



## Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - May 2020

### eNewsletter Content;

New Sandilands NT Reserve	1	Building for bats	13
Garden Birding	2	2019 The winners....	14
Database Changes	8	White tailed Eagles in Lincs	16
Volunteers Data	9	The 2018 LBC Report	17
Back in the Day	10	Bird Apps	18
It's Official.....and Barn Owl webcam	12	Prioritising Structure	19
What's under your feet	13	LBC April 2020 Bird News	20

### **PLANS to convert an 18-hole Lincolnshire golf course to a nature reserve should prove a boost both for birds and for birders.**

Following the demise of the par-70 Sandilands links course at Sutton-on-Sea, the National Trust has acquired it for a figure reported to be in the region of £800,000. The trust's stated intention is to transform the 74-acre course into a multi-habitat reserve which should prove a magnet for a wide variety of species, including migrants (with the odd rarity or two thrown in for good measure). Sandilands nature reserve will be another precious segment of the wider 3,500-acre Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park.

The trust, which is 125 this year, says it is delighted with the purchase - not least because this will be its first coastal reserve in the Midlands. Its website announcement states: "We will be creating new habitat for a variety of wildlife including breeding birds, such as snipe, lapwings and oystercatchers and for less common species such as black-tailed godwits, spotted redshanks and spoonbills.



"This project is being made possible thanks to the generous donation of one supporter who particularly asked for the money to be invested in Lincolnshire and to funds from our long-running Neptune Coastline Campaign." The trust will have, as partners in the venture, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council and the Environment Agency.

However, there is also likely to be a role for the Lincolnshire Bird Club according to the trust's wildlife advisor, Carl Hawke, who has welcomed the interest shown by club chairman Phil Espin and others. He said: "I am about to be furloughed but, at some point I'd like to set up a bird monitoring scheme for the site which may be something LBC can assist with. "It would be useful to have some pre-project works data and, subsequently, we will want to know how birds are responding to our initiatives."

It is not yet known when the current Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted sufficient to allow works to start on this exciting project.

\* Photo of the Sandilands site courtesy of the National Trust.

## **Garden Birding - ideas for your feeder setup that can deliver results**

After being asked to pen this article on photographing birds in the garden this reminded me that back in February 2016 in a blog post on my not updated enough website where I asked the question "Is garden birding real birding?" ([stevenesbitt.co.uk/blog/2016/2/is-garden-birding-real-birding](http://stevenesbitt.co.uk/blog/2016/2/is-garden-birding-real-birding)) that today with us all adapting to life under the global Coronavirus situation seems that it certainly has increased in importance for us if only for a certain period of time.

I would firstly like to quantify things, I do not consider myself a birder to anywhere near the level of many more esteemed, knowledgeable and dedicated birders in this great club. I am a lover of all birds, always have been since childhood and the fact I also enjoy photography then it is logical to me to try to combine the two and photograph birds when the opportunity arises; be that at the local park, patch or reserve and of course the garden. So, this article is from the angle of someone who is an amateur, part-time birder, whose 'birding lists' are mostly in the form of the images taken, also I am a self-taught photographer who is a long way from being an expert.

### **Our gardens**

Our gardens are of course placed in many different surrounding areas; rural, suburban and properly urban locations in city centres but with a little effort as we all know we can work to attract the local and sometimes passing birdlife to come and grace us with their presence, a lot of the time these visits are over quickly too! As I am sure many of us are aware our gardens (big or small) can be one of the best places to see birds close up and also give us the opportunity to hone our photographic skills (if that's what you want to do) and capture different images of the species that visit your own garden at the same time.



My back garden above borders a school and the trees along this boundary acts as the main road for birds to move along into the gardens to seek food, water and nesting sites. Far right is a lane approximately 90° to my road that also houses many opportunities for birds to live all year round.

### Feeding stations and Perches

The food we provide are one of the reasons birds come into our gardens in the first place and with a little thought you can set up things that the birds are getting the food that at certain times of the year is very important to them but also you can begin to plan around these areas to see what natural looking photo's you can achieve.

There are things to consider such as food placement, perches, light direction, background and of course your own concealment to ensure the visiting birds are not scared to come in and feed in the first place with you in the area. This is all about personal choice and with a wide range of choices the options out there for feeders, tables etc. you should be able to find something to suit.

From the aspect of bird photography, thinking about the available perches is another key point for me, as we know birds will land after flying from in a safe area in a tree or bush and can and will land on what they then feel is a safe perch before going into the actual food source once it becomes safe for them to do so. I feel it is worth considering not having too many places for birds to feed on as it can make it more challenging in regard to where the birds will first land when coming down to feed when you want to try to photograph them.

If you are set up in a hide and you see a bird land on a perch you are not focusing on and you quickly swing your camera and lens combo to where the bird is; invariably it flies off with the movement and may well fly off and not come back.

Choose perches that are simple and have a little character if possible with some lichen or moss on them to some degree on a perch can add to the overall image. Also put perches a little away from the food on offer so you can lessen the chance of having all or part of a feeder or table in the shot too.



### Light direction

If you haven't got anything setup permanently yet, just spend a day or so looking at the light in your garden through the day. Track the path of the sun across your garden, for me with my garden facing just north of west and I photograph from the house in the morning moving towards the middle of the garden from around 1pm to sunset where the sun drops behind the trees causing shadows in the garden. Most of my photos are taken from my portable one-man chair hide in between our summer house and garden shed as the light lessens in harshness as it fades towards sunset, this is just under 30 feet away at its furthest point from the feeding areas.





The hide in the image above is in a position for mid-afternoon photography when the sun is at its back. I don't stay in one spot either when looking to photograph the birds, I alternate my hide positions from time to time to try to get different images and even laying on the grass for low levels shots can pay dividends if the birds are calling into feed and you can happily lay still on the grass for an hour!

### Background

I am not only not a proper birder as stated previously but also not a gardener (at all!) and so my back garden has only 2 lawns (if you can call them that!) and a trio of garden shrubs, one each of Piraeus, Camellia and Forsythia with the latter two having had both Dunnock and Blackbird successfully rear young in the past. This can cause problems regarding background quality due to having fencing panels all around the back garden. So, consider changing my perches around with maybe one tall part so when birds perch it is above the fencing panel – always thinking of your camera position and angle here too so it is not too high.



Above a Lesser Redpoll with dark fencing and post in the background and below Goldfinch with more pleasing to the eye; natural foliage background.



### Concealment

I have a few locations in my back garden (measuring approx. 40 feet x 60 feet) that I can 'hide' from the birds, a summerhouse in the corner of the garden, a garden shed half way down my garden and my Stealth Gear one-man chair hide. The portable chair hide gives total flexibility in placement, I use this placed near my conservatory around 50 feet from my feeding area to try to get shots of the nervous Stock Doves which sometimes visit us. Using the portable hide also allows for moving around to match the ever-changing light conditions.



