



## Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - February 2020

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### 2020 Willow Tit Survey

The decline of the Willow Tit is well known. It is our most threatened resident bird having declined by 95% since the mid 70s. As an endemic race, the British Willow Tit is indigenous to Britain and found nowhere else. Its disappearance would be a slap in the face for all British conservationists. We've been charting the decline year by year in the Lincolnshire Bird Report and it has accelerated over the last 5 years.

The RSPB recognising that they need to step in and do more to prevent the extinction of this species started a national survey in 2019 which will continue into 2020. Knowing exactly where Willow Tits have been and are now is crucial to understanding how they might be saved. We will be supporting the RSPB by following their methodology and surveying the tetrad squares they have identified as worthy of checking. Some of these squares almost certainly no longer hold birds but have done over the last 20 years or so. Negative results are useful as well as positive ones so please check squares near you even if you are pretty certain there are no Willow Tits present.

The methodology requires a visit to suitable habitat in each tetrad twice during mid February to mid April and the use of playback to determine if Willow Tits are present. Suitable habitat in Lincs can include any damp scrubby woodland particularly close to water courses and on the site of old sand, gravel and clay pits. Trees especially attractive to them include willow, birch, hawthorn and elder.

Full instructions can be downloaded here -

[http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/Willow\\_Tit\\_national\\_survey\\_methods\\_2019.pdf](http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/Willow_Tit_national_survey_methods_2019.pdf).

The recording form is available here - [http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/Willow\\_Tit\\_survey\\_form\\_2019.pdf](http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/Willow_Tit_survey_form_2019.pdf)

The recording to be used for playback can be downloaded here -

[http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/Willow\\_Tit\\_call.mp3](http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/Willow_Tit_call.mp3)

As Marsh Tits and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers also occur in similar habitats to Willow Tits in some areas, please remember that these species are also a rare breeding bird. Therefore we ask that observers ensure that any sightings are reported to the county recorder or logged via BirdTrack.

Some initial work has been done at well known sites in the county. The table below lists all squares which have yet to receive any coverage, 67 in all. Please note the "general



location” in the table is to give you an indication of the area the tetrad is in. It does not mean Willow Tits have been recently recorded at that site name. To decide exactly where you will visit you will need to use your experience, knowledge of the terrain and rights of access available to you. If you could identify squares you should be able to cover please email Phil Espin to register your interest on pmjespin@gmail.com and he will coordinate to avoid duplication of effort and ensure we get a broad coverage across the sample area. Completed recorded forms should be sent to him and he will pass them on to RSPB.

If you have any questions at all please call him on 07966 325380. (Photograph Willow Tit at Messingham SQ © John Clarkson 03/03/10)

**Willow Tit Survey 2020: Tetrads Requiring coverage (text in RED is covered.....)**

Square	Tetrad (s)	General Location		Square	Tetrad (s)	General Location
	<b>North West</b>				<b>Central (cont'd)</b>	
SE70	M	Wroot		TF14	R	Heckington
SE71	Q	Crowle		TF15	K,	Billingham
SE80	K,	Scunthorpe SW		TF17	H, S, Y	Bardney Forest
SE90	G, D, Y	Scunthorpe SE		TF18	V	Market Rasen
SE91	D,	Scunthorpe NE		TF19	C, D,	Walesby
SK89	G, H	Gainsborough				
SK99	H	Kirton in Lindsey			<b>East</b>	
TA01	A, B	Elsham		<b>TF25</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Coningsby</b>
				TF26	N, T	<b>Horncastle</b>
	<b>North East</b>			TF35	J, N	Stickney
<b>TA10</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Caistor</b>		TF36	U, Z, V	Old Bolingbroke
TA30	G	Tetney Lock		TF37	<b>S, W</b>	<b>Tetford</b>
				<b>TF38</b>	<b>B, D, M</b>	<b>Louth</b>
	<b>West</b>			TF39	P	Covenham
SK87	L, Z	Newton on Trent		<b>TF47</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Alford</b>
SK88	L, R	Marton				
SK96	<b>F, I</b>	<b>North Hykeham</b>			<b>South West</b>	
SK97	V, X	Lincoln		SK84	N	Claypole
				SK93	Q, S	Grantham
	<b>Central</b>			<b>SK94</b>	<b>J, V</b>	<b>Ancaster</b>
TF06	T	Branston		TF01	C	Bourne SW
TF07	I, M	Sudbrooke		TF02	K, M, T, U	Bourne NW
TF08	A	Toft Newton		TF03	Q, Y	Threekingham
TF09	F, K, S	Thornton le Moor		TF05	G, Q, T	Ruskington

For those unfamiliar with the tetrad system a good description can be found at p35 of Bird Atlas 2007 – 11. In brief, the Ordnance survey divides the British Isles into 10 km squares each of which has its own unique number based on the grid system shown on it's maps. A tetrad is a 2km x 2km square and each 10 km square contains 25 of them. Each tetrad is uniquely lettered from A to Z on a fixed system. The letter O being omitted to avoid confusion. To identify the square you choose to survey it is therefore essential to refer to the correct OS map. If you have any difficulty with this please call Phil Espin. Good hunting!

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## Lincs Bird Club 2020 AGM

TIM Birkhead has agreed to be the guest speaker at the LBC's 24th March 2020 annual meeting.

An authority on guillemots, specifically those that nest on Skomer Island, his data on the species has yielded important insights on the impact of climate change, integrity of habitat, warmer oceans and food supplies.

The club's annual meeting will be at **7.30pm on March 24 at The Golf Hotel in Woodhall Spa.**

An update on his guillemot research project is at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/guillemotsskomer>



## BARRIE WILKINSON: THE HISTORY OF GIBRALTAR POINT

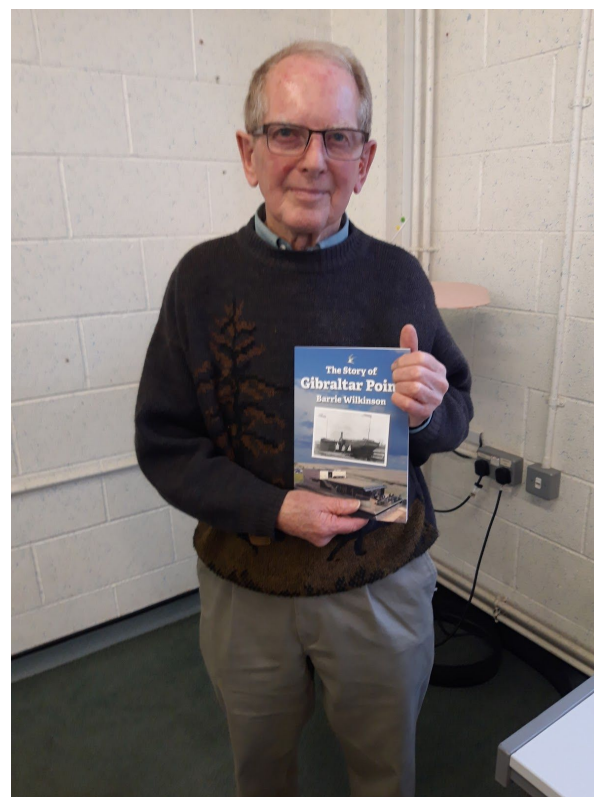
The fascinating past of Gibraltar Point was brought to life by historian and naturalist Barrie Wilkinson at the annual joint-meeting of the Lincolnshire Bird Club and the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union.

Gib is well-known as a hotspot for migrating birds, including rarities, but, over the past 250 years, it has also provided a home and place of work for an array of farmers, coastguards, gravel merchants and bargemen.

Still others who have eked out a living by trading trapped rabbits, by wildfowling, by shooting birds to supply their feathers to the millinery trade, by fishing or by modestly selling pop and chocolate to trippers.

Over the years since 1953 when he first started visiting Gib regularly, Skegness-born Barrie has amassed huge knowledge, not to say a treasure trove of historic photographs.

In his 90-minute illustrated talk, he regaled his audience with anecdotes both about some of the families - for instance, the



Hollands, the Perrins, the Kings, the Greethams The Waites and the Walmsleys - and the houses, such as Sykes Farm, in which they lived.

For such a remote, wild and windswept location, it seems remarkable that the old hamlet of Gibraltar was once sufficiently busy to support its own pub, The Ship Inn.

