



Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - January 2022

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Happy New Year!

Happy Christmas to all our members. After the success of the New Year's Day bird race in January 2021 we would like to propose another attempt on New Year's Day 2022. The aim of the New Year's Day bird race event is to simply record as many species as possible in Lincolnshire during the day. Similarly, to 2021, it will be great to have as many birders involved as possible on the day, covering a wide range of different habitats and areas, this will help maximise the potential for a high species count. Birders have the option of either sticking to their local patch or choosing an area in which to focus on.

A rough set of rules for the day is outlined below...

1. Only species within the county boundary can be counted
2. Species can be counted and recorded any time between 00:00 – 23:59 on Saturday 1st January 2022
3. Observers can record independently or in groups
4. No use of tape luring allowed
5. (No stringing!)
6. All records/sightings to be submitted via **Birdtrack** or **eBird** by 4th January at the latest. Alternatively records can be sent directly to rdoan@lincstrust.co.uk

In 2021, 46 observers recorded 144 species from 21 sites in Lincolnshire! Can we beat 144 species in 2022?



LBC Annual Report 2020

Since the passing of our previous data manager and IT guru, Colin Casey, we have been identifying options to replace his considerable input. Charlie Barnes at GLNP and Andrew Chick have been manfully sorting out this issue and LBC has agreed to place LBC records in the GLNP database. This has taken a little time, but thanks to both of them we are now about to begin the 2020 write-up. Rare and scarce records have already been written up in draft form, several good articles assembled for inclusion and we are aiming to finish early in the New Year, all being well. So....anyone having any LBRC submission records please send them in now - we can only assess and write up such records if they have been submitted (the majority have, as far as we are aware) !

Zoom Event, Tuesday 18th January 21, 7.30 p.m.

A New Year, A New Resolution?

Make Your Birding Count

Chris Gunn will be talking about the critical BTO bird surveys that monitor our bird populations primarily the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) and the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). It's easy to get involved and these are amongst the most valuable contributions your birding can make to knowledge about our birds, particularly conserving them. Regularly doing a survey is like doing a patch and just as fascinating. It can help make you a more all round birder too, well worth listening to what is involved.

Chris is an experienced field surveyor and has been BTO North Lincs Regional Organiser for many years. She also serves on the BTO Regional Network Committee and is well placed to answer any questions you may have about the work of BTO.

Please contact Chris Gunn who is also LBC's Events Organiser for the link to the talk. Her email is donandchris@hotmail.co.uk.

Also watch out for some great forthcoming events in the series of Zoom talks Chris has lined up. On 8th February Owen Beaumont will be talking about his work managing the habitats at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR while on 8th March Kevin Wilson will be talking about his work at Gibraltar Point.

All Welcome

Great Shearwater, 02-Dec-2021

Several lucky but persistent and regular seawatcher's recorded the county's first Great Shearwater of the millenium on December 2nd, the first since 17th September 1977. First seen off Mablethorpe coasting down the tideline, shortly afterwards it was also seen at Huttoft car terrace and later at Gibraltar Point. It briefly circled the offshore sand banks there before heading off south!

According to the new Birds of Lincolnshire there have been 8 previous records involving 9 birds.

Birds of Lincolnshire

Keen birder and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Head of Public Engagement and Communications, Matthew Capper, welcomes a newly published county avifauna from the Lincolnshire Bird Club and delves into the pages to examine the changing fortunes of our county's birds.

Earlier this year, The Lincolnshire Bird Club published *The Birds of Lincolnshire*, an updated county avifauna, and a long overdue replacement of the previous avifauna that was published in 1989. The book is testament to the work, during lockdown, of several people – one of whom is sadly no longer with us. That the book was completed in such a short time, to such a high quality, when one of the authors was fighting his own battle with ill health, is remarkable.

