



Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter – January 2024

LBC eNewsletter content;

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Happy New Year from the Lincs Bird Club

Hopefully as many of you as possible will take part in the New Year Bird Count. Don't forget to submit all your records/sightings to be submitted via **BirdTrack** or **eBird** by January 3rd. Alternatively records can be sent by email to rdoan@lincstrust.co.uk if preferred. **However, the most important thing is to enjoy the day and connect with as much wildlife as possible.....**

Barry Clarkson 26th May 1951 - 26th December 2023

Barry passed away in his sleep overnight between Christmas Day and Boxing Day. He had been having medical investigations into heart issues over the last year but the precise cause of death is not yet known. His death comes as a massive shock to the Clarkson family and his best friend Mike Tarrant with whom he shared a home at Saltfleetby.

Barry was the third of three Clarkson brothers to have died in the last year. His elder brother John having died in August and his younger brother Keith last December. He leaves his twin brother Alan and sisters Julia, Sue and Joyce who all live in the Louth area.

Barry was born and bred in Louth, attending Monks Dyke High School and joining the Army when his schooling was completed. He subsequently returned to Louth and did a series of jobs including a long spell at Burtons in Louth before



it closed. His main pursuits were cycling, birding and bird photography all of which he shared with his elder brother John but birding was his main passion and the area in which he excelled.

Giving up work in his middle age Barry became a full time birder and was frequently seen in tandem with his best birding buddy Mike. He started birding around Louth in the mid 1970s and Covenham Reservoir and the local coast from Donna Nook to Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR was his stamping ground. It was in this area he scored four county firsts. He found Lincolnshire's first Red-breasted Goose at Covenham Reservoir in October 1978. He and Mike had the first county Cory's Shearwater, a flypast on a seawatch at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe in August 1985. He spent most of his time looking for and photographing birds and perhaps he and Mike's greatest success was discovering a Lesser Sand Plover on the saltmarsh pool at Rimac on May 11th 2002, only a couple of miles from their front door. It was only the second record for Britain and the first twitchable, so it generated massive national interest during its 5 day stay and put Lincolnshire on the map for a generation of twitchers. The species has recently been split and the Rimac bird is now referred to as a Tibetan Sand Plover. It is worth getting hold of a copy of Birding World May 2022 to read he and Mike's finders account.

His fourth first for Lincolnshire came on 12th June 2013. A Pacific Swift had been seen flying south at Spurn earlier that morning, part of a large Swift movement. Exercising his ornithological nous honed from years of experience of observing migrants along the coast Barry positioned himself on top of the foredunes at Sea View and was rewarded with a fantastic display from the Pacific Swift which he picked up as it headed towards him from Saltfleet Haven. It flew directly over him allowing him to get some excellent shots to verify the record. He remains the only birder to have seen a Pacific Swift in Lincolnshire and his account in Lincolnshire Bird Report 2013 reflects the expertise which went into his find. Good judgement as well as a dash of luck.

Barry could be a shy and private person but as he gained in experience over the years he was happy to share his knowledge with less experienced birders who were grateful for his insights. His experience was gained from thousands of days in the field. The late Keith Atkin who organised the project, confided that Barry was one of the most enthusiastic and dedicated contributors to the Lincolnshire Bird Atlas of the 1980s covering hundreds of one km squares on the Lincolnshire Marsh and most of TF48. He showed his zeal for Atlasing once more in the 2007-2011 BTO Atlas covering much of the ground he had done in the 1980s.

Plate 5. Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*, Rimac, Lincolnshire, May 2002 (Barry Clarkson).

Note the blackish-grey legs and feet (usually paler, greenish-grey on Greater Sand Plover), and the relative length of the exposed tibia (disproportionately short compared to the longish tarsus). Even on this female, the orange colouration on the underparts is relatively extensive (male Lesser Sand Plovers have more orange on the underparts than Greater).



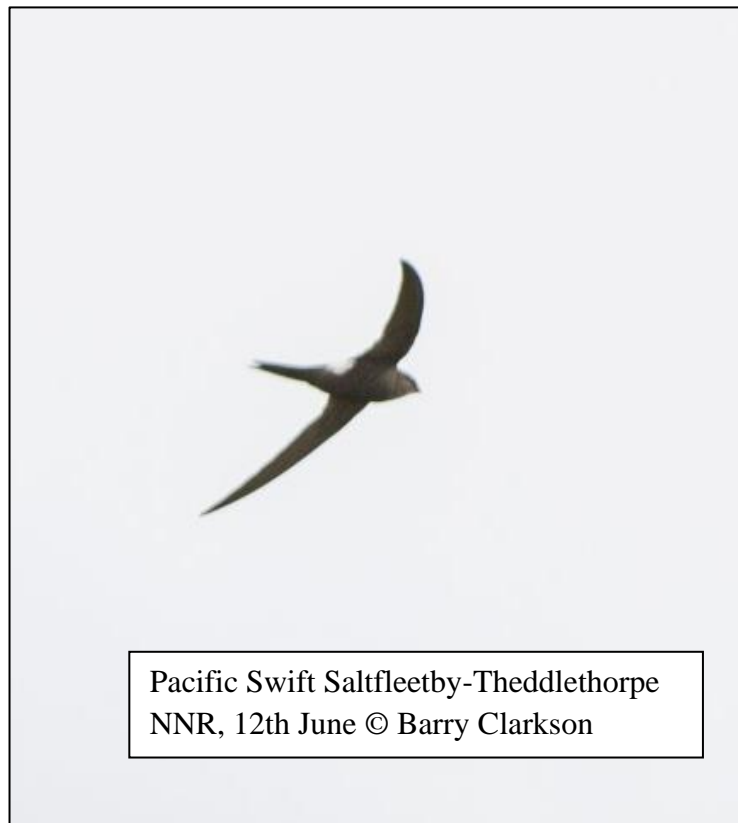
Barry's image taken from Birding World Magazine May 2002

