



Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - May 2023

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Global Big Day on 13th May



Global Big Day is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, join us virtually on 13 May, help celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, and share the birds you find.

Submit records via eBird, Birdtrack or by direct email to Richard Doan rdoan@lincstrust.co.uk

Such a special bird - why Nick Williams is a fan of the Bittern

"A RIPPLE in the water, a slight movement of a reed and then it appears . . ."

This is how birder-photographer Nick Williams introduced the Bittern to his audience when he was guest speaker at the 2023 annual meeting of Lincolnshire Bird Club.

"It is very exciting," he enthused. "It's a fantastic experience!"

Nick went on to describe - in both words and photographs - a host of encounters he has had with what he described as his "special birds".

"To think it was not so many decades ago that they were deemed to be on the brink of extinction, but now they're booming - almost as common as muck!"

Originally from Ellesmere Port on The Wirral, Nick now lives at Rippingale, near Sleaford.

Happily for him, there are sites near his home where he can watch bitterns - and where, three years ago, he found no fewer than six nests in a single day.



Guest speaker Nick Williams (third left) with LBC members Phil Espin, Prof Ian Newton, Phil Hyde, John Watt and Mike Harrison

"I think that two males each had three females," he observed.

For some 30 years of his varied career, Nick used to visit primary schools, giving presentations aimed at inspiring children with awe and respect for wildlife in such a way that they would seek to discover it for themselves.

He has seen birds in countries all over the world - with highspots being encounters with the family of a very rare African Marsh Owl in Morocco and an even rarer Laso Lark on an islet, the only one it inhabits, in the Cape Verde islands.

"One even scuttled over my sleeping bag," he fondly recalled. "Because it is in decline, there is preliminary talk of introducing it to neighbouring islets or even to the mainland."



Another of Nick's stomping grounds has been the steppes of Outer Mongolia where he developed an increasing fascination with photographing larger raptures such as vulture and eagle species, particularly at their nests.

At first he was reluctant to use Photoshop software to manipulate his images, regarding it as "cheating", but he admitted that he now makes occasional exceptions after friends assured him the practice was "creative enhancement".

Nick - also a racing, golf and football enthusiast (he supports Liverpool FC) - has also spent many rewarding weeks of his life in the Outer Hebrides, particularly on the island of North Uist where he has been able to capture stunning close-up shots of breeding Red-throated divers, plus their chicks, Golden Eagles and White-tailed Eagles.

Another of his subject birds in the Hebrides has been the short-eared owl and it was reference to this species which provided the springboard for him to reflect both on this species and other raptors in Lincolnshire.

Within living memory, Short-eareds have bred at Holbeach Marsh, but mostly they are winters visitors (in fluctuating numbers) only.

Over the years, he has had many memorable interactions in Lincolnshire with Long-eared owls .

To spare them disturbance, it is probably best not to identify the precise locations, but he has found nests on at least one golf course in the county.



"Because they are strictly nocturnal and hide away by day, they are not often seen," he said "But I think there are probably more in the county than is generally supposed.

Meanwhile, Nick's assessment of Tawny Owls is that they are holding their own but that Little Owls are in a spiral of decline - probably because of the increasing scarcity of the sort of large insects and earthworms which are staples of their diet.

Of Barn Owls, he said their population had fluctuated in Lincolnshire during his lifetime, but, after several years of increase, the species was now back in decline.

Why might this be? His theory was that they may be falling prey to Buzzards which were once rare in the county, but since first breeding in have now skyrocketed, with almost every wood in Lincolnshire hosting one or more birds.

Other diurnal raptors which are doing well include Red Kites and Hobbies, while Kestrels and Sparrowhawks seem to be holding steady, the latter having made a remarkable recovery from the DDT pesticides crisis of the 1960s and 1970s.

Nick is also heartened by the breeding expansion of Marsh Harriers and he recalled how, in the 1960s, he had read an article about the jubilation in the birding world when a pair bred on Havergate Island in Suffolk.

What about Ospreys? According to Nick, there is a pair nesting just outside the county boundary, and he predicted that before long its spread from Rutland Water would reach Lincolnshire.

Passerines featured less in the presentation, but the audience of 50 or so at Whisby Nature Reserve's education centre was treated to

superb close-up shots of individual Cuckoo chicks in the nests of Reed Warblers.

Nick's entertaining talk was never less than fresh and enthusiastic and peppered throughout with humour.

To add vibrancy and atmosphere, he also included pieces of music from Enya, The Eagles (appropriately!) and, finally Louis Armstrong - what else but What a Wonderful World!

The speaker was thanked by Lincolnshire Bird Club chairman Phil Espin for his absorbing presentation.

Jim Wright

Following the Lincs Bird Clubs sponsorship of his team, Mike Dawson (Swallowtail Printing) shares how it went;

Southern Israel and Champions of the Flyway 2023 – a short account.

Having taken part in Champions of the Flyway in 2018 with Guy Kirwan and Duncan Macdonald and in 2019 with Lizzie Bruce, Toby Carter and his dad Gary, I was keen to get involved again this year. After a successful grant application to a small charitable foundation, Jonathan Meyrav suggested I raise yet more money and enter a team. This proved slightly complicated, but in the end, I joined up with local birders Andrea Alene and Shachar Shalev and we were joined by my wife, Deborah Sacks.



Champions of the Flyway is a bird race organised by BirdLife Israel

that raises money every year for a BirdLife project, usually conserving a species that travels through Israel on its migration from Africa to Eurasia. In the past these have included Quail, Steppe Eagles, vultures and Turtle Doves, but 2023 was slightly different as it focused on Red-breasted Geese, with funds being raised for BirdLife partners in Bulgaria and Kazakhstan. This species is in decline and some of the money will go towards satellite tagging so migration stop-overs can be identified and efforts will be made to combat illegal hunting, which will also benefit Lesser White-fronts which migrate along the same routes.