Nature conservation relies on good data and a real strength of birding in the UK is the recording effort of thousands of amateurs and this is demonstrated superbly well in the pages of the new book. Lincolnshire is a great county for birds. And several things strike you when you read the book. Firstly, just how dominated by farmland our county is. Secondly, it is clear from the text, just how incredible the Lincolnshire coast is - with the Wash and Humber in particular of international importance for their waterbirds. And thirdly, it is clear just how many of the county's hotspots are Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserves. We would be in a far worse position if the Trust had not protected these places.

The book sets out the status and changes over time, of all of the species recorded in the county – including the 160 that have bred at some point or another. It doesn't set out to be a book that discusses the causes of these changes, or the possible solutions. But a number of species give good indications of the main drivers of change such as the impacts of a changing climate, habitat loss and more positively, targeted conservation work.

Species in decline

For a species so restricted to upland Britain, it is hard to imagine that black grouse once bred in Lincolnshire and according to the book, were last recorded as recently as the 1930s near Scotton Common. Habitat loss has been one of the main drivers in the decline of our county's birds and in cases such as the black grouse, this has proved to be terminal. The extensive heathlands and bogs that once



Grey Partridge © Roy Harvey

stretched across the north west of the county are long gone, along with the grouse that once occurred there. Those small fragments that remain are largely under the protection of the Trust.

A major driver of that habitat loss has been farming but it is also the way we farm that has impacted on our birds too. Delve into the species accounts and the fortunes of grey partridge, turtle dove, skylark and lapwing become clear – all are red listed and suffering large scale declines. With its orange face and black horseshoe-shaped patch on its belly, the grey, or English, partridge is a quintessential bird of farmland. And, like many of those farmland birds, seeds and insects make up a large part of their diet. Variety is the spice of life and the end of old mixed farming systems, along with changes in crop types and the increased efficiency of pesticides and insecticides, have left our farmland birds with little wiggle room. Farming is hugely important to Lincolnshire and this is unlikely to change. But changes to agricultural policy will be absolutely key in turning the fortunes of these species around. Whilst many try to be stewards of the land, for years, farmers have been locked in a system that does not value the wider benefits that come with land management – from clean water and healthy soils to biodiversity and reduced flood risk.

Targeted intervention

If wider landscape change is the problem for some of our species, for others, targeted conservation work can hold the key to their recovery and there are some good news stories in amongst the declines.

Bittern is a classic example, as can be seen by their recent increases in the county. We now know what bitterns require to thrive and a mix of habitat creation, maintained in optimal condition, is proving to be extremely effective. For others, such as willow tit, we are still at the research stage. This is a species that is just clinging on in the county and we hope that work across the UK to pinpoint the reasons for these declines can be implemented in Lincolnshire before it's too late.

If species have long been absent but the habitat and food is there, then reintroduction or translocation is often the best way to give them a helping hand. The book documents the spread northwards into the county of red kite and surely osprey is poised to cross the boundary from Rutland in the not too distant future.

Responding to a changing climate

Climate change will have a direct threat to our reserves and protected sites – not least through the threat of sea level rise. Saltmarshes may be one the first habitats to be lost. As the sea rises, saltmarshes get squeezed between the sea and sea defences, leaving little space for the breeding species such as redshank or the flocks of wintering brent geese. Managed realignments, where new defences are built further inland and the old sea wall is breached, are vital if we are going to maintain this important, and carbon storing habitat. The Trust has already helped the Environment Agency to create new



Black-winged Stilt © Roy Harvey

managed realignments at Donna Nook (Pyes Hall) and hopes to build upon this partnership work further if we can.

We have all noticed the changes associated with the climate crisis in our gardens – for example, snowdrops are flowering ever earlier as our winters warm. Another change is just how early caterpillars and other insects are emerging and our native species such as blue and great tits are nesting ever earlier to keep up. These small birds may need to find as many as 1,000 caterpillars a day and our long distant migrants are not so lucky, often arriving back after the peak time to find food for their chicks. Some of our familiar summer migrants such as willow warblers may begin to suffer faster declines than many of our other resident species.