Times must often have been harsh, especially in winter, but in the photographs the individuals and families invariably look contented, healthy and, in most cases, extremely cheerful.

It mostly seems to have been a happy place, and that mood seems to have prevailed up to the present. Many thousands of visitors, including schoolchildren and students on residential courses, have taken away with them memories that are little short of idyllic.

The starting point of Barrie's talk was Armstrong's 1799 map of Lincolnshire which revealed a very different topography from that of today.

"It was one of the best bad weather harbours on the Lincolnshire Coast," he observed.

Regular trading activity involved cargo ships, carrying coal, grain or other products, which would be conveyed by horse-drawn barge up and down the River Steeping to and from Wainfleet, at one time one of the country's most important ports.

In the first half of the 20th Century, a variety of schemes were intermittently submitted for large scale commercial development at Gib.

One was for a speed track on the sands while another was for an 800-house estate. Billy Butlin may have also scouted the sight when he was seeking a location for his first holiday camp. The highly ambitious housing development looked set to proceed after the plans had been approved, but the project stalled as the result of a funding shortfall and just three houses were built on Aylmer Avenue.

In effect, Gib was saved as a wild place for posterity by the Sandhills Act of 1932 by which Lindsey Council, which later bought the 200 acres, sought to prevent the sort of crude, speculative development that had turned some other seaside locations into shanty towns.

Barrie concluded his talk with a review of the various visitor centres that have stood on the site since it became an observatory as the result of the initiative (and powers of persuasion) of the late Ted Smith.

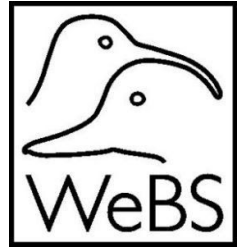
Of recent developments, he said that he was, at first, dismayed when it was decided to establish a cafe in the current visitor centre, but he confided that he now rather enjoys visiting it for a cuppa or more. "It's a delightful place for a meal" he enthused.

A vote of thanks to Barrie was proposed by LBC chairman Phil Espin who, at the start of the meeting, recalled that his earliest experiences of Gib had come as a schoolboy when he had been a volunteer warden safeguarding the colony of nesting little terns. Barrie's excellent history of Gibraltar Point can be bought or ordered, price £15, wherever books are sold.

Write up by Jim Wright



## Vacant WeBS Sites - Holbeach/Gedney and Dawsmere



There is a **VERY HIGH PRIORITY** WeBS site which **NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

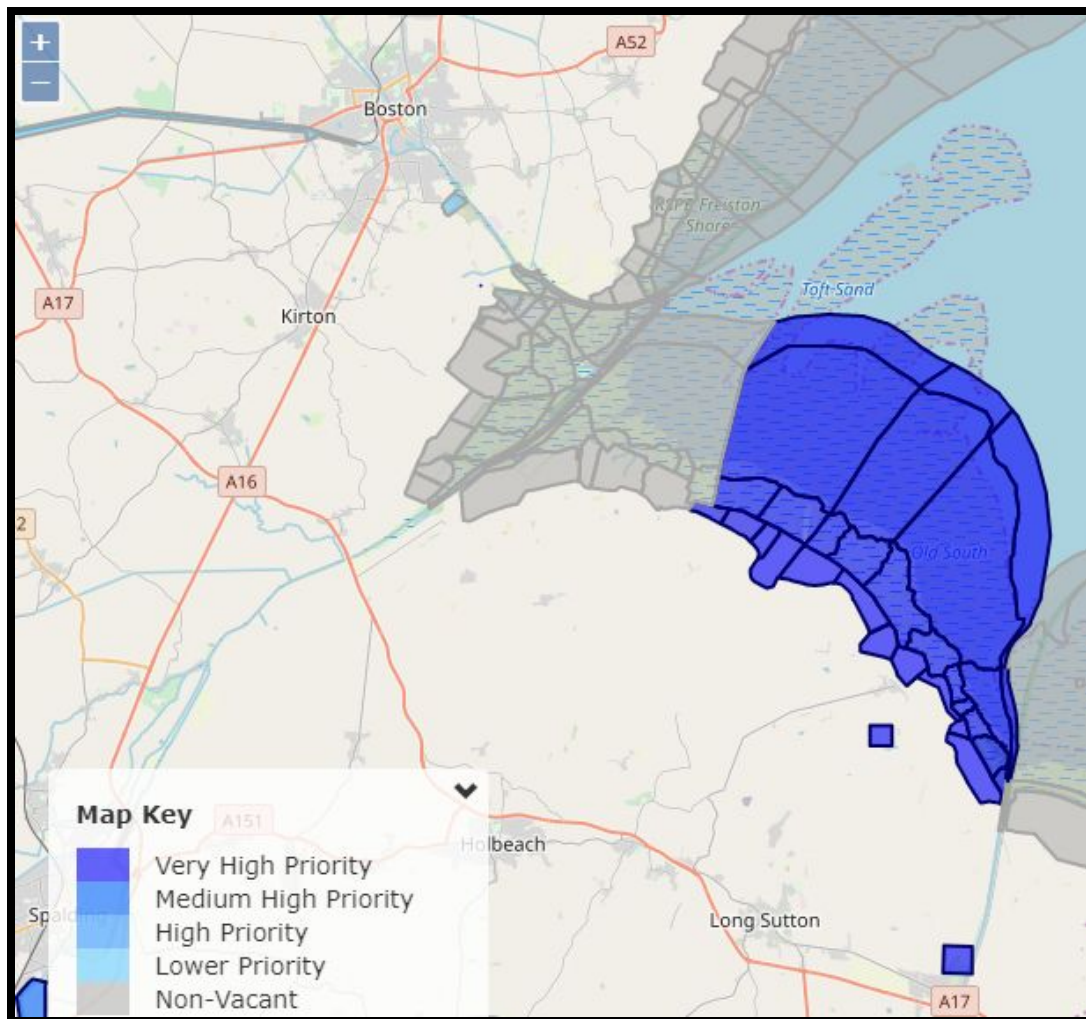
The survey involves visiting the site (see map below) once a month throughout the winter and counting the waterbirds there. Counts are welcome from all months of the year but the main period we ask our counters to concentrate on is **September through to March**.

Unlike many bird surveys, you don't have to know bird songs or calls to carry out WeBS Counts - just the ability to identify common waterbirds.

The BTO runs a number of 1-day and weekend training courses, centered on teaching bird survey techniques. Your Local Organiser can also advise you on local training and mentoring opportunities. The survey is organised via a network of voluntary Local Organisers (LOs). Your LO will give you more information, and will be able to allocate you a WeBS site to count.

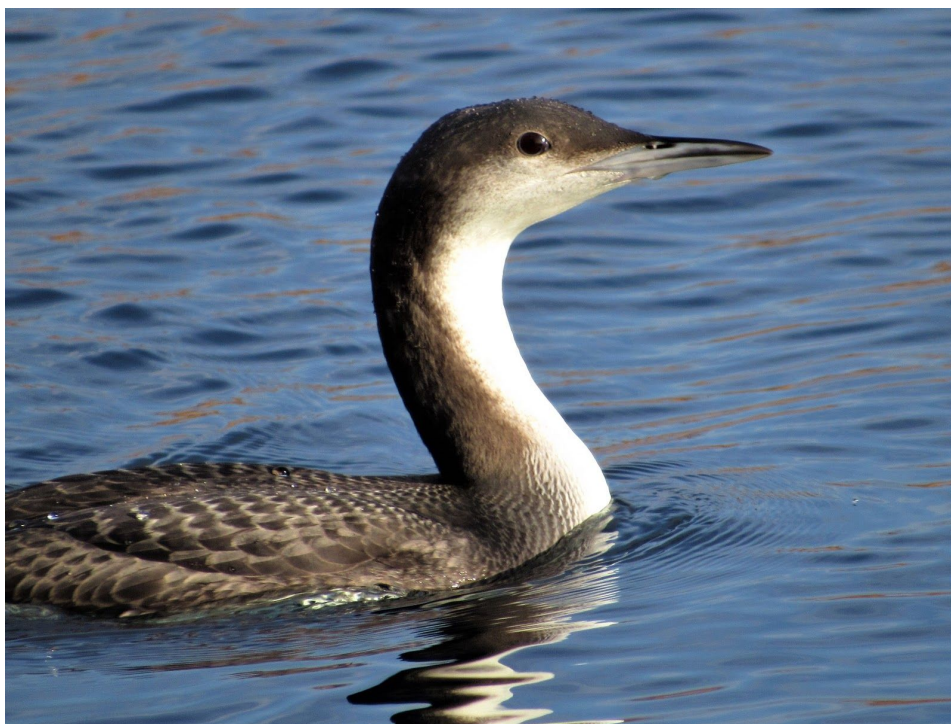
If you think that you may like to take on counting a sector, and/or would like to know a bit more about what's involved, please do get in touch with.....