We spent two nights with friends near Tel Aviv and this gave us a chance to check out a couple of nearby sites. Tel Krayot in the sunshine gave us a taste of Blue Rock-thrush, Finsch's Wheatear, Rock Sparrows, Ortolan and Cretzschmar's Buntings and a lovely pale Little Owl. Ayalon reservoir in the pouring rain grudgingly gave glimpses of Ferruginous Duck. Heading south on the way to Eilat we stopped at the awe-inspiring Ein Avdat gorge, and although time was limited, we enjoyed breeding Griffons, perched Bonelli's Eagle, Palestine Sunbird and Tristram's Starling. A Nubian Ibex and her kid descending what looked like a sheer rockface was a bonus, as was a Red Fox trotting along the path.

We checked into Kibbutz Eilat in the evening of the 19th of March and this was to be home for the rest of our stay. The accommodation is comfortable, and breakfast and evening meal are included in the price. A 7.00 until 10.00 breakfast slot allowed early morning birding, but a packed breakfast is available on request.

We had seven days to look around before race day on the 27th, so here is a run-down of some of the sites we scouted, but as always migrants turn up one day and rapidly move on, so past performance is not a reliable guide to the future.

The Bird Park, Eilat.

Formally known as the International Birding and Research Centre, this compact reserve is sandwiched between the salt pans in the south and more agricultural land to the north. It consists of pans of varying salinity, Lake Anita with its reed fringes and patches of trees and scrub. The salt pans hold Greater Flamingo, passage waders, gulls, terns and passerines. While we were there, we had a large flock of Slender-billed Gulls, Collared Pratincoles, Red-necked Phalaropes, Caspian Terns and a Common Gull which is quite a good rarity for Eilat. Lake Anita hosted a variety of herons, with Striated, Squacco, Purple and Black-crowned Night Herons, plus Little Bittern. We failed to find the Great Bittern that was hiding on the densely vegetated islands. Spotted Crake and Water Rail were around, as were Bluethroats and a very obliging Citrine Wagtail that was on the same pool all week until race day.



The centre has an active ringing programme and offers a good chance to see birds in the hand. It is free to access and open dawn until dusk.

KM19 and KM20.

These are two sites situated just off the road north of Eilat. KM19 is one large pool with reed fringes and a ditch to one end that is good for warblers and Dear Sea Sparrow. KM20 has several large pools with access tracks around the edge. Both attract migrating ducks and waders, with raptors coming across and a supporting cast of hirundines, wagtails, pipits and warblers. KM20 also hosts a large number of Greater Flamingos. A sparse roadside copse at KM20 gave good views of a small group of Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse to the delight of many this year. It is a species that has been hard to find recently around Eilat and these could be seen from the car without disturbing them.



Holland Park.

This is a rocky park on the edge of Eilat, with lots of bushes and scrubby trees which holds a number of desert species such as Blackstart, Sand Partridge and Arabian Babbler plus good numbers of migrants. So-called magic bushes, which are flowering *Capparis decidua* attract sylvia warblers, mainly Lesser Whitethroat, but with a good smattering of Ruppell's Warblers. Other nice sighting this year included Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Rufous Bush-chat, Masked Shrike and Eastern Bonelli's Warblers. Black Scrub Robins have been here in the past, but unfortunately not this year.



Masked Shrike (above) and Ruppell's Warbler (below) in Holland Park



Canada Park and Ofira Park.

These are much smaller and more formal than Holland Park but can still attract nice birds during migration. In 2019 we had a nice Semi-collared Flycatcher in the former and Ofira Park had nice Red-throated and Tree Pipits this time.

North Beach.

This is where birds migrating up the Red Sea cross the coast. Good for flocks of ducks – Garganey present in quite large numbers, it is also the place to look for White-eyed Gulls, which can be seen perched out on buoys in the bay. Sadly they don't come close for chips, but this year a Western Reef Heron gave stunning views while feeding in the small stream that cuts across the beach. Brown Booby is possible here, and Swinhoe's Petrel is highly possible. Three were seen while we were there, but they successfully evaded me.



KM72, KM76 and KM94.

These areas back up Highway 90 can be found by watching for the distance markers by the roadside. This year there had been significant rainfall and the sites were well vegetated, attracting numerous larks, pipits, wheatears, warblers and things that come to feed on them, Lanner Falcon for instance. Access is easy, but pull completely off the road, as you can be fined for parking on the hard shoulder as one team found to their cost.

It is worth noting that access is generally not a problem, although there are some live-fire areas controlled by the army, where you should go more than 100m from the roadside.

Ezuz and Nitzana.

Quite a drive from Eilat, most visiting birders will want to put in the effort involved. We left at 3.00 am to get to Celia's Hide at Ezuz for 6.00 am. There was very little action apart from Crested Larks and Hooded Crows until 8.25 when the scheduled Crowned Sandgrouse turned up to drink from the shallow pool outside the hide. A must for photographers and one of the best spots to see this species in Israel. Later in the year when the desert is drier the pool attracts Pin-tailed, Black-bellied and Spotted Sandgrouse as well. Celia can be contacted if you Google Celia's Hide Ezuz and there is accommodation in the village if you want to avoid the long drive.

At KM7 on the road back to Nitzana an old railway carriage has been positioned as a hide where you can scan the desert for MacQueen's Bustard and Cream-coloured Courser. We had views of ten coursers but the bustard didn't show on this occasion. The whole area is good for wheatears and we saw Scrub Warbler carrying food just outside the hide.

Yotvata fields and sewage pools.

You will need to stop at Yotvata for the finest ice cream in southern Israel, so you might as well look for birds at the same time. The irrigated circular fields on the Kibbutz were famous for migrants, but they have been replaced by a solar farm. The remaining fields attract migrants and we saw Namaqua Dove and Desert Finch while we were there. On race day we saw Pharaoh Eagle-owl by the pumpkin field, so it is probably worth a nocturnal visit to try to see them in more relaxed circumstances. The sewage pools held Bluethroat, wagtails, Green and Wood Sandpipers, Garganey, Little Grebes and Egyptian Geese. As I write this, I have heard it is hosting White-tailed Lapwing, so always worth a visit.