There are many makes of hide on the market, you can get if you wish, mine like most makes fits in a convenient carry bag and I have used it in the field trying to get Stonechat and Short Eared Owl images for instance in the past. I also have a decent sized section of scrim netting I hang over doorways when using my garden shed or wife's summer house as a hide, the latter has comfier chairs and carpet in it so it's always a good option! Pop-up hides manufacturers to consider are Simon King, Nitehawk, Riverside, Wailmex and Tragopan with many more on the market I am sure.

### Camera settings

Not a lot to say here apart from shoot on manual if you can, this allows you to adapt to the possible fast changing light, from sunlight to cloud cover etc. adaptations via tweaking the ISO, F stop (aperture) settings and over and under exposure settings. If your camera allows then put it into 'quiet or silent mode'. My Canon 7D mark II has a silent mode both single and continuous shots (4 shots a second) and I always try to use this when in the hide and this setting definitely helps in not startling the more nervous birds you may encounter close up.

### Surprises can come with patience

We all know the hours have to be put in to see the birds on local patches etc. it's exactly the same for the garden and in time you get lucky. Like the time back in September 2015 where a female Bullfinch dropped in with 4 young birds, I could not believe my luck as the fledgling Bullies drank and fed for about 5 minutes before being led off by the female. I have only seen young Bullfinch in my garden once and was extremely lucky to get some nice images of the young like this one below.



We can get Song Thrush in our garden maybe 4/5 times a year so to be in the hide and one appears in view is always a great pleasure.





Winter-time has been good for me for winter visitors with Lesser Redpoll, Siskin and Bramblings luckily passing through for the last few years and when they are visiting re-arranging the hide to face the trees at the end of the garden produces a more natural image when needed.

Once these 3 species are in the area - especially the Redpolls - you can generally rely on them calling back, hearing them call in the trees first then it is a waiting game for them to come into feed and hopefully land on a perch you want them to, but if they won't turn your set up to face the trees, this helps with the nervier species too that only have the odd sortie into the garden too feed.



The delightful Siskin can also drop into our garden but much less often than Redpolls and Bramblings but if I am around when they do I cannot resist trying to get a pleasing image of them.



Only a couple of weeks ago when in the chair hide I heard a 'thud' and looked to my left to see a magnificent female Sparrowhawk surveying the feeding station, it was unsuccessful and a few clicks of the camera later (even on silent mode!) and off she went to hunt elsewhere but even for a few seconds it's great to see these birds so close isn't it?



Don't forget the skies too!

As we are all on lockdown as I write this I am on 41 species in and above the garden since the restrictions began and I have a total of 61 species in the 22 years I have lived here, with Osprey and Hobby being my highlights, both of these were seen a few years back. I do hope that you are not suffering from a bad neck with all this looking up!

Happy birding wherever your garden may be.

Steve Nesbitt 2020

## **IMPORTANT NEWS - LBC database changes**

Over the past 3 years we have been sorting through the records in the LBC database. The first task was putting all the records we had in multiple databases into one master database. We then rationalised the 13000+ site names we had in our records to just 890; we had 226 different formats in use for Gibraltar Point for example. This had arisen because Bird Track, principally, allows individuals to define and name their own sites (making a selection from a drop-down menu would have been preferable). Nothing has been lost during this process as the observer-specific site name is now kept in the record notes - thus one 'master' site name in the LBC database will have a large number of 'subsites' within it, all records from which will still be referred to the 'master' site name in the data sorting process.

### **LBC taxonomic usage**

The LBC committee unanimously agreed to follow the BOU and BBRC in adopting the IOC taxonomic order and species nomenclature from 2016 onwards. This involved the conversion of 2.5 million records which were then validated to check for mistakes, a process which took 70 hours and has made the results much more useful.

### **LBRC and BBRC record checking**

Next, we added all records for BBRC species to the master database adding a BBRC reference to each one. LBRC records are receiving the same treatment so that we can ultimately give assess and summarise them at the touch of a button. Previously, much scanning of the paper reports has had to be done and some minor errors have occurred in the past. In addition, we have also updated the GLNP with our latest data which was last done in 2015. The whole process has been a huge undertaking but well worth it in the end.

### **Changes to world taxonomies and recent developments**

A few of the changes are significant and need explaining. Since the first classification of Birds was developed by Francis Willughby and John Ray published *Ornithologiae Libri Tres* 1676 (in Latin) taxonomy has been something of a mystery to the



common man. Handbook of the Birds of the World (HBW), Howard and Moore, Clements and the IOC have been the main taxonomies for a while now, but a consensus has not yet been reached (although they are rumoured to BE working towards one). Recently HBW has been taken over by the eBird group based at Cornell University and they have launched a new publication Birds of the World that combines Birds of North America and Neotropical Birds (originally published by the Cornell Lab) with Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive and Bird Families of the World (originally published by Lynx Edicions).

In the UK the taxonomic approaches taken by the BOU, BTO, British Natural History Museum and RSPB all differ slightly and they update at different and often infrequent times. Add to this the fact that DNA analyses now split species which the human eye cannot tell apart in the field and the statement "Taxonomy is a nightmare" sums it up for us mere mortals.

### LBC approach

So, what are the LBC doing? Well we base our records on the very latest version of IOC taxonomy using their recommended Latin names but varying in our use of the British common names such as Diver (not Loon) and Skua (not Jaeger) – changes to these seem unlikely to be agreed!

So, we use the binomial IOC Latin names, and for a minority of species which have recognisable races, the trinomial Latin name, e.g. Brent Goose is recorded as Brent Goose (Dark-bellied), Brent Goose (Pale-bellied) and Black Brant. The bulk of our data is imported from Bird Track and eBird; we also have a team of volunteers adding records to a standard LBC Excel spreadsheet which is also periodically imported. Variations in the species/sub-species available to the observer when entering a record cause us some headaches at times though.

**Pied and White Wagtail** records are one of the most frequently encountered errors, due to a mixture of identification problems (flyovers, plus autumn juvenile plumages) and input errors. We would like observers to ensure that they select one of these options only:

Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>
Pied/White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>

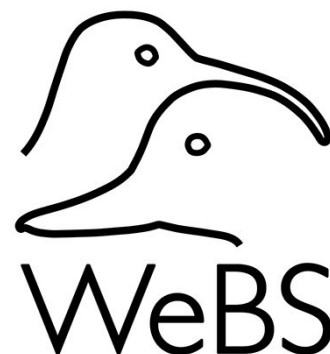
The third choice above should be used for flyovers and difficult-to-identify autumn (mainly) birds. Please use the first two choices only when identification is certain. This sounds completely obvious, but it's not what we are seeing in our database!

**Eurasian and Green-winged Teal** records in eBird. In this application the user is given an either/or choice in the species checklists as these two species are not split in the Clements taxonomy. So..after entering a count please go back to select the 'Change species' button and Eurasian Teal can be individually selected.

