



Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - March 2020

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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>



WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A BIRD?

DO birds have the capacity to experience a) the sense of pain and b) the emotion of fear?

Most people would probably answer yes to both - especially if they have seen a bird fall victim to a cat or any other predator?

While in Australia, Prof Tim Birkhead, of Sheffield University, once saw a raptor take a parrot. "The former's plaintive cries left me in no doubt that the bird was both terrified and in pain," he says.

But in his fascinating book, Bird Sense - What It's Like to Be a Bird, he goes on to describe witnessing another predation event - an attack by a peregrine on a puffin - which caused him to "modify" his view.

Because the puffin is a feisty bird with a powerful beak and sharp claws, the professor thought that the bird might escape - but it did not.

He writes: "Instead, it lay still looking up at its captor, which avoiding its gaze, stared resolutely out to sea.

"I imagine that the peregrine was waiting for its powerful clenching claws to do the business and for the puffin to die. It did not

"It was a stalemate. Five minutes passed with no obvious resolution in sight.

"The puffin wriggled slightly, its eyes were bright and it still looked full of life."

Prof Birkhead continues: "Eventually, after 15 minutes, the falcon started to pluck the breast feathers from the puffin and five minutes later began to eat muscle from the puffins breast.

"Only after the peregrine had eaten its fill, a full 30 min after capture, did the puffin eventually expire.

"Did it feel pain? I don't know for at no point during this grisly spectacle, did the puffin show any sign of distress."

Bird Sense is full of insights and controversies, most of which have yet to be fully understood and resolved

Prof Birkhead, of Sheffield University, will be speaking on Bird Sense as guest at this month's AGM of Lincolnshire Bird Club.

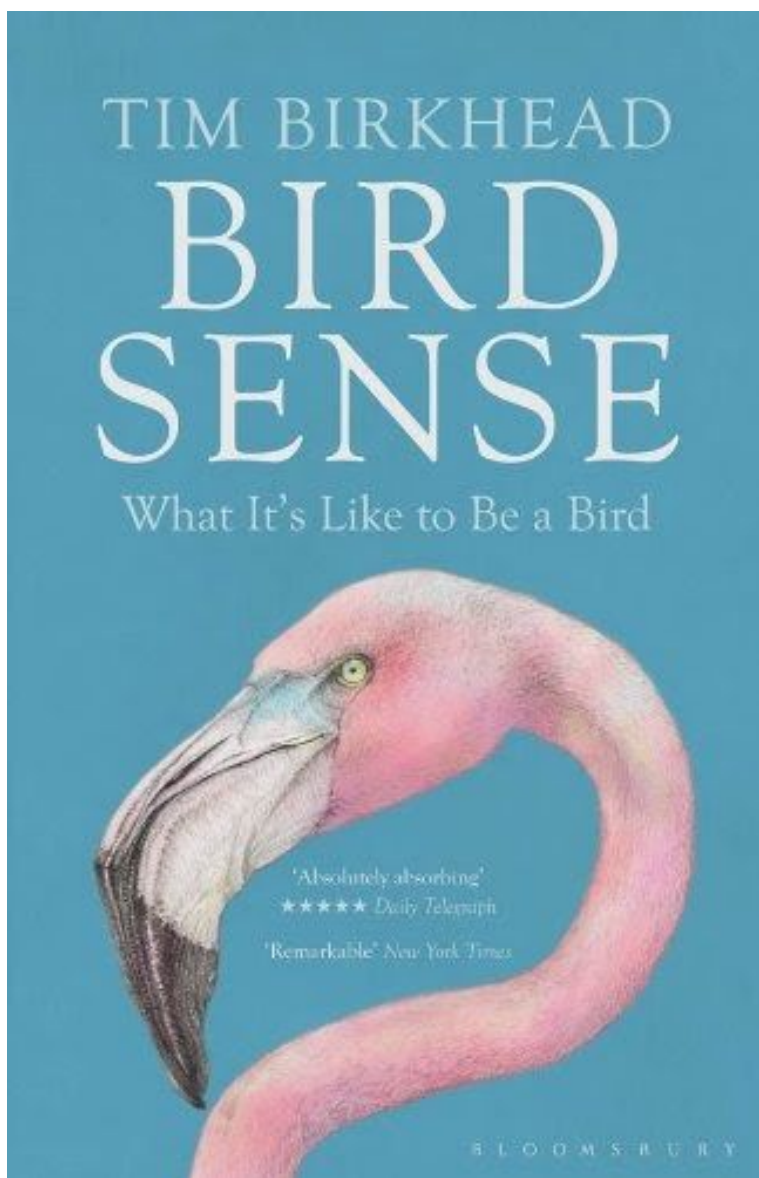
Do they feel emotions? Do they have a sense of smell - or of taste?

The mallard, for instance, has 400 taste buds (inside its bill rather than on its tongue) - which compares with 10,000 in humans.

He believes that as well as using both vision and hearing to find worms, American robins may also use smell and even "touch sensors" in their legs and feet.

Says Tim: "At present, we have a good basic understanding of at least some of the senses of birds, but the best is yet to come."

Bird Sense - What It's Like to Be a Bird is published by Bloomsbury at £16.99 and signed copies will be available at the AGM on 24th March 2020.



The Lincolnshire Bird Report 2018

If all goes to plan the report will be available for members at the **LBC AGM on 24th March 2020**. After that date it will be sent out to **ALL paid up members** by post.