This list is not exhaustive and anyone wanting to visit should find plenty of other sites to keep them entertained. We didn't visit the raptor watchpoint in the mountains or the Ovda Valley, partly due to roadworks and because you cannot do everything and we tried to minimise driving where we could.

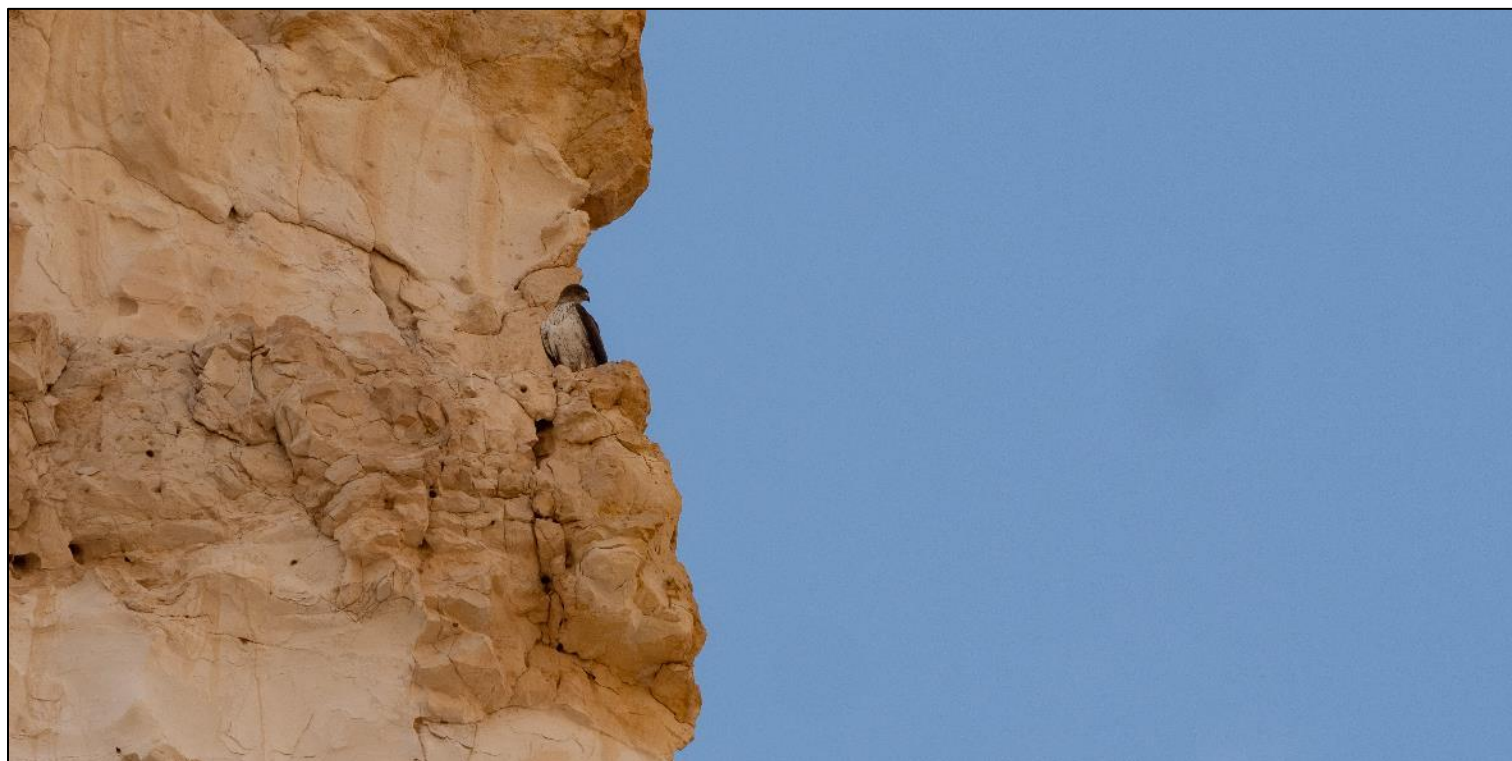
So, what about the bird race itself? We arranged to meet at the IBRCE at 4.00 and any day that starts with a Striped Hyena shambling across the road in the headlights ought to be a good one. Canada Park gave us a beautiful Scop's Owl perched in a tree and then at Yotvata a Pharaoh's Eagle-owl dropped silently from a tree and merged with the darkness. No spotlights allowed. So, we were on a roll. We headed north to Yahel, KM72 and KM76 picking up new birds on the way and struck across to the sewage pools at Sapir, Andrea never losing the opportunity to show her 4x4 off-road skills. This was a new site for me and we found Garganey, Glossy Ibis, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Snipe and Jack Snipe (Israel tick) among others.

But after that our luck ran out, with the next sewage pools only giving us White Wagtail. We did have the most stunning trip through the mountains past Mount Zin and up the Scorpion Path towards Lake Yeruham, seeing Trumpeter Finch and Mourning Wheatear on the way.

We headed south via KM20 for the Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, ducks and waders, KM19 for not much, the IBRCE for Striated Heron, Spotted Crake, Citrine Wagtail, Water Rail and Savi's Warbler and ended up on North Beach for gulls including White-eyed, plus Common and Pied Kingfishers. In the gathering gloom Shachar found the Lesser White-fronted Goose that has been hanging around for the last few years with a group of Egyptian Geese, splitting their time between Eilat and Aqaba across the border in Jordan. Rumour has it that it might not be tickable next year. After that we munched the remains of our food in the hide overlooking Lake Anita in the hope of scraping something else out of the darkness. No luck. We finished on 128 species and had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Meticulous planning gave the winners, two young brothers and their dad from Jerusalem, a staggering 181 species. Hats off to youth and preparation. The Women in Steppe team came top of the fundraising with over ten thousand dollars, but we raised over six thousand pounds, so not too shabby.

I would like to thank the organisers, our supporters and my teammates for a memorable event. The final totals are not in yet, but collectively we raised \$35000.00 and there may be more to come. If you are going to the Global Birdfair at Rutland in July, I think there will be an announcement about COTF24, so please come long and find out more. I know they would love to see you in Eilat next March.