Changes in climate will also directly affect our resident birds and there is already clear evidence that northern species have decreased in density whilst southern species have increased. This pattern seems to be starting to occur in the UK and whilst we may not lose any species in Lincolnshire (that is likely to happen further north) there will be a real need to manage our sites to act as receptor sites for species that are moving northwards. Species such as great egret, cattle egret, little bittern and purple heron all bred for the first time in the UK on nature reserves. In

Lincolnshire, The Birds of Lincolnshire details how black-winged stilt, glossy ibis, marsh warbler and firecrest have all come close to breeding in the county in recent years. All but the latter are likely to breed first on a nature reserve at some point in the near future.

The Dartford warbler is dependent on mature, dry heath habitats in the UK. It only eats insects and does not migrate, which means it is vulnerable to cold weather and prolonged snow cover. For many years, this was considered a species of the south and south west but in recent times, they have marched steadily northwards in the UK, whilst at the same time, disappearing from former strongholds in the south of Spain. Birds are now breeding just over the border in North Norfolk and it can only be a matter of time before they make the permanent jump across to Lincolnshire. If we do not make the habitat available for species such as these, their populations and distributions will become increasingly squeezed.

Bigger, better, more joined up

So, what does all of this mean? Well, immediately from the above, you can see how the future of birds and birding in Lincolnshire is very much linked to our reserves and the important role that they play. We need to ensure that we continue to cherish and protect our most valuable sites and ensure that they can both retain existing species and, where relevant, contain suitable habitats to welcome new ones as they respond to the changing climate. As the best



Glossy Ibis © John Clarkson

places to see birds and the foundation for much of their future conservation, reserves are vital and the Trust will continue to invest in their management and acquisition.

Going forward, we need to campaign for wider changes in the countryside. The way we farm and produce food needs to reward farmers, produce high quality, high welfare products and crucially deliver for wildlife and ecosystems. And we all need to act to tackle the climate emergency and keep the pressure on Governments to deliver the big step changes that will be required.

Let's hope that COP26 delivers some real binding commitments from world leaders to make net zero and beyond a reality. It won't take away the need for drastic changes to the way we live our lives, but investing in nature will also naturally help to lock away carbon. Bigger, more robust, nature reserves will be better able to withstand the effects of climate change, and if we can link them into a coherent network, we will allow species to move across the landscape better and prevent the fragmentation and isolation of vulnerable bird populations. That is why the Wildlife Trusts have called for 30% of our land and sea to be designated for nature's recovery by 2030 and why we are also calling for the creation of nature recovery networks to better link these core sites.

Let's hope that when the next Birds of Lincolnshire is published, it reflects a brighter future all round.

Some colour-ringing observations

Thanks to Nige Lound and Graham Catley for reporting these interesting observations of these colour-ringed birds - a Mediterranean Gull and four Avocets, details below.

Yellow-flagged Avocets



Avocet 7A at Middlemarsh Farm, August 2021; photo © Nige Lound

The six yellow-flagged Avocets were all ringed as chicks in June 2021 in a project run by Lancaster University and seen at three different sites in the county in July and August by Nige Lound, Graham Catley, Neil Drinkall. Post-

fledging dispersal is a well-known phenomenon, evident here in all of these juveniles. The largest concentrations of wintering Avocets in Britain are centred on the Thames and Medway estuaries, on the Suffolk coast and along the south coast between the Solent and Poole Harbour with more than 7,500 birds and the WeBS index still showing an increase. Birds yellow flag 74 and 6X seem to have reached their wintering destination, but the others are obviously still in transit. Keep your eyes open for these clearly marked and obvious wanderers!