Colin Casey and Phil Hyde.

### Volunteers' data vital in wetland conservation

Data collected by volunteers as part of the Wetland Bird Survey, and published in a report today, play a crucial role in the designation of protected wetland sites in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and underline their importance in helping to conserve our waterbirds. Many of the UK's wetlands are given protected status as a result of the number of ducks, geese, swans and waders that use these sites during the winter. Once a month, a network of volunteers go out to wetlands across the length and breadth of the country to count the waterbirds present as part of the long-running Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). Data have been collected for over 70 years, providing vital information on which sites are the most important for waterbirds, leading to their designation as protected sites. WeBS counts also capture notable changes in the numbers of waterbirds present, flagging-up issues that may require further investigation. Today's WeBS report sets out evidence that more than a third of the waterbird species that use our most important and protected wetlands have



declined by 25% or more. Some of these declines are because of large-scale changes in global waterbird distributions due to climate change; others may be due to local problems at individual sites. Several declining ducks and waders, such as Scaup, Goldeneye and Purple Sandpiper, are becoming increasingly reliant on protected sites. One species, the Pochard, Red-listed under both the UK Birds of Conservation Concern and IUCN Global Red List, clearly demonstrates the immense value of these protected areas. Whilst overall winter numbers in the UK are half what they used to be, numbers at protected sites have declined at a comparatively slower rate. In Northern Ireland, virtually no Pochard now occur outside these protected areas. The latest figures highlight the importance of long-term monitoring, not only for keeping an eye on our wintering waterbirds but also on the sites that they use. It is this long-term monitoring that helps to future-proof our protected area network for waterbirds as the climate continues to change. Teresa Frost, WeBS National Organiser at British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), said "WeBS results from the mild, dry winter of 2018/19 showed evidence for some migratory waterbirds spending less time here. Wigeon, for example, had lower numbers than usual in autumn and spring – perhaps because they were able to spend more of the period closer to their breeding grounds, with mild conditions on the Continent. For other species, declines in winter counts here are related to pressures from climate change, habitat loss and other pressures in their breeding and wintering areas. It's essential that we keep monitoring, both here and in other countries, and combine this information with other scientific studies, so we can build the picture of which species, such as Curlew and Pochard, are most in need of international conservation effort." Anna Robinson, Monitoring Ecologist at the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), said, "Having a long term dataset such as WeBS is of immense value in helping us understand the big picture of biodiversity trends, areas that are important for wildlife, and how designated protected sites can help. Without so many dedicated volunteers going out and counting the birds that use these sites, the picture would be much poorer." Simon Wotton, Senior Conservation Scientist at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), said "This report highlights the importance of excellent, long-term, monitoring. Many of the sites surveyed under WeBS are of international importance and designated as Special Protection Areas, currently under EU law. These data help us ensure that these important habitats for wildlife remain protected." To view the full report, please visit: [www.bto.org/webs-annual-report](http://www.bto.org/webs-annual-report)

#### **BACK IN THE DAY: BIRD-NETTING ON THE WASH**

Although he is now seldom read, John Henry Gurney Jnr was a prolific ornithological commentator of the mid-19th Century. He contributed regularly to *The Zoologist*, the forerunner journal to *British Birds*. It was a time when serious study of birds involved not just observing them but also killing them in order that everything about them could be scrutinised - their plumage, their size, their shape and the contents of their crop. Shooting was normal, but so, too, was netting as Gurney describes here in account of what happened in winter on stretches of The Wash.

In 1873 I saw, for the first time at Blakeney, nets for catching birds at night on the muds. They were long, large-meshed nets, supported by poles. The practice is of longstanding in the Wash.

Charles Hornigold was the first man to use them there, that is to say of recent years, and the art has been carried to perfection by Mr. F. J. Cresswell of Lynn. One of the best day's wildfowling I ever had was in company with that gentleman on 18th December, 1862.

Well protected with wraps, for the cold was intense, I went on board the *Wild Duck* which is the name of his yacht, and all night we rode at anchor in a sea so tempestuous that she lurched like a drunken man, in order to be early at the nets in the morning.

Image: John Henry Gurney Jnr

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John\\_Opie\\_-\\_Portrait\\_of\\_John\\_Gurney,\\_Jr.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Opie_-_Portrait_of_John_Gurney,_Jr.jpg)

It proved to be well worth the trouble to see the singular spectacle which so many varieties of birds dangling in the meshes presented.



There is nothing like a pitch-dark, blustering night, and the catch was good. It included:

- Woodcock
- Curlew
- Knot
- Golden Plover
- Grey Plover
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Redshank
- Oystercatcher
- Dunlin
- Gulls of different species, including the Great Black-backed.

The success was not quite so great the next night which was calmer.

Mr. Stevenson enumerates twenty-one species as having been taken in these nets, but the number is below the mark.

I will select a day (December 1st, 1869) in proof from Mr. Cresswell's gamebook in which three additional species are mentioned - Great Crested Grebe, Guillemot and Razorbill.

I suppose a high tide would have laid the nets under the water which would account for the catch of diving birds.

Coots are now and then caught in the same way.

Mr. Stevenson remarks that as many as 60 Dunlins have been taken in one night. I think that is very likely.

On one occasion, 60 Oystercatchers were taken and nothing else, but the best haul was seven Grey Geese at one swoop. They rolled themselves up in one little bit of net into such a ball that it had to be cut to pieces to get them out. This is all pretty good evidence that fowl do not all sleep at night.

Grey Crows will rob the nets when they get the chance, and so will another sort of two-legged poacher. One of the latter kind forgot he had a Prince of Wales' feather stamp on the sole of his boot which left an impression at every step and led to his ultimate detection.

The nets, which are about five feet high, are generally placed at high-water mark. All of them together reach at least a third of a mile. They are fatal to everything in size between a Skylark and a Shelduck.

If a Dunlin so much as touches with the tip of his wing it is wound round in an instant, and there he hangs until he is taken out and killed.

The majority of the birds are taken out alive, and many small waders so caught, especially Knot, have been presented by Mr. Cresswell to the Zoological Society and have lived for some years in the cage at the south end of the fish-house.