Jim Scott (The Wash WeBS co-ordinator) [Jim.scott@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Jim.scott@rspb.org.uk) 07702 594451



## 2019, a County year by Ben Ward

In what was already a good winter back home at the local pits in North Hykeham, which had produced the first Siberian Chiffchaff for the wider area, I was pleased to see the adult female Scaup of the previous winter return. I found myself admiring a first winter Black-throated Diver on Apex Pit, in the late afternoon of January 4th, the bird staying until the end of the month. During a morning out with Andy Sims on the 8th we had excellent views of the Dusky Warbler found by Richard Doan at Huttoft, we then called in at Kirkby for the drake American Wigeon found by Nige Lound.



February was equally as good at the local pits with the appearance of a Red-necked Grebe on the 5th, again on Apex Pit, remaining until the 25th. The third Scaup for the winter locally was notched up, this bird a superb adult drake.

Returning to Gibraltar Point at the start of March I was immediately looking at remaining wintering goodies such as White-fronted Goose, Glaucous Gull and Hooded Crow pretty much daily, the family party of Bewick's Swan that had arrived after my departure the previous autumn alas had moved on just prior to my arrival back. Migrants started to appear from early month with frequent Woodlark and occasional Crossbill, with the first of many spring Firecrest arriving on the 26th. The spring started to hot up the 29th, with a male Serin out of roost and low overhead in the early morning; amazingly this would transpire to be the first of six for the year. The first Ring Ouzel had arrived by the months end.

Stumbling upon a migrant Long-eared Owl at roost on April 3rd, was needless to say a real treat and equally nice to be able to share, being enjoyed by local birders, from a safe distance, during the course of the day. Spring niceties such as male Pied Flycatcher and male Redstart were starting to appear from mid-month. Then it began; in the early morning of the 29th GPBO





Ringer in Charge, George Gregory, trapped a superb male Eastern Sub-alpine Warbler, I arrived in time for stunning views of the bird in the field. If accepted as Eastern, the Sub-alpine will be the first record of this race for Lincolnshire, the obtained DNA came back indicating such.

May, typically the month when it all happens, kicked off on the 3rd, a miserable day in terms of weather but brightened dramatically when myself, Owen Beaumont and Barrie Wilkinson watched a female Red-necked Phalarope descend from high and momentarily alight in front us on Tennyson's Sands. The first of an impressive five Wood Warbler for the year appeared on the 6th, the following morning it went bang - an interesting Chiffchaff giving snatches of sub song quickly became Lincolnshire's overdue first Iberian when it eventually gave up its song to me, another

landmark find by Kev Wilson, the bird then held territory for the following three days, to the delight of county listers. A good fall of migrants on the 10th produced a haul of nine Cuckoo, four Firecrest, a Wood Warbler, two Ring Ouzel, eight Pied Flycatcher and five Redstart in just an hour or so of coverage in the morning. In the evening of the 13th I was looking over the Wash to see if the two Common Crane I had seen earlier in the day were still on the mudflats, they were not but the sight of an adult female Montagu's Harrier briefly quartering the sea bank was most welcomed. The following late evening saw me dashing out see female a Kentish Plover which Kev Wilson had picked out at distance on the mudflats. Whilst monitoring Corvid activity in the Shorebird Sanctuary on the 25th a vocal Temminck's Stint put in a brief appearance prior to being seen off by a territorial Ringed Plover.



In June things quietened quickly and the focus was on nesting birds. The discovery at Frampton Marsh of the counties second Black-winged Pratincole, after the brief Gibraltar Point bird of 2014, fortuitously coincided with a planned trip there to take photographs for Stewardship. There were good days for Swift throughout the month, a migrant Quail heard whilst night wardening on the 26th took me by surprise. A late Marsh Warbler trapped by George Gregory on the 28th came out of the blue and was a fantastic opportunity to see one up close, the female, gave snatches of sub song after release.

One of many good mornings after a night spent wardening the Little Tern colony came on July 6th with an Osprey close overhead at little after four o'clock, the building tide brought good numbers of large Gulls up close, a seldom occurrence, the first Caspian Gull for the year was identified with much close inspection, being a less than straightforward second summer. One of the most breath-taking moments came in the late evening of the 24th, I was just settling in to spend the night in the Shorebird Sanctuary, frustratingly I saw that a couple were striding up the beach towards nesting habitat, I swiftly intercepted them, they soon appreciated the error of their ways. Walking along the shoreline as to give nesting birds the widest berth, I casually glanced out to sea,

only to be presented by a raky looking Heron arriving in off, lifting my bins, an adult Purple Heron in stunning light was before my eyes, the bird reached land right in front of me but once over the nearby dune it was alas lost to view, needless to say I was still buzzing from the excitement all night long. The 28th brought a phenomenal arrival of Wood Sandpiper to the reserve, 35 were on show from Harvey's Hide in the evening, with one bird occasionally in song, checking for further Wood Sandpiper led to the fourth Cattle Egret for the reserve being discovered. The following night in the Shorebird Sanctuary was truly unforgettable, the frequent resonating chif-if-if calls of nocturnal Wood Sandpiper movement coming from the star spangled black above was moving, the following morning was a continuation of being in the beautiful midst of return migration when counting Terns out of roost a glowing adult Roseate emerged, effortlessly dipping back and forth as if to warm through whilst drenched in the first embers of sunlight prior to departing out of the Wash.

August saw the spectacle of returning waders. Definitely of the birds I missed this year a juvenile Goshawk out of roost in the East Dunes on the morning of the 12th was the one I wish that I had seen. I went back home for five days to see family, but a trip to Frampton Marsh with Andy Sims for Buff Breasted Sandpiper was most welcomed, the long staying Long-billed Dowitcher was still present. Back at Gibraltar Point some decent falls occurred towards the end of the month and a late afternoon arrival of Chats on the 24th included 21 Whinchat. Flycatchers, Redstarts and Tree Pipits were now daily.

I enjoy nothing more than a good seawatch and September had been much anticipated. During a day of nothing weather on the 16th, a virtually flat calm sea, a Sooty Shearwater came into view in the early morning, whilst following its progress it was passed by a Leach's Petrel heading in the opposite direction, the scope now panning the other way, providing fascinating and prolonged viewing compared with the typical in and out of troughs views of battling Leach's off Lincolnshire shores, well demonstrating that the sea is always worth a look at this time of year. The following day I had to myself and undertook a full day seawatch, reward in the morning came in the dainty shape of the first Long-tailed Skua of the season, when joined in the late afternoon by the regular crew atop Mill Hill the sea really came to life, with passage picking up, coupled with the effect of more eyes looking; two Balearic Shearwater were identified, as well as the first, albeit distant, Sabine's Gull of the year. The wind swung round and became a strong easterly in the morning of the 20th, I got out to the east side of the reserve at mid-day with the plan being to work the eastern dune up and down for the rest of the day hoping for newly arrived migrants. After six or so hours I had only a handful of Chats, a Redstart and a Tree Pipit to show for my efforts and had become quite tired having been out all day, I very nearly didn't but I dragged myself over to check an isolated Hawthorn clump one last time towards sunset, I must have been tired as suddenly I was aware of a juvenile Rosefinch sat out in the open, at no yards, staring at me, sadly it was an all too brief moment, the bird quickly joining a Linnet roost movement. Whilst leading an all-day guided bird race event on the 22nd, which was well attended by people of differing levels of ability but included County birder Dave Roberts and County Rarities Committee Chairman John Clarkson, we came across a Wheatear in the afternoon, it was startlingly upright, rather bulky, we did not get all that long on it in fairness and in less than ideal side on light, before it flew north up the saltings, apparent dark centred coverts and lack of an obvious black alula in our views essentially were the sticking point that had us reasoning that it was more likely an upright pale Greenland, rather than Isabelline, truth told I forewent opportunity for close inspection as I was keen to line it up for those without scopes. Thankfully a few photos had been obtained by Dave and John, the following morning one informed commenter suggested actually that it did look good for Isabelline. After a brief panic, to my relief I was able to relocate the bird with some effort in the afternoon and over the course of a couple of hours of assessing all salient features with Kev Wilson and James Siddle, the birds identification was able to be confirmed as Lincolnshire's first Isabelline Wheatear, an educational bird, as they say, well and truly. The month ended on a



high note whilst counting the wader roost over a monster tide, overhead passage was busy, the spectacle was immense, over 120,000 birds coming and going, then a juvenile Red-footed Falcon arrived from the sea, to the bemusement of those assembled to count waders and visible migration in the morning of the 30th.