Barry had been a twitcher himself in the early days and I well remember taking him, Mike and John for the Saltburn Ivory Gull in February 1986. He'd also travelled extensively to Africa and Asia in his younger days but over the last couple of decades he'd settled down to focusing on Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire birders will feel the loss of a man who was an integral part of the local birding scene in East Lincs. Graham Catley lamented "another coastal stalwart gone", County Recorder Phil Hyde said: "another terrible loss. He was a quiet, unassuming and knowledgeable birder and a thoroughly nice guy to meet in the field". Tetney birder Steve Meek sharing the sadness felt by many said Barry was a "lovely man and very enthusiastic birder".

The thoughts and condolences of the Lincolnshire birding community are with Barry's family and his best mate Mike.

Philip Espin



Lincolnshire Airfields Curlew Survey 2024

We are pleased to report that so far 18 out of 29 survey squares have been taken by volunteers with 11 left to be covered as follows:

Cranwell	2
Digby	4
Waddington	2
Scampton	3

If you can cover any squares at these sites, please contact Survey Organiser Phil Espin on pmjespin@gmail.com. The survey will require 2 hours per square on an early spring visit, a late spring visit and for any squares with potential breeding Curlews; an early July visit to try and confirm breeding success.



Members have also volunteered to cover Hawthorpe grasslands and Wickenby Airfield on the same survey basis. If you have a large area of grassland on your doorstep where Curlews may have bred in the past and you would like to see it covered by yourself or someone else, please get in touch and identify the site so we can look at covering it.

US ornithological society says dozens of birds will be renamed

Whenever I see a new bird in Lincolnshire I always go home and look it up in the excellent Birds of Lincolnshire. Seeing the delightful Radde's Warbler at Walla Bank in October was no exception, so I was interested to read that it was first identified by Gustav Radde in 1856 and it was named after him. And that's as it should be, the shared name gives the man and the bird a certain dignity.



Which brings me to Jims Wright's post (forum, 3rd. November) drawing attention to the 80 name changes the American Ornithological Society are considering. As Jim points out, most of the changes will be birds named after people. I was initially outraged, naively thinking that birds were named after the finder, as above, but apparently this was not always the case, and I am now beginning to see another side of the debate.

Gilbert White famously separated Chiffchaff, Wood Warbler and Willow Warbler in 1780. The Chiffchaff named itself, the Wood Warbler lives in woods, but the Willow Warbler, which has no particular preference for willow, in my

view should have been named White's Warbler. Instead, rather incongruously, Dr. John Latham, who first described the White's Thrush in 1790, named that in honour of Gilbert White, a bird I suspect White never saw.

George Montagu modestly named his harrier 'Ash Coloured Falcon' which was later renamed Montagu's Harrier by Yarrell in 1843. That seems fair enough, but what about Bewick's Swan? This was shown to be a separate species by Yarrell in 1830 and who named it after Thomas Bewick who had died two years earlier. So, someone who did not know the existence of his own swan! Bewick of course was a brilliant engraver and invented the modern field guide (History of British Birds) so Yarrell's proposal gained immediate acceptance at the time and personally I see too reason to change. Other people may disagree, there is a proposal to rename it Tundra Swan.

So what's happening in America? The name changes are an 'attempt to avoid associations with historic bias and exclusionary practices'. In other words,



racism, slavery and misogyny. For example, Scots Sparrow, and Scot's Oriole. Winfield Scot was a US civil war general who oversaw the forced relocation of indigenous peoples in 1838. The sparrow was found by a Lieutenant Couch who named it after his general, presumably hoping for promotion. In the end the bird wasn't even new to science and is now known as Rufous- Crowned Sparrow, and Scot's Oriole is soon to be another casualty.

McCown's Longspur has already been changed to Thick-billed Longspur because of his association with slavery, but most controversial of all must be John James Audubon.

Audubon's contribution to ornithology and his book, The Birds of America, is legendary. His vivid and vibrant bird illustrations are famous the world over, especially in England it has to be said, where he sold more books than in his home country. In the early 1800's he traveled America with his gun and art materials (no cameras or

binoculars in those days) hunting and drawing all the birds he found, many new to science at the time. For 12 years he endured life on the frontier, cold, insects, dirt, hunger and no electricity, just to follow his childhood passion. A passion I'm guessing anyone reading this now shares.