74	EA30526	ringed as chick	Canute, Castletown Estate, Cumbria	10/06/2021
74	EA30526	sighting	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	09/08/2021
74	EA30526	photo	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	13/08/2021
74	EA30526	photo	Havergate Island, Suffolk	23/08/2021
74	EA30526	sighting	Havergate Island, Suffolk	25/08/2021
74	EA30526	sighting	Orford Ness, Suffolk	29/09/2021

79	EA30528	ringed as chick	Canute, Castletown Estate, Cumbria	10/06/2021
79	EA30528	sighting	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	18/08/2021
79	EA30528	sighting	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	28/08/2021

6V	ER93335	ringed as chick	Conder Green, Lancs	01/06/2021
6V	ER93335	photo	Morecambe Pool, Leighton Moss, Lancs	14/07/2021
6V	ER93335	photo	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	31/07/2021
6V	ER93335	photo	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	13/08/2021
6V	ER93335	photo	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	18/08/2021
6V	ER93335	sighting	Morecambe Pool, Leighton Moss, Lancs	26/08/2021
6V	ER93335	sighting	Morecambe Pool, Leighton Moss, Lancs	26/08/2021
6V	ER93335	sighting	Morecambe Pool, Leighton Moss, Lancs	30/08/2021

6X	ER93334	ringed as chick	Conder Green, Lancs	01/06/2021
6X	ER93334	photo	Morecambe Pool, Leighton Moss, Lancs	14/07/2021
6X	ER93334	photo	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	31/07/2021
6X	ER93334	photo	RSPB Saltholme, Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees	07/08/2021
6X	ER93334	sighting	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	09/08/2021
6X	ER93334	photo	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	13/08/2021
6X	ER93334	sighting	Lytchett Bay, Poole Harbour, Dorset	25/11/2021

7A	EA30518	ringed as chick	Canute, Castletown Estate, Cumbria	10/06/2021
7A	EA30518	photo	Frampton Marsh, Lincs	12/08/2021
7A	EA30518	sighting	Frampton Marsh, Lincs	13/08/2021
7A	EA30518	photo	Middlemarsh Farm, Skegness, Lincs	19/08/2021
7A	EA30518	sighting	Middlemarsh Farm, Skegness, Lincs	21/08/2021
7A	EA30518	sighting	Middlemarsh Farm, Skegness, Lincs	27/08/2021

7A	EA30518	photo	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	06/09/2021
7C	EA30520	ringed as chick	Canute, Castletown Estate, Cumbria	10/06/2021
7C	EA30520	sighting	Alkborough Flats, Alkborough, Lincs	18/08/2021

Gulls

A Mediterranean Gull carrying red ring PUK 9 was seen by Nige on the sluice at the end of Sea Lane Ingoldmells on 14th December 2021. It was ringed as 3CY+ in Poland on 29th May 2016 and the only other UK sightings were again from Nige at the same location on 27th November and 24th December 2016, and then at Gibraltar Point on 18th March 2018. Many peoples favourite gull and still not very common in the county, despite recent confirmation of breeding, so please check any you see for colour rings.



Mediterranean Gull carrying red ring © Andrew P. Chick

Polish Ring-billed Gull tracked through Europe

A regularly returning Ring-billed Gull that was recently fitted with a satellite transmitter in Poland has migrated west in recent weeks.

The bird, known as 'Kajzerka', was originally caught and ringed as an adult in Szczecin in 2005, and has been observed regularly over the years throughout Poland, generally during the late autumn and early winter

period before disappearing. However, it had rarely been seen anywhere but Poland, despite the presence of a distinctive red darvic ring.



In early December 2021, Kajzerka was again trapped in north-east Poland and fitted with a GPS transmitter in order to better understand its movements.

However, poor weather and short daylight hours meant that the tag only emitted a few GPS fixes in the first couple of weeks of its use – north of Szczecin on 7-8 December, and then in the Elbe valley west of Berlin, Germany, on 22 December.