Article by Jim Wright



**It's official – the Wren is our commonest bird.**

In the latest report looking at the size of our bird populations the Wren tops the list with 11 million pairs across the UK. The latest report, Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom, shows that the Wren continues to hold the title of our commonest bird – the last report in 2013 also had Wren at the top of the list but with a population of just over 8.5 million pairs. Wren numbers are known to fluctuate according to environmental conditions and it may be that generally milder winters are benefitting one of our smallest birds. The top five are made up of Wren, Robin (7,350,000 pairs), House Sparrow (5,300,000), Woodpigeon (5,150,000) and Chaffinch and Blackbird share the number five spot at 5,050,000 territories each. It is estimated that there are around 85 million breeding pairs of birds in the UK altogether, just over one and a quarter pairs for each of us. This is similar to the last estimate calculated in 2013. There are also 20 species whose populations are more than 1 million pairs. As



always there have been winners and losers. One of the most shocking falls in numbers is that seen by the Turtle Dove, down from 75,000 pairs in 1997 to an estimate of just 3,600 pairs in the latest report, and, there are now no breeding waders in the UK that have a breeding population greater than 100,000 pairs, with Lapwing and Oystercatcher falling below this for the first time. Almost as surprising is the fall in number for one of our most familiar of birds, the Chaffinch. Since the last report, seven years ago, the Chaffinch breeding population has fallen by 1.15 million pairs - the drivers of which are unclear and need further investigation. Lead author of the paper, Ian Woodward of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), said, "It is great to have these latest estimates of the numbers of our birds. Knowing how many of which species we have is important for many reasons, not least of which is the ability to make better informed decisions when it comes to conservation policy and site management. It is thanks to the thousands of volunteers that take part in a variety of bird surveys that we have the data and are able to produce these figures at all." There have been three other avian population estimates all published in the journal British Birds, the first in 1997, followed by others in 2006 and 2013. The full report is published in the journal British Birds February 2020 issue, but a summary of the report, containing the core information on population sizes, is available on the BTO website at [bit.ly/APEP4](https://bit.ly/APEP4).

**Online Lincolnshire birding!**

The Len Pick Trust camera is active.

Keep watching! Two owls in residence.

<https://www.lenpicktrust.org.uk/owl-project/4593449091>



Powered by Streamdays

## 'What's Under Your Feet'

Humble earthworms are vital for soil health, but concerns are being expressed about declines in their populations. A newly published study by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) shows how counting some of our best loved birds reveals important information about the number of earthworms beneath our feet. We have very little information on how earthworm numbers and soil health have changed over recent decades. This new study enlisted the help of over 20,000 children from schools up and down the country as part of a project called 'What's Under Your Feet'. They dug up small patches of their playing fields in the name of science, and counted how many earthworms they found. The young citizen scientists also counted the birds on those fields. The results showed that the numbers of earthworm-eating birds, including Blackbirds and Robins, were strongly linked to the number of earthworms present. Importantly, there was no link between earthworm numbers and counts of bird species that do not eat worms, such as Goldfinches and House Sparrows, giving the scientists behind the study confidence in the results. Although there is more work to do, this research opens up the exciting possibility that monitoring long-term changes in the populations of some well known bird species could



help us to monitor not only the health of our earthworm populations, but the health of our soils too. Lead author of the study, Dr Blaise Martay, said "It has been fantastic to see how much children have enjoyed digging up worms! And it is even better that this is paired with providing useful data and interesting results. Wouldn't it be great if we could establish this as a long-term monitoring scheme to see what's happening to our earthworm populations and to explore the links between earthworm and bird populations further? And hopefully this project will start many children off on a lifetime of citizen science looking out for our wildlife." BTO's Director of Science and study co-author, James Pearce-Higgins, said "Populations of birds like the Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush which rely on earthworms have been in long-term decline, particularly in southern England. The results of our new study add to the suggestion that a reduction in the availability of earthworms, either due to changing land-use or an increase in the frequency of summer drought conditions, may be partly to blame. We will continue to work to understand more about changes in soil invertebrate populations and how those are affecting our birds." The study, entitled 'Opening a can of worms: Can the availability of soil invertebrates be indicated by birds?', is published in the journal Ecological Indicators.

## Building for bats in an urban world

A new study by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the University of Turin shows how to minimise impacts of urban growth on bats at a time when the need for new housing often hits the headlines.

Urbanisation is amongst the most ecologically damaging changes in land use, posing significant threats to global biodiversity. Most bat species are threatened by urbanisation, although urban areas can also offer important roosting and foraging opportunities. Could developers consider how bats are likely to respond to urbanisation, and take steps to minimise negative impacts? In a paper just published in the international journal Biological Conservation, scientists used bat calls collected by volunteer citizen scientists taking part in the Norfolk Bat Survey to address this question. The huge acoustic dataset, consisting of over one million recordings gathered between 2013 and 2016, was used to show the importance of habitat features, including buildings and roads, waterbodies and trees, to bats in urban areas. This is especially important given that parts of the study region have been identified as target areas to create new, affordable housing. The researchers also considered possible future scenarios of urban development, assuming an increase in either urban habitat or woodland. Barbastelle, Brown Long-eared Bat and Myotis species emerged as the species most vulnerable to urbanisation. Overall, lakes and woodland patches were the most important habitat types for bats, while urban areas were often avoided. The results suggest that to build for bats, urban growth should expand on existing urban blocks, rather than create new urban patches. This would minimise impacts on areas that bats use for commuting or foraging. The study also showed that creating bat-friendly habitats of an area at least equal to any new urban



settlement could provide mitigation for the negative effects of urbanisation. New patches of woodland should also be encouraged, while preserving unmanaged areas within large commercial coniferous plantations would support their use by bats. Dr Fabrizio Gili, lead author of the study, said “This study highlights how the contribution of citizen scientists can really make a difference in research projects. The volunteer-based data collection approach allowed us to get a clear view of urban habitat exploitation by bats in Norfolk, and provides practical suggestions for urban development and woodland management.” Dr Jenni Border, Research Ecologist at the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), said “Our findings provide recommended actions that urban planners could implement in order to minimise impacts on bats when new housing developments are planned, with wider benefits to society through the creation of bat-friendly green space”.



Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri* © Andrew P. Chick

### **The 2019 breeding season; a year to remember for Blackcaps and Blue Tits**

Information collected by British Trust for Ornithology volunteer bird ringers and nest recorders provides an insight into how some of our resident and migratory birds fared during the 2019 breeding season. Results show that 2019 was an early breeding season, with many species laying eggs significantly earlier than average, possibly thanks to record-breaking February temperatures; research has shown that many birds produce eggs earlier during warmer springs to ensure that their young hatch when the insects on which they are fed are most abundant. The biggest winners were the tits. Numbers of Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tits at the start of the breeding season were higher than average; the most likely explanation for this increase is the very successful breeding season of 2018, as many of the birds encountered by ringers in 2019 were juveniles nesting for the first time. Not only were more birds present, but evidence from BTO volunteers monitoring nests shows that each pair that bred also produced a higher-than-average number of chicks. Whether this results in another bumper year in 2020 remains to be seen – the



weather over winter has been relatively mild, which bodes well, but it has also been wet and this can be a challenge, especially for younger, less experienced birds. Conversely, 2019 was a poor year for several of our other common garden visitors. Numbers of Blackbirds and Dunnocks encountered by ringers were the lowest since the use of ringing to monitor abundance began nearly 40 years ago, and Robins were also less numerous than in recent years. The contrasting fortunes of these birds relative to the tits is likely to result from a much less successful breeding season in the previous year as the proportion of adult birds surviving the winter seemed fairly typical. All the species mentioned so far are residents, remaining in the UK year-round. Chiffchaff and Blackcap, two warbler species that winter in southern Europe and North Africa, returned in very good numbers in 2019, Blackcap registering the highest totals since monitoring began in 1983. Results for long-distance migrants, wintering further south in Africa, were less positive across the board, with Sedge Warbler numbers particularly low. Lee Barber, Demographic Surveys Organiser at the BTO, highlighted the importance of the work volunteers undertake. "Our volunteer ringers and nest recorders contribute thousands of hours each year to collecting these invaluable data. These results demonstrate the impact that weather conditions can have on numbers and breeding success of birds. The fact that our volunteers have provided directly equivalent figures for the last 40 years allows the effects of our changing climate on bird populations to be studied in great detail. Using this information, we can start to predict what may happen in future and how we might be able to influence it, providing a more positive outcome. The great thing is that everyone, from the novice to the experienced birdwatcher, can help to contribute by taking part in BTO surveys."