Three Richard's Pipit were logged in the first week of October, having connected with one of the first two, I managed to get in on the act finding a new arrival on the 7th. Dire weather was set in during our efforts for the fund-raising "Bird For Liv" bird race on the 6th, somehow we reached 116 species, James Siddle put in a stellar effort, here there and everywhere notching up new birds, one of the standout highlights of the year came that day during a sanity questioning seawatch with fellow glutton for punishment Nige Lound, sitting on Mill Hill looking into a bracing easterly with poor to worse visibility and rain squalls occasionally consuming us, I could not shake off the shivers, my optics were soaked, I would no doubt have cried off had Nige not been there for company, then, as if it was somehow meant to be, the visibility suddenly



came briefly reasonable and immediately a juvenile Sabine's Gull drifted south along the shore and soon after a juvenile Long-tailed Skua, sometimes persistence pays off, I like to think we were rewarded due to the circumstance behind our effort on this occasion. A big arrival of Thrushes came on the 13th which included a staggering 53 Ring Ouzel, the first Hawfinch of the year was around the West Dunes Sycamore Plot on the 15th. It had seemed ominously quiet in the county away from Gibraltar Point and Frampton Marsh so far in 2019 but



shocking news broke in the afternoon of the 18th, a visiting ringer, Tom Hibbert, had found a Bobolink at Saltfleetby, needless to say a first for Lincolnshire, I arrived just in time for good views. A superb seawatch on the 20th saw 2277 Gannet passing, as well as two Long-tailed Duck, four Pomarine Skua, a Black-throated Diver, a Great Northern Diver and a Sooty Shearwater. The following day the sea was still good with a Long-tailed Duck, four Velvet Scoter, four Pomarine Skua, a Puffin, eight Little Auk and two Black-throated Diver. A first calendar year Bluethroat was trapped on the 22nd, I was unable to get there to see the bird in the hand and was very thankful to Kev Wilson who had relocated the bird in the field sometime after. A great morning for Whooper Swan movement came on the 25th

when 281 flew south through the reserve, the second highest site count. A busy early morning over the sea on the 29th yielded two Long-tailed Duck, a Velvet Scoter, a Red-necked Grebe, two Puffin, eight Little Auk, a whopping five Black-throated Diver, two Great Northern Diver and a Leach's Petrel.

A late Barred Warbler was found in the Plantation on the morning of November 4th by Nige Lound and most locals were able to connect later in the day. After a strong overnight easterly with rain I was excitedly looking forward to the 7th, particularly with the whole day available for birding, though when the morning came it was grim out to say the least, strong winds and persistent rain, I opted to stay local to the Sykes Farm area and concentrate on the Plantation where surely new arrivals would gravitate to, by mid-day I had become somewhat demoralised after plodding around in the wet and having seen nothing obviously new in during the morning. The rain turned to drizzle in the early afternoon so I decided to go for it, I headed north along Gib Road and within only a few hundred yards a little Goldcrest flock came to my attention, then a Pallas's call! I was soon looking at the little jewel, I wanted to stay and enjoy the bird but the vast majority of the reserve was completely unchecked, I was the only observer out on site, I reluctantly opted to spend just 15 minutes with it and obtain a quick record shot then head out east. No more than 50yds further along Gibraltar Road a new brown and white Siberian Chiffchaff uttered its mournful eep. I was soon in the East Dunes, a vocal Crossbill arrived from the sea and headed inland, there were some obviously new crests in the Sallow, soon a Firecrest popped out, joined after by a second bird. A juvenile Iceland Gull drifted over the dune with a small number of Herring Gull and out to the beach, the light was going very early due to the cloud cover and mist as I walked back along South Marsh Road in the late afternoon, I was starting to reflect on what a good afternoon it had been, arriving back on the west side of the reserve I began scanning out from the hump, I had difficulty believing my eyes when a Rough-legged Buzzard drifted in off the Wash, first mobbed by a Marsh Harrier and then by a male Hen Harrier. The following morning local birders were assembled extra early as the Rough-legged Buzzard was seen to go to roost, the bird appeared, albeit at great distance, the morning instantly became surreal when a vocal Olive-backed Pipit emerged from roost, flying past observers positioned on the hump at eye level as it came out of the Plantation and headed off south. There was some good sea watching in November, most notably on the 16th when yet another day off dawn til dusk session produced two Velvet Scoter, a Grey Phalarope, a Pomarine Skua, a Puffin, a Black-throated Diver and a Great Northern Diver. Two Tundra Bean Goose arrived on the 29th, as did a Hooded Crow though the latter did not linger and proved to be the only record for the fourth quarter.

A vocal December Woodlark was a surprise in the early morning of the 5th whilst undertaking the co-ordinated Pink-footed Goose dawn count, coming during a period where there was steady Skylark movement. Late seabirds were a theme during the month with a Manx Shearwater on the 15th and a few Pomarine Skua, with a Black-throated Diver wintering offshore. A Slavonian Grebe off Greenshanks Creek on the 19th was the only one I saw all year and proved to be the last new bird of 2019 for me, somewhat surprisingly my 247th full species for the year, mostly at Gibraltar Point, this is now considered to be the county year list record.

It was not a serious attempt at year listing, rather what I saw during the year at Gibraltar Point, one or two birds locally around the Lincoln area as well as seven motorised twitches for some stellar county birds. There were some notable absences, county breeding species such as Nightjar and Willow Tit, Pectoral Sandpiper feels a big miss and winter scarcities such as Bewick's Swan and Smew eluded me, as well as many easily available goodies had I had transport and the inclination to go for them.

I understand that my list for 2019 will be available to view on the LBC website in time, if it is of interest to anyone.

Enjoy your birding in 2020.

Best wishes, Ben Ward

(All images © Ben Ward)



## Killer Whale in The Wash! Reported by Andrew Chick.

During December 2019 I was undertaking low tide counts for Natural England as part of long term monitoring work in The Wash. On 13th December 2019 I was working at RAF Holbeach at the southern end of The Wash (just inside the Lincolnshire border). The survey involved crossing extensive areas of saltmarsh and accessing the “flats” for a two hour period either side of low tide. On the 13th I was crossing the saltmarsh (which involved negotiating a number of very deep and very muddy creeks), during the journey out to the flats I discovered the decomposing (and very smelly remains) of a large cetacean!



As you can see from the images the animal had been present for sometime and the colour had bleached out of the skin, but from the general structure I guessed it was the remains of a dead Killer Whale. I then contacted the **UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP)**, the following images and text were supplied after UK CSIP had visited the site;

*The CSIP team from ZSL attended a 462cm juvenile male killer whale, which was reported stranded in the Wash at the end of last year (SW2019/693). Unfortunately, this was the first opportunity we had of getting to it, as the report came into us just as we left for the Christmas break and the stranding had occurred in the vicinity of an RAF range, with limited access only possible outside of range operation times and at low tide.*





*Although the body was rather decomposed externally, the organs were surprisingly intact and so we managed to collect a number of samples for bacterial culture and histopathology. We found no evidence of recent feeding, with largely empty stomachs and intestinal tract; we did find a large fragment of plastic material in the first stomach, but we considered this to be an incidental finding and not a causal factor in the animals death, as it hadn't caused an impaction. Although there was some evidence of potential live stranding (and anecdotal reports were received of a live stranded killer whale in the Wash at the end of 2019), given the condition of the body, it's unfortunately unlikely that we'll ever be able to conclusively establish a cause of death.*

*This was a markedly unusual stranding event, representing only the fifth recorded stranded killer whale in England and Wales since the inception of the programme in 1990 (34 have been recorded stranded in Scotland by our colleagues at the Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme over the same period). It's also the first that the team in England and Wales have examined for nearly 20 years, since one stranded in the Mersey estuary in 2001. Killer whales are a priority*





species for the project, given the conservation pressure that they're under - as apex predators, they're unfortunately exposed to high levels of legacy chemical pollutants, as shown by recent research led by CSIP and CEFAS scientists. This exposure is likely to have had a significant negative impact on some populations around Europe- all this hopefully explains the lengths we went to in trying to access the body and collect some data and samples.