Then, on Christmas Day, two pointers were collected, putting Kajzerka in The Netherlands, where it appeared to be on active migration, covering close to 200 km in a south-westerly direction in a four-hour gap between the tag's transmissions.

On 27th, the bird had moved further south-west and into Belgium, where it was seen to the south of Antwerp. It was seen again on the evening of 28th – this the second time the bird has been seen in the country, following a few weeks' stay in February-March 2012. It remains to be seen whether Belgium is Kajzerka regular wintering haunt or it continues westward.

The bird's movements highlight just how easily a vagrant bird can range widely (and, presumably for many years) in a relatively well-birded area of the world and still not be seen by birders.

Further details on this bird and updates to its movements will be reported at the [Interrex Facebook page](#).

Avian Flu - An unprecedented outbreak with devastating effects.

Right now, the UK is experiencing an unprecedented outbreak of Avian Flu which has already killed thousands of wild birds.

The Solway Firth, on the border between England and Scotland, is currently the worst affected area, with 3-4000 barnacle geese dying so far this winter. This is around 10% of the population that migrates there annually from their breeding ground in Svalbard in arctic Norway.



Geese have been observed falling from the sky in distress, and lines of dead birds are washing up on the beach after they perish while roosting out on the mudflats.

Dead birds are being found by staff across RSPB Mersehead, with over 700 removed so far and the numbers rising fast. The safe removal of the carcasses is costly and time-consuming. We urgently need more staff to aid with the clean-up and to help to reduce the risk of the virus spreading to more healthy birds.

The birds affected have mostly been ducks, geese and swans, but gulls, birds of prey and curlews have also been affected. Concerns are building that it could spread to other local populations such as lapwing and wigeon.

Worryingly, the worst could still be to come.

The 'classic' Avian Flu pattern is for the outbreak to peak in early winter, followed by a second peak later in the season that can be more deadly. We must act now to do all that we can to limit the spread of this disease across wild bird populations. Whilst the Solway Firth is currently experiencing the brunt of the outbreak in the UK, it is possible that serious impacts could become a more widespread issue across the UK.

Please do not touch any sick or dead birds. If you find any dead waterfowl (swans, ducks, geese), any gulls or birds of prey, please report them to the Defra helpline 03459 335577 or in Northern Ireland to DAERA on 0300 200 7840.

See DEFRA's website here for more details <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Also, see the RSPB's dedicated page for [Avian Influenza updates](#).

Update Dec 2021

The current outbreak of avian influenza is the largest ever in the UK which is adding yet more pressure to our already beleaguered wild bird populations. As of Thursday 16 December, there were 60 confirmed case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in premises across the UK. In wild birds the high numbers of dead and sick birds being seen, is generating growing concern among conservationists and nature lovers. The wild bird species involved are mostly wild geese, ducks and swans, but there have also been confirmed cases in birds of prey, owls and curlew.



Birders should be aware that Lincolnshire is not immune and in the last fortnight as many as 10 poultry farms on the coastal marshes between North Somercotes and Alford have been affected. Finding dead wild birds is a real risk.

Of note is the situation on the Solway where ornithologists estimate 3,000-4,000 barnacle geese have died from AI. This is significant as it represents around 10% of the population of Svalbard barnacle geese that overwinter on the Solway. Full information regarding the current situation in each of the four countries, including advice for poultry keepers, can be found here:

England: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/avian-influenza-bird-flu/>

Wales: <https://gov.wales/avian-influenza>

Northern Ireland: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/avian-influenza-ai>

Birds can be infected with the avian influenza virus through contact with infected individual birds or waste products. Wild birds including waterfowl can carry and transmit the virus without showing evidence of disease. Movements of poultry around and between countries, and the migrations of wild birds, are both known vectors of the virus. The RSPB is taking this outbreak very seriously and we are following the government guidance on our reserves and implementing biosecurity measures where needed.