Blue Tit North Somercotes December 2014 © Mark Johnson

## White-tailed Eagle in Lincolnshire

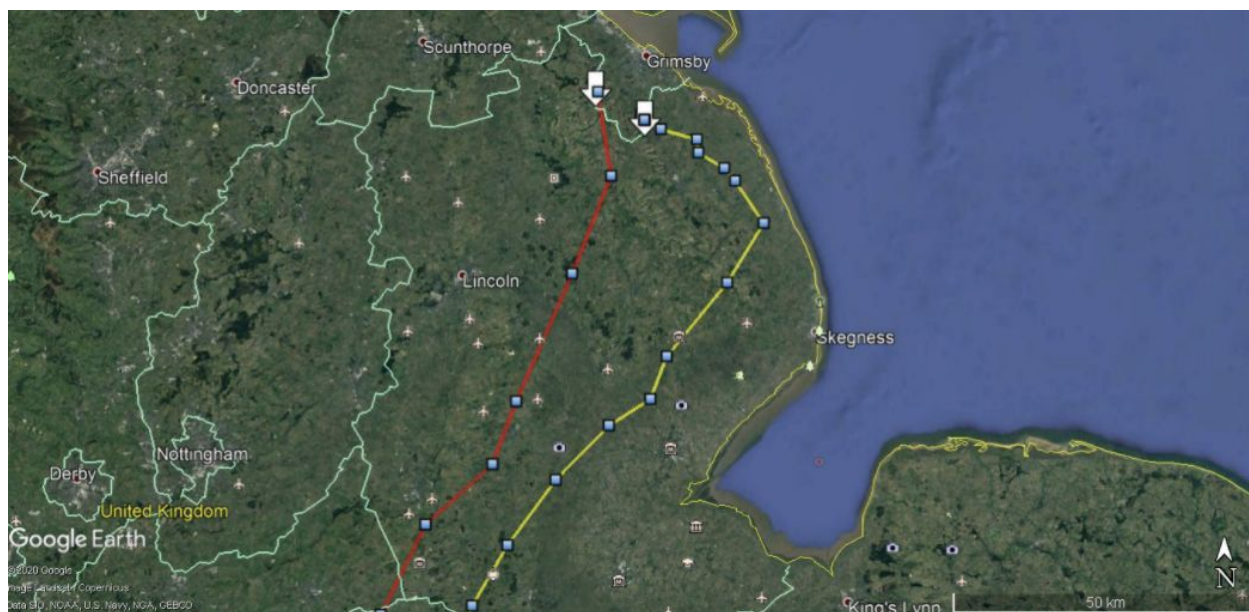
On the 04/04/2020 two White-tailed Eagle from the Isle of Wight reintroduction project were tracked through Lincolnshire and finished within 6 miles of each other near Grimsby!

The white-tailed eagle reintroduction project is led by the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and Forestry England; with the objective of restoring a breeding population of white-tailed eagles to southern England. Last summer they released six juveniles on the Isle of Wight. On the 4th April 2020 two of the six ended up near Grimsby, Lincolnshire! These two birds had not been together since their release in August last year, they were pen mates prior to release - both birds are originally from Mull, though they are unrelated.

G3-93 the male had been in Oxfordshire much of the past six months but more mobile lately, having travelled west to Gloucestershire and on to Staffordshire before returning east over the last couple of days. It had been thought that he might head back to Oxfordshire, but he arrived in Lincolnshire around 11.55hrs in the south of the county and was near North Thoresby by 15.00hrs.

The other bird G3-18 is a female, though typically she has been rather sedentary until the past couple weeks – living in incredibly small areas and seldom venturing further than 500m from her Isle of Wight roosts. She left the island at the beginning of March and has been a little more active of late, but still seemed to favour a sit and wait strategy. On the 4th April she travelled 160miles to be in Lincolnshire, arriving around 15:40hrs at Grantham and she settled near Swallow around 17:20.

The two birds subsequently left Lincolnshire the following day, travelling together to the North York Moors. G3-18 has remained in the North York Moors following her long flight. G3-93 after spending nearly a week in North Yorkshire flew south, passing through the Peak District and then headed east into Norfolk and Suffolk, seemingly heading along the coast back to the Isle of Wight. However, with a change of weather conditions he turned back and headed north stopping in Cambridgeshire for a couple days before heading back to the Peak District, where he spent more than a week before venturing further north back to the North York Moors with a strong tail wind. You can keep up-to-date with all the birds progress via the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and Forestry England blogs, links will appear on social media channels @seaeagleengland and @RoyDennisWF

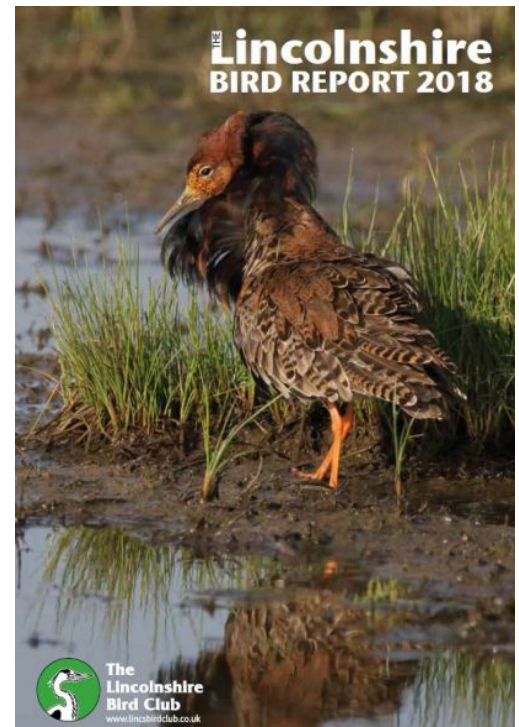


White-tailed Eagle tracking 4th April 2020 © Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and Forestry England.