On behalf of the Lincolnshire Bird Club (LBC) we are pleased to be in the final stages of the production of our annual report on the birds of Lincolnshire. The publication of the Bird Report involves a **huge amount of work**, with **many individuals** involved in its publication. Thanks are due to the observers and organizations who submit and share records to LBC. We have had two bird recorders for more than ten years but when **John Clarkson retired** at our March 2019 AGM, **Phil Hyde** agreed to continue as Recorder for the whole county on a trial basis. We'd like to thank both of them for all their hard and dedicated work. The Lincolnshire Bird Records Committee (LBRC) vets our records, Roy Harvey has provided stalwart support as secretary of the LBRC and thanks to James Siddle for recently taking on the role of Chair of LBRC. Particular thanks are due to **Colin and Sheila Jennings** for all the work undertaken in converting the raw data into the building blocks of the report, **Colin Casey** has continued to improve our Wildlife Recorder database most especially by developing machine means to convert external data into our database which continues to radically improve our data management for the purpose of report writing. We are extremely grateful to him and Jack Levene of Wildlife Recorder for the work they have done.

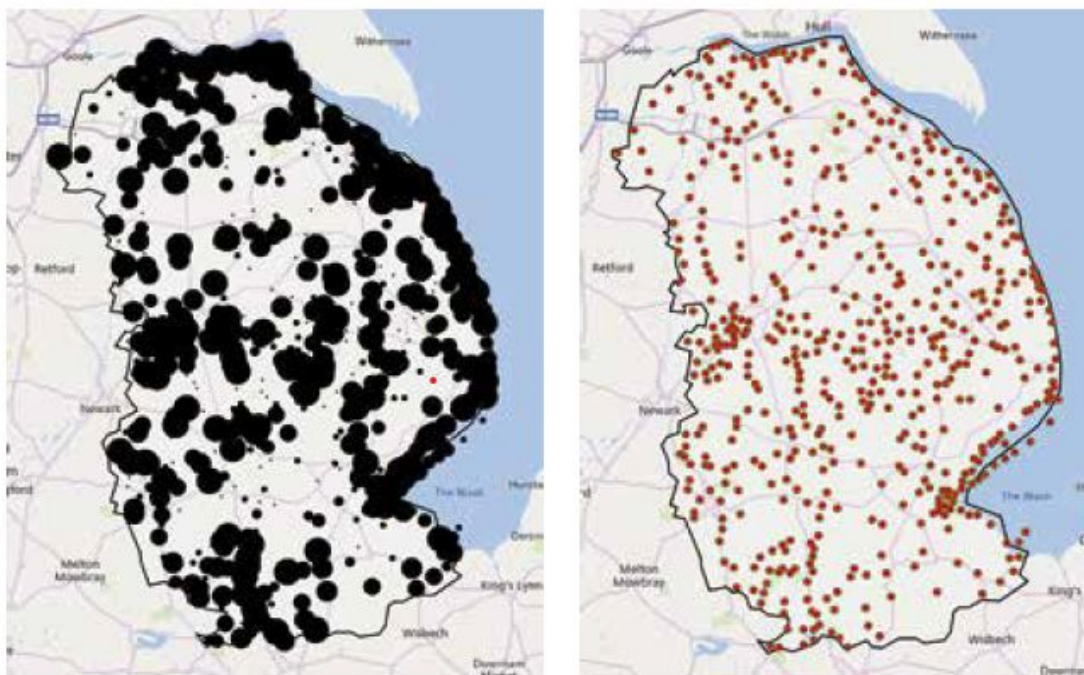


Figure 1 and 2. Show the density of records (left) and location of record (right) submitted in 2018.



Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana* Town's Hoit, Grimby Aug 11th 2018 Graham Catley



Buff Plover *Pluvialis pugnax* Frampton Marsh Apr 6th 2018 © Steve Nikos



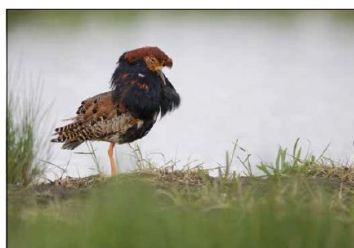
Little Gull *Larus minutus* Barton Pitts Apr 2018 © Graham Catley



Silt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* Frampton Marsh Aug 23rd 2018 © Paul Coombes



Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana* Town's Hoit, Grimby Aug 11th 2018 Graham Catley



Buff Plover *Pluvialis pugnax* Frampton Marsh May 18th 2018 © Neil Smith



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Silt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* & Red-necked Pintail *Plectropterus islandicus* Frampton Marsh Aug 23rd 2018 © Paul Coombes

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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.

The recording form is available here - 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

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
	North West				Central (cont'd)	
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			East	
TA01	A, B	Elsham		TF25	I	Coningsby
				TF26	N, T	Horncastle
	North East			TF35	J, N	Stickney
TA10	R	Caistor		TF36	U, Z, V	Old Bolingbroke
TA30	G	Tetney Lock		TF37	S, W	Tetford
				TF38	B, D, M	Louth
	West			TF39	P	Covenham
SK87	L, Z	Newton on Trent		TF47	H	Alford
SK88	L, R	Marton				
SK96	F, I	North Hykeham			South West	
SK97	V, X	Lincoln		SK84	N	Claypole
				SK93	Q, S	Grantham
	Central			SK94	J, V	Ancaster
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!

Lincolnshire records submissions for 2019

We are processing 2019 records as I type and would like all of your records in by the end of March 2020 if possible and by whatever means at your disposal, although if you are not a BTO Bird Track or eBird user, please contact Colin & Sheila Jennings for an LBC spreadsheet template which saves a lot of inputting time.

Most, if not all, records of BBRC and county rarity records have been fielded and submitted. The LBRC now monitors and collects data on county rarities in 'real' time which makes the task easier with respect to identifying the finder(s) and assessing the record at the time - most of the evidence is "published" on social media these days and LBRC assessors can more easily complete the (volunteer) work through the year rather than being confronted with 100+ to look at after the end of the current year. Phil Hyde (County Recorder) and James Siddle (LBRC Chairman).

NEW SUPREMO FOR WILDLIFE TRUSTS

THE new chief of The Wildlife Trusts has been named as Craig Bennett (pictured). The organisation consists of 46 county wildlife trusts - including the one for Lincolnshire.