Audubon's family were plantation owners and therefore owned and bought slaves, and by association he himself was tarred with the same brush. Several states in America have already dropped the name 'Audubon' from their societies for that reason, but as Jim states, and quite rightly in my view, the Audubon Society of America has chosen not to.

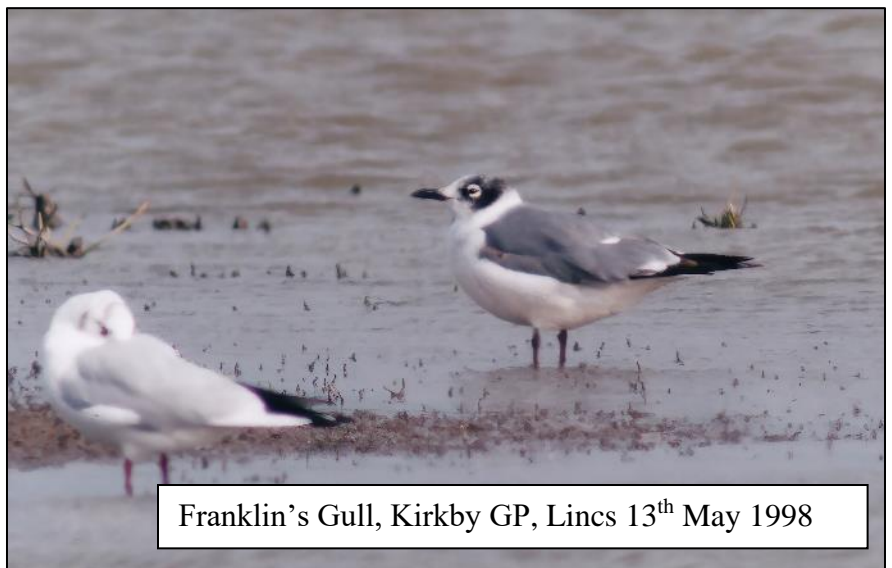
A controversial subject. There are two views; one which says if it is wrong now it was wrong then, and the opposing view that he was a man of his time and that was normal practise in his day. Let him that is without sin, cast the first stone. Any owner of a smart phone, an electric car or even a car with catalytic converter, is inadvertently supporting child labour in the mines of Africa and Columbia. Anyone who buys unnecessary cheap clothing, supports virtual slavery in Bangladesh. Anyone who buys endless tat from China is contributing to virtual slavery, but we all do it because that's the way our society works.

A controversial subject indeed ! I would enjoy reading other LBC members views under 'General Birding News, Chat and Suggestions' on the Forum.

Pete Locking



Bewick's Swan, Worlaby Carrs Feb 2010 © Graham Catley



Franklin's Gull, Kirkby GP, Lincs 13th May 1998

“Who needs to visit Frampton Marsh?” - An account of an unprecedented bird ‘spectacular’ during the autumn of 2023 on the WEST FEN, north of Boston.

Over the 2023 autumn period and living locally, I have had the opportunity to witness what can only be described as an unprecedented birdwatching ‘spectacular’ on the West Fen, an area of former fens drained in the early 1800’s and now primarily down to intensive arable cropping, situated at the northern edge of the Lincolnshire fenland basin between Boston and Spilsby.

Such has been the sheer scale in number of birds, a bird watching pal of mine who shared the experience rather cheekily came out with the above quip regarding Frampton - but to be fair we would both, of course, not wish in any way to belittle the efforts of the RSPB staff and all the volunteers who have worked so hard to make that reserve the place it has become today.

Nevertheless, the various species involved and the conservative estimates of their numbers, has been nothing short of remarkable - particularly at this relatively inland site, situated as it is some 12 miles from the nearest point on the coast. Below are some of the estimated maximum counts recorded for selected species:-

- 9000+ Pink-footed Geese
- 400+ Greylag Geese
- 206 Whooper Swan
- 650+ Teal
- 450+ Wigeon
- 9000+ Lapwing
- 54 Dunlin
- 55 Curlew
- 3000+ Black-headed Gulls
- 1000+ Common Gull
- 1000+ Woodpigeon
- 9000+ Starling
- 400+ Jackdaw
- 600+ Rook

The reasons for this astonishing number of birds of several differing species, concentrated into one relatively small area are, I would surmise, two-fold:-

Firstly, the intense rainfall in conjunction with Storm Barbet in late October, followed by further prolonged rainfall episodes on the West Fen - much of which is at, or in some places below sea level - have seen large swathes of the arable fields either temporarily totally flooded, or otherwise continuing to support large pools of standing water.

Secondly, it is the bumper availability of food at this time of year - in the form of the post-harvest residue from sweetcorn crops. Sweetcorn is now grown on the West Fen on a substantial scale to provide fuel for three large local biodigester set-ups, with the methane gas produced used to power engines to generate electricity for the National Grid. The totally waterlogged soils in autumn 2023 will have also been forcing many of the invertebrates they contain to the surface, providing a further much greater than normal food source.