End of Year Sunset Picture – Diggers managing wetland habitat at RSPB Frampton © Andrew Chick

Lincolnshire Bird News - December 2021

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.

Lincolnshire Latest Bird News - December 2021

31/12/2021

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Ring-necked Duck (male)

Buck's Beck, Cleethorpes

Bar-tailed Godwit

Deeping Lakes

Cattle Egret

Gelston

2 Red Kite

Winters Pit, East Halton

Cattle Egret, **White-tailed Lapwing** (what a day to be refound in Lincolnshire)!



30/12/2021

Boston

15 Curlew

West Deeping

Russian White-fronted Goose

Deeping High Bank

Little Owl



A stunning Little Owl along Deeping High Bank - Image © Dave Newman

Norton Disney

12 Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, 2 Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier (male), Kestrel, Merlin, 1000's Golden Plover, Stonechat, 23 Whooper Swan

Grantham

Kingfisher, Raven

Marston

Siberian Chiffchaff, Kingfisher



Siberian Chiffchaff from the hide at Marston - Image © Steve Nesbitt

Trent Port, Marton

Little Egret, Kingfisher, 2 Red-legged Partridge, 2 Sparrowhawk, 2 Mistle Thrush

29/12/2021

Boultham Mere

2 Chiffchaff, 4 Little Egret, 6 Grey Partridge, 2 Water Rail, 30 Redwing

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, European Shag

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Freiston Shore

14 Russian White-fronted Goose

Swanholme Lakes

55 Gadwall, Goosander (15 male 9 female), Great Crested Grebe, 2 Grey Heron, 100 Jackdaw, 34 Shoveler, Siskin



Great Crested Grebe, Hartsholme Park - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Tallington Lakes

Ring-necked Duck, 17 Russian White-fronted Goose

28/12/2021

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, European Shag

Deeping High Bank

8 Goosander, Short-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Pintail, Water Rail, Stonechat, 185 Whooper Swan

27/12/2021

Covenham Reservoir

2 Great Northern Diver, European Shag

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier (male & female)

Marston

Siberian Chiffchaff

Messingham

Chiffchaff, 5 Goldcrest, Lesser Redpoll, 3 Siskin, Willow Tit, 3 Treecreeper

North Hykeham
Siberian Chiffchaff

26/12/2021

Messingham
Bullfinch, 2 Little Egret, 70 Northern Lapwing, Redwing, Green Sandpiper, 4 Coal Tit 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker
Saltfleet
Hen Harrier (f)

25/12/2021

Boston Area
Grey Crowned Crane (escapee)
Louth Canal
Little Egret, Kingfisher

Witham End
4 Great Northern Diver, Twite

24/12/2021

Branston
18 Curlew, Great White Egret, Redshank, Ruff, Common Snipe, 12 Snipe
Deeping High Bank
2 Great White Egret, 5 Goosander (4 male 1 female), 4 Short-eared Owl
Lincoln, Doddington Park
Bullfinch, 60 Goldfinch
North Hykeham
Brambling, 14 Lesser Redpoll, 110 Siskin
Marston
13 Curlew, Pink-footed Geese, Water Rail, Redshank, Green Sandpiper, 2 Cetti's Warbler
Millennium Green
4 Bullfinch, 2 Chiffchaff, Mediterranean Gull, Kingfisher, 2 Tawny Owl, 9 Song Thrush, 2 Treecreeper

23/12/2021

Boultham Mere
Water Rail, 4 Whooper Swan
Denton
Brambling, 20 Chaffinch
Freiston Shore
15 White-fronted Goose
Gibraltar Point
Long-tailed Duck, 30 Common Scoter
Wainfleet
487 Curlew, Peregrine Falcon, 500 Bar-tailed Godwit, Hen Harrier, 8000 Red Knot, 10000 Golden Plover
Whisby
15000 Starling