Mike Dawson (Swallowtail Printing)



Bonelli's Eagle at Ein Avdat



Crowned Sandgrouse at Celia's Hide, Ezuz



Wing-tagged Griffon Vulture at Ein Avdat

RSPB survey reveals 70 most common garden birds in Lincolnshire gardens

THE most common garden bird in Lincolnshire is the house sparrow.

So says the RSPB which has this month published the results of its 2023 Big Garden Birdwatch survey conducted in January.

The Top 70 list for Lincolnshire is as follows (though, as some LBC members have pointed out, there are likely to have been some cases of mistaken identity):

1 House sparrow	20 Black-headed gull	38 Kestrel	55 Brambling
2 Starling	21 Song thrush	39 Green Woodpecker	56 Grey Wagtail
3 Blackbird	22 Pheasant	40 Bullfinch	57 Ring-necked Parakeet
4 Woodpigeon	23 Rook	41 Jay	58 Chiffchaff
5 Blue tit	24 Common gull	42 Siskin	59 Mute Swan
6 Goldfinch	25 Tree sparrow	43 Nuthatch	60 Great Black-backed Gull
7 Robin	26 Great spotted woodpecker	44 Yellowhammer	61 Tawny Owl
8 Collared dove	27 Fieldfare	45 Goldcrest	62 Grey Partridge
9 Great tit	28 Pied wagtail	46 Grey Heron	63 Linnet
10 Chaffinch	29 Herring gull	47 Reed Bunting	64 Corn Bunting
11 Dunnock	30 Buzzard	48 Barn Owl	65 Lapwing
12 Long-tailed tit	31 Moorhen	49 Redpoll	66 Willow Tit
13 Jackdaw	32 Mallard	50 Mistle Thrush	67 Little Owl
14 Magpie	33 Blackcap	51 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	68 Hooded Crow
15 Feral pigeon	34 Sparrowhawk	52 Treecreeper	69 Marsh tit
16 Carrion crow	35 Redwing	53 Raven Lincolnshire	70 Skylark
17 Greenfinch	36 Stock Dove	54 Red-legged Partridge	
18 Wren	37 Red Kite		
19 Coal tit			

JW

Book review: 3rd Edition Collins Bird Guide

THERE have been plaudits galore for the recently-published 3rd Edition of *Collins Bird Guide*.

Most of the praise has been for the exquisite artwork by Killian Mullarney and Dan Zetterström, but the text by Lars Svensson also has plenty to recommend it - not least his imaginative (and sometimes eccentric) description of bird songs.

How about this for the Bluethroat: "Song slowly speeds up and suddenly turns into a cascade of melodious or hard and squeaky notes, often mixed with good imitations of other species (even reindeer bells may be mimicked!)"

Or this with the Egyptian Nightjar: "Song at distance like an engine (eg old-fashioned 2-stroke engine on fishing sloop)."

Cetti's warblers are on the increase in Lincolnshire, as elsewhere, so well done to Svensson for going to trouble with this species' famously powerful song.

He writes: "It is a sudden and loud outburst of metallic clanging notes, the first four slightly tentative with the last one stressed, then a half-stop followed by a rapid series of groups of similar notes, dying at the end."

Transcribing it into English, he likens it to: "What . . . Listen up . . . Listen up . . . That's it!"

Leaf back a couple of pages and we come to the Grasshopper Warbler, the song of which is often compared by British commentators with a fishing reel, but not by the Swedish author who says it may be likened to "an alarm clock with muffled clapper".

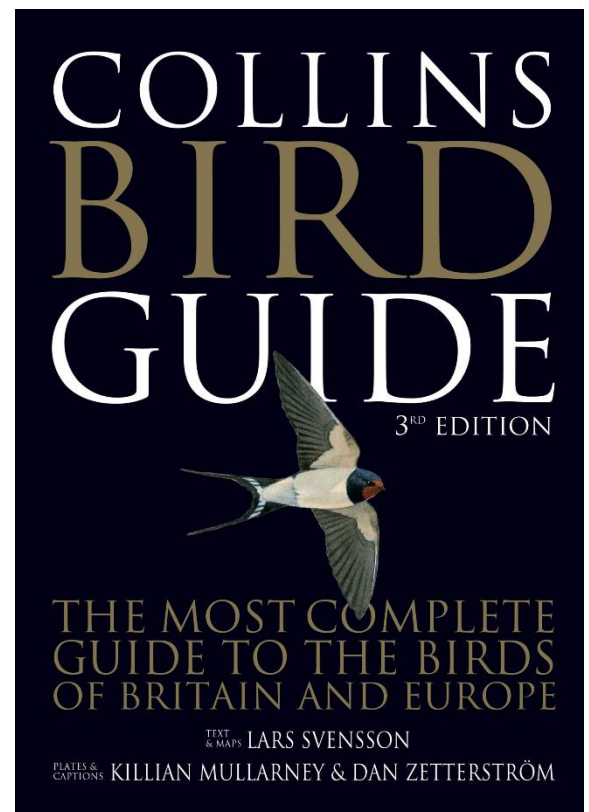
Not sure about that one. But, there again, I've never heard a gropper in Sweden, nor an alarm clock with a muffled clapper!

This 476-page 3rd Edition of *Collins Bird Guide* covers more than 700 species, including some - such as the Saunders's Tern - with which many birders will probably be unfamiliar.

Compared with the 2nd Edition, it has an extra 32 pages, allowing several groups more space and completely or partly new plates with more detailed text about grouse, divers, several groups of raptors, terns, owls, swifts, woodpeckers, swallows, redstarts, flycatchers and tits.

More than 50 plates are either new or have been repainted, completely or partly.

In addition, the section with vagrants has been expanded to accommodate more images and longer texts for several species. All the maps have also been updated. The 3rd edition of *Collins Bird Guide* is published by HarperCollins at £30 in hardback, but May 11 has been set for the publication of the paperback version at £19.99.