In addition, the area in question is essentially a vast open space, supporting several 100+ acre sized fields with very few hedgerows or trees, and for the most part free from human habitation or activity - thus offering birds little in the way of disturbance while busy feeding and wide uninterrupted views for predators across the surrounding landscape.

In the local area the move away from arable crops for food production to bio-fuel ones (with sweetcorn being the most favoured) has substantially increased over the last few years, primarily due to the construction of the three large multi-million-pound bio digester complexes mentioned, all within a 5 mile radius of the West Fen.

It is the method of harvesting this sweetcorn in the autumn period that is key to providing such an abundant early food source for migratory geese and swans.

For the sweetcorn plants to be used for the bio-digestion process, they firstly need to be finely chopped into fragments by the foraging machines before being fired directly into following tractor hauled trailers. In the process of doing this many individual cobs, as well as whole cobs, fall away to the ground beyond the reach of the harvesters and remain on the soil surface, thus providing a bumper food supply for a range of bird species.

Locally it was as little as four years ago that I first noticed how Pink-footed Geese had identified this ready food source and begun to capitalise on it, moving from one harvested sweetcorn field to the next – with my maximum count for this species being what I then thought was an impressive 597 birds.

Last year this food source proved much more short-lived, with greatly reduced counts of Pink-feet as a result, following a dry autumn and the opportunity for the fields in question to either be quickly ploughed or top cultivated with a follow-on crop.



Pink-footed Geese (not at West Fen), Lincolnshire 2022 © Andrew P. Chick

This autumn however, due to all the heavy rain it was a totally different story, with the majority of the ex-sweetcorn fields remaining partly flooded for several weeks and unable to be ploughed, thus enabling the numbers of Pink-feet to build and build to at least 9000 birds - a quite astonishing number so far inland.

Similarly, this autumn the visiting Whooper Swans significantly increased in number, more than doubling their previously maximum count, rising from 87 to 206 birds.

A new addition to the mix this year were Greylag Geese, peaking at over 400 birds - probably mainly, if not all, being visitors from the Tattershall /Kirkby on Bain pit complexes a few miles to the west.

This sweetcorn 'feast' and the presence of flooded pools also resulted in perhaps the most bizarre sight of all, with on one particular day in excess of 650 Teal and 450 Wigeon all congregated together on a single, large floodwater pool out in the middle of an arable field. As to where all these ducks had suddenly come from one can only guess?

In addition to the substantial number of Black-headed and Common Gulls (c3000 & c1000 respectively), enticed to gorge on all the flooded-out soil invertebrates, the numbers of Lapwings steadily increased to at least 9000 birds, providing a phenomenal sight at one point when they all took to the air en-masse following the sudden presence of a quartering Marsh Harrier. The Starling numbers have been equally impressive, also peaking at 9000+ birds.

Finally, a party of no less than 52 Dunlin, probing around the margins of one of the flooded field pools, was certainly noteworthy in terms of such a large number being so far inland.

As to whether we will ever see this combination of a prolonged and abundant food source and such wet autumn at exactly the same time, and a repeat of such a huge numbers of birds, we will have to see.

I will certainly be keeping a close watch!

Garry Steele - 27 December 2023

Wilder Doddington: would you like to get involved?

Following the discovery of a wintering Great Grey Shrike at Wilder Doddington to the west of the Lincoln bypass on 10th December, Isobel Wright the Rewilding Manager for the project got in touch with Phil Hyde and he and Phil Espin met with Isobel on 19th December to discuss the project and how LBC and its members might assist. Fifteen hundred acres of farmland and woodland are being rewilded and arable farming operations were stopped in 2021. BBS type surveys have been conducted from 2021-2023 to monitor changes in the bird populations on site as the former arable fields revert to grassland and wood pasture.

The habitat already looks excellent, and the Phil's were pleased to relocate and photograph the Shrike when they went for a walk across a small part of the site after the meeting. Isobel and her assistant, Wilder Ranger Heather Sunderland were thrilled to catch up with the Shrike themselves. Neither are expert birders but their enthusiasm and passion for rewilding and bringing back nature to Doddington are obvious. LBC members and the public are free to bird the estate from public rights of way. What they would really like is to build a team of local birders who are prepared to bird the non-public areas of the estate regularly and share records with them and ultimately for some to lead guided bird walks for which they would be paid. To do this would involve engaging with the Estate's health and safety rules and carrying a radio the estate would provide.

Getting involved is a tremendous opportunity to share in the undoubtedly positive changes in nature and bird life that will occur through the years. If you are interested, please contact Heather on her email which is heather@doddingtonhall.com.



Great Grey Shrike at Wilder Doddington © Phil Hyde December 2023





Great Grey Shrike at Wilder Doddington © Andy Sims December 2023



Stolen Eagle

A "beautiful" ornate 19th Century lectern in the shape of an eagle has been stolen from a Lincolnshire church.

The oak stand was taken during a break-in at St Swithin's Church in Baumber, near Horncastle, overnight on Saturday.

Cash from a collection was also stolen, Lincolnshire Police confirmed.

Sally Stringer, a member of the church committee, said the thieves had gained "the grand total of £12 and hopefully an artefact they'll never be able to get rid of".