**G3-93 White-tailed Eagle to the East of Louth 4th April 2020 - Image © Owen Beaumont**

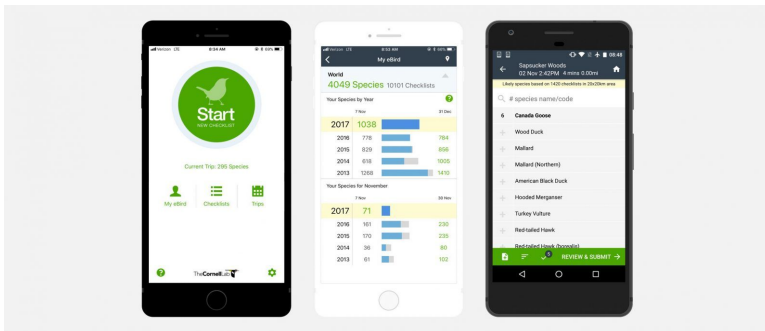
**The Lincolnshire Bird Report 2018 we sent out to all members by the middle of April 2020.**



If you didn't get your copy, please contact [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)



# Make your Bird App Records Count!



eBird

The bird club uses records from the BTO Birdtrack and eBird Apps in the annual report. We are now having to assess 10,000's of records each year from Bird Apps. Therefore, for your records to count, please take some time to name your sites sensibly and in a way we can use them!

Garden	✗	Fulbeck Garden	✓
Frampton RSPB	✓	RSPB	✗
HOME	✗	Queen St, Louth	✓
High Street, Lincoln	✓	High Street	✗

Thank you!

### **Prioritising structure (taken from the LNU newsletter....)**

The next lesson on how to keep your energy up comes from observing people in survival situations. To avoid a drift into a state of apathy and feeling low and unmotivated, it is important to establish a clear structure to your day. Structure allows us to gain some control over our lives. It helps prevent a buildup of “empty” time that could make you very aware of confinement, and cause a growing sense of “drift”. This can make people feel withdrawn and apathetic, sleep badly and neglect their personal hygiene.

One extreme case from the survival world shows the benefits of structure when we are suddenly faced with time to fill. In 1915, when Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship Endurance became trapped in the Antarctic ice, he imposed strict routines on his crew. He was well aware of a previous expedition ship, the RV Belgica, which had become trapped over winter in the Antarctic ice in 1898. The captain did not establish any routine and as a result the crew suffered from low morale, especially after the death of the ship's cat, Nansen.

Shackleton insisted on strict meal times and ordered everyone to gather in the officers' mess after dinner to have an enforced period of socialisation. These scheduled activities prevented a social monotony that can occur when a small group of people are confined together for significant periods.

So although it might feel good to have the odd morning lie-in, it is better for your energy levels to set up your day with a clear structure and make time for social activities, even if they need to be undertaken online.

Another non-physical cause of fatigue is anxiety. The pandemic has made people confused and uncertain, and given some a sense of trepidation. All these feelings can lead to poor sleep quality, which in turn can make people more tired and anxious.

To break this cycle, exercise is a useful tool. Going for a walk or doing an online exercise class can make you feel physically tired but in the longer-term it will reduce feelings of fatigue as your sleep quality improves. Planning ahead and setting goals is now both possible and necessary. Aim for a set future date for release from the lockdown but be prepared to reset that date as necessary. Being optimistic about the future and having things to look forward to can also help reduce anxiety and reduce fatigue.

Taken from <https://theconversation.com/here-is-why-you-might-be-feeling-tired-while-on-lockdown-135502>



### **A blast from the past - reproduced from the Lincolnshire Bird Bulletin October 1968**

#### COLLARED DOVE ENQUIRY

The Collared Dove is now such a common bird in our county that only a few observers regularly include the species in their annual report to the L.N.U.

However, although the general distribution of the breeding population is known, in only a few cases has the actual number of pairs involved been recorded.

Mr. R. Hudson of the BTO is now preparing a paper on the continuing spread of the Collared Dove in the British Isles, and the records up to 1967 have already been forwarded to him. Unfortunately the records for 1968 cannot be obtained from the current survey of breeding birds in Lincs. mainly because the survey is not complete plus the fact that the Collared Dove is not one of the species of which actual numbers are required.

It would be appreciated, therefore, if the number of pairs present in your area during the 1968 season could be forwarded to me, please. An estimated number will be sufficient if the actual count was not made.

## Lincolnshire Bird News - April 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.

In keeping with the ever-changing government regulations concerning social distancing and unnecessary travel regarding the coronavirus pandemic, we are taking the opportunity to communicate the Lincs Bird Clubs position on bird news dissemination. Our members range from those with a passing interest in birds and birding to the keenest of birders.

It is absolutely clear that, on the basis of government advice, travelling to see a specific bird constitutes unnecessary travel as it may facilitate the spread of this extremely contagious virus – and is likely to violate government guidelines with regard to social distancing and gatherings. It goes without saying that government guidelines should be strictly adhered to given the present state of affairs, with everyone's health and wellbeing in mind. The government advice is clear: do not travel unnecessarily and stay at home.

For the time being we still intend to maintain a **Latest Bird News** page (updated each evening) and the **WhatsApp group** - sharing bird news even if it's about rare garden stuff is good for people's sanity and will help some get through what will be a very frustrating time. However, this is a fast-evolving situation which we continue to closely monitor, and we will provide further updates as needed.

**30/04/2020**

**Alkborough**

Ring Ouzel

**Huttoft**

13 Yellow Wagtail, 51 Whimbrel

**29/04/2020**

**Barton Pits**

2 Sanderling, Arctic Tern, Little Tern, Whimbrel

**Toft Newton Reservoir**

Hobby

**Snipe Dales**

Great White Egret

**28/04/2020**

**Barton Pits**

Ring Ouzel

**Pyewipe, Grimsby**

Glaucous Gull

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Wood Sandpiper



**Wainfleet**

12 Avocet, Hobby, 6 Sand Martin, 4 Little-ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper, 30 Swallow, Yellow Wagtail

**27/04/2020**

**Alvingham**

Grey Wagtail

**Fulbeck**

3 Golden Plover

**Pyewipe, Grimsby**

Glaucous Gull

**Healing**

70 Fieldfare

**Kettleby Quarries**

Grasshopper Warbler

**New Holland**

Common Sandpiper

**Rippingale**

Cuckoo

**North Somercotes**

Reed Warbler

**Swanholme Lakes**

3 Garden Warbler

**Swanpool**

Cuckoo

**26/04/2020**

**Anderby Creek**

4 Buzzard, 2 Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Osprey, Short-eared Owl, Sparrowhawk

**Barton Pits**

Ring Ouzel

**Gibraltar Point**

150 Jay in off the sea I read the post correctly

**Grantham**

4 Swift

**Grasby**

3 Swallow

**Legbourne**

Hobby, Osprey

**Swanpool**

2 House Martin Sand Martin, 15 Swallow,

**25/04/2020**

**Barton Pits**

Ring Ouzel

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Common Crane

**Boultham Mere, Swanpool**

Cuckoo, 2 Grey Partridge, Little Ringed Plover, Sedge Warbler. Common Tern



Common Tern, Boultham Mere - Image © Andy Sims

**Keelby**

Buzzard, Oystercatcher, 5 Skylark, Mistle Thrush, 3 Treecreeper, Lesser Whitethroat