JW

Lincolnshire Bird News - April 2023

Compiled by Chris Grimshaw

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

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

Lincolnshire Latest Bird News – April 2023

30/04/2023

Ancaster

Corn Bunting, Buzzard, Lapwing, Linnet, Skylark, Wheatear, Common Whitethroat

Cress Marsh

16 Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, Buzzard, 2 Collared Dove, 2 Curlew, 10 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 2 Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper, 2 Sedge Warbler, 6 Wheatear

Fillingham

Hobby

Frampton Marsh

Common Crane, Wood Sandpiper

Gibraltar Point

Short-eared Owl

Pig Lane

Yellow Wagtail

Trent Port

Goosander, Sand Martin, Raven, 2 Shelduck

Tunman Wood

2 Buzzard, 6 Chiffchaff, 6 Garden Warbler, 16 Willow Warbler, 4 Common Whitethroat

29/04/2023

Boultham Mere

Cuckoo, Shelduck 2 Common Tern, Reed Warbler,

Donna Nook

Lesser Whitethroat

Fillingham

Swift, 2 Wheatear

Frampton Marsh

2 Pale-bellied Brent Goose, Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper, 3 Spoonbill

Gibraltar Point

3 Cuckoo, Short-eared Owl, Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Spoonbill

Kirkby Pits

Peregrine Falcon, Red Kite, 45 Common Tern

Nettleton

Hoopoe

RAF Woodhall Spa

2 Cuckoo, 9 Black-tailed Godwit, Osprey, 2 Swift, 6 Common Tern

28/04/2023

Far Ings

Short-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Spoonbill, Temmincks Stint

Freiston Shore

Spotted Redshank

Gooseman's Field

Ring Ouzel, Grasshopper Warbler

Millennium Green

2 Swift

Rimac/Brickyard Lane

Lesser Whitethroat

East Halton Skitter

Spoonbill

Winter's Pond

Cattle Egret

27/04/2023

Black Bank (Messingham)

Blackcap, 3 Buzzard, Lesser Black-backed Gull, 30 Linnet, 2 Barn Swallow, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Boultham Mere

Common Tern, Cuckoo and a vandalised hide

Deeping Lakes

Garganey, Little Gull, 2 Turnstone

Elm House Farm

Whinchat



Despite the barbed wire a very attractive photo of a Whinchat at Elm House Farm - Image © Owen Beaumont

Freiston Shore

Spotted Redshank

Gibraltar Point

Great Northern Diver, Spoonbill

Paradise

Spotted Redshank

Swanpool

Cuckoo, Great Spotted Woodpecker

26/04/2023

Chowder Ness

Wheatear

Covenham Reservoir

Garganey

Deeping Lakes

Garganey

Freiston Shore

7 Avocet, 2 Curlew, 300+ Brent Goose 4 Pintail, 12 Redshank, 2 Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, 2 Sedge Warbler, 2

Wheatear, Common Whitethroat

Gibraltar Point

Ring Ouzel

Manby Wetlands

30 Avocet, Little Ringed Plover

Marton

Common Crane

RAF Woodhall Spa

2 Buzzard, 2 Little Ringed Plover, 3 Oystercatcher, 2 Pochard, 2 Common Sandpiper, 6 Common Tern,

Willow Tree Fen

Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl

25/04/2023

South Cockerington

Hoopoe (in private garden but flew off)



A Hoopoe in a lucky householders garden -unfortunately it didn't stay long - Image © Eileen (?)

Far Ings

Short-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Temminck's Stint, Turtle Dove

Rimac

Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk, 2 Whimbrel, 3 Willow Warbler, 5 Common Whitethroat

Willow Tree Fen

Garganey, Spoonbill

24/04/2023

Bourne

Common Redstart

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, 60 House Martin, 150 Sand Martin, 400, Barn Swallow, 4 Arctic Tern, 35 Yellow Wagtail

Denton Reservoir

Osprey, Common Redstart, Swift, Wheatear

Whisby

Cuckoo, Garden Warbler

23/04/2023

Alkborough Flats

3 Black Tern

Anderby Creek

Firecrest, Ring Ouzel, Tree Pipit, Lesser Whitethroat, Spoonbill

Anderby Marsh

3 Cuckoo

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Short-eared Owl

Black Bank (Messingham)

Cuckoo, Oystercatcher, 4 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 2 Jay, 4 House Martin, 2 Barn Swallow, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreeper

Deeping Lakes

Little Gull, Arctic Tern, Turnstone

Frampton Marsh

Little Gull

Saltfleet Dunes

6 Blackcap, 3 Barn Swallow, 4 Chiffchaff, Cetti's Warbler, 2 Grasshopper Warbler, 4 Willow Warbler, 4 Common Whitethroat

22/04/2023

Anderby Creek/Chapel Six Marshes

Brambling, 3 Cuckoo, 21 Bar-tailed Godwit, 3 Marsh Harrier, Tree Pipit, Little Ringed Plover, 5 Ruff, Green Sandpiper, 3 Spoonbill, Stonechat, Yellow Wagtail, 12 Cetti's Warbler, 3 Garden Warbler, Reed Warbler, 29 Sedge Warbler, Common Whitethroat

Baston Fen

Spotted Redshank

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Bar-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Garden Warbler

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Dunlin, 68 Mediterranean Gull, Ringed Plover, 5 Little Gull, Ruff

West Deeping

Bar-tailed Godwit

Frampton Marsh

2 Goldeneye, 2 Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl, 5 Spoonbill

Winter's Pool

11 Little Gull

Toft Newton Reservoir

Little Gull

Witham Mouth

Eider, Peregrine Falcon, Red-breasted Merganser, Willow Warbler, 20 Whimbrel

21/04/2023

Baston Fen

Spotted Redshank

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Red Knot, Spotted Redshank, Common Swift

Cleethorpes

40 Brent Goose

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Greenshank, 2 Little Gull, House Martin, Sand Martin, Ruff, 3 Green Sandpiper, 100 Swallow, 11 Yellow Wagtail