22/12/2021

Barton upon Humber
45 Barnacle Goose
Covenham Reservoir
2 Great Northern Diver, European Shag
Gibraltar Point
Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Long-tailed Duck, 1100 Eider, 25 Red-breasted Merganser
Hill Holt Wood

Marsh Tit

Lincoln, Doddington Park

Sparrowhawk

Mablethorpe

6 Russian White-fronted Goose

21/12/2021

Frampton Marsh

2 Hen Harrier

Gibraltar Point

Long-tailed Duck

Mablethorpe

4 Long-tailed Duck, 1 Puffin, 700 Common Scoter, 2 Velvet Scoter

Millennium Green

Blackcap, 2 Chiffchaff, Kingfisher, 12 Lesser Redpoll, 59 Siskin, Green Woodpecker

Toft Newton Reservoir

2 Red-breasted Merganser, 3 Whooper Swan

Stamford

1 Waxwing

20/12/2021

Baston Fen

Short-eared Owl

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver

Frampton Marsh

Fieldfare, Hen Harrier 2, Redwing, Sparrowhawk

Lincoln

Redwing

Mablethorpe

4 Long-tailed Duck, Common Scoter, 2 Velvet Scoter

Marston

9 Pink-footed Goose

Messingham,

2 Buzzard, 2 Little Egret, Fieldfare (large flock), c1000 Pink-footed Goose, c 200 Linnet, 1 Merlin, 80 Redwing, 30 Mute Swan, 2

Great Spotted Woodpecker,

Tallington Lakes

Greater Scaup, European Shag (briefly)

19/12/2021

Deeping High Bank

2 Goosander, Smew ♀

Hill Holt Wood

Brambling, 75 Goldfinch, 90 Lesser Redpoll, 45 Siskin

Huttoft Pit

60 Barnacle Goose

Mablethorpe

Purple Sandpiper

Trent Port, Marton

Chiffchaff, Pink-footed Goose, 8 White-fronted Goose, Treecreeper

18/11/2021

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Little Stint

Deeping High Bank
Short-eared Owl
Frampton Marsh
Little Stint


17/12/2021 (generally pretty foggy)

Boultham Mere
5 Whooper Swan
Grantham (St Wulframs Church)
Peregrine Falcon
East Halton Skitter
Water Pipit
Millennium Green
Kingfisher, Mandarin, 2 Pochard, 22 Redwing, Sparrowhawk, 10 Song Thrush, Cetti's Warbler

16/12/2021

Aubourn area
2 Corn Bunting, 5 Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, 162 Pink-footed Geese, Little Owl, Tawny Owl
Boultham Mere
Goosander, 5 Whooper Swan
Cliff Farm, Branston
24+ Yellowhammer
Cleethorpes
Purple Sandpiper
Covenham Reservoir
Great Northern Diver, Eurasian Shag
Deeping St James
Siberian Chiffchaff
Far Ings
Bittern
East Halton
2 Short-eared Owl, Water Pipit, Lesser Yellowlegs (53 41 07N, 0 15 46W)
Grantham (St Wulframs)
Black Redstart
Mablethorpe
4 Long-tailed Duck, Common Scoter, 2 Velvet Scoter
Sandilands
Short-eared Owl
Sturton by Stow
Short-eared Owl
Whisby
Bittern

15/12/2021

Caenby Corner
Rough-legged Buzzard (possible that flew towards Atterby)
Covenham Reservoir
2 Great Northern Diver, 2 Eurasian Shag, 60 Fieldfare, Greater Scaup
Frampton Marsh
Peregrine Falcon, Fieldfare, 2 Hen Harrier 2 , Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Water Rail, Redwing, Little Stint, Stonechat, 2 Bearded Tit
Gibraltar Point
Snow Bunting, Great Northern Diver, Red-necked Grebe
Mablethorpe

5 Long-tailed Duck, Common Scoter, 2 Velvet Scoter

Millennium Green

Goosander, 3 Pink-footed Goose, 10000 Black-headed Gull, 2600 Common Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Mandarin, Sparrowhawk, 2 Great Spotted Woodpecker