**Walesby Moor**

Grey Partridge, 5 Swallow

**Toft Newton Reservoir**

Blue-headed Wagtail

**Temple Wood**

30 Blackcap, Cuckoo, 2 Nuthatch, 4 Garden Warbler, 7 Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

**24/04/2020**

**Anderby Creek**

Richard's Pipit

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

2 Black Tern

**Deeping Lakes NR**

Little Gull

**Huttoft**

Blue-headed Wagtail, 13 Whimbrel

**Lincs Coast**

Grasshopper Warbler

**Swanpool**

Buzzard, Fieldfare, Grey Heron, Little Ringed Plover, Garden Warbler, Common Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat,

**Grantham**

Red Kite, Ring Ouzel, Common Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat

**Whisby**

Cuckoo, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat

**23/04/2020**

**Cleethorpes CP**

Cetti's Warbler, Garden Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warbler

**Deeping Lakes NR**

6 Bar-tailed Godwit

**Dunston**

2 Common Crane (over)

**Kettleby Quarries**

2 Grey Plover, Common Sandpiper, Wheatear, Common Whitethroat

**Manby Wetlands**

Whinchat

**Hartsholme Park**

3 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 9 Grey Heron

**Swanpool**

2 Fieldfare, 2 House Martin, 2 Grey Partridge, 4 Barn Swallow, Yellow Wagtail, Grasshopper Warbler, 1 Sedge Warbler, 5 Whitethroat, Green Woodpecker

**Toft Newton Reservoir**

Black Tern., 4 Common Swift

**22/04/2020**

**Covenham Reservoir**

Wheatear

**Rippingale**

Little Egret, Great White Egret

**21/04/2020**

**Cleethorpes**

2 Kingfisher

**Covenham Reservoir**

2 House Martin, Common Sandpiper, 20 Arctic Tern, Yellow Wagtail, Wheatear,

**Pyewipe, Grimsby**

2 Little Gull, Glaucous Gull

**Swanpool**

Fieldfare



**20/04/2020**

**Covenham Reservoir**

19 Arctic Tern

**Hartsholme Park/ Swanholme Lakes**

5 Blackcap, Buzzard, 5 Chiffchaff, 5 Great Crested Grebe, 7 Grey Heron, 2 Shoveler, Willow Warbler 15 Wren

**Rimac**

Marsh Harrier, Ring Ouzel

**Saltfleetby St Peter**

Iceland Gull, 23 Arctic Tern

**Swanpool**

Lesser Whitethroat

**Toft Newton Reservoir**

2 Avocet, Little Ringed Plover, 2 Common Sandpiper, 9 Arctic Tern, 2 Wheatear, White Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail

**19/04/2020**

**Anwick Fen**

Grasshopper Warbler

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Little Gull

**West Deeping**

White-tailed Eagle

**Frithville**

Mediterranean Gull

**Ness End Farm**

Alpine Swift

**Swanpool**

3 Whooper Swan

**Toft Newton Reservoir**

4 Wheatear

**Wainfleet**

6 Bullfinch, 9 Blackcap, 16 Chiffchaff, Little Egret, 4 Jay, 2 Song Thrush, 4 Lesser Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Yellow Wagtail

**18/04/2020**

**Scunthorpe area**

Wryneck in a private garden!!!



Wryneck - What a garden tick! - Image © Clare Gillat

**17/04/2020**

**Apex Pits**

5 Swallow

**Alkborough**

4 Ring Ouzel

**North Lincs Coast**

Hawfinch

**Frampton Marsh**

Sedge Warbler

**Gibraltar Point**

2 Common Crane (over)

**Toft Newton Reservoir**

Blue-headed Wagtail

**Rimac**

Ring Ouzel

**Whisby**

Blackcap, Cuckoo, Curlew (over), Peregrine Falcon, Sand Martin, Reed Warbler, Whitethroat