Frampton Marsh

Cuckoo, 7 Barnacle Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Little Gull, 32 Mediterranean Gull, 140 Ruff, Spoonbill, Sandwich Tern, Swallow, Cetti's Warbler,

Freiston Shore

Dotterel

Huttoft Pit

Firecrest

Mablethorpe

Hawfinch

20/04/2023

Baston & Langtoft Pits

2 Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Spotted Redshank

Frampton Marsh

57 Mediterranean Gull

Freiston Shore

10 Mediterranean Gull



One of ten Mediterranean Gulls at Freiston Shore - Image © Paul Sullivan

Gibraltar Point

Short-eared Owl, Black Redstart

Huttoft

Firecrest

Swinn Wood

2 Blackcap, 2 Chiffchaff, 11 Fieldfare, Nuthatch, Sparrowhawk, 2 Willow Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Tealby Thorpe

Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Grey Wagtail, 15 Fieldfare, 3 Barn Swallow

Tetney Lock

Blackcap, 2 House Martin, 8 Barn Swallow, 4 Yellow Wagtail, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Common Whitethroat

RAF Wainfleet

Dotterel, 250 Golden Plover

RAF Woodhall

Black-necked Grebe, 2 Common Scoter

Yaddleshorpe

Bullfinch, Reed Bunting, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker

19/04/2023

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Gull, Spotted Redshank, Arctic Tern

Brumby Common

Buzzard, 2 Kestrel, 200 Feral Pigeon, 2 Skylark

Frampton Marsh

Alpine Swift (over & north), 5 Spoonbill

Freiston Shore

Spotted Redshank

Gibraltar Point

Short-eared Owl, Black Redstart

Huttoft Pits

Firecrest

Novartis Ings

Caspian Gull

Stickney

2 Bar-tailed Godwit

Tetney Lock

Greenshank, 2 Barn Swallow, Yellow Wagtail

RAF Woodhall

Black-necked Grebe, Little Gull

Yaddleshorpe

Common Tern

18/04/2023

Baston & Langtoft Pits

6 Bar-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank

Deeping Lakes

Bar-tailed Godwit

Nocton

7 Bar-tailed Godwit

Rimac

Garganey, Wheatear, 3 Whimbrel, Marsh Harrier

17/04/2023

Alkborough Flats

Short-eared Owl

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Spotted Redshank

Boultham Mere

3 Great White Egret

Donna Nook

20 Avocet, 20 Black-tailed Godwit, Red Kite, Barn Swallow, 12 Twite

Frampton Marsh

2 Garganey

Gibraltar Point

Hen Harrier, Ring Ouzel, Short-eared Owl, Spoonbill, Wheatear

Grainthorpe Haven

3 Buzzard, 2 Kestrel, 20 Redshank, Skylark, 3 Barn Swallow, Yellowhammer

Langrick

White Stork

Messingham

4 Buzzard, 32 Gadwall, 2 Oystercatcher, 2 Sand Martin, 3 Pochard, 6 Shelduck 2 Arctic Tern, 6 Cetti's Warbler, Willow Warbler, Woodcock

North Somercotes

Linnet, Tawny Owl, 2 Barn Swallow

RAF Woodhall

Black-necked Grebe

16/04/2023

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Spotted Redshank

Cress Marsh

9 Avocet, Buzzard, 17 Curlew, 19 Lesser Black-backed Gull, Marsh Harrier, 2 Little Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, 22 Shelduck, 2 Skylark, Cetti's Warbler

Frampton Marsh

4 Barnacle Goose, 3 Mediterranean Gull, 2 Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl, 4 Spoonbill, 2 Whooper Swan, 3 Yellow Wagtail, 3 Cetti's Warbler, Sedge Warbler, 3 Wheatear

Mablethorpe

Woodlark (over)

Tetney Lock

Corn Bunting, 2 Yellow Wagtail, 7 Whimbrel

Trent Port

Blackcap, Oystercatcher, Red-legged Partridge, Raven, Redshank, Willow Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

RAF Woodhall Spa

Black-necked Grebe

15/04/2023

Baston Fen

Spotted Redshank

North Cotes

Cattle Egret

Doddington Park

6 Lesser Redpoll

East Halton Skitter

Lesser Redpoll, Common Scoter, 4 Whimbrel, Common Whitethroat

Frampton Marsh

Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Garganey, 4 Barnacle Goose, Greenshank, 4 Mediterranean Gull, 2 Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Pintail, 4 Spoonbill, Yellow Wagtail, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

Ring Ouzel, Short-eared Owl

Lea Marsh

Buzzard, 3 Curlew, 10 Sand Martin, 12 Skylark, 20 Mute Swan, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Yellowhammer

Swanpool

Wheatear
Thimbleby
Ring Ouzel
Water's Edge
Long-Tailed Duck
RAF Woodhall Spa
Black-necked Grebe