RAF Wainfleet

Hen Harrier ♂

14/12/2021

Bishop Norton

Rough-legged Buzzard (possible)

Brickyard Lane/Crook Bank

25 Snow Bunting

Butterly Pit - Lincoln (no public access)

Bittern

Frampton Marsh

Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint

Gibraltar Point

Lapland Bunting, 2 Great Northern Diver, 67 Red-throated Diver, Long-tailed Duck, Marsh Harrier, 8 Red-breasted Merganser, Stonechat

Mablethorpe

5 Long-tailed Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Common Scoter, Velvet Scoter

Winthorpe

12 Snow Bunting (by The Lookout Pub)

13/12/2021

Boultham Mere

25 Lesser Redpoll, 5 Whooper Swan

Covenham Reservoir

Great Northern Diver, Grey Phalarope, Shag



The two Great Northern Divers pictured together at Covenham Reservoir - Image © John Clarkson

Frampton Marsh
Water Pipit, Little Stint
Huttoft Pit
Siberian Chiffchaff
Millennium Green
Lesser Redpoll

12/12/2021

Boultham Mere

8 Grey Partridge, Water Rail, 5 Whooper Swan, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

Covenham Reservoir

2 Great Northern Diver, Caspian Gull, Grey Phalarope, 2 Shag



An excellent close up of one of the Great Norther Divers at Covenham Reservoir - Image © Russell Hayes

Crook Bank
26 Snow Bunting
Crowle Moor NR
3 Goosander, Smew (♀)
Deeping High Bank
3 Short-eared Owl
Deeping Lakes
Cattle Egret
Frampton Marsh
Merlin, Little Stint
Pyewipe, Grimsby
230 Curlew, 3700 Dunlin, 1200 Bar-tailed Godwit, 5060 Black-tailed Godwit, 187 Grey Plover, 270 Redshank, Purple
Sandpiper, 850 Shelduck
East Halton Skitter
Water Pipit
Louth

Buzzard, Kingfisher, 70 Lapwing, **Water Rail**, 60 Redwing

Trent Port, Marton

5 Bullfinch, 5 Buzzard, **Peregrine Falcon**, 2 Goldcrest, 50 Goldfinch, 133 Lapwing, Redwing, Snipe, Sparrowhawk, 65 Wigeon, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

Marston

Blackbird, Fieldfare, Redwing

Saltfleetby St Peter

Great Northern Diver

11/12/2021

Covenham Reservoir

Snow Bunting, **Great Northern Diver**, **Caspian Gull**, **Grey Phalarope**, **Rock Pipit**, **Shag**

Frampton Marsh

Buzzard, **Peregrine Falcon**, 8000 Golden Plover, **Water Pipit**, Grey Plover, 200 Redwing, **Little Stint**, **40 Whooper Swan**

South Ormsby (Railway Tavern Trail)

42 Blackbird, 10 Brambling, 8 Bullfinch, 400 Fieldfare, 200 Linnet, 80 Redwing, 150 Tree Sparrow, **Water Rail**, 80 Yellowhammer

East Halton Skitter

Water Pipit

Mablethorpe

2 Long-tailed Duck, **Velvet Scoter**

Tallington Lakes

Scaup

Witham End

Great Northern Diver, **Slavonian Grebe**, **Mediterranean Gull**

10/12/2021

Boultham Mere

Great White Egret, **5 Whooper Swan**

Covenham Reservoir

Grey Phalarope, **Water Pipit**, **Snow Bunting**



Snow Bunting at Covenham Reservoir - Image © Russell Hayes

Cress Marsh

3 Whooper Swan

Dunsby Fen

Brambling, Peregrine Falcon, Fieldfare, Redwing

Gibraltar Point

20 Snow Bunting, 3 Great Northern Diver, Long-tailed Duck

Hