



Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter 2019 Issue 04

Black-winged Pratincole

18th to 21st June 2019

Frampton Marsh RSPB has enjoyed a meteoric rise to prominence as one of *the* best east coast wetland areas, with a reputation for turning up rare shorebirds. One of Britain's precious few **Oriental Pratincoles** spent 11 days there in mid-May 2010; and the preceding year, it scored **Collared Pratincole** too on 8th-9th August 2009.

To make the full set a long-awaited **Black-winged Pratincole** was needed and on the morning of Tuesday 18th Frampton finally pulled a **Black-winged Pratincole** out of the bag.



Black-winged Pratincole, Frampton Marsh RSPB, Lincolnshire, (© Steve Keightley)

If **Collared** is pretty much annual in Britain, and **Oriental** still gaspingly rare, **Black-winged Pratincole** occupies a middle ground – neither annual, nor completely unexpected in any given summer. The period of June–August is prime time for them.



Black-winged Pratincole , Frampton Marsh RSPB, Lincolnshire, (© Steve Keightley)

Frampton joins a limited few sites that have had all three species, the others being Titchwell (Norfolk), Elmley (Kent), and Pagham Harbour (West Sussex).

Fall of Garganey at Huttoft LWT pit!

On 16th April, LBC member Pete Scott thought he was seeing things when at least 9 Garganey came in to Huttoft LWT pit at 12.25pm, five males and four females. To begin with, Pete saw and photographed a drake and two females as they came across the front of the hide, down the left-hand side reed bed eventually disappearing from view. A few minutes later he spotted some more strung out along the right-hand reedbed - four drakes and two females. At this point Pete thought that the other three had flown over to that side, making six in total. But shortly the three on the left side reeds came into view again, making nine in total. He noted that four were still feeding to the right of the hide when he left at 2.45pm, the rest were in and out of the reeds on the far side to the right of the hide. This exceptional flock is probably a spring record for Lincolnshire, unless anyone can recollect a bigger one? Unfortunately the nine never came in to the same camera view but Pete did manage to catch five of them in one shot for posterity!



Garganey at Huttoft LWT pit, 16th April 2019 (© Peter Scott)

The day before Pete's observation, April 15th, a flock of five drake and four female Garganey was photographed by two different observers as they flew past Chesil beach in Dorset. Debra Saunders, a Dorset birder, was one of the two who saw "the Dorset nine" as they then flew down to Portland Bill where they settled on the sea for a while before heading off to the east. On the same day, a flock of eleven Garganey turned up at Broom Gravel Pits in Bedfordshire, and ten were still present at 14.15h on April 16th and so were presumably not the Huttoft birds. All in all, a spectacular arrival of what is many birder's favourite species of duck!



Photo © Debra Saunders, Southwell, Dorset

New BTO Website

Please have a look at the new website. You will be able to get to survey pages from a list at the top right-hand side of every page. The enter data point is also on the right-hand side part way down the page. You can also down-load forms and look at vacant sites. A link to a feedback form will be visible on every page, allowing you to report issues and ask questions, with the option to be contacted by the website team to resolve any problems.

UK's birds hit by weather double whammy in 2018

The latest results published today in the 2018 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) report, suggest that the Beast from the East and Saharan winds may have had a big impact on both resident and migrant birds.

The short, sharp impact of the snow and ice that came with the Beast from the East may have affected some of our smallest birds in particular. Goldcrest, the smallest UK bird, saw a population decline of 38% and Wren and Long-tailed Tit were both down by 21% and 22% respectively in comparison with 2017 figures. As a group these birds are the real lightweights of the bird world, weighing in at between 5-10g. As such they can be particularly vulnerable to cold weather, and even though the Beast delivered a brief shock, it appears this was enough to hit these birds hard.

It looks as though the very cold spell also hit one of UK's most colourful birds, the Kingfisher. The sudden freezing of shallow water can prevent them from accessing the small fish they feed on; the 2018 breeding population was down by 38% on the previous year.

While all this was unfolding in the UK, our summer visitors were safely ensconced in sub-Saharan Africa, thousands of miles from any snow and ice. However, when the time came to head back to the UK, the Sahara desert was experiencing strong northerly winds, seemingly hampering the northward return journey and many were late back or arrived in lower numbers. This appears to have had quite an impact on the number of returning birds and House Martin was down by 17%, Sand Martin down by 42% and Swift down by 20% during the 2018 breeding season surveys. It wasn't just the aerial feeders that were affected; two of our commonest warblers, Whitethroat and Willow Warbler were down too, by 18 and 23% respectively. Whilst some of these birds may have been affected by the weather during migration, it is unknown what effect conditions in their over-wintering grounds might have had on these year-to-year population changes. .

It wasn't all bad news and some birds apparently managed to either tough it out through the snow and ice, or find a window in the winds to cross the desert. Grey Heron is a species that is vulnerable to cold weather and over the years its breeding population has seesawed with cold and mild winters. However, the large size of the Grey Heron, standing around a metre tall, may have allowed it to weather the storm and its 2018 breeding population remained stable.

The Cuckoo was one of the long-distance migrants that managed to time its flight across the desert to coincide with better winds. Not only did they arrive back on cue, they returned to breed in good numbers; up by 22% on 2017. A welcome break for a species suffering a long-term decline of 41% (1995-2017).

Sarah Harris, Breeding Bird Survey Organiser at the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), said, "It is thanks to the thousands of volunteers who give up their time to count birds for the survey that we are able to follow the ups and downs of our breeding birds so closely. While things didn't look great for some of our smaller birds in 2018 they do have the capacity to bounce back quickly from short-term declines and I can't wait to see the 2019 results. Thank you to all who take part"

Mark Eaton, RSPB Principal Conservation Scientist, said "Knowing how bird populations are increasing or decreasing is fundamental to bird conservation and the long term trends for population changes in this new BBS report are a very important indicator of the health of our countryside. BBS trends shows how our bird populations have fared since 1994 and are used to identify the species most needing conservation help: they are

a crucial component of the Birds of Conservation Concern assessments which identify the red list, of species of greatest conservation concern.

Paul Woodcock, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, said, “The great work done by volunteers on the Breeding Bird Survey means that we now have information on UK breeding bird species from over 4000 sites across the UK. The annual data provided by the BBS – which goes back as far as the mid-1990s in many sites – is therefore an invaluable conservation resource for helping to understand how and why UK bird populations are changing as a result of environmental pressures and conservation activities”.

Volunteer efforts yield new insights into Britain and Ireland's birds

The efforts of 60,000 volunteers, mapping the distribution of breeding and wintering birds, have opened up valuable knowledge to researchers and members of the public through new open access resources.

Open access bird atlases open up knowledge to everyone

Periodic surveys, mapping the distribution of birds every 20 years, have been a feature of the bird watching landscape since the late 1960s. These periodic national studies, covering both Britain and Ireland and coordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), have yielded information crucial for conservation and been well used by researchers.

The first breeding atlas – the first national bird atlas anywhere in the world – conducted during 1968–72, was described at the time as “the biggest co-operative effort ever undertaken by field ornithologists in these islands, indeed probably anywhere in the world, which will stand for many years as a tribute to the enthusiasm and industry of a large number of people”. Subsequent atlases have continued that theme and, collectively, the series of breeding and wintering atlases from 1968–72 to 2007–11 contains 1.4 million distribution records of 458 species.

BTO researchers have been working with these data for many years, but they have now made them freely available for new audiences. The distribution maps from all of the atlases can be accessed via the Bird Atlas Mapstore, a free online resource that enables anyone to call up the distribution map for any British or Irish species. The Mapstore has been available for a while, but the underlying data have now been made freely available following the publication of a 'data paper' in the journal *Global Ecology and Biogeography*.

Lead author of the paper, Dr Simon Gillings of the BTO, said, ‘By making the underlying distribution and change data available we hope to facilitate new work by researchers around the world, exploring topics such as species distribution modelling, assessing the drivers of distribution change and forecasting the response of species to future environmental change.’

BTO's Head of Engagement, Debbie Lee, added, ‘Atlas surveys have proved hugely popular with BTO's volunteers; making the results of their efforts accessible to a new generation of researchers ensures their inspiring contribution has even greater impact.’