Ms Stringer said the door to the church had been "jimmied". She added: "It should be a place of peace and quiet, not a toerag's bucket ground, helping themselves to whatever they want."

Ms Stringer described the lectern, which was 5ft (1.5m) tall and 3ft (1m) wide, as "absolutely beautiful". She added that it "watches over people" in the church. The lectern was donated by a member of St Swithin's congregation in memory of her son who died in 1891, according to Ms Stringer.

Appealing for its return, she said: "If you have it, leave it somewhere and let me or the police know where it is." A Lincolnshire Police spokesperson confirmed officers were investigating the theft of the lectern and collection box cash.



Spring conference will explore impact of urbanisation on birds

WHAT impact is the increasing urbanisation of the planet having on birds?

This question will be explored at the annual conference of the British Ornithologists' Union to be held at Nottingham University between April 9-11.

Says the brochure promoting the event: "The expansion of urban environments is a key driver of global biodiversity loss.

"It is likely to have an increasing impact in the future since urban environments can profoundly affect the composition and persistence of avian communities.

"As well as the loss of natural habitats, birds are likely to face exposure to new predators and stressors such as noise, light and air pollution.

"But urban habitats also present opportunities.

"Milder climates and the availability of new resources enables some species to flourish."

The document continues: "With 20 per cent of all bird species occurring in cities, it is essential that researchers, conservationists and policy makers now come together to share their knowledge if avian diversity can be maintained in a changing world. "

More details at: [Urban birds | #BOU2024 - British Ornithologists' Union](#) – Jim Wright



'The harder you work for a bird, the greater your reward'

AN unwritten rule among birdwatchers is that you "always try to share your sightings". So says Mya-Rose Craig in her fascinating book, *Birdgirl*, which was published in November in paperback version.

Another of her thoughts is that "the most intense moment of a twitch is when the bird is both there and not there."

And she further notes: "The harder you work for the bird, the greater your reward and the sweeter the pleasure." Still a student, Mya-Rose is one of the most interesting of the new generation of birders. Accompanied by her parents, also both birders, she had visited no fewer than 40 countries across seven continents and seen more than 5,000 of the world's species before she had even left school in Bristol.

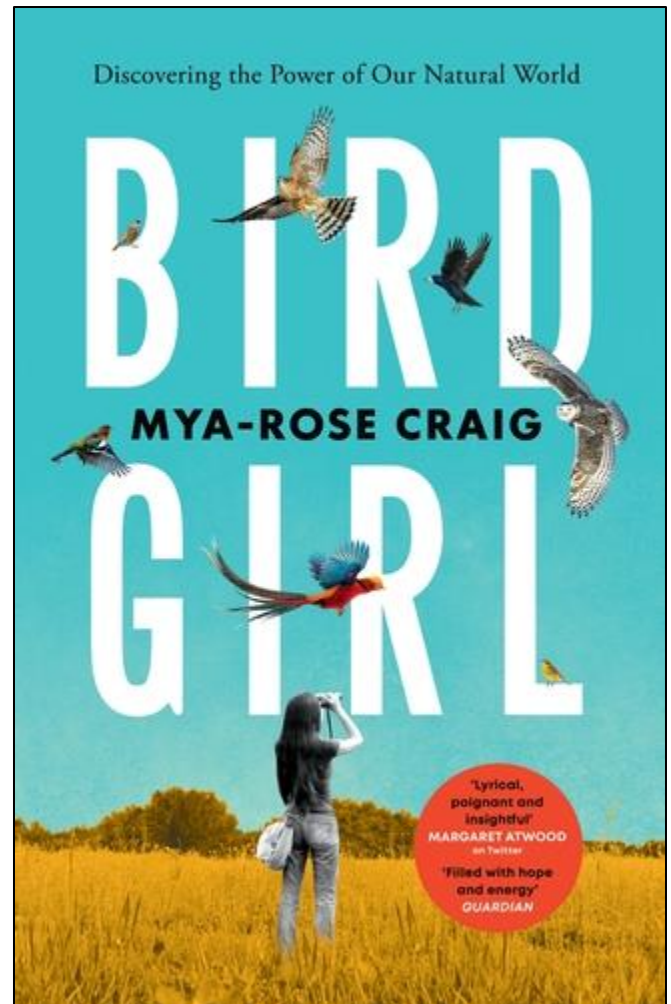
Her book recalls some of her most memorable experiences to date, not least of them watching a green-breasted pitta deep in a Ugandan rain forest. She writes: "Watching a small bird sing and dance its heart out, my own heart felt like it was exploding.

"Such a display of extraordinary beauty brought tears to my eyes. "There wasn't anywhere else on earth I'd rather have been than here in the clearing, watching this little bird call for a mate."

Even if were book solely dedicated to matters ornithological, *Birdgirl* would be a compelling read. But it is given added texture by other elements, for instance her dismay at the lack (at least in the UK) of racial diversity within the birding world. As the daughter of a White father and a Bangladeshi mother, she laments the casual racism and Islamophobia that she regularly used to encounter at school.

Also threaded into her narrative - with extraordinary frankness - is the challenges she and her father continue to face as a result of her mother's unpredictable bipolar behaviour - night-terrors, depression and mania. Despite many fabulous moments with a pair of binoculars (Swarovski) in her hands, life has clearly often been difficult for the author.

As she ruefully concludes: "I have not enjoyed an easy migration into adulthood." *Birdgirl* is published in paperback (£10.99) by Vintage/ Penguin. Review by Jim Wright



Lincolnshire Bird News - December 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.

31/12/2023

Apex Pits

60 Siskin

30/12/2013

Barton-upon-Humber

12 Waxwing (Madison Road)

Deeping High Bank

2 Buzzard, 2 Goosander, Kestrel

Doddington Hall (area)

Great Grey Shrike (west of the pyramid)



The Great Grey Shrike west of Doddington Hall - Image © Grahame Hopwood

Fiskerton Fen

Waxwing

Frampton Marsh

Greater Scaup, Lesser Yellowlegs

Gainsborough (Jet Garage)

14 Waxwing

Grantham

12 Waxwing (The Grange)

Sibsey

4 Waxwing (Amos Way)

Willow Tree Fen

2 Buzzard, 2 Common Crane (dusk), 22 Cormorant, 2 Cattle Egret, 5 Little Egret, 57+ Goosander, Hen Harrier, 14+ Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, 52+ Lapwing, 100+ Starling

29/12/2023

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Mealy Redpoll

Boston

12 Waxwing (B&Q)

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Smew

Donnington on Bain

Brambling, 15 Fieldfare, 2 Raven

Frampton Marsh

Spoonbill, 2 Waxwing, Lesser Yellowlegs

Gainsborough (Jet Garage)

20 Waxwing

Gibraltar Point

Great Northern Diver, Long-tailed Duck

Helpringham

3 Waxwing

Rimac

3 Hen Harrier (1 male)

28/12/2023

Deeping Lakes

2 Long-eared Owl

Deeping St Nicholas

11 Bewick's Swan

Doddington Hall

Buzzard, 4 Fieldfare, 15 Moorhen, 19 Mallard, Lesser Redpoll

Doddington Park

20 Goldfinch, 8 Lesser Redpoll

Frampton Marsh

5 Avocet, Brambling, Corn Bunting, 2 Greater Scaup, 20000 Starling (murmuration), 322 Whooper Swan, Lesser Yellowlegs

Helpringham

22 Waxwing

Job's Lane

Smew

Scredington

22 Waxwing



One of the Waxwings in Screddington today - Image © trainmanstew

Sutton on Sea

3 Waxwing

Swanpool

8 Little Egret, 2 Goosander, Kingfisher, 3 Song Thrush

Whisby

25000+ Starling (murmuration)

Willow Tree Fen

Hen Harrier

27/12/2023

Covenham

Great Northern Diver

Frampton Marsh

Greater Scaup, Lesser Yellowlegs

Normanby

3 Waxwing

26/12/2023

Alkborough Flats

Cattle Egret

Bourne

7 Waxwing

Covenham

Smew (male)

Deeping Lakes

Russian White-fronted Goose, 3 Long-eared Owl

Doddington Park

5 Lesser Redpoll

Gainsborough

2 Waxwing

Gibraltar Point

Great Northern Diver, 3 Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe, Slavonian Grebe

Tongue End

Short-eared Owl

Christmas Day

Deeping Lakes

3 Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs

Gainsborough

12 Waxwing

Gibraltar Point

Great White Egret, 2 Marsh Harrier

Trent Port

21 Pintail, 5 Snipe, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

Willow Tree Fen

11 Common Crane

24/12/2023

Barrowby

Waxwing

Frampton Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs

Gainsborough

20 Waxwing

Gibraltar Point

2 Waxwing

23/12/2023

Alkborough Flats

Cattle Egret

Deeping High Bank

Hen Harrier

Doddington Park

5 Lesser Redpoll

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier, Greater Scaup, Lesser Yellowlegs

Gibraltar Point

Great Northern Diver, Greater Scaup, 2 Velvet Scoter

Mablethorpe

Waxwing

Rimac

5 Cattle Egret, 4 Water Pipit

Whiton

600 Pink-footed Goose. Tundra Bean Goose

Willow Tree Fen

Common Crane, 2 Cattle Egret

22/12/2023

Crook Bank

32 Snow Bunting

Frampton Marsh

2 Brambling, 2 Peregrine Falcon, Greenshank, 2 Marsh Harrier, 4 Greater Scaup, Siskin, 2 Sparrowhawk, Turnstone, Cetti's Warbler, Lesser Yellowlegs



Lesser Yellowlegs at Frampton Marsh - Image Josh Hedley

Gibraltar Point

3 Shore Lark

Rimac

10 Curlew, 5 Cattle Egret, 3 Little Egret, 2 Marsh Harrier, 3 Water Pipit, Sparrowhawk, 300 Teal

North Somercotes

Buzzard, Mandarin Duck

Sutton on Sea

2 Little Gull, c 50 Sanderling, c 50 Common Scoter, Turnstone

Washingborough

3 Waxwing

21/12/2023

Frampton Marsh

Greater Scaup, Spoonbill, Lesser Yellowlegs

Louth

Waxwing

Willow Tree Fen

7 Common Crane, 2 Cattle Egret, 120+ Goosander, Hen Harrier, 21 Marsh Harrier, Merlin, 30 + Snipe, 30+ Whooper Swan, 300+ Wigeon

20/12/2023

Alkborough Flats

Cattle Egret

Covenham Reservoir

Smew

Deeping Lakes

Glossy Ibis

Frampton

Water Pipit, 4 Greater Scaup, Lesser Yellowlegs

Gibraltar Point

2 Snow Bunting

Langtoft

Waxwing

Lincoln

Waxwing (Tesco CR)

Rimac

Cattle Egret

Scopwick

Hen Harrier

Sibsey

4 Waxwing

Willow Tree Fen

Hen Harrier

19/12/2023

Alkborough Flats

Cattle Egret

Barton-upon-Humber

5 Waxwing

Burgh-le-Marsh

7 Waxwing

Cleethorpes

3 Waxwing

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Smew

Wild Doddington

Great Grey Shrike, Lesser Redpoll, 20+ Snipe

Doddington Park

Lesser Redpoll

Frampton Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs

Langtoft

Lesser Redpoll, 4 Mealy Redpoll

Rimac

5 Cattle Egret, 4 Water Pipit

18/12/2023

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern, Raven, Shag, Smew

Fishtoft

Cattle Egret

Frampton Marsh

Avocet, Brambling, Greenshank, Merlin, 3 Greater Scaup, 20000 Starling (murmuration), Whooper Swan, Lesser Yellowlegs

Gibraltar Point

Snow Bunting, 4 Shore Lark, 37 Waxwing

Immingham

Waxwing

Market Rasen

4 Waxwing

Rimac

4 Cattle Egret, 4 Water Pipit

Saltfleetby

Hen Harrier

Trent Port

Hen Harrier

Whisby

Starling (murmuration)

RAF Woodhall

Barnacle Goose, 18 Marsh Harrier

17/12/2023

Covenham Reservoir

Smew

Deeping Lakes

3 Long-eared Owl

Gainsborough

29 Waxwing

Hartsholme Park

3 Goosander, Red Kite



One of three Goosander that were on Pike Drain in Hartsholme Park - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Haverholme Park

5 Little Egret

Langtoft

Lesser Redpoll, 10+ Mealy Redpoll

Louth

9 Waxwing

Middle Rasen

Waxwing

Ruskington Fen

100 Black-headed Gull, 200 Lapwing

Stainton le Vale

Fieldfare 450, 8 Red Kite, 50 Redwing

Swanholme Lakes

6 Goosander

Willow Tree Fen

9 Common Crane, 144 Goosander, Hen Harrier, 20 Marsh Harrier, 30+ Whooper Swan

16/12/2023

Alkborough Flats

3 Waxwing

Barton on Humber

3 Waxwing

Cleethorpes

Waxwing

Crook Bank

26 Snow Bunting

Cut End

3 Cattle Egret

Frampton Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs

Gainsborough

9 Waxwing

Gibraltar Point

4 Shore Lark, 29 Waxwing

Halton Marsh

Russian White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Greater Scaup

Louth

6 Waxwing



Waxwing in Louth - Image Mark Johnson

Toft Newton

1 Great Northern Diver

Stallingborough

16 Waxwing

North Thoresby

12 Waxwing

Old Wood

Nuthatch

Willow Tree Fen

16 Common Crane, 86+ Goosander, Hen Harrier

15/12/2023

Cleethorpes

19 Waxwing

Crook Bank

25 Snow Bunting, Water Pipit

Deeping Lakes

Glossy Ibis, Long-eared Owl

Donnington on Bain

1 Waxwing

Five Mile Lane

200 Fieldfare, 2 Goosander, Redwing, Sparrowhawk, 500 Starling, 4 Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

Stonechat, Lesser Yellowlegs

Friskney

3 Waxwing

Gainsborough

20 Waxwing

Gibraltar Point

10 Waxwing

Washingborough

15 Waxwing

14/12/2023

Doddington Hall

Buzzard, Fieldfare, Redwing, Sparrowhawk

Frampton Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs

Gainsborough (Trent Bridge, Jet Garage)

5 Waxwing

Horncastle

6 Waxwing

Read's Island

2 Spotted Redshank

Willow Tree Fen

6 Buzzard, 11 Common Crane, 2 Cattle Egret, 137 Goosander, Hen Harrier, 28 Marsh Harrier, 2000 Lapwing, 4 Short-eared Owl, Water Rail, Raven, 27+ Snipe, Stonechat

13/12/2023

Market Deeping

5 Waxwing

Gainsborough

19 Waxwing

West Keal

4 Waxwing

12/12/2023

Baston & Langtoft Pits

c20 Russian White-fronted Goose

Covenham Reservoir

Yellow-legged Gull, Rock Pipit, Shag, Smew

Frampton Marsh

2 Greater Scaup, Lesser Telloelegs

Marsh Yard

12 Snow Bunting

Moggs Eye

9 Waxwing

11/12/2023

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Smew

Deeping Lakes

Glossy Ibis

Doddington/Skellingthorpe Cycle Track

Great Grey Shrike (heard only)

