventually on the ferry after missing the access road and doing a 6 mile detour. Ferry crossing, calm, sunny, birds of interest nil, cetaceans of interest nil, anything of interest nil.

The long drive to Ucluluet on the west coast of the Pacific Rim was inevitably slow punctuated by traffic lights, road works and an abysmal road but soon we were into hordes of Glaucous-winged and California Gulls and the tidal inlet behind our B&B looked amazing for waders; it looked amazing but in three days all I saw were two Spotted Sands; where on earth were all the passage waders? The garden was better with Steller's Jays on the feeder but passerines were notably thin on the ground. The lighthouse at Ucluluet produced some Song Sparrows and Orange-crowned Warblers but even this migrant magnet seemed to be lacking in potential. The harbour held lots of nice gulls, sea Otters and Sea Lions and a female Black Bear and two cubs roamed along the far bank while Bald Eagles sat around like white headed black statues.

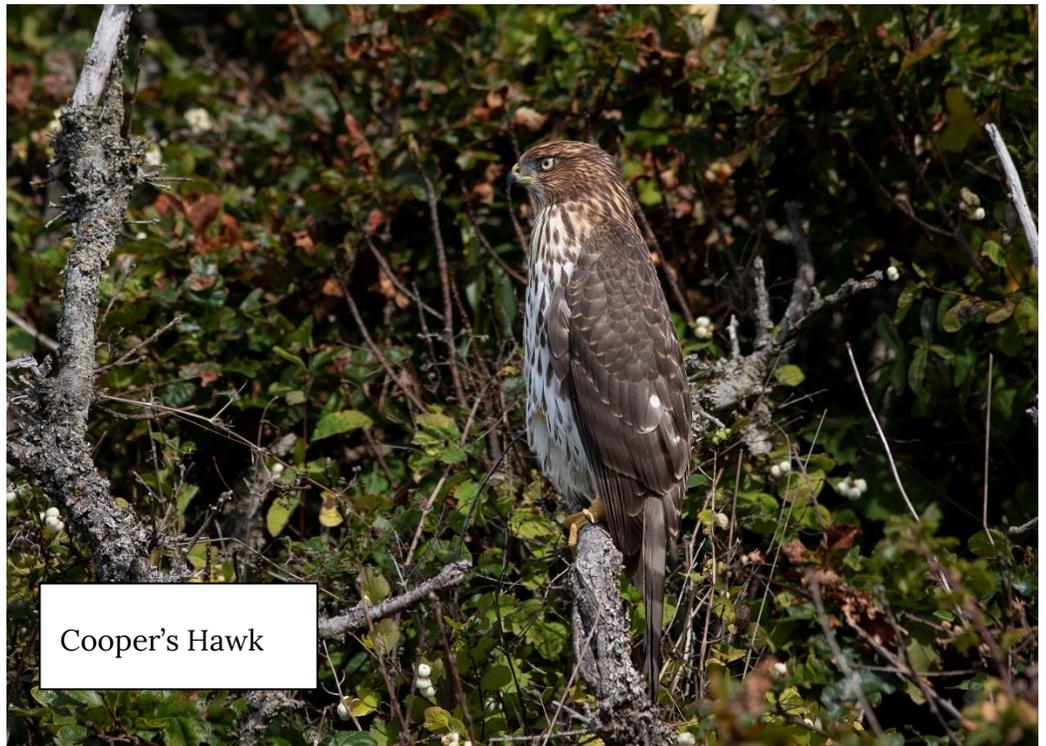


Stellers Jay in the B&B Garden

With the family in tow I had pre-booked two whale watching trips out of Tofino and Sidney (near Victoria); the former for Gray Whale and the latter for Orcas. I had also figured that seabirds would be out there and I was sure to pick up some things of interest. I should really have read the title; Whale watching trips; means that they look for whales and watch them and anything like a Tufted Puffin or some small auklets that you happen to be passing at 30mph in a wave bumping boat is ignored and left rapidly at the rear of the boat. Using bins is almost impossible at speed and when they slow down for a whale there appear to be no birds! The Tofino trip was a bit bumpy and it rained and drizzled but we did see a Gray Whale and some close Pigeon Guillemots alongside the Sea Lions and a Sea Otter while a few Rhinoceros Auklets had the good grace to try and fly along side the boat enabling some decent views but poor photos in the grotty light. I had booked the southern trip out of Sidney as the Orcas are apparently often closer to there than Victoria so you save travelling time on the boat. Well on our trip they were the other side of Victoria so it took an hour to get there then we had to queue for pole position amongst all the other boats until we got amazing views. At one stage the four whales moved alongside the coast and were apparently eating a family of River Otters; they were so close to the shore that a crowd had gathered on the headland to watch; now that would have been the place to be and would have saved £170! The return flight back on the boat, as we had used up all our time on the orcas, passed a mass of seabirds of which I managed to identify very few! I took a flying shot at a flock of waders which dropped on the water and amazingly could see on the image that they were in fact Rednecked Phalaropes; something I failed to note with the bins! The rest of our time on the west of the island showed that old growth forests hold very few birds in August but a long walk to a very nice beach did reveal a mass of birds in the bay offshore---now where did I leave my scope? Surf Scoters were abundant with several loons and Red-necked and Horned Grebes, Hooded Mergs and a single Harlequin but there may have been other stuff out there.

At the southern end of the island we stayed near Sidney and quickly discovered that wealth equates to having houses for two people which could actually accommodate a small English village, owning at least one cabin cruiser and a berth at one of the 1000's of marinas which adorn the coast, and also staking a claim to your very own bit of the coastline; no public footpaths here just an abundance of private signs, fences and the odd Doberman. Finding access to a beach or a bit of shoreline was almost impossible and when you did the area

which could be walked was usually about 30m long and covered by water at high tide! Once again I was being frustrated by the lack of waders even in the areas where I did manage to find a bit of habitat there were just a few Black Oystercatcher and the odd Killdeer. A nice flock of juvenile Least Sandpipers did offer a photo opportunity but as I approached a 's Hawk sent them heading south off the island. Belted Kingfishers were noisy and abundant in the tidal bays competing for feeding territories and I did manage a Rufous Hummer at the B&B plus a bullying Anna's while Band-



tailed Pigeons, Pileated Woodpeckers and Red-shafted Flickers were showy. Our last morning on the island was sunny and hot but more importantly I found a little bit of beach and some rocks where you could walk. While taking yet more shots of the car park dwelling Glaucous-winged Gulls and associated hybrids, which must come in useful someday, a juvenile Western Sandpiper landed on the rocks. Luck at last and it proved to be typically approachable; memory card full as I stood up a raptor jumped out of a nearby bush and flew back in again. A careful approach revealed a stunning juvenile Cooper's Hawk which seemed to be totally oblivious to my presence.

Getting closer and closer I managed to remove the 1.4 converter from the 300mm lens and then I had to turn the camera on its side as the bird was filling the frame. A timely reminder of how North American bird photographers get such stunning raptor shots while we struggle to get within 200m of a raptor in Britain. The return ferry trip was as eventful as the outgoing one.

Flying back the following day I had booked a B&B near Delta south of Vancouver. When we found it the choice was again frustrating, that I didn't have a week here, and fortuitous. The B&B was a farm just on the edge of Boundary Bay which to my regret I had not realised was one of the top wader spots in Canada! A Black Merlin in a telegraph post outside the farm was typically approachable and passed within 2m while attacking a passing Cooper's Hawk. An evening drive to the edge of the bay produced huge numbers of waterfowl, apparently mainly Pintail and Shoveler and flocks of waders, waders and more waders and where was my scope? 100's of Western Sands, Least, Semi-p Plovers chewing, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, an American Goldeneye and big flocks of Black-bellied Plovers plus Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers, Blue-winged Teal etc; a wader watcher's dream especially if you had a good scope!



Western Sandpiper Boundary Bay

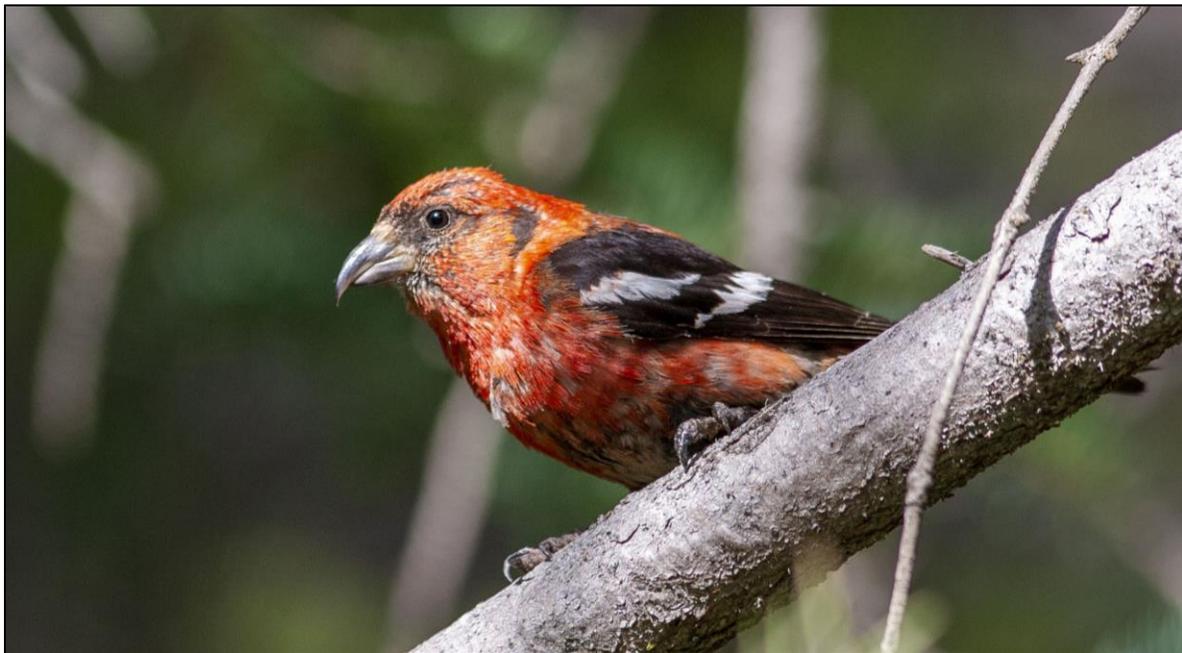
As we started back we found out that someone had locked the access gate behind us; never mind an eight mile detour and we found a gate open, just! The following morning I figured I could get a few wader shots first thing on the rising tide but rising at dawn I found all the access gates locked and not only that all of the approach roads, except one which was about 4 miles from the best wader spot, had no parking signs enforced with tow-away zone signs and the inevitable private signs; at this point I half considered taking a series of photos of the various signs designed to prevent you seeing any birds in a brilliant area but I lost interest. A drive in the dull

and drizzly weather produced a Willet and several 100 Great Blue Herons and finally one gate was opened at about 09:00hrs and a quick view of a few waders was possible before departure to the airport. By chance I bumped into an ex pat birding the area that morning and he told me where there was a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper several Pecs and two Ruff but he said its no good going unless you've got a scope; next time I think I might take it.

Words and ALL photos by Graham Catley



Varied Thrush at Moraine Lake avoiding the tourist hordes



White-winged Crossbill seemingly everywhere in the Rockies a major invasion!

## BBC's 2022 Springwatch News

A young white-tailed eagle who thrilled millions watching BBC's 2022 Springwatch series has flown west for the festive season to spend time with her family.

The eagle, whose first weeks were captured live on camera footage shown at RSPB Scotland's Loch Garten Nature Centre, has made its way to the Isle of Mull, home of its great-great grandparents, Skye and Frisa.

Viewers of the BBC's popular Springwatch programmes and visitors to Loch Garten were treated to unrivalled views of life at a white-tailed eagle nest in the Cairngorms earlier this year. In a UK first, a camera was installed by Wildlife Windows and External



Reality overlooking the nest over a year ago in the hope the eagle family would take up residence in the spring. Early signs were promising when an adult pair, named Finn and Shona, were nest building in the snow deep in the forest on Cairngorms Connect land. Eventually eggs were laid, two chicks hatched and both went on to fledge successfully after the female chick was fitted with a satellite tag.

Satellite tags allow conservationists to track the movements of birds, providing insights into their behaviour and helping to identify the threats they face.

Immature white-tailed eagles explore far and wide in their first five years prior to becoming mature adults pairing up and establishing a breeding territory of their own. The young eagle from the Cairngorms has now successfully navigated her way to the west coast.

The female eagle was recorded on the Morvern peninsula before crossing the Sound of Mull and onto the Isle of Mull, dubbed 'Eagle Island' due to the concentration of white-tailed and golden eagles which live there. Mull has also played a critical role in the re-establishment of white-tailed eagles since their reintroduction in 1975 following their UK extinction in 1918.

Remarkably, the satellite tag data showed that the young eagle visited the territory of her great-grandparents and also flew close to the nest where her grandfather once fell from his nest in a terrible night time storm. He was rescued by RSPB Scotland staff and survived and he before later settling on Islay to breed.

Perhaps the chick's most famous ancestors, Skye and Frisa were featured on the first ever live episode of Springwatch and have become regular fixtures on the programme. Skye is now a record breaker having been

confirmed by the British Trust for Ornithology as the UK's oldest known wild white-tailed eagle after Springwatch cameraman Jim Manthorpe read his BTO leg ring whilst filming on Mull earlier this year.

BBC Springwatch presenter Iolo Williams said: "It was such a privilege to watch the two sea eagle chicks in the Cairngorms last spring and to know they both successfully flew the nest was just fantastic. Now to hear that the female has made it all the way across country to Mull – one of my favourite places in the world – and that she's exploring the island home of her ancestors is just the icing on the Christmas cake. I hope the family gave her a warm welcome for the festive season!"

After spending Christmas and Hogmanay on the island with the relatives, it's likely the young eagle will wander further afield and will keep exploring different areas of Scotland.

Some white-tailed eagle chicks on the west coast succumbed to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) this year, possibly after feeding on sickly or dead seabirds which were badly affected by the disease. It's hoped this young eagle will avoid that fate and go on to reach adulthood and breeding age in five years time.

Winterwatch returns to BBC Two in January to celebrate the natural world in winter when Iolo and Gillian Burke will be live from Edinburgh.



## Lincolnshire Bird News - December 2022

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 Latest Bird News - December 2022

**31/12/2022**

**Holbeach Marsh**

Short-eared Marsh

**30/12/2022**

**Cleethorpes**

Purple Sandpiper

**Gibraltar Point**

Great Northern Diver, Hen Harrier, Scaup

**Lincoln Cathedral**

Peregrine Falcon

**Westwoodside**

5 Bewick's Swan

**29/12/2022**

**Boultham Mere/ Swanpool cow-fields**

2 Goosander, 15 Lesser Redpoll, 14 Shoveler, 16 Teal, Song Thrush



Female Scaup with male Tufted Duck on Tennyson Sands - Image © Chris Grimshaw

**Farmers Lane, Brumby Common West**

Buzzard 3, Little Egret, **Peregrine Falcon**, Kestrel 2. Linnet 200, **Merlin 2**, Tree Sparrow, 2 Sparrowhawk 40 Yellowhammer

**Covenham Reservoir**

Great Northern Diver

**Gibraltar Point**

25 **Snow Bunting** (At the point itself), **Black-throated Diver**, **Hen Harrier**, **Scaup** (Female, Tennyson Sands)

**Frampton Marsh**

Hen Harrier

**Freiston Shore**

Hen Harrier

**East Halton Marsh**

19 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Novartis Ings**

Iceland Gull

**Saltfleetby**

6 **Snow Bunting**

**Westwoodside**

7 **Bewick's Swan**

**28/12/2022**

**Gibraltar Point**

15 **Snow Bunting**, **Scaup** (female)

**Willow Tree Fen**

Cattle Egret, Hen Harrier

Westwoodside

7 **Bewick's Swan**

**27/12/2022**

**Cress Marsh**

Buzzard, 60 Gadwall, 370 Lapwing, 9 Meadow Pipit, 3 Golden Plover, Redshank, Song Thrush

**Doddington Park**

18 Lesser Redpoll

**Fillingham Lake**

Smew (male)

**Frampton Marsh**

4 Avocet, 2 **Peregrine Falcon**, 2 Marsh Harrier, Pintail, **Water Rail**, 2 **Stonechat**, 4 **Whooper Swan**

**Gibraltar Point**

Greater Scaup (female), 20 **Snow Bunting**

**Halton Marsh**

19 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Pyewipe**

Iceland Gull

**Trent Port**

110 Fieldfare, Goldcrest, 2 Raven, 65 Redwing, 10 Teal, 14 Mute Swan

**26/12/2022**

**Doddington Park**

45+ Lesser Redpoll

**Gibraltar Point**

20 **Snow Bunting**

**25/12,2022**

**Gibraltar Point**

Hen Harrier, Water Pipit

**Huttoft**

Swallow

**North Hykeham Pits**

4 Mealy Redpoll

**Trent Port**

Little Egret, 90 Fieldfare, 1100 Lapwing, Kingfisher, Sparrowhawk

**24/12/2022**

**Belton Park**

Woodcock

**Cleethorpes**

2 Pochard, 3 Stonechat

**Culverthope**

Pink-footed Goose, 25 Lesser Redpoll

**Halton Marsh**

19 Russian White-fronted Goose, Merlin, Water Pipit, 5 Stonecat, 3 Woodcock

**Willow Tree Fen**

4 Common Crane, Cattle Egret

**Withcall**

Brambling, 33 Corn Bunting, 322 Linnet, 2 Raven

**23/12/2022**

No sightings - heavy rain most of the day

**22/12/2022**

**Gibraltar Point**

27 Snow Bunting

**Grimsby**

3 Waxwing

**Middlemarsh Farm**

Caspian Gull

**Nebraska Wetlands**

2 Shelduck, 9 Shoveler, 16 Teal, 31 Wigeon

**21/12/2022**

**Alkborough Flats**

Water Pipit

**Baston Fen**

Cattle Egret

**Frampton Marsh**

Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, 500 Fieldfare, Hen Harrier, 5 Marsh Harrier

**Jobs Lane**

Buzzard, 4 Dunlin, 4 Fieldfare, Goldeneye, 3 Egyptian Goose, 22 Redwing, Green Woodpecker

**Mablethorpe**

Velvet Scoter

**Saltfleetby**

12 Snow Bunting, Hen Harrier

**Whisby (village)**

2 Buzzard

**Willow Tree Fen**

8 Common Crane, Cattle Egret, Great White Egret

**20/12/2022**

**Baston Fen**

Cattle Egret

**Covenham Reservoir**

Great Northern Diver

**Crook Bank**

3 Waxwing

**Doddington Park**

Redwing, Sparrowhawk

**Gibraltar Point**

21 Snow Bunting

**Grimsby**

2 Waxwing

**Humberside Airport**

60 Golden Plover

**Messingham**

Buzzard, Great White Egret, 17 Gadwall, 3 Goldcrest, Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, 5 Shelduck, 8 Shoveler, Siskin, Cetti's Warbler

**Pyewipe**

**Iceland Gull**

**Saltfleetby**

31 Snow Bunting

**Trent Port**

Little Egret, 140 Fieldfare, Goldcrest, 180 Redwing, Sparrowhawk, Treecreeper, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Willow Tree Fen**

3 Common Crane, Cattle Egret

**19/12/2022**

**Ancaster**

5 Buzzard, Great Black-backed Gull, 10 Red Kite, 4 Raven, 100 Skylark

**Baston Fen**

Cattle Egret

**Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe Dunes**

4300 Pink-footed Goose, 44 Linnet, 420 Teal, 330 Wigeon

**Willow Tree Fen**

4 Common Crane, Cattle Egret

**18/12/2022**

**Cut End**

Great Northern Diver

**Doddington Park**

Lesser Redpoll, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Halton Marsh**

Snow Bunting

**Scunthorpe**

4 Greenfinch, 30 Starling, Song Thrush, Coal Tit

**17/12/2022**

**Baston Fen**

Cattle Egret

**Cleethorpes**

Purple Sandpiper

**Halton Marsh**

19 Russian White-fronted Goose, 2 Water Pipit

**Healing**

4 Waxwing

**Millennium Green**

30 Goldeneye, 2 Goosander, 2 Pochard

**Tallington Lakes**

Greater Scaup

**Willow Tree Fen**

4 Common Crane, Cattle Egret

**16/12/2022**

**Cleethorpes**

3 Snow Bunting, 6 Grey Plover, 30 Sanderling and a Bumble Bee!

**Gibraltar Point**

Great Northern Diver

**North Thoresby**

30 Blackbird, 30 Fieldfare, 40 Redwing, Mistle Thrush

**Swanpool cow-fields**

Little Egret, Goldcrest, 2 Grey Heron, Common Snipe, 2 Stonechat

**Trent Port**

120 Fieldfare, 3 Kingfisher, 125 Redwing, 3 Snipe, Grey Wagtail, Green Woodpecker

**Willow Tree Fen**

Bittern, 4 Common Crane, Great White Egret, 25 Common Snipe, Jack Snipe

**15/12/2022|**

**Boultham Park**

Buzzard, Goldfinch, Kestrel, Treecreeper, 2 Grey Wagtail

**Cut End**

8 Russian White-fronted Goose



Two Russian White-fronted Geese in the prison Fields at Cut End - Image © Dave Roberts

**Deeping High Bank**

1 Bewick Swan, Whooper Swans

**Stowgate**

2 Bewick Swan

**Swanpool cow-fields**

Buzzard, Little Egret, 8 Fieldfare, 2 Lapwing Tawny Owl, 6+ Snipe, 2 Stonechat

**Willow Tree Fen**

Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, 32 Goosander, Hen Harrier (rt), 7 Marsh Harrier, 10 Whooper Swan

14/14/12/2022

**Baston Fen**

Cattle Egret

**Gibraltar Point**

Lapland Bunting

**Grimsby**

4 Waxwing

**Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe Dunes**

13 Snow Bunting, Hen Harrier (rt), 5 Marsh Harrier, 70 Kittiwake, 2 Merlin, 2 Pintail, 2 Jack Snipe



Great shot of a Merlin on the coast - Image © Andy Sims

**Sculpholme**

Barn Owl



Barn Owl with prey near Sculpholme - Image © Andy Sims

**Spalding**

4 Common Crane, Waxwing

**Temple Wood**

19 Tundra Bean Goose

**Waithe**

Great White Egret

**Winthorpe**

Bewick's Swan

**Willow Tree Fen**

550 Blackbird, 6 Common Crane, Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, 350 Fieldfare, 106 Goosander, 2200 Pink-footed Goose, 6 Marsh Harrier, 3 Barn Owl, Little Owl, Short-eared Owl, Stonechat, 19 Whooper Swan

|

13/12/2022

**Boultham Mere**

Great White Egret, 20 Shoveler, 2 Stonechat, 45 Teal

**Bottesford Beck**

2 Collared Dove, Little Egret, 9 Common Gull, 28 Lapwing, 16 Golden Plover, 20 Redwing, 30 House Sparrow, Grey Wagtail

**Hartsholme Park**

Goosander (f), 2 Grey Heron

**Middlemarsh Farm**

Cattle Egret

**Skegness**

Bean Goose

**North Somercotes**

Hen Harrier (m)

**Spanby**

Cattle Egret

**Swanholme Lakes**

Goosander (6m, 3f), 103 Gadwall, 1 Pochard, 5 Teal, 100 Tufted Duck, 108 Wigeon

**Trent Port**

Chiffchaff, 2 Pink-footed Goose, Kingfisher, 130 Redwing, 2 Snipe, **Stonechat**, 2 Green Woodpecker

**12/12/2022**

**Baston Fen**

Cattle Egret

**Freiston Shore**

Cetti's Warbler

**Holbeach Marsh**

5 Twite

**Middlemarsh Farm**

Caspian Gull

**Swanpool cow-fields**

Great White Egret, Little Egret, Kingfisher, **2 Stonechat**, 4 Song Thrush

**Trent Port**

3 Bullfinch, 150 Fieldfare, 46 Goldfinch, Goosander, Kingfisher, 110 Redwing

**11/12/2022**

**Cleethorpes**

**Snow Bunting**, 20 Skylark, **2 Stonechat**, 20 Yellowhammer

**Covenham Reservoir**

152 Coot, **Great Northern Diver**, 284 Mallard, 34 Gadwall, 48 Goldeneye, **3 Pink-footed Goose**, 33 Pochard, 450 Redwing, **Greater Scaup**, Velvet Scoter, Whooper Swan, 147 Tufted Duck, Grey Wagtail

**Halton Marsh**

**19 Russian White-fronted Goose**

**Marston**

150 Fieldfare, Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, 43 Lapwing, **Water Rail**, 100 Redwing, Green Sandpiper, 96 Teal, Grey Wagtail, Cetti's Warbler, Woodcock

**Millennium Green**

Jay, 3 **Whooper Swan**

**Saltfleetby**

**18 Snow Bunting**

**Trent Port**

**Peregrine Falcon**, Kingfisher, 220 Redwing, Green Sandpiper, 6 Snipe 55 Wigeon, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

**10/12/2022**

**Baston Fen**

Cattle Egret

**Branston**

Fieldfare, Redwing

**Covenham Reservoir**

**Great Northern Diver**, **Greater Scaup**, **Velvet Scoter**



A stunning close-up of the Velvet Scoter at Covenham Reservoir - Image © Owen Beaumont

**Crowle**

17 Grey Partridge

**Gibraltar Point**

Hen Harrier

**Lincoln City FC**

1500 Black-headed Gull (over)

**Mablethorpe**

Hooded Crow

**North Thoresby**

Blackcap, 5 Mistle Thrush, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Swanpool cow-fields**

140 Lesser Redpoll

**09/12/2022**

**Deeping Lakes**

2 Long-eared Owl

**Doddington Park**

Great Spotted Woodpecker, 3 Redwing

**Gibraltar Point**

11 Snow Bunting

**Marston**

3 Chiffchaff, 12 Snipe, 2 Stonechat

**Messingham SQ**

2 Goldcrest, 270 Mallard, Jay, 12 Shelduck, 45 Siskin, 19 Shoveler, 3 Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Swanpool Cow-Fields**

Jay, Great White Egret, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**08/12/2022**

**Boultham Mere**

11 Common Gull, Siskin

**Chapel Hill**

Great White Egret

**Culverthorpe Lake**

2 Goosander

**Gibraltar Point**

Lapland Bunting, Velvet Scoter, 2 Waxwing

**Mablethorpe**

6 Velvet Scoter

**Millenium Green**

Goosander 15 Pochard

**Swanpool Cow-fields**

1 Tawny Owl

**07/12/2022**

**Alkborough Flats**

70 Curlew, Marsh Harrier, 11 Water Pipit, 3 Ruff

**Covenham Reservoir**

Slavonian Grebe, Velvet Scoter

**Deeping High Bank**

6 Common Crane

**Mablethorpe**

Hooded Crow

**North Somercotes**

2 Waxwing

**Swanpool Cow-fields**

1 Tawny Owl

**06/12/2022**

**Boultham Mere**

4 Goosander

**Doddington Park**

Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Frampton Marsh**

Buzzard, Pink-footed Goose, 6 Marsh Harrier, Rock Pipit, Green Sandpiper, Stonechat, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Marion**

Great White Egret, 500 Fieldfare, Kingfisher, 210 Lapwing, 280 Redwing, 2 Stonechat, Treecreeper, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Swanholme Lakes**

Little Egret 21 Goosander (13 male, 8 female), 3 Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker



Grey Heron up a tree alongside Pike Drain, Swanholme Lakes - Image © Chris Grimshaw

**05/12/2022**

**Black Bank**

2 Buzzard

**Boultham Mere**

Marsh Harrier, 22 Gadwall, 20 Shoveler

**Chaper Six Marshes**

2 Little Auk, Mediterranean Gull, 48 Kittiwake, 3 Little Owl, Short-eared Owl, Puffin, 4 Great Skua, Pomarine Skua

**Deeping Lakes**

2 Greater Scaup

**Donna Nook**

Snow Bunting

**Doddington Park**

60 Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Frampton Marsh**

Little Stint

**Gibraltar Point**

Arctic Redpoll

**Great Gonerby**

Waxwing

**Huttoft Bank**

Black Guillemot

**Kirkby on Bain - unfortunately the hide at Kirkby on Bain has been vandalised and partially burnt and consequently is now closed to visitors**

**Scunthorpe (Farmers Lane)**

Merlin

**Swanpool**

Raven

**Trent Port**

2 Little Egret, 46 Fieldfare, Kingfisher, 55 Redwing, Whooper Swan, 38 Teal, Grey Wagtail, 25 Wigeon, Green Woodpecker

**04/12/2022**

**Covenham Reservoir**

Slavonian Grebe, Velvet Scoter

**Deeping High Bank**

6 Common Crane

**Gibraltar Point**

Snow Bunting, Short-eared Owl

**Pyewipe**

Jack Snipe

**Scunthorpe (Farmers Lane)**

Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, 200 Linnet, Merlin, 500 Feral Pigeon, 3 Tree Sparrow

**Sutton Bridge**

16 Tundra Bean Goose

**03/12/2022**

**Bagmoor**

Long-tailed Duck

**Covenham Reservoir**

Great Northern Diver, Goosander 10/12 (all female), Slavonian Grebe, Velvet Scoter

**Gibraltar Point**

11 Snow Bunting, 3 Little Gull

**Halton Marshes**

19 Russian White-fronted Goose

**North Somercotes**

Waxwing

**02/12/2022**

**Apex Pits**

2 Common Scoter

**Barton Sailing Pit**

Waxwing

**Covenham Reservoir**

Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Velvet Scoter

**Deeping Lakes**

Red-flanked Bluetail (am but not pm)

**Novartis Ings**

2 Caspian Gull, Iceland Gull

**Nocton Fen**

Peregrine Falcon, 300 Greylag Goose, 200 Lapwing, 1000 Starling, 380+ Whooper Swan

**Willow Tree Fen**

6 Common Crane

**Wroot**

26 Whooper Swan

**01/12/2022**

**Covenham**

Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Velvet Scoter

**Deeping High Bank**

19 Russian White-fronted Goose, Red-flanked Bluetail

**Gibraltar Point**

Black-throated Diver, Greater Scaup

**Halton Marsh**

Snow Bunting

**Novartis Infs**

3 Caspian Gull

**Washingborough**

Ring-necked Parakket

**Wroot**

37 Whooper Swan



Red-flanked Bluetail Deeping Lakes © Will Bowell

### 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-](http://www.glnp.org.uk/our-publications/biodiversity/projects-and-reports.php)

[publications/biodiversity/projects-and-reports.php](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)

#### 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