**16/04/2020**

**Grantham**

2 Ring Ouzel, Common Scoter

**Off-shore Skegness**

Black Redstart

**Swanpool**

Grasshopper Warbler, Grey Partridge

**Whisby**

2 Whimbrel

**15/04/2020**

**Barnetby**

Ring Ouzel

**Bottesford**

Blackcap, Reed Bunting, Chiffchaff, 6 Collared Dove, Sparrowhawk, 3 Song Thrush

**Cleethorpes CP**

2 Cetti's Warbler, 3 Grasshopper Warbler, 6 Sedge Warbler

**Norton Disney**

4 Common Crane

**Frithville**

Black Redstart



Not a bad garden bird! Black Redstart - Image © Steve Keightley

**Grantham**

Ring Ouzel



**Pyewipe, Grimsby**

Glaucous Gull

**Somerby**

Ring Ouzel

**Swanpool**

Cuckoo, Goldeneye

**North Thoresby**

2 Cetti's Warbler, 2 Willow Warbler, 2 Common Whitethroat, 5 Yellowhammer

**14/04/2020**

**Bardney**

Sparrowhawk

**Barnetby**

Ring Ouzel

**Buck Beck, Cleethorpes**

2 Swallow

**Crowland**

Hen Harrier

**Eagle**

Wheatear

**Frampton Marsh**

Corn Bunting, Barn Owl

**Frithville**

Blackcap, Fieldfare, Red Kite

**Humberstone Fitties**

Red Kite

**Pyewipe, Grimsby**

Glaucous Gull

**Kettleby Quarries**

Ring Ouzel

**Scooby**

2 Buzzard, 2 Chiffchaff, 3 Yellow Wagtail, 3 Willow Warbler

**Swanpool**

Common Redstart, Grasshopper Warbler

**13/04/2020**

**Bardney**

3 Jay, Green Woodpecker

**Dunston**

Great White Egret, Red Kite

**12/04/2020**

**Anderby Creek**

Richard's Pipit, 2 Garganey,

**Bottesford**

4 Chiffchaff, Nuthatch, 2 Skylark, 2 Swallow

**Boultham Mere**

Little Gull

**Goxhill Haven**

Ring Ouzel

**Howdens Pullover**

Wheatear

**Keelby**

Red Kite

**Saltfleet Haven**

Great Crested Grebe, Linnet, Common Whitethroat

**Trent Port, Marton**

Sedge Warbler

**North Thoresby area**

3 Blackcap, Linnet, Cetti's Warbler, 2 Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler

**Swanpool**

Grasshopper Warbler

**11/04/2020**

**Anderby Creek, Barnetby, Brigg, Goxhill Haven, Kettleby Quarries, Elsham, Garthorpe, Tetney Lock**

All had Ring Ouzel present

**Anderby Creek**

7 Marsh Harrier, 8 Sparrowhawk, Wheatear

**Barnetby**

Common Redstart

**Botany Bay Plantation**

2 Chiffchaff

**Fulbeck**

2 Raven

**Huttoft Marsh**

Green Woodpecker

**Kettleby Quarries**

2 Common Whitethroat

**North Somercotes**

Tree Sparrow, Swallow, 4 Wheatear

**Swanpool**

Ringed Plover 2 Stonechat

**Toft Newton**

Blue-headed Wagtail

**Wainfleet**

7 Avocet, 8 Blackcap, 4 Bullfinch, 23 Chiffchaff, 10 Lapwing (7 on nests), 3 House Martin, Little Ringed Plover, 2 Green Sandpiper, 15 Snipe, 5 Swallow, 4 Yellow Wagtail, Willow Warbler, 3 Yellowhammer

**10/04/2020**

**Barton**

Lesser Whitethroat

**Denton**

Ring-necked Parakeet

**Doddington Park, Lincoln**

Blackcap

**Fulbeck**

Willow Warbler

**Grantham**

Wheatear

**North Thoresby**

3 Blackcap, 3 Chiffchaff, 2 Swallow, 2 Mistle Thrush, 1 Willow Warbler

**Trent Port, Marton**

Blackcap, 90 Fieldfare, Yellow Wagtail, 3 Swallow, Willow Warbler

**Rippingale**

Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Raven

**Saltfleet Haven**

Ring Ouzel

**Scrooby Top**

3 Common Tern

**North Somercotes**

6 Buzzard

**Swanpool, Lincoln**

Oystercatcher

**09/04/2020**

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Reed Warbler

**Fillingham**

Ring Ouzel, 2 House Martin, 3 Swallow, Yellow Wagtail

**Fulbeck**

Blackcap

**Gibraltar Point**

Bluethroat

**Huttoft**

Hooded Crow, Jack Snipe

**Meal Hill area**

6 Ring Ouzel

**Trent Port, Marton**

Yellow Wagtail

**Spalding**

Black Redstart

**Swanpool**

Common Whitethroat



**08/04/2020**

**Deeping St James**

Common Tern

**Old Bolingbroke**

c2 Ring Ouzel

**Chapel Pit**

Firecrest, 2 Mediterranean Gulls

**Grantham**

2 Peregrines with 4 eggs on St Wulfram's Church

**Healing**

Blackcap

**Hill Holt Wood**

Willow Warbler, Blackcap

**Louth**

Tawny Owl

**North Somercotes**

Hooded Crow

**North Thoresby**

2 Ring Ouzel

**07/04/2020**

**Anderby Creek**

Firecrest

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Avocet, Hen Harrier, Common Whitethroat

**Bottesford**

5 Chiffchaff, Little Owl, Nuthatch, Redwing, 6 Skylark

**Deeping High Bank**

Yellow Wagtail

**Grimsby**

Glaucous Gull

**Lincoln**

Tawny Owl

**Louth**

Ring Ouzel, 3 Willow Warbler

**Trent Port**

Blackcap, Great Crested Grebe, 3 Redshank, Swallow

**North Somercotes**

Hooded Crow

**North Thoresby**

2 Blackcap, Swallow

**06/04/2020**

**Anderby Creek**

Firecrest, 4 House Martin, 4 Sand Martin, Grasshopper Warbler, 4 Swallow, Willow Warbler, Wheatear

**Grimsby**

Glaucous Gull, Black Redstart (in private garden)

**Huttoft**

Ring Ouzel

**Lincoln, Doddington Park**

Siskin

**Manby Wetlands**

2 Avocet, Buzzard, 50 Linnet, 2 Snipe, 7 Swallow, 8 Whooper Swan,

**Swanholme Lakes**

2 Blackcap, 5 Chiffchaff

**Swanpool**

Shelduck

**05/04/2020**

**Anderby Creek**

Firecrest

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Sandwich Tern

**Far Ings**

Spoonbill

**Fulbeck**

Swallow

**Grantham**

14 Fieldfare

**Keelby**

60 Pink-footed Geese

**Kettleby Quarries**

6 Little Ringed Plover

**Lincoln**

6 Chiffchaff, 7 Redwing, Sparrowhawk

**Saltfleetby**

Grey Phalarope

**Stamford**

25 Golden Plover (over)

**Toft Newton Reservoir**

Oystercatcher, Sand Martin, Willow Warbler, Wheatear

**04/04/2020**

**Barnetby**

Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Sand Martin, Little Ringed Plover

**Barton**

132 Whooper Swan in two flocks

**Cleethorpes**

2 Chiffchaff, 4 Redwing

**Fishtoft**

39 Whooper Swan

**Fulbeck**

Swallow

**Grimsby**

**2 White-tailed Eagle.** Two White-tailed Eagles from the Isle of Wight reintroduction project were tracked through the county and finished within 6 miles of each near Grimsby. Brought up together these two birds have not been together since their release

**New Holland**

Peregrine Falcon

**Huttoft**

Willow Warbler

**Louth**

**White-tailed Eagle**

**Manby Wetlands**

8 Avocet, 3 Buzzard, 4 Chiffchaff, 17 Little Egret, 20 Shoveler, Whooper Swan,

**Trent Port, Marton**

Great White Egret

**Toft Newton Reservoir**

Yellow Wagtail

**Swanpool**

Little Ringed Plover, **Water Pipit**, White Wagtail



White-tailed to the East of Louth - Image © Owen Beaumont

**Alkborough**

Swallow

**Cleethorpes,**

Reed Bunting, 2 Buzzard, Chiffchaff, 24 Curlew, Little Egret, Grey Heron, 6 Linnet, Sparrowhawk

**Fillingham**

Common Scoter

**Grantham**

Bullfinch

**Legbourne**

Common Scoter

**Lincoln**

Common Scoter

**Quadring**

2 **Common Crane** (over a.m.)

**Sleaford**

Peregrine

**Spalding**

Common Scoter

**Wainfleet**

Common Scoter

**Swanpool**

3 Little Ringed Plover, White Wagtail

**02/04/2020**

**Bottesford**

Buzzard, 2 Chiffchaff, Sparrowhawk

**Boultham Mere**

4 Little Ringed Plover

**Louth**

Common Scoter

**Skegness**

Common Scoter

**01/04/2020**

**Bardney**

2 Great White Egret

**Bottesford**

Brambling, Buzzard, Kestrel, Sand Martin, Little Owl, Skylark, 2 Song Thrush

**Spalding**

Short-eared Owl

**Swanpool**

2 Little-ringed Plover, 50+Redwing

**Contact Information & Useful Lincs Websites**

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### 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>

#### Lincoln 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