Frampton Marsh

Little Stint, Lesser Yellowlegs

Huttoft Bank

3 Short-eared Owl

Tallington Lakes

Greater Scaup

Trent Port

Hen Harrier

Willow Tree Fen

2 Common Crane

Wolla Bank

Snow Bunting

10/12/2023

Covenham Reservoir

Smew

Doddington/Skellingthorpe Cycle Track

Great Grey Shrike

Donna Nook

Hen Harrier (m&f)

Frampton Marsh

Brambling, Greater Scaup (male), Lesser Yellowlegs

Gibraltar Point

3 Water Pipit, 6 Waxwing

Huttoft

3 Short-eared Owl

09/12/2023

Covenham Reservoir

Greater Scaup, Shag, Smew

Donna Nook

Hen Harrier

Nocton Fen

1000 Fieldfare, 5000 Starling

Ropsley

4 Waxwing

Trent Port

Hen Harrier

Willow Tree Fen

2 Cattle Egret, 9 Common Crane. Hen Harrier, 2 Turnstone

08/12/2023

Boultham Mere

Great White Egret, 27 Lesser Redpoll, 4 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Covenham Reservoir

Great-Northern Diver, Redshank, Shag, Smew



Great Northern Diver showing well for a few minutes at Covenham Reservoir - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Barton upon Humber

7 Waxwing

Cut End

6 Cattle Egret

Deeping High Bank

12 Bewick's Swan, 150 Whooper Swan

Donna Nook

Lapland Bunting, Hen Harrier

Frampton Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs (in car-park)

Gibraltar Point

5 Shore Lark, Waxwing

Horseshoe Point

Buzzard, Curlew, Dunlin, 3000 Brent Goose, Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, Oystercatcher, Red Knot

Lincoln Cathedral

2 Peregrine Falcon

Moggs Eye

Short-eared Owl

Pyewipe

Spotted Redshank

Trent Port

Chiffchaff, 140 Fieldfare, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

07/12/2023

Frampton Marsh

Marsh Harrier, Lesser Yellowlegs

Gibraltar Point

Short-eared Owl, Long-tailed Duck

Huttoft Bank

5 Short-eared Owl

Wolla Bank

5 Wawwing

06/12/2023

Alkborough Flats

Waxwing

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Common Crane

Burgh-le-Marsh

12 Waxwing

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Smew

Deeping Lakes

Glossy Ibis

Elm House Farm

Cattle Egret

Donna Nook

253 Dunlin, 17 Black-tailed Godwit, Hen Harrier, 265 Red Knot, 62 Lapwing, 117 Mallard, Merlin, 4 Pintail, 122 Redshank, 243 Shelduck, 42 Skylark, 875 Teal, 670 Wigeon

Frampton Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs

Gibraltar Point

Water Pipit, 19 Waxwing

Louth

Waxwing

Tallington Lakes

Greater Scaup

Toft Newton

2 Great Norther Diver

05/12/2023

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Greater Scaup, Smew

Deeping High Bank

9 Bewick's Swan

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Gibraltar Point

Long-tailed Duck

Louth

5 Waxwing

Willow Tree Fen

9 Common Crane

04/12/2023

Boston

8 Waxwing (Tesco's car-park)

Deeping Lakes

Gloosy Ibis

Frampton Marsh

Brambling, Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Spoonbill, Stonechat, Whooper Swan, Bearded Tit, Lesser Yellowlegs

Mablethorpe

Velvet Scoter

Saltfleetby

Cattle Egret, Hen Harrier

Willow Tree Fen

5 Common Crane

03/02/2023

Barrow Haven

Red-throated Diver

Boston (Tesco's car-park)

5 Waxwing

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Donna Nook

Lapland Bunting

Halton Marsh

4 Cattle Egret

Market Rasen

Brambling

Trent Port

2 Bullfinch, 85 Fieldfare, 4 Goldcrest, Pink-footed Goose, Water Rail, 4 Snipe, Jack Snipe, Sparrowhawk, Treecreeper

02/12/2023

Barrow Haven

Red-throated Diver

Boston

3 Waxwing

Cleethorpes

11 Snow Bunting

Cleethorpes CP

Slavonian Grebe

Cress Marsh

25 Gadwall, 32 Shoveler, 54 Teal, 60 Wigeon

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, 2 Raven, Purple Sandpiper, Greater Scaup, Shag, Smew

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl, Stonechat

Donna Nook

Lapland Bunting, Hen Harrier, 6 Rock Pipit, Raven

Gibraltar Point

4 Great Northern Diver

Rimac

4 Cattle Egret

Tallington Lakes

Greater Scaup

01/12/2023

Boston

9 Waxwing (Tesco's)

Covenham Reservoir

Great Norther Diver, Raven, Purple Sandpiper, Smew

Deeping Lakes

2 Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Lesser Yellowlegs

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