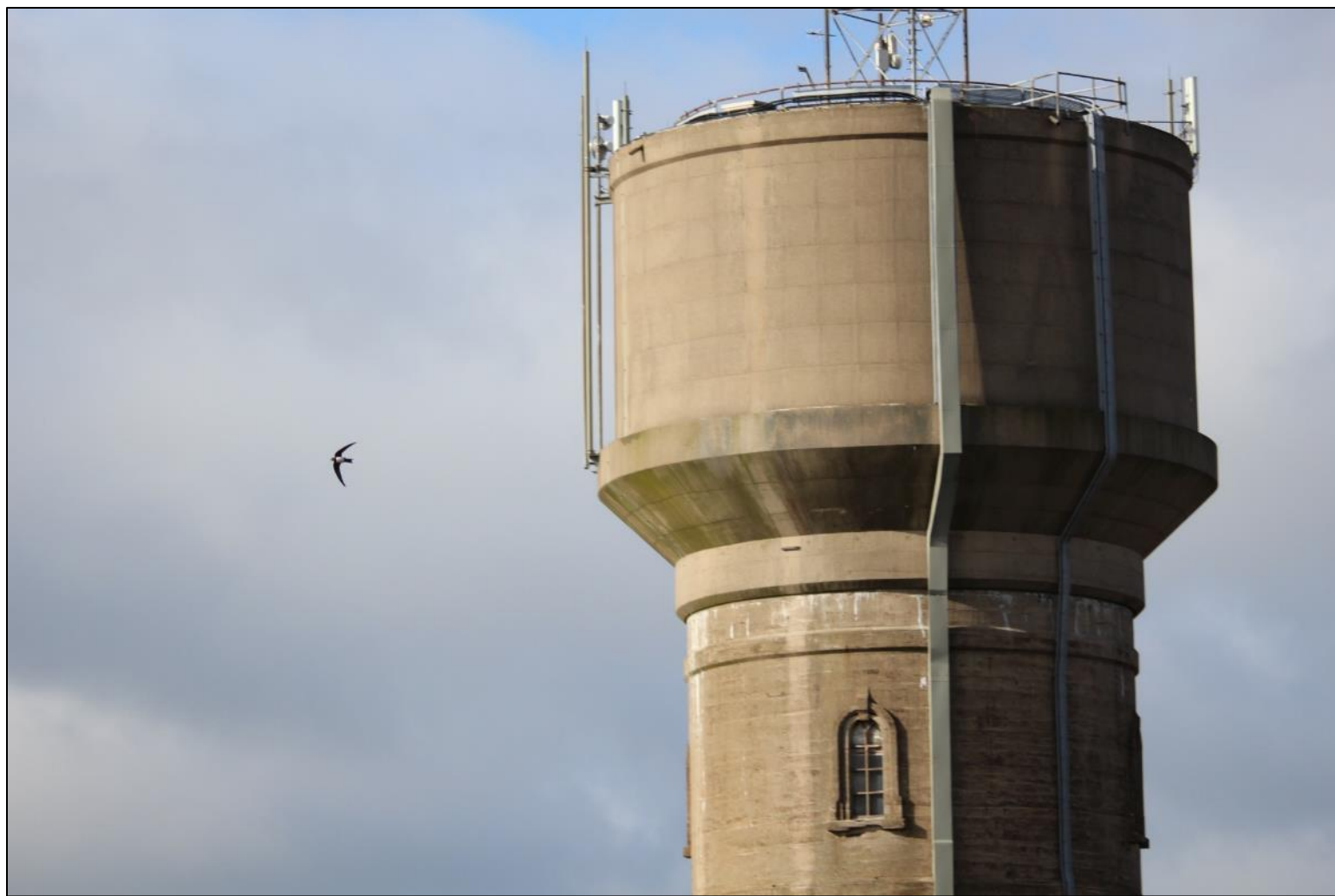
14/04/2023

Anderby Creek

Spoonbill

Cleethorpes

Peregrine Falcon, 2 Sand Martin, Alpine Swift



A splendid capture of the showy Alpine Swift close to Chapman's Pool. Image © Nick Coulbeck

Gibraltar Point
Short-eared Owl
Kirkby Gravel Pits
6 Avocet
Scopwick
Common Redstart
RAF Woodhall Spa
Black-necked Grebe

Trent Port

14 Gadwall, **Tawny Owl**, 4 Red-legged Partridge, 6 Teal and a **Harbour Porpoise**

13/04/2023

Anderby Creek

Water Pipit

Cleethorpes

Alpine Swift

Deeping Lakes

Arctic Tern

Fillingham

c30 Brambling

Frampton Marsh

Spoonbill

Hartsholme Park

8 Cormorant, Goosander, Song Thrush

Owlet Plantation

Osprey

Novartis Ings

Iceland Gull, White Wagtail

Saltfleetby

Garganey

RAF Woodhall Spa

Black-necked Grebe

Swanholme Lakes

Blackcap, 4 Chiffchaff, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk

12/04/2023

Cleethorpes

Alpine Swift



Alpine Swift showed exceptionally well over Chapman's Pool, Cleethorpes - Image © Andy Sims

Far Ings

Bittern

Frampton Marsh

Sand Martin, Little Ringed Plover, Arctic Tern, Yellow Wagtail

Gibraltar Point

Firecrest, Black Redstart, Spoonbill, Little Tern

Mablethorpe area

Cuckoo, House Martin, Sand Martin, 2 Jack Snipe, Barn Swallow, 10 Twite

Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe

Cuckoo, 30 Wheatear

Sandilands

Short-eared Owl

Seaview

Garganey

Shsrman's Wath

Great White Egret, Oystercatcher

Tetney

Corn Bunting, c50 Curlew, 200 Golden Plover, Wheatear

11/04/2023

Fillingham

1(Brambling

Frampton Marsh

Garganey, 2 Barnacle Goose, 4 Mediterranean Gull, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, 5 Sand Martin, Cetti's Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Wheatear, Common Whitethroat

Gibraltar Point

Black Redstart

Huttoft Marsh

3 Barn Swallow

Novartis Ings

Common Whitethroat

Sutton on Sea

Cuckoo, 3 Sand Martin, Tree Sparrow, 3 Swallow

Thoresby Bridge

Great White Egret

Tuetoos

Buzzard, 2 Little Owl

10/04/2023

Boultham Mere

c15 Sand Martin, 6 Barn Swallow

Far Ings

Short-eared Owl

Fillingham

11 Brambling

Frampton Marsh

Long-tailed Duck

Gibraltar Point

Black Redstart

Sandilands

Red Kite

09/04/2023

Anderby Creek

Cuckoo

Covenham Reservoir

Garganey

Cress Marsh

8 Avocet 5 Curlew, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 13 Lapwing, 2 Little Ringed Plover, 1 Green Sandpiper, 14 Shelduck, 17 Shoveler

Far Ings

Short-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Water Pipit

Gibraltar Point

Short-eared Owl, Woodlark

Novartis Ings

Iceland Gull

Seaview Farm

Garganey

08/04/2023

Barkston Aerodrome

Merlin, Ring Ouzel

Branston Hall

Nuthatch

Cleethorpes

Little Egret, 70 Turnstone

Covenham

Great Northern Diver, Garganey



A superb capture of a Garganey at Covenham Reservoir - Image © Nick Coulbeck

Far Ing

Bittern, Short-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Corn Bunting, Cattle Egret, Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, Barn Owl, 25 Whooper Swan, 5 Yellow Wagtail