LBRC description species - revised list

The list of species for which descriptions are required has been revised as follows:

Black Brant	White-winged Tern
Snow Goose	Long-tailed Skua
Taiga Bean Goose	Black Guillemot
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Alpine Swift
American Wigeon	European Bee-eater
Green-winged Teal	Hoopoe
Ring-necked Duck	Red-footed Falcon
Lesser Scaup	Rose-ringed Parakeet
King Eider	Woodchat Shrike
Ruddy Duck	Golden Oriole
White-billed Diver	Penduline Tit
European Storm Petrel	Greater Short-toed Lark
Leach's Petrel	Red-rumped Swallow
Cory's Shearwater	Siberian Chiffchaff
Great Shearwater	Wood Warbler
Balearic Shearwater	Dusky Warbler
White Stork	Radde's Warbler
Glossy Ibis	Pallas's Leaf Warbler
Black-crowned Night Heron	Greenish Warbler
Western Cattle Egret	Arctic Warbler ³
Purple Heron	Icterine Warbler
European Honey Buzzard	Blyth's Reed Warbler ⁴
Golden Eagle	Marsh Warbler
Goshawk	Savi's Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Barred Warbler
Black Kite	Rosy Starling
White-tailed Eagle	Redwing (<i>coburni</i>) - Icelandic race ⁵
Rough-legged Buzzard	Bluethroat
Corn Crake	Red-flanked Bluetail
Spotted Crake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Stone-curlew	White-throated Dipper
BW Stilt	Blue-headed Wagtail
American Golden Plover	Citrine Wagtail
Kentish Plover	Richard's Pipit
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>limosa</i>) ¹	Olive-backed Pipit
White-rumped Sandpiper	Red-throated Pipit
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Common Rosefinch
Red-necked Phalarope	Common (Mealy) Redpoll
Lesser Yellowlegs ²	Parrot Crossbill
Sabine's Gull	European Serin
Ring-billed Gull	Eurasian Bullfinch, northern (<i>pyrrhula</i>)
Iceland Gull (<i>kumlieni</i>)	Ortolan Bunting
Caspian Gull	Cirl Bunting
Roseate Tern	Little Bunting

Notes

1. Probably only colour-ringed birds ID-able
2. Devolved from BBRC, local RC from 1st January 2019
3. Devolved from BBRC, local RC from 1st January 2019
4. ex-BBRC 2015
5. Submit to LBRC but only if photographed

New website latest sightings page

Members may have noticed a new latest sightings page on the website - follow the link from the homepage.

This page will be 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 is 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.

Bird Reports - from June 2019

30/06/2019

Hobby - Boultham Mere

Cuckoo - Cleethorpes

Green Sandpiper str - Cress Marsh, Stallingborough

Black Redstart, Cattle Egret, 5 Spotted Redshank, Short-eared Owl, 10094 Common Swift - Gibraltar Point.

2 Black-necked grebe, Little Gull, 2 Spoonbill, 2 Spotted Redshank Mediterranean Gull, Cettis's Warbler and Water

Rail - Frampton Marsh

23 Black-tailed Godwits at Baston & Langtoft

29/06/2019

Bearded Tit, Cettis's Warbler, 14 Spoonbill, 4 Spotted Redshank - Alkborough Flats

Goosander - Cleethorpes CP

Green Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover 4 (2 adults & 2 Juveniles) - Cress Marsh, Stallingborough

Black-necked Grebe, Cettis's Warbler, Little Tern, Mediterranean Gull, Short-eared Owl, 3 Spoonbills, Spotted

Redshank, 2 turtle Dove - Frampton Marsh

Sandwich Tern (2) - Baston & Langtoft Pit

Black Redstart (male), Little Gull, Spoonbill, Short-eared Owl - Gibraltar Point

28/06/2019

Little Gull, 3 Spotted Redshank, 250 Avocet - Alkborough Flats

Bearded Tit, Cettis's Warbler, Marsh Harrier - Far Ings

Black-necked Grebe, 2 Greenshank, 9 Green Sandpiper, 4 Spotted Redshank, Wheatear, Hobby, Marsh Harrier Corn

Bunting - Frampton Marsh

Black Redstart (male), [Marsh Warbler](#) (trapped & ringed), Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Spoonbill, 2 Spotted Redshank, 2 Little Gull - Gibraltar Point

Spotted Flycatcher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Treecreeper - Linwood Warren