Mr Bennett is unlikely to be a shrinking violet. He has a background in campaigning, most recently in his present position as chief executive of Friends of the Earth where he is currently serving out his notice.

He starts his new job in April and is successor to Stephanie Hilborne OBE who left this summer after 15 years in post. In the meantime, Patience Thody has been holding the reins as acting chief.



SONG OF THE FIELDFARE

IF the mild weather persists, there could be a chance of hearing a fieldfare in song before the last of this year's UK visitors fly back to Scandinavia. The phenomenon is far from unknown in Lincolnshire. A couple of years ago, one was singing in Scartho on the edge of Grimsby. Before anyone had thought of climate change, the winter of 1845-46 was also benign enough to encourage fieldfares to sing. This letter - a contribution from Edward Murch, of Honiton in Devon - appeared in an 1846 edition of The Zoologist journal.

"My attention was, on Sunday, January 25, directed to what I at first supposed to be the song of the blackbird, but observing something peculiar in it, I stopped to listen.

"On a nearer approach, I was not a little surprised to find it proceeded from a fieldfare which was so earnestly engaged in song as to allow me to approach so very near, I being partially concealed, that I could not be mistaken as to its identity. "The song of this bird, which is very rarely heard in this country, partakes of the melodious whistle of the blackbird, combined with the powerful voice of the mistle thrush.

"This rare occurrence may be attributed to the unusual mildness of the season which has called many of the feathered tribe into full song as in spring."

Unusual Treecreeper sighting

LBC Treasurer was out on his local patch in December and encountered some unusual Treecreeper activity:

On 30 December a bright, cloudless day, I was conducting a Birdtrack survey, which starts on Witham Rd. continues on the Viking Way to Green Lane, returning via Stixwould Rd. and back along Witham Rd. , a regular 2 mile round. At about 2.00 pm I heard blue tits and long-tailed tits calling in the topmost branches of a mature oak on Stixwould Rd. and stopped to count them. While doing so I noticed a treecreeper on one of the lower branches and could hear another calling across the road and one in a garden behind me. I was joined by Jim Cork, a resident of Woodhall and a member of RSPB and LWT, who stopped to see what had caught my attention. One treecreeper flew from the oak into the garden where I had heard one calling and another flew from the oak across the road into the woods. At this point I kept my binoculars on the oak tree and saw three treecreepers at the same time on the trunk and lower branches. I recorded five birds in my Birdtrack count but believe there may have been at least seven in the light of the birds calling at the start of my observation.

The other unusual aspect was that the treecreepers seemed to have little or no association with the tit species present. The tits were high up in the tree while the treecreepers occupied the trunk and lower branches and when they flew from the tree were not accompanied by any of the tits. I have consulted my BWP, admittedly now a bit out of date, but can find no reference to this behaviour in the UK.

Stock Dove record?

Dean Nicholson had a huge Stock Dove count in a field near Normanby by Spital on the 11th February when he counted a minimum of 220 feeding with 500+ Woodpigeons. Is this a county records?

TRIP REPORT – India February 2020 by Andrew & Caroline Chick

For the past month Caroline and I have been travelling in India. One of the aims of the trip was to look for Snow Leopard in Ladakh (northwest India) followed by some sightseeing in Amritsar (the Golden Temple), Varanasi (Mother Ganga), Khajuraho (1000 year old Temples) and finishing off in Panna Tiger Reserve (more big cats...).

This was our third trip to India and as always it was a life affirming and challenging trip.... we even managed a 27 hour slow train ride between Amritsar to Varanasi which certainly tested our resolve (and nostrils, being located next to the toilets in an overcrowded basic sleeper carriage with bars on the windows, all yours for a bargain £6 or 22p an hour)!

On our arrival in India we stayed overnight in New Delhi before flying on the next morning to Leh (with SpiceJet). In Leh we stayed in the Sial-ia Guest House (we were the only guests so they didn't turn on the heating but gave us a one-bar electric fire to keep warm!). Arriving in Leh (high in the Indian Himalayas at just over 3,500 metres) we were greeted with freezing conditions and sunny cloudless sky's (a chilly -7oC during the day and -30oC overnight). All the trip reports we had read before leaving home had recommended that you spend at least two days acclimatising prior to attempting any physical activity, personally I felt this wasn't enough and three days would probably have been better (!) as Caroline was briefly in hospital with acute altitude sickness and had to be pumped full of oxygen! This actually sounds more serious than it was.... as soon as the oxygen mask was fitted Caroline was almost instantaneously cured!



Having now visited Ladakh, I am confident that the chances of seeing Snow Leopard without a guide and a team of experienced spotters is ZERO! We booked our trip with local company 'Snow Leopard Quest' run by Jigmet Dadul and I can't praise him or his staff enough. Communication from the UK before we left was ultra efficient and Jigmet was extremely helpful and hugely knowledgeable. If you are thinking about heading out to Ladakh then please contact Jigmet (your money goes directly to the local people and he genuinely works very closely with the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust <http://snowleopardindia.org>).

Birding/sightseeing around Leh is excellent with a number of places to visit (just check out the eBird hotspots for local sites <https://ebird.org/region/IN-JK-LE?yr=all>), star bird was undoubtedly Ibisbill (at least 7 seen on the nearby River Indus). The monasteries are breathtaking (in more ways than one, just climbing a few steps took real effort due to the altitude).

With regards birding, I was advised to take my telescope and I'm glad I did. With most of the videos taken with my PhoneScope adapter and iPhone 8.

On the first morning of the 'Snow Leopard Safari' we were picked up from our hotel by Changchuk Dorjai and from that point we were looked after by Jigmet and the full team.... We were located in Hemis National Park and the scenery was simply stunning! We shared the experience with two other English ladies, making for a very enjoyable experience. We

camped (!) which was challenging but made possible by Jigmet and his amazing staff. We were supplied with four season sleeping bags and hot water bottles (I also took an extra silk liner and Caroline took an emergency 2nd down sleeping bag, but to be honest we were not cold at night - the fact that the condensation on the inside of the tent froze overnight shows how cold it gets and how good the supplied sleeping bags were. Each morning we were woken with 'bed tea' to make getting up just about bearable. We slept with cameras and batteries in our sleeping bags to keep them from draining in the intense cold - although there was electricity inside the 'heated' dinner tent for recharging equipment. However, in reality we didn't wash for a week and I only changed my base layer once - phewee! The food produced was exceptional and just 'appeared' on the mountainside (we would walk all morning, only to look down to see one of the team running up with canteens and flasks) - undoubtedly one of the most memorable meals was eating fresh/hot vegetable pakoras at over c4000 metres next to a frozen waterfall with piping hot chai while watching blue sheep grazing the surrounding peaks...



Guldenstadts Redstart in Hemis National Park

The trekking in Hemis is world class and one of the standout experiences of the visit was putting on crampons and walking up frozen rivers, past remote farmhouses and being offered hot yak butter tea while watching Robin-breasted Accentors... surrounded by stunning mountain scenery which echoed to the sound of both Red-billed and Alpine Choughs.

Interesting birds seen in Hemis NP included Himalayan Snowcock, Tibetan Partridge, Golden Eagle, Lammergeier, Solitary Snipe, Hill Pigeon, Black Dipper, Caucasian Horned Lark, White-browed Tit Warbler, Guldenstadts Redstart, Tibetan Snowfinch, Robin Accentor, Brown Accentor, Plain Mountain and Brandt's Mountain Finch, Great Rosefinch and Red-fronted Serin...in total about 60 species were recorded over the 10 day period (so quality not quantity). I failed to see Snow Pigeon and Wallcreeper

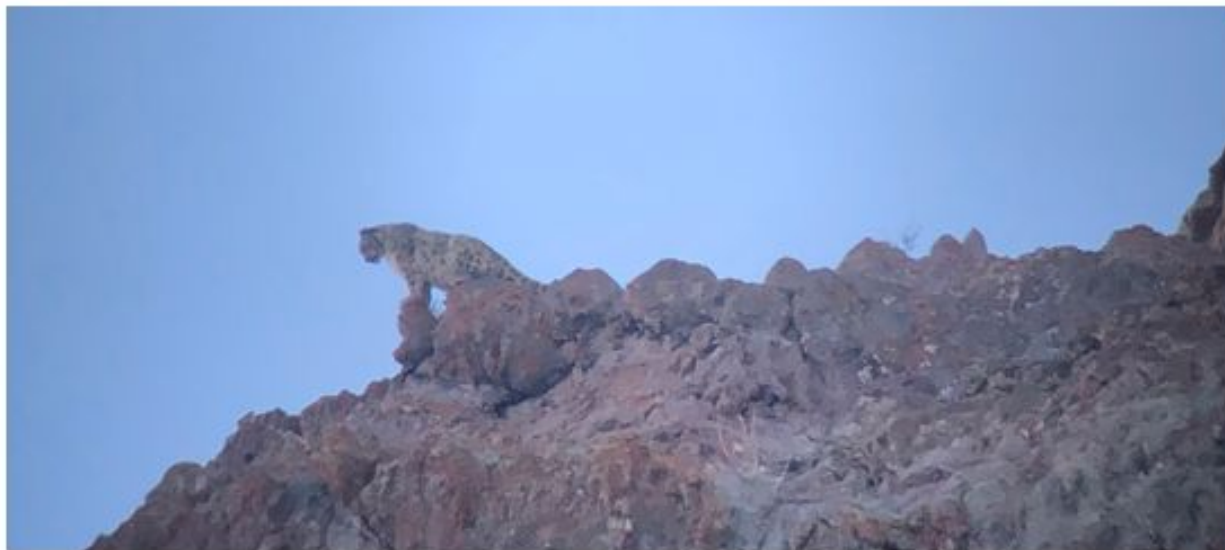
(everywhere looked so good for both species but it wasn't to be.. Wallcreeper should be guaranteed so not sure what went wrong!)

The daily routine included scanning mountainsides and ridgelines for large grey cats (or the Grey Ghost as they are often referred to...)... on the first day we arrived in camp at lunchtime and at about 3o'clock there was panic as a report of two Snow Leopards about two miles up the valley came through! We all bundled into two cars and drove to checkout the sighting. We parked about 300metres from the site and arrived breathless to find two spotters had the animals in their telescopes. We watched as the cats first crossed a scree slope, then traversed a mountainside before



pausing briefly on the ridge and then disappearing over the top, being lost from view.. in all we watched them for about an hour, but the terrain meant that occasionally they would disappear from view before reappearing further up the slope! On several occasions the cats called, a wonderfully evocative sound in the silent mountains. Although never close, the animals were c400/600 metre above us, but the overall impression was of two subtly marked animals, with huge feet, broad faces and long thick tails - pure feline class! Mission accomplished on day one!

The period late November to early March is the best time to see Snow Leopard as they are more likely to come down into the river valleys, they are more active during daylight hours and are often vocal, making locating them 'slightly' easier. During the summer period they favour spending daylight hours hiding in remote caves and are mostly silent and active only at night!



Snow Leopard in Hemis National Park

Prior to the trip I read *The Snow Leopard* by Peter Matthiessen, an epic book written in 1978 about a trip to study Blue Sheep and Snow Leopard in Nepal. It describes a scientific expedition where they failed to see a single Snow Leopard! In the introduction it suggests that at the time the book was written only two Westerners had seen Snow Leopard in the wild in the past 25 years...

For the rest of the trip we explored numerous river valleys, climbed steep mountain passes and generally put in a lot of effort into obtaining more snow leopard sightings but unfortunately we didn't see another cat! We had lots of views of blue sheep, red fox, large eared pikas and just missed out on two Tibetan Wolves.... the lack of further sightings wasn't a disappointment, the place itself is stunning and to visit Hemis National Park was a privilege in itself. In all we were in Hemis for seven days (and Ladakh for ten), but we could have spent much much more time there....

After we left Hemis we flew back to Delhi before travelling on to Amritsar to see the Golden Temple - which was beautiful! We then went to Varinasi and experienced life and death in all its forms - it was spiritual (if not a little smelly)! We then travelled to Khajuraho and saw the 1000 year old temples - they were impressive....

Finally, we spent three days on safari in Panna National Park - which compared with other Tiger Reserves I have visited was laid back and relaxed - we saw two Sloth Bear, Leopard and a stunning female tigress! We racked up over a 100 species of birds in the park and along the nearby River Ken. A few of my personal favourite species included Grey Francolin, Jungle Bush Quail, Black Stork, Egyptian, Himalayan, Griffon, Citreous and Red-headed Vulture, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Painted

Sandgrouse, Jungle Owlet, Savanna Nightjar, Syke's, Humes, Greenish and Green Warbler, Taiga Flycatcher, Blyth, Tree and Olive-backed Pipit.

We took four jeep rides in Panna (at dusk and dawn), and although I wasn't that worried about seeing tiger, it is always nice to see one! On the final dawn drive we concentrated on Tiger and at about 09.00am we heard Sambar Deer alarm calls.... a small group of four jeeps patiently waited at the bottom of a narrow ravine and after about 20 minutes out walked a massive female tiger... she just strolled past the waiting tourists (mostly Indian and all in awe), crossing the dirt track and disappeared back into the jungle. What a privilege to be in the presence of such a majestic creature. I would fully recommend visiting this reserve and staying in the nearby Jungle Camp. I have been to Ranthambore National Park where tiger spotting can become a bit of a circus with jeeps and guides jostling for position all in order to obtain a better tip! So, I was pleasantly surprised by the skill and knowledge of all the local guides, the low number of tourists and the good nature and consideration of the Jeep drivers at Panna.



Indian Roller in Panna Tiger Reserve

Especially thanks to Sam Leigh, Dave Farrow, Richard Berridge who helped with some advice/planning before leaving but particularly Jigmet Dadul and his team for sorting out the two Snow Leopards.... Having travelled back via three extremely busy airports with everyone wearing surgical masks the difficult decision to... Do we go back to work or self-isolate!!



Female Tigress in Panna Tiger Reserve

Lincolnshire Bird News - February 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. 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.

29/02/2020

Branston Fen

1 Bewick's Swan, 200 Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

6 Avocet, Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Harrier, 5000 Golden Plover, 40 Ruff, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

1 Brambling, 2 Chiffchaff, 2 Tundra Bean Goose (Croft Marsh), 5 Red-breasted Merganser, Water Pipit,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

RAF Woodhall Spa Airfield

4 Oystercatcher, 10 Redshank

28/02/2020

Gibraltar Point

Black-throated Diver

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

27/02/2020

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, 7000 Golden Plover, Water Rail, 4 Spotted Redshank, 108 Ruff, 145 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Horncastle

Siskin (small flock)

Marston

7 Little Egret

Norton Disney

2 Raven

Rimac

A single Snow Bunting

26/02/2020

Anderby Creek

100 Red-throated Diver, 3 Kittiwake

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Barn Owl, 12000 Golden Plover, 4 Spotted Redshank

Gibraltar Point

Great White Egret, Pale-bellied Bean Goose, 2 Tundra Bean Goose, Hen Harrier (male), 47 Water Pipit, Woodcock

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

25/02/2020

Chapel Observatory

Balearic Shearwater (south)

Deeping High Bank

cBarn Owl along the bank

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, 10 Goldeneye, Hen Harrier, 4 Marsh Harrier, 2000 Lapwing, Merlin, Golden Plover 12000, Stonechat, 130 Whooper Swan, 1000 Teal, 4000 Wigeon,

Gibraltar Point

23 Corn Bunting, 11 Red-throated Diver, Eider, Peregrine Falcon, Barnacle Goose, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 2 Tundra Bean Goose, 2 Marsh Harrier, Mediterranean Gull, 2 Kestrel, 2 Merlin, 2 Red-breasted Merganser, Barn Owl, 2 Tawny Owl, 10 Pintail, 38 Water Pipit, 10 Common Scoter, Sparrowhawk, Woodlark, 3 Great Spotted Woodpecker,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Woodhall Spa Airfield

Ring-necked Duck (female)

24/02/2020

Boultham Mere

Barn Owl

Killingholme

5 Avocet

Doddington Park, Lincoln

3 Bullfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Siskin

Gibraltar Point

Water Pipit, Tundra Bean Goose

Marston

18 Curlew, 3 Little Egret, 4 Goosander, Pink-footed Goose, Red Kite, c200 Teal

Middlemarsh Farm

Great White Egret

Short Ferry

Spotted Redshank

23/02/2020

Branston Ferry

Bewick's Swan, 200 Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

Avocet, 19 Coot, 51 Curlew, 165 Dunlin, Peregrine Falcon, 62 Gadwall, 38 Black-tailed Godwit, 68 Black-headed Gull, 22 Herring Gull, 2200 Brent Goose, 2 Hen Harrier, 3 Marsh Harrier, 3800 Lapwing, 211 Mallard, Merlin, 28 Moorhen, Barn Owl, 25 Pintail, 22 Rock Pipit, 32 Pochard, Water Rail, 117 Redshank, 3 Spotted Redshank, 104 Ruff, 216 Shelduck, 216 Shoveler, 131 Whooper Swan, 2 Cetti's Warbler, 4875 Wigeon

Gibraltar Point

Brambling, 32 Corn Bunting, Peregrine Falcon, 650 Dark-bellied Brent Goose, **Light-bellied Brent Goose**, **2 Tundra Bean Goose**, Merlin, **Waxwing**,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Short Ferry

Spotted Redshank

Trent Port, Marton

10 Coot, 60 Fieldfare, 6 Gadwall, 25 Linnet, 3 Barn Owl, 2 Tree Sparrow, 12 Teal, 2 Treecreeper, 90 Wigeon, 2 Green Woodpecker

Nocton Fen

Peregrine Falcon

Wolla Bank

Snow Bunting

22/02/2020

Belmont Tower

3 Buzzard, 2 Red Kite, Nuthatch, 3 Treecreeper

Chapel St Leonard's

10 Snow Bunting

Cleethorpes

Purple Sandpiper

Frampton Marsh

50 Pink-footed Goose, Hen Harrier, Merlin, 150 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

700 Brent Goose, 1100 Pink-footed Goose, 2 Tundra Bean Goose, 15 Red-breasted Merganser, 9 Pintail

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Nocton Fen

Red Kite

Short Ferry

100 Lapwing, 60 Golden Plover, 20 Redshank, Spotted Redshank,

Wainfleet Marsh

Buzzard, 450 Curlew, 1500 Bar-tailed Godwit, Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, 15000 Knot, 2500 Oystercatcher, 1000 Golden Plover, 120 Redshank

21/02/2020

Branston Causeway

165 Whooper Swan

Boultham Mere

Brent Goose



The Dark-bellied Brent Goose that earlier had been at Boultham Mere - Image © Andy Sims

Frampton Marsh

Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, 25 Pink-footed Geese, Goldeneye, 2 Hen Harrier, 2 Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Barn Owl, Snipe, Sparrowhawk, Whooper Swan,

Gibraltar Point

Red-throated Diver, 29 Eider, 1200 Pink-footed Goose, 6 Great Crested Grebe, 10 Red Breasted Merganser, Water Pipit, Woodcock,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Lincoln Cathedral

2 Peregrine Falcon

Lincoln University

4 Goldcrest (in the middle of the campus)

Woodhall Spa Airfield

Ring-necked Duck

Nocton Fen

55 Whooper Swan

Whisby

2500 starling (over bypass at dusk)

20/02/2020

Boultham

c35 Tree Sparrow

Boultham Mere

Cetti's Warbler, 45 Cormorant

Cleethorpes

Purple Sandpiper, 41 Turnstone

Gibraltar Point

Long-tailed Duck, 900 Pink-footed Geese, 2 Tundra Bean Goose, Hen Harrier (male), 8 Pintail, 16 Water Pipit, 14 Snipe

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Lincoln

Sparrowhawk (Doddington Park garden)

Rothwell

Marsh Harrier

Snipe Dales

c40 Siskin



Siskin at Snipe Dales today - Image © John Clarkson

Wragby

Rough-legged Buzzard

19/02/2020

Apex Pits

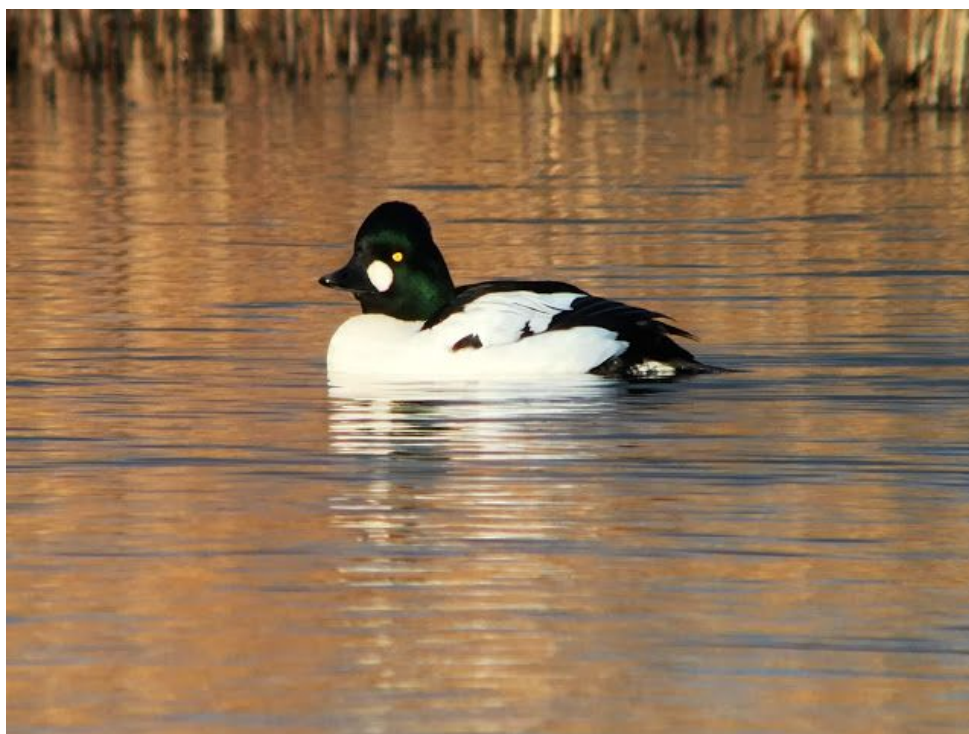
12 Siskin (east side)

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Greenshank, 4 Barnacle Goose, 2 Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, Stonechat, 100 Whooper Swan, 2 Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

Barn Owl, 959 Pink-footed Goose, 41 Water Pipit, Woodcock



A cracking photo of a male Goldeneye - Image © Ben Ward

Grantham

2 Raven (St Wulfram's Church)

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Pyewipe, Grimsby

Glaucous Gull

Langworth

Cattle Egret (?) up to 4 being reported

Trent Port, Marton

Little Egret, 2 Oystercatcher, Barn Owl, 570 Lapwing

Stickford

2 Grey Partridge

Snipe Dales

24 Bullfinch, 4 Red Kite, 8 Lesser Redpoll, 46 Siskin, 5 Willow Tit, 7 Woodcock

18/02/2020

Chapel St Leonards

12 Snow Bunting

Cleethorpes

Purple Sandpiper

Far Ings

Bittern

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, 4 Barnacle Goose, Hen Harrier 2, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Spotted Redshank,

Gibraltar Point

2 Tundra Bean Goose

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Woodhall Spa Airfield

Ring-necked Duck

17/02/2020

Andeby Marsh

48 Curlew, 21 Gadwall, 80 Lapwing, Barn Owl, 2 Pintail, Sanderling, 114 Teal

Chapel Observatory

218 Red-throated Diver

Cleethorpes

Snow Bunting (saltmarsh), **Purple Sandpiper** (between Station and Wonderland), 56 Turnstone



Purple Sandpiper, Cleethorpes - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Cut End

Hen Harrier (two males)

Donna Nook

Kestrel, 500 Oystercatcher, 12 Sanderling, 6 Skylark, 120 Redshank, 100+ **Twite**

Fiskerton Fen

Great White Egret, Marsh Harrier, 400 Wigeon

Frampton Marsh

Kingfisher, Bar-tailed Godwit, 7 Goldeneye, 4 Barnacle Goose, Hen Harrier, Water Raul, 2 Spotted Redshank, Stonechat, 116 Whooper Swan

Gibraltar Point

700 Eider, Fulmar, 7 Gannet, 25 Red-breasted Merganser, 12 Pintail, **Water Pipit**, Woodcock

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush, Mistle Thrush

Howdens Pullover

Male and female **Hen Harriers** in the air together

Paradise Pool

100 Redshank, 56 Shoveler, 150 Teal

16/02/20

Boultham Mere

6 Goosander, 6 Yellowhammer

Deeping High Bank

Turnstone

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush, - and behind Pennell's 13 Curlew, 50 Black-tailed Godwit, 2 Redshank and 5 gull species

Trent Port, Marton

9 Bullfinch, 2 Little Egret, 18 Gadwall, Goldeneye, Barn Owl, 2 Oystercatcher, Grey Partridge, Red-necked Partridge, 2 Raven, 185 Wigeon

Marston

16 Curlew, Kingfisher, 85 Lapwing, 35 Snipe

15/02/2020 (Storm Dennis)

Anderby Marsh

41 Curlew, 31 Greylag Goose, 35 Canada Goose, Little Egret, 2 Little Grebe, Kestrel, 83 Lapwing, Magpie 910 Mallard, 280 Starling, 75 Teal, 14 Sanderling, 2 Shoveler, 20 Pied Wagtail

Cleethorpes

Purple Sandpiper (Wonderland)

Gibraltar Point

6 Pintail, In contrast to yesterday just a single **Water Pipit**

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Lincoln Cathedral

Peregrine Falcon

14/02/2020

Boultham

225 Pink-footed Geese over

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Donna Nook

Black Brant, Snow Bunting, Hooded Crow, Twite

Dunsby Fen

Short-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Pink-footed Geese, Hen Harrier Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Golden Plover, Skylark, 3 Bewick's Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

Great White Egret, 11 Pintail, 37 Water Pipit, Water Rail, Stonechat

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Hartsholme Park

2 Tawny Owl

Nocton/Branston Fen

260 Whooper Swan

Woodhall Spa Airfield

Ring-necked Duck (female)

13/02/2020

Branston Fen

175 Whooper Swan

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier

Gibraltar Point

Great White Egret, 2 Tundra Bean Goose, Water Pipit

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Nocton Fen

7 Berwick Swan, 70 Whooper Swan

Short Ferry

Egyptian Geese, 3 Red-breasted Geese (escapees?)

12/02/2020

Chapel Observatory

343 Red-throated Diver

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Donna Nook

Snow Bunting

Gibraltar Point

90+ red-throated Diver, Tundra Bean Goose, Mediterranean Gull, Hen Harrier, 12 Red-breasted Merganser, 3 Siskin

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Trent Port, Marton

4 Gadwall, 42 Greylag Geese, 5 Lapwing, 2 Oystercatcher, 4 Redshank, 35 Redwing, 1 Snipe, 10 Teal, 195 Wigeon,

11/02/2020

Cut End

Eider, Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Harrier, 6 Red-breasted Merganser, Jack Snipe

Frampton Marsh

Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Oystercatcher, Snipe



Eider at Cut End - Image © Dave Roberts

Gibraltar Point

Lapland Bunting, 12 Red-throated Diver, 1600 Eider, 2 Tundra Bean Goose 31 Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

10/02/2020

Boultham Park

6 Tufted Duck, 2 Jay, 69, Mallard, 45 Moorhen, Nuthatch, 4 Mute Swan, Treecreeper

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Gibraltar Point

Tundra Bean Goose, Water Pipit

Short Ferry

Cattle Egret

09/02/2020 (Storm Ciara)

Deeping Lakes

3 Long-eared Owl

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Marston

Coot 1, Curlew 15, Gadwall 43, 275 Greylag Goose, 50 Black-headed Gull, 15 Lapwing, 39 Mallard, 4 Moorhen, Green Sandpiper, Teal 250, Wigeon 1

08/02/2020

Boultham

2 Red Kite

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Little Stint, Cetti's Warbler, 10000+ Golden Plover, **Little Stint**, Stonechat, 70 Whooper Swan, Green Woodpecker

Gibraltar Point

Black Brant, Pale-bellied Brent-Goose, Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Water Pipit,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Hartsholme Park

2 Great Spotted Woodpecker

Swanholme Lakes

8 Little Egret

Woodhall Spa Airfield

Ring-necked Duck (female), Great White Egret

Short Ferry

Cattle Egret still, plus 5+ Ruff, 2 Dunlin, 20 Redshank, 3000+ GP, thousands of Lapwing, 16 Pintail & 43 Barnacle Geese on Branston Island

7/02/2020

Baston Fen

Water Pipit

Donna Nook

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

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, (ring-tail), Marsh Harrier, 3 Merlin, 3 Spotted Redshank, **Little Stint**, Bearded Tit

Gibraltar Point

Blackcap, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, Tundra Bean Goose, Water Rail, **Richard's Pipit**,

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Huttoft

15 Barnacle Geese

Neville Wood

Marsh Tit, Nuthatch

Sandilands

2 Stonechat



Nuthatch, Neville Wood - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Nocton Fen

Up to 218 Whooper Swan

Short Ferry

Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, 12 Shelduck

06/02/2020

Chapel Six Marsh

Bearded Tit, 3 Cetti's Warbler

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Great White Egret, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Spotted Redshank, Stonechat, 12 Whooper Swan, 3 Twite, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

2 Tundra Bean Geese

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Hartsholme Park

3 Goosander, Nuthatch, Grey Wagtail (in the same spot as yesterday), Great Spotted Woodpecker



Grey Wagtail, Hartsholme Park - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Marston STW

Greylag 120, Pink-footed 1, Whooper Swan 2, Gadwall 7, Wigeon 4, Mallard 7, Teal 136, Pheasant 1, Woodpigeon 10, Water Rail 2, Moorhen 3, Lapwing 9, Snipe 27, Green Sand 2, Black-headed Gull 200, Cormorant 1, Little Egret 1, Red Kite 1, Magpie 1, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Blue tit, Great tit, Cetti's Warbler 2, Long-tailed Tit 6, Goldcrest 1, Wren, Starling 240, Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, Grey Wagtail 4, Pied Wagtail c100, Meadow Pipit 2, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Reed bunting



Part of the flock of 16 Curlew at Marston STW © Andrew Chick

Short Ferry

Cattle Egret

Theddlethorpe St Peter

40+ Whooper Swan

Woodhall Spa Airfield

Ring-necked Duck (female), Great White Egret

05/02/2020

Frampton Marsh

Bearded Tit, Greenshank, Kingfisher, Hen Harrier (ring tail), Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Ruff, Stonechat, 6 Whooper Swan, Twite, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Gibraltar Point

Barnacle Goose, Merlin, Red-crested Pochard

Grantham

2 Peregrine Falcon, Raven

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Hartsholme Park

3 Grey Heron, 2 Goosander (m&f), Nuthatch, 2 Tawny Owl, Grey Wagtail

Short Ferry

Cattle Egret

Swanholme Lakes

Blue Tit (in private garden adjacent to the NR), 9 Little Egret, 6 Goldcrest, female Goosander, Grey Heron, Redwing, 2 Shoveler



Interesting looking Blue Tit, similar to one at Whisby a few years ago - image © John Farmer

04/02/2020

Belmont

2 Jay, 2 Red Kite, 2 Green Woodpecker

Chapel Observatory

562 Red-throated Diver

Cleethorpes

One Snow Bunting (in dunes near yacht club)

Frampton Marsh

Avocet, 60+ Curlew, Peregrine Falcon, Fieldfare, 2 Goldeneye, Marsh Harrier, 5 Twite, 20 Pintail, 12000 Golden Plover plus over 1000 Brent Geese at Cut End

Gibraltar Point

Great Northern Diver, 10 Red-throated Diver, Peregrine Falcon, Fulmar, Gannet, Goldeneye, 4 Goosander, Kittiwake, 5 Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin, Water Pipit, Red-crested Pochard, 2 Stonechat

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush (PLEASE NOTE After contact with the college by the Bird Club, birders are welcome)

03/02/2020

Cleethorpes

Purple Sandpiper

Gibraltar Point

11 Corn Bunting, Peregrine Falcon, Light-bellied Brent Goose, 900 Pink-footed Goose, Hen Harrier, 2 Marsh Harrier, , Merlin, Water Pipit

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush (PLEASE NOTE that the college security staff have asked photographers to vacate the area)

02/02/2020

Chapel Observatory

Great Northern Diver, Balearic Shearwater (south)

Cleethorpes

Purple Sandpiper



Purple Sandpiper, Cleethorpes - Image © John Clarkson

Cress Marsh - Stallingborough

4 Green Sandpiper

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

2 Great White Egret, Mediterranean Gull, 2 Merlin, 9 Goldeneye, c14000 Golden Plover, 2 Stonechat, 40 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Frithville

Raven

Gibraltar Point

Lapland Bunting, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 10 Red-breasted Merganser, 2 Pintail, c25 Common Scoter, 3 Woodcock

Grimsby

Black-throated Thrush

Roxby Carrs

Hooded Crow

Woodhall Spa Airfield

Ring-necked Duck

01/02/2020

Baston Fen

2 ring-tailed Hen Harriers

Chapel Observatory

318 Red-throated Diver, Long-tailed Duck (F/imm) and 2 Great Crested Grebe

Cleethorpes

Purple Sandpiper

Cress Marsh - Stallingborough

4 Green Sandpiper

Evedon

2 Raven

Far Ings

Goldeneye, Kingfisher

Frampton Marsh

Avocet, 4 Goldeneye, Greenshank, Hen Harrier (M&F), Merlin, Water Rail, Spotted Redshank, Stonechat, 54 Whooper Swan

Gibraltar Point

35 Redwing, 5 Pintail, 48 Shoveler, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Grimsby

[Black-throated Thrush](#) (again by Grimsby Institute) from 07.00am

Marston

Red Kite

Saltfleetby St Peter

[Tundra Bean Goose](#) with the Whooper Swans

Walesby Moor

2 Mistle Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Willow Tit

Woodhall Spa Airfield

[Ring-necked Duck](#), 2 Green Sandpiper and 2 Marsh Harrier

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

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

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

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-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