Despite the decomposed condition, a number of important samples were collected, which will prove hugely valuable in future research. As well as being able to determine its chemical pollutant exposure, we also collected samples that will inform age, dietary, population genetic, life history and other analyses. Its currently not clear which population this killer whale came from, but we hope to be able to learn more using these samples, as well as gain a wealth of other information that will help inform conservation efforts for years to come.



All photographs © UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP)



## Other News, Meetings and Events....

### Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union (LNU)

**Details of the next LNU meetings can be found at** <https://lnu.org/meetings/indoor-meetings/>

Recorders' Meeting – 8th February 2020

Annual General Meeting – 7th March 2020 (Followed by the Presidential Address by Chris du Feu)

### Reptiles and Amphibians Records wanted..

As we travel steadily into the new year, newts will be returning back to their watery breeding grounds and February is not too early to see these amazing animals. Armed with a good torch, it may be worth shining a light into any natural water source, just after twilight to see if you can see any of these animals floating and swimming through the water.

Any natural water, (even if it is only seasonally wet and dries up through the later summer months,) can still be a viable breeding ground for newts. Ditches running along the side of our playing field will be host to smooth newts this year as every year It is still as exciting to see them by torchlight today as it was when I first discovered them when we first moved here 10 years ago.

Please have a look at <https://www.recordpool.org.uk/index.php> for an easy way to record your amphibian and reptile species records. Or you can send any records to Ashley Butterfield ( Lincolnshire Amphibian and Reptile Recorder,) at [LearningOutdoors@btinternet.com](mailto:LearningOutdoors@btinternet.com) - Please include Species, Date, Time, Location, numbers as a minimum (Other useful information includes Temperature and Weather conditions.) "

### South Lincs RSPB

The South Lincs RSPB Group have released details of their hugely popular “Birdwatching cruises into the Wash” programme for 2020. Fourteen cruises are arranged for 2020, at various sailing times and dates, starting 16th April and ending 23rd October.

Full details of all cruise dates and times, costs etc., plus 2019 Sightings, can be found at

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/southlincolnshire/news/> Booking is once again via Spalding's South Holland Centre (01775-764777) or online at [www.southhollandcentre.co.uk](http://www.southhollandcentre.co.uk)

### RSPB Grimsby Local Group's

The February meeting of the RSPB Grimsby Local Group features the return of Ashley Grove who will give a talk with the title “Shetland to Scilly, Birds of the British Isles”. Ashley, who is officially recommended by the RSPB and the Royal Horticultural Society, lectures widely and leads regular photographic and birding tours to The Gambia, the Shetland Islands, Isles of Scilly, Trinidad & Tobago, the Spanish Pyrenees and elsewhere. In his talk, he will take us on a journey around the British Isles, sharing wonderful images of the birds he has photographed along the way. Starting with Puffins in Shetland and finishing up with the odd rarity found on the Isles of Scilly, we will have clocked up a fair few miles from the comfort of our seat by the end of the night, but will have seen well over 100 species. The talk takes place at 7.30pm on Monday, 17th February 2020 at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, (formerly known as Corpus Christi Community Centre), Grimsby Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 7LH.

There will also be refreshments and a raffle Entry is £4, payable at the door.



## Lincolnshire Bird News - January 2020

Compiled by Chris Grimshaw

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

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

**31/01/2020**

### **Cleethorpes**

Purple Sandpiper

### **Gibraltar Point**

3 Tawny Owl, Water Pipit, Water Rail

### **Grimsby**

**Black-throated Thrush** (again by Grimsby Institute)

### **Woodhall Spa Airfield**

**Ring-necked Duck**, 4 Egyptian Geese, Yellow-legged Gull, Marsh Harrier, Redshank



**The Black-throated Thrush showing very well in Grimsby - Image © Roy Harvey**

**30/01/2020**

**Boultham Mere**

329 Pink-footed Geese, Marsh Harrier

**Cleethorpes**

10 Snow Bunting (beach)

**Frampton Marsh**

Avocet, Dunlin, 4 Goldeneye, Hen Harrier, 2 Merlin, Barn Owl, Spotted Redshank,

**Gibraltar Point**

Corn Bunting (by the visitor Centre, Red-throated Diver, Red-necked Grebe, Marsh Harrier, 3 Red-breasted Merganser,

**Grimsby**

**Black-throated Thrush** (by Grimsby Institute, 12.30 - 13.30 before flying off southeast...)



Black-throated Thrush, Grimsby - Image © Josh Forrester

**Middlemarsh Farm**

Great White Egret

**Walesby Moor**

13 Bullfinch

**Woodhall Spa Airfield**

**Ring-necked Duck** (female still - from hide)



Female Ring-necked Duck, Woodhall Spa Airfield - Image © Colin Casey

**29/01/2020**

**Boultham**

Great White Egret (SW over), Marsh Harrier, Cetti's Warbler, Woodcock

**Frampton Marsh**

Peregrine Falcon, Greenshank, Hen Harrier, Red Kite, Merlin, Barn Owl, Water Rail, Stonechat

**Gibraltar Point**

2 Tundra Bean Goose, Water Pipit, 10 Whooper Swan

**Swanholme Lakes**

2 Buzzard, Little Egret 4, 4 Goosander (1 male 3 female), 2 Grey Heron,

**RAF Woodhall**

Ring-necked Duck (female - left hand pit)

**28/01/2020**

**Cleethorpes**

10 Snow Bunting

**Deeping Lakes**

Long-eared Owl

**Gibraltar Point**

3 Snow Bunting, 6+ Red-breasted Merganser, Hen Harrier (male)

**Kirkby Moor**

2 Stonechat



**27/01/2020**

**Frampton Marsh**

Great White Egret, Bar-tailed Godwit, 9 Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin, Rock Pipit, Grey Plover, 3 Spotted Redshank, 40 Ruff, Stonechat, Whooper Swan, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler

**Gibraltar Point**

15 Corn Bunting around visitor centre), 14 Snow Bunting (Greenshank Creek), c900 Eider, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gull, Hen Harrier (male), 4 Stonechat

**Marston**

Merlin

**Normanby Hall**

Nuthatch



Nuthatch at Normanby Park - Image © Phillip Ryan

**26/01/2020**

**Alkborough Flats**

3 Whooper Swan

**Anderby**

3 Reed Bunting, 37 Curlew, 2 Little Egret, 22 Gadwall, Grey Heron, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, 2 Kestrel, 31 Lapwing, 19 Mallard, 3 Moorhen, 3 Shelduck, 220 Starling, 2 Stonechat, Sparrowhawk, 41 Teal, 17 Pied Wagtail

**Frampton Marsh**

Avocet, 9 Goldeneye, Pink-footed Goose, Slavonian Grebe (river mouth), Hen Harrier, Merlin, 2 Stonechat, Whooper Swan, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler

**Gibraltar Point**

1800 Red Knot, 164 Cormorant, 10 Red-breasted Merganser, Water Pipit

**Lincoln Cathedral**

2 Peregrine Falcons

**Marton, Trent Port**

7 Buzzard, Little Owl, Siskin, 3 Treecreeper

**25/01/2020**

**Sandtoft**

2 Common Crane

**Frampton Marsh**

3 Goldeneye, 2 Hen Harrier, Kingfisher, Merlin, 2+ Pintail, Golden Plover (thousands), Water Rail, 60+ Whooper Swan

**Gibraltar Point**

40+ Red Throated Diver, Great White Egret, 230+ Eider, Hen Harrier (male), 4 Red-breasted Merganser, Water Pipit

**24/01/2020**

**Deeping High Bank**

Short-eared Owl

**Donna Nook**

**Black Brant**, 6 Red Throated Diver, 23 Great Crested Grebe, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, **Caspian Gull**, Hen Harrier, 2 Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, 54 Whooper Swan, 26 Twite

**Gibraltar Point**

**Great Northern Diver**, Red-throated Diver, 24 Whooper Swan

**Marston**

15 Curlew, Pink-footed Goose, 113 Lapwing, 3 Water Rail, 3 Green Sandpiper, 77 Snipe

**Nocton Fen**

**43 Barnacle Geese**

**Rimac**

3 Lapland Bunting, Snow Bunting

**Sandtoft**

**2 Common Crane**

**23/01/2020**

**Boultham Mere**

2 Goosander, 2 Stonechat

**Deeping Lakes NR**

Long-eared Owl

**Dunsby Fen**

3 Short-eared Owl

**Gibraltar Point**

Marsh Harrier, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**22/01/2020 (fairly foggy)**

**Barton upon Humber Pits**

Great White Egret (Far Ings), Greater Scaup (at least 2 with one drake),

**Frampton Marsh**

Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Pintail, Stonechat, Whooper Swan

**Gibraltar Point**

Corn Bunting, Woodcock

**Louth**

2 Barn Owl

**Millennium Green**

Long-tailed Duck

**Nocton Fen**

40 Linnets, 1 Stonechat

**Sandtoft**

Common Crane

**Tetney**

Eider Duck, 140 Common Scoter, 2 Velvet Scoter, 46 Twite

**21/01/2020**

**Frampton Marsh**

Avocet, Peregrine Falcon, 2 Goldeneye, Merlin, Barn Owl, Spotted Redshank, Pintail, Siskin, Whooper Swan

**Hartsholme Park**

1 Nuthatch, 2 Treecreeper

**Millennium Lake**

Long-tailed Duck

**Swanholme Lakes**

2 Goosander, 2 Little Egret

**Thorpe Tilney**

2 Great White Egret (on the Witham)

**20/01/2020**

**Baston Fen**

4 Water Pipit

**Boultham Mere**

Grey Wagtail

**Castlethorpe**

10 Waxwing (flew over 12.43pm heading towards Brigg)

**Frampton Marsh**

Avocet, 2 Common Crane (over), Merlin, 10000 Golden Plover, 2 Spotted Redshank, Water Rail, Stonechat (male)

**Kirkby on Bain (Land-Fill)**

Caspian Gull

**North Hykeham Pits**

Long-tailed Duck (Millennium Pit)

**19/01/2020**

**Anderby Beach**

Snow Bunting

**Baston Fen**

3 Hen Harrier

**Deeping High Bank**

Turnstone



**Doddington Hall**

Hawfinch

**Freiston Shore**

Hen Harrier (male)

**Frampton Marsh**

Avocet, 14000 Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Hen Harrier (ring-tail), Merlin, Barn Owl, Rock Pipit, Redwing, Stonechat, 80 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler,

**Gibraltar Point**

Eider Duck, Barnacle Goose, 1200 Pink-footed Goose, 6 Pintail

**Langtoft & Baston Pit**

Smew (male)

**Nocton Fen**

2 Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Harrier, 6 Pintail (Bardney Pit)189 Whooper Swan

**North Hykeham Oit**

Long-tailed Duck (Apex Pit - near sailing club)

**Red Hill (close by)**

50 Corn Bunting, 20 Reed Bunting, 150 Yellowhammer

**Rimac**

3 Lapland Bunting, Great Northern Diver (south), Hen Harrier, Merlin

**Saltfleetby**

2 Little Owl

**Trent Port, Marton**

7 Bullfinch, 75 Fieldfare, 26 Lapwing, 10 Linnet, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, 15 Yellowhammer,

**Walesby Moor**

Willow Tit

**18/01/2020**

**Baston Fen**

2 Hen Harrier (2 ring-tail)

**Dunstan**

2 Raven

**Far Ings**

Bittern

**Frampton Marsh**

3 Hen Harrier (2 male), Merlin, Water Rail, 86 Whooper Swan

**Gib Point**

Lapland Bunting, 4 Chiffchaff, c24 Red-throated Diver, 2 Tundra Bean Geese, Red Kite, 2 Puffins (South), Stonechat

**Lincoln - Doddington Park**

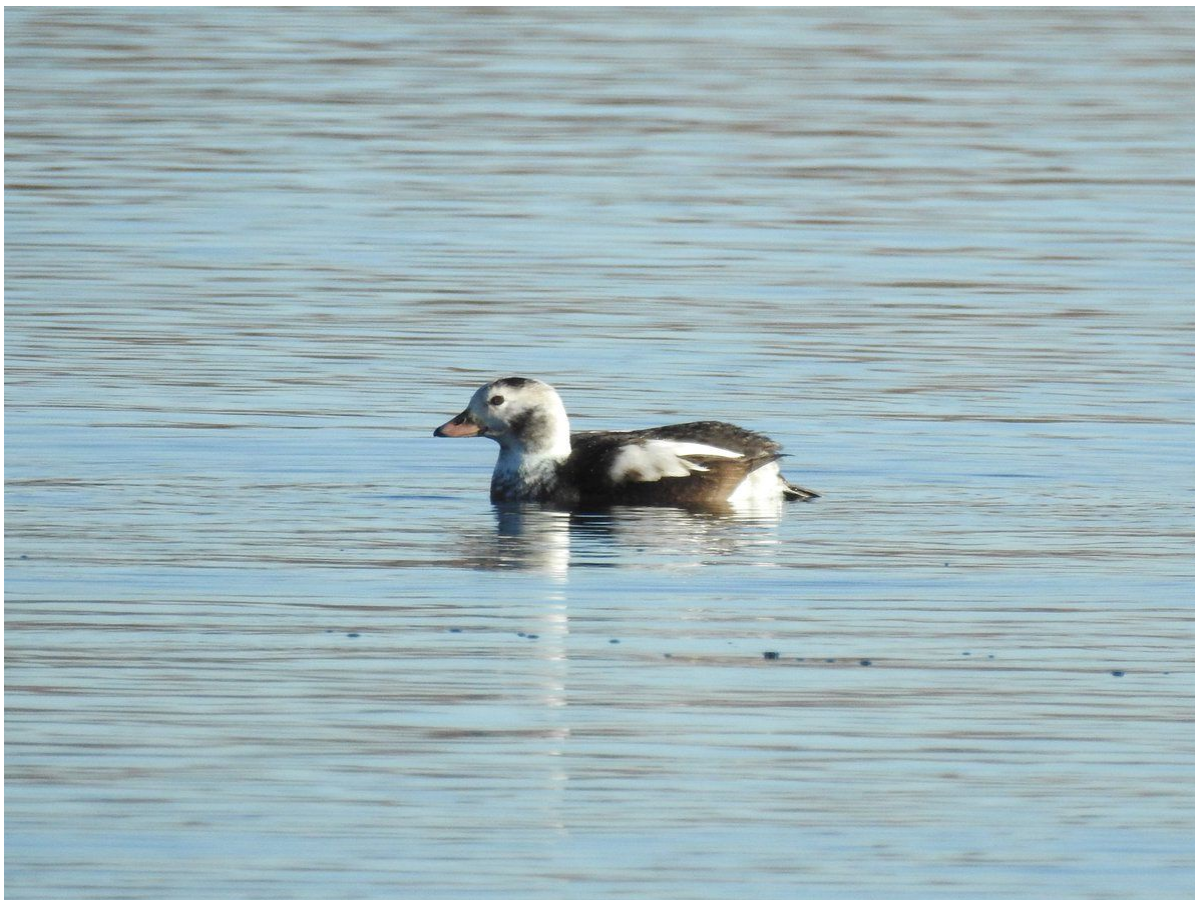
Bullfinch (female), 1 Lesser Redpoll, Sparrowhawk

**Lincs Coastal Park - Chapel Observatory**

70+ Snow Bunting, 2 Puffin (south)

**Millennium Green (North Hykeham Pits)**

Long-tailed Duck (Best access off Newark Rd from Memorial Hall)



The long staying Long-tailed Duck at Millennium Green - Image © Grahame Hopwood

**River Witham**

Common Sandpiper

**Tetney Marsh RSPB**

Hen Harrier (male), 21 Twite

**RAF Woodhall**

Ring-necked Gull

**17/01/2020**

**Alkborough Flats**

Hen Harrier

**Croft Marsh**

2 White-fronted Goose

**Far Ings**

Bittern

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Avocet, Hen Harrier (ring-tail), Marsh Harrier, Merlin, 10000 Golden Plover, 6 Goldeneye, 300 Pink-footed Goose, Water Pipit, 30 Ruff, Sparrowhawk, 2 Stonechat, 60 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

**Gibraltar Point**

Corn Bunting, 12 Red-throated Diver, Fulmar, Marsh Harrier

**Lincoln - Doddington Park**

Bullfinch, 3 Lesser Redpoll

**Tetney Marsh RSPB**

22 Twite



Hen Harrier at Alkborough Flats - Image © John Clarkson

**16/01/2020**

**Far Ings**

Bittern, 4 Dark-breasted Brent Geese

**Frampton Marsh**

4 Avocet, Peregrine Falcon, Goldeneye, Red Kite, Merlin, 14000 Golden Plover, Ringed Plover Water Rail, Stonechat, Turnstone, Whooper Swan

**Gibraltar Point**

Chiffchaff, 450 Pink-footed Geese, 3 Whooper Swan, 2 Water Pipit, Woodcock

**Grantham**

Pink-footed Goose

**Greetwell Hollow**

2 Bullfinch, Little Egret, 52 Pink-footed Geese (over 09:50), 2 Goldcrest, Kingfisher, 10 Teal, Woodcock,

**Louth**

Yellow-legged Gull

**Trent Port Marton**

Peregrine Falcon, 65 Greylag Goose, 16 Linnet, Barn Owl, 12 Teal, 120 Wigeon



**15/01/2029**

**Cleethorpes**

9 Snow Bunting

**Far Ings**

Bittern

**Frampton Marsh**

Spoonbill

**Gibraltar Point**

Slavonian Grebe, Hen Harrier

**Marston**

14 Curlew, ! Water Rail, 1 Snipe

**Sutton on Sea**

3 Barn Owl

**Winthorpe Beach**

45 Snow Bunting (belated report - present on the 9 & 10th and still present on the 14th)

**14/01/2020**

**Denton Reservoir**

Scaup

**Far Ings**

Bittern

**Freiston Shore**

8 Grey Partridge

**Gibraltar Point**

4 [Lapland Bunting](#), 50+ Red-throated Diver, 5 Eider, 5 [White-throated Goose](#), Guillemot, 12 Red-breasted Merganser, Razorbill, Woodcock

**Goxhill Haven**

Short-eared Owl

**Mablethorpe**

Carrion Crow/Hooded Crow Hybrid (on beach)

**Rimac**

Hen Harrier (F)

**Sandtoft**

Common Crane

**Withern**

2 Raven

**13/01/2020**

**Baston Fen**

2 Hen Harrier (2 ring-tailed)

**Donna Nook**

Black Brant, 30 Snow Bunting

**Far Ings**

Bittern

**Throckenholt**

32 Bewick's Swan, 140 Whooper Swan

### Withern

Raven

**12/01/2020**

### Frampton Marsh

2 Peregrine Falcon, 400 Pink-footed Geese, 2 Hen Harrier, Kingfisher, 2500 Lapwing, Merlin, 8000 Golden Plover, Spoonbill, 2 Stonechat, 85 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler, 3000 Wigeon

### Gibraltar Point

Black-throated Diver, c11 Red-throated Diver, 2 White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier (male), Red-breasted Merganser

### Grantham

2 Kingfisher

### Hawthorpe

4 Raven

### Holywell Lake

Little Egret, Kingfisher, Red Kite, Mandarin (male), 10 Pied Wagtail

### Marton - Trent Port

3 Little Egret, Goosander, Tawny Owl, 120 Redwing, 10 Teal, 3 Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker

### Marston

15 Curlew, Goldcrest, 47 Lapwing, Water Rail, 3 Green Sandpiper, 20 Snipe, Green Woodpecker

### Rimac

Ring Ouzel

### Saltfleetby St Clements

Tundra Bean Goose, Whooper Swan

**11/01/2020**

### Bardney Diaries (1 mile north on the Wragby side)

Short-eared Owl

### Chapel Observatory

Slavonian Grebe

### Donna Nook

30 Snow Bunting (on the mudflats at the end of the seal viewing path-way)

### Gibraltar Point

C 96 Red-throated Diver, C80 Eider, c 14 Red-breasted Merganser, c 20 Common Scoter

### Huttoft Pit

Chiffchaff

### Lincoln - Doddington Park and Boultham

51 Pink-footed Geese (over NW Doddington Park) & 90+167 an hour and a half later (over Boultham)

### Manby Wetlands

Iceland Gull (briefly but may have gone to the back pit)

### North Hykeham Pits (Millenium Green)

Long-tailed Duck

### Saltfleetby St Clements

Tundra Bean Goose, Whooper Swan

### Sandtoft

2 Common Crane (from Dyke Bridge)

**10/01/2020**

**Boston Deeps (offshore)**

c2000 Common Scoter, 70 Eider, 6 Velvet Scoter

**Far Ings**

Bittern, Bullfinch, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler in thick veg, 3 female Goldeneye, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Wigeon, Kestrel, Water Rail (h), Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Shoveler, Teal, Redshank, Snipe, Redwing

**Gibraltar Point**

Water Pipit

**Greetwell Hollow**

Bullfinch, 2 Little Egret, Trecreeper, Grey Wagtail

**Hartsholme Park**

2 Goosander 3 Grey Heron, Kingfisher

**Manby Wetlands**

Mediterranean Gull Iceland Gull

**Saltfleetby St Clements**

Tundra Bean Goose, 40 Whooper Swan ([TF448896](#))

**Sea View Farm**

Ring Ouzel

**Swanholme Lakes**

Buzzard, 8 Goosander, Jay

**09/01/2020**

**Fiskerton Fen**

Tawny Owl (Yurt area-heard only)

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Avocet, Bullfinch, 2 Peregrine Falcon, Goldeneye Water Rail, Ruff, 2, Stonechat, 80 Whooper Swan, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler,

**Gibraltar Point**

4 White-fronted Goose, Water Pipit

**Levee Doors**

Iceland Gull

**Saltfleetby St Clements**

Tundra Bean Goose, 25 Mute Swan, 33 Whooper Swan

**Sea View Farm**

Ring Ouzel (Sea View Road)

**Walpole St Andrew (I am informed that this is just over the border in Norfolk - Sorry)**

Lesser White-fronted Goose

**08/01/2020**

**Donna Nook**

37 Snow Bunting

**Belton House**

Dipper



**Boultham Mere**

Cetti's Warbler, 6 Whooper Swan (over)

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Avocet, 10000 Golden Plover, Water Rail, Ruff, Stonechat, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler, 6000 Wigeon

**Kirkby on Bain**

Smew (red-head)

**Lincs Coastal Country Park**

33 White-fronted Goose

**Saltfleetby St Clements**

Tundra Bean Goose, 20 Mute swan, 17 Whooper swan

**Flood-Short Ferry**

200 Whooper Swan

**Throckenholt (from Lutingtongate)**

49 Bewick Swan, 140 Whooper Swan

**07/01/2020**

**Gibraltar Point**

Water Pipit

**Kirkby on Bain**

2 Little Egret, 6 Goldeneye, 4 Egyptian Geese, Water Rail, Smew (female), 2 Sparrowhawk, c7000 Starling murmuration, Grey Wagtail

**Trent Port - Marton**

Barn Owl, Jack Snipe

**Nocton Fen**

C120 Whooper Swan

**Sandtoft**

2 Common Crane

**Tetney Marsh**

Jack Snipe

**06/01/2020**

**Boultham Mere**

Water Rail

**Denton Reservoir**

Red-crested Pochard (female), Scaup (male),

**Gibraltar Point**

Great Northern Diver, 33 Red Throated Diver, White Fronted Goose, 3 Guillemot5 Red-breasted Merganser,



Male Goosander at Hartsholme Park - Image © Ken Haw

### **Lincs Coastal Park**

2 Great Northern Diver, 18 Red Throated Diver, 2 Gannet, Mediterranean Gull, 2 Merlin, Great Skua

### **Frampton Marsh**

Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Harrier, 1500 Dark-bellied Brent Goose, 2500 Lapwing, 2000 Teal, 3 Pintail, 10000 Golden Plover 13 Ringed Plover, 2500 Wigeon

### **Skegness**

Caspian Gull

### **05/01/2020**

#### **Apex Pits**

Long-tailed Duck

#### **Cress Marsh - Stallingborough**

Curlew 3, Gadwall 2 Shoveler 4 (new species for site), Teal 6

#### **Denton Res**

Scaup

#### **Donna Nook**

20 Snow Bunting, 4 Twite

#### **Frampton Marsh**

Peregrine Falcon, 470 Pink-footed Geese (north), 280 Dark-bellied Brent Geese, Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, 1000's Golden Plover, 371 Whooper Swan, 1000's Wigeon,

#### **Gedney Drove End**

Hen Harrier (male), Marsh Harrier, Merlin, 1000 Golden Plover, 2000 Pink-footed Geese, 700 Brent Geese

#### **Gibraltar Point**

Snow Bunting, 12 Red-throated Diver, 800 Dark-bellied Brent Goose, White-throated Goose, 2 Guillemot, Hen Harrier, 8 Red-breasted Merganser, Water Pipit, Razorbill, 6 Whooper Swan

**Grantham**

2 Brambling

**Hartsholme Park**

2 Tawny Owl

**Manby Wetlands**

Iceland Gull, 2 Mediterranean Gull

**Millenium Green - Lincoln**

50 Pochard (male)

**Sandtoft**

2 Common Crane

**Short Ferry Floods & Branston Island**

Great White Egret, 2 White-fronted Geese & 93 Whooper Swans, c1000 Golden Plover, c2000 Lapwing

**Spalding**

Brambling

**Swanholme Lakes**

3 Goosander

**Trent Port area, Marton,**

150 Pink-feet SE@10.45hrs, Stonechat (pair), Shelduck, 2 Little Grebe, 2 Bullfinch, 74 Mallard, Sparrowhawk and 35 Red L Partridge.

**04/01/2019**

**Alkborough Flats**

20 Fieldfare, 16 Black-tailed Godwit, Marsh Harrier, 3 Grey Heron, 2, Shelduck, Bearded Tit, Cetti's Warbler, 10 Wigeon

**Anderby Creek**

White-fronted Goose

**Baston Fen**

2 Hen Harrier (ring-tails)

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Ruddy Shelduck (male)

**Freiston Shore**

4000 Golden Plover

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Avocet, Peregrine Falcon, Goldeneye, Hen Harrier, Merlin, 10000 Golden Plover, Water Rail, Stonechat, 100 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

**Gibraltar Point**

Lapland Bunting, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 5 White-fronted Goose, Slavonian Grebe, Short-eared Owl, 5 Stonechat, 4 Whooper Swan

**Grantham**

Lesser Redpoll (private garden)

**Thorney (north of the A47)**

13 Common Crane, 20 Bewick Swan, 400 Whooper Swan

**Willow Tree Fen**



51 Goosander, 4 Pintail

**03/01/2020**

**Apex Pits**

Long-tailed Duck still, although distant, 12 Pochard

**Boultham Tip**

Jack Snipe, Sparrowhawk

**Grantham**

Kingfisher, 2 Raven (St Wulframs)

**Marston STW**

2 Goosander (flight along Witham), 1 Pink-footed Goose, 6+ Water Rail

**Sandtoft**

2 Common Crane (in field SE of Moor Lane near Evergreen Garden Centre)

**02/01/2020**

**Apex Pits**

Long-tailed Duck

**Bardney Lock**

Great White Egret

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Smew (male)

**Boultham Mere**

Marsh Harrier



Drake Pintail at Freiston Shore - Image © John Clarkson



Male Kestrel - Image © Hugh Middleton

**Cleethorpes**

8 Snow Bunting

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Avocet, Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, 3 Goldeneye, Hen Harrier (ring-tail), Marsh Harrier, 1000+ Golden Plover, c1000 Wigeon

**Gibraltar Point**

Hen Harrier, 8 Red-throated Diver; 2 Eider, c1100 Pink-footed Goose, 19 White-fronted Goose, Slavonian Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin, 2 Water Pipit, Water Rail, 2 Whooper Swan

**Hartsholme Park**

Buzzard, 2 Tawny Owl

**Kirkby on Bain**

Smew (female)

**Saltfleetby St. Clements**

Tundra Bean Goose

**Willow Tree Fen**

Turnstone

**Wroot**

White-fronted Goose

**01/01/2020**

**Alkborough Flats**



Bearded Tit

**Anderby Creek**

Black-throated Diver

**Bardney Lock**

Great White Egret

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Hen Harrier, Smew

**Boultham Mere**

Bearded Tit, 3 Stonechat (pumping station), 5 Whooper Swan

**Deeping Lakes**

Long-eared Owl

**Denton Reservoir**

Red Kite, Great Scaup



Red Kite at Denton Reservoir - Image © Dave Roberts

**Donna Nook**

Black Brant, Lapland Bunting, c30 Snow Bunting, [4 White-fronted Goose](#), c20 Twite,

**Gibraltar Point**

Black Brant, 6 Corn Bunting, Chiffchaff, Peregrine Falcon, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 15 White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, 950 Pink-footed Goose, Merlin, Water Pipit, 3 Water Rail, 45 Shelduck,, 2 Sparrowhawk, 6 Stonechat, 76 Woodcock, 3 Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Manby Wetlands**

Iceland Gull

**Trent Port - Marton**

5 Bullfinch, Chiffchaff, Little Egret, Jay, 2 Tawny Owl, Grey Partridge, Red-legged Partridge, Redshank, 4 Snipe, 2 Tree Sparrow, 3 Sparrowhawk, 2 Treecreeper

**Millenium Green**

2 Mandarin (male) Long-tailed Duck still present on the adjacent Apex Pits yesterday afternoon

**New Holland**

Peregrine Falcon

**Swanholme Lakes**

2 Little Egret, 5 Goosander, 6 Grey Heron, Kingfisher

**Wolla Bank**

2 Stonechat, 4 Cetti's Warbler

## Contact Information & Useful Lincs Websites

### Lincs Bird Club Website

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

Twitter [@Lincsbirding](#)

Facebook:

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

LBC County Bird Recorder

Phil Hyde [recorder\\_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

### Recording

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

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

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

### Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union Website

<http://lnu.org/>

LNU e-mail: [info@lnu.org](mailto:info@lnu.org)

### Love Lincs Plants

<https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/what-we-do/love-lincs-plants>

Love Lincs Plants Twitter feed [@LoveLincsPlants](#)

### Sir Joseph Banks Society

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

[enquiries@joseph-banks.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@joseph-banks.org.uk)

### Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

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

### Lincolnshire Bat Group website

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

### Butterfly Conservation Lincolnshire Branch

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

## FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME

Rural Crime Officer

Pc 160 Nick Willey

Force Wildlife, Rural Crime Officer

Force Dog Training Establishment

Lincolnshire Showground.

Grange-De-Lings.

Lincoln

[nicholas.willey@lincs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicholas.willey@lincs.pnn.police.uk)

OFFICE: 01522-731897

MOBILE :07768-501895

PAGER : 07654-330877

Rural Crime News -

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

## STAYING SAFE

EasyTide

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

Met Office Severe Weather E-mail Service

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

Environment Agency Flood Information/Floodline

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

Lyme Disease

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

## SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDING

### Botany

Botanical Group in South Lincs

Contact: Sarah Lambert - [sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com](mailto:sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com)

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

LNU Sawflies, Bees, Wasps and Ants Recorder

Dr. David Sheppard - [d.a.sheppard@btinternet.com](mailto:d.a.sheppard@btinternet.com)

### Lincolnshire Mammals

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

### Mammal Atlas

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

<http://www.glnp.org.uk/our-publications/biodiversity/projects-and-reports.php>

### Lincs Amphibian and Reptile Group

The Lincolnshire ARG (Amphibian & Reptile Group)

Ashley Butterfield - [learningoutdoors@btinternet.com](mailto:learningoutdoors@btinternet.com)

### Local Bat Helpline

Grounded bats, bat problems, advice and information.

Contact Annette and Colin Faulkner on

01775 766286 or e-mail: [annettefaulkner@btinternet.com](mailto:annettefaulkner@btinternet.com)

Confidential Bat Records

You may send confidential bat records direct to Annette

Faulkner on: [annettefaulkner@btinternet.com](mailto:annettefaulkner@btinternet.com)

## USEFUL WILDLIFE CONTACTS

### Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

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

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

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

### Natural England

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

### Lincolnshire Environmental Awards

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

### 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