[Lesser Yellowlegs](#) - Middlemarsh Farm TF537628

54 Curlew, 4 Turtle Dove Saltfleetby NNR

27/06/2019

3 Spoonbills, Black-necked Grebe, 2 Mediterranean Gull, 60 Bee Orchids - Frampton Marsh

2 Spotted Redshank, Little Gull, Curlew Sandpiper, 6 Little Tern, 2 Spoonbill, Short-eared Owl - Gibraltar Point

2 Turtle Doves, 3 Grasshopper Warbler, Hobby and Cuckoo - Rimac

20 Corn Bunting, 17 Yellowhammer, 4 Yellow Wagtail, 1 Grey Partridge - Stenigot area

26/06/2019

2 Spotted Redshank, Spoonbill, Short-eared Owl, 100+ Red Knot, Cettis's Warbler - Frampton Marsh
2 Spoonbills, Short-eared Owl - Gibraltar Point

Pintail, Green Sandpiper - Marston STW

25/06/2019

2 Spoonbills, Black-necked Grebe - Frampton Marsh

3 Spoonbills, Curlew Sandpiper - Gibraltar Point

24/06/2019

Up to 24 Bearded Tit in one flock - Far ings

Black-necked Grebe - Frampton Marsh

Turtle Dove - Gedney Drove End

Great White Egret, Short-eared Owl - Gibraltar Point

23/06/2019

Common Cuckoo, Golden Plover - Donna Nook

22/06/2019

2 Black-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, 3 Spoonbill - Frampton Marsh

Curlew Sandpiper, 3 Spoonbill Gibraltar Point

Spoonbill - Tetney Marshes RSPB

21/06/2019

[Black-winged Pratincole](#) - Frampton Marsh

3 Willow Tit (1 adult 2 juveniles) - Messingham SQ

[Purple Heron](#) - Rimac

20/06/2019

[Black-winged Pratincole](#), [Marsh Warbler](#) - Frampton Marsh

19/06/2019

[Black-winged Pratincole](#), Eurasian Spoonbill, 2 Mediterranean Gull, Turtle Dove, Peregrine Falcon, Barnacle Goose - Frampton Marsh

18/06/2019

[Black-winged Pratincole](#), Temminck's Stint - Frampton Marsh

17/06/2019

Serin - Gibraltar Point

16/05/2016

2 Black-necked Grebe - Frampton Marsh

Spoonbill - Gibraltar Point

15/06/2019

Cettis's Warbler, Peregrine Falcon - Frampton Marsh

14/06/2019

Little Gull, 5 Spoonbill Alkborough Flats

Black-necked Grebe, Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Spoonbill

Short-eared Owl, 2 Spoonbill

2 Common Crane - The Wash

13/06/2019

Black-necked Grebe - Frampton Marsh

Short-eared Owl, Spoonbill - Gibraltar Point

12/06/2019

2 Black-necked Grebe, Short-eared Owl, Spoonbill - Frampton Marsh

Black Redstart, 2 Short-eared Owl, 2 Spoonbill - Gibraltar Point

11/06/2019

Icterine Warbler - Swanpool, Lincoln

10/06/2019

2 Black-necked Grebe, Curlew Sandpiper - Frampton Marsh

Short-eared Owl, 2 Short-eared Owl - Gibraltar Point

09/06/2019

Sanderling - Baston & Langtoft Pits

2 Black-necked Grebe, Spoonbill Turtle Dove - Frampton Marsh

Turtle Dove - Witham Mouth

08/06/2019

2 Grey Partridge - Blankney Fen

14 Common Tern - Freiston Shore, Turnstone, Little Ringed Plover 350 Oystercatcher

16 Common Pochard, 26 Common Tern - RAF Woodhall

07/06/2019

Bee-eater - Gibraltar Point

06/06/2019

Quail - Boston (fly-over)

2 Black-necked Grebe, 50+ Red Knot, 50+ Bar-tailed Godwit, 40 Sanderling, 4 Turnstone, Short-eared Owl, Spoonbill - Frampton Marsh

2 Red-crested Pochard - Messingham SQ

05/06/2019

Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Short-eared Owl - Frampton Marsh

Short-eared Owl, Spoonbill - Gibraltar Point

04/06/2019

Little Bittern - North Thoresby

03/06/2019

Temminck's Stint - Gibraltar Point

Tawny Owl - Tunman Wood

02/06/2019

Curlew Sandpiper, Garganey, Red-crested Pochard, Turtle Dove - Frampton Marsh

Honey Buzzard - Gibraltar Point

01/06/2019

Garganey, Cettis's Warbler - Messingham SQ

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