Keelby

Ring Ouzel

07/04/2023

Anderby Creek

Black-crowned Night Heron (eventually flew off)

Frampton Marsh

Water Pipit, 6 Twite

North Somercotes

Siskin, Swallow

Wainfleet

Blackcap, 2 Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, 1500 Dunlin, 10000 Red Knot, 7 Red-breasted Merganser, Barn Owl, 540 Golden Plover, 2500 Grey Plover, 200 Redshank, 5 Snipe

Willow Tree Fen

5 Common Crane

06/04/2023

Barton Pits

Long-tailed Duck

Boultham Mere

Kittiwake



Slightly off-course perhaps, Kittiwake at Boultham Mere - Image © Andy Sims

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver

Gibraltar Point

3 Cattle Egret (over, north)

Sandilands

Short-eared Owl

Saltfleetby

2 Snow Bunting, Swallow, Willow Warbler

Willow Tree Fen

Water Pipit

05/04/2023

Anderby Marsh

Avocet, Chiffchaff, Little Egret, Black-tailed Godwit, Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, Redshank, Snipe, Cetti's Warbler

Frampton Marsh

2 Peregrine Falcon 2 Mediterranean Gull

Gibraltar Point

Short-eared Owl

Huttoft Pit

Chiffchaff, Curlew, Teal

Novartis Ings

Iceland Gull, Yellow Wagtail

Sandilands

Short-eared Owl



Short-eared Owl on the old Sandilands Golf Course - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Wolla Bank

Marsh Harrier 2 Red Kite

04/04/2023

Anderby Creek

Gyr Falcon (escape)

Black Bank

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Boultham Mere

2 Garganey

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver

Cress Marsh

6 Avocet, 4 Buzzard 2 Chiffchaff, 20 Curlew, 2 Green Sandpiper, 2 Little Ringed Plover, 17 Shelduck

Far Ings

Little Gull

Frampton Marsh

Pale-bellied Brent goose

Halton Marsh

Spoonbill

Nebraska Wetlands

2 Wheatear

Toft Newton

2 Garganey

Whisby

2 Garganey

03/04.2023

Frampton Marsh

Common Crane, Water Pipit, Spotted Redshank, Yellow Wagtail

Wolla Bank

Sedge Warbler

02/04/2023

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe

Cress Marsh

11 Avocet, 2 Buzzard, Common Sandpiper, 2 Oystercatcher, 5 Little Ringed Plover 24 Shelduck, 21 Shoveler

Doddington Park

17 Lesser Redpoll, 14 Siskin

Donna Nook

55+ Twite

Frampton Marsh

Russian White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier, Yellow Wagtail

Gibraltar Point

Firecrest

Marston

Swallow, Yellow Wagtail

Messingham Sand Quarry

Bittern, 5 Buzzard, Sand Martin

Tunman Woods

25 Chiffchaff, Garden Warbler (possible), Goldcrest, 2 Raven

Westborough (Long Bennington)

Gannet (in private a garden!)



Nothing is impossible, Gannet In a garden, Westborough (fifty miles from the sea - Image © Mick Turner

01/04/2023

Alkborough

Yellow Wagtail

Baumber (Lakeside Fishery)

Osprey

Bee-hive Lane Quarry

Little Ringed Plover, Redshank, Shelduck

Chapel Six Marsh

Firecrest 2

Doddington Park

18 Lesser Redpoll, 10 Siskin

Frampton Marsh

Cattle Egret, Russian White-fronted Goose, Sedge Warbler

Gibraltar Point

Firecrest

Halton Marshes

Spoonbill

Huttoft Bank Pit

Cuckoo, Firecrest

North Hykeham Pits

11 Blackcap, 9 Brambling, 18 Chiffchaff, 8 House Martin 110 Sand Martin, 6 Oystercatcher, 2 Swallow

Wolla Bank

Firecrest

Lincs Bird Club Website

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

Twitter [@Lincsbirding](https://twitter.com/Lincsbirding)

Facebook:

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

LBC County Bird Recorder

Phil Hyde recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Recording

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

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

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

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

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

Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union Website

<http://lnu.org/>

LNU e-mail: info@lnu.org

Love Lincs Plants <https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/what-we-do/love-lincs-plants>
Love Lincs Plants Twitter feed
[@LoveLincsPlants](https://twitter.com/LoveLincsPlants)

Sir Joseph Banks Society

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

enquiries@joseph-banks.org.uk

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

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

Lincolnshire Bat Group website

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

Butterfly Conservation Lincolnshire Branch

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

FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME

Rural Crime Officer

Pc 160 Nick Willey

Force Wildlife, Rural Crime Officer

Force Dog Training Establishment

Lincolnshire Showground.

Grange-De-Lings.

Lincoln

nicholas.willey@lincs.pnn.police.uk

OFFICE: 01522-731897

MOBILE :07768-501895

PAGER : 07654-330877

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

STAYING SAFE

EasyTide

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

Met Office Severe Weather E-mail Service

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

Environment Agency Flood Information/Floodline

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

Lyme Disease

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

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDING

Botany

Botanical Group in South Lincs

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

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

LNU Sawflies, Bees, Wasps and Ants Recorder

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

Lincolnshire Mammals

Chris Manning, Chris.LincsDeer@gmail.com

Mammal Atlas

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

[http://www.glnp.org.uk/our-](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

Local Bat Helpline

Grounded bats, bat problems, advice and information.

Contact Annette and Colin Faulkner on

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

Confidential Bat Records

You may send confidential bat records direct to Annette

Faulkner on: annettefaulkner@btinternet.com

USEFUL WILDLIFE CONTACTS

Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

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

Contact: charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk

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

Natural England

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

Lincolnshire Environmental Awards

www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk

Life on the Verge and Wildflower Meadow Network Project

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



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

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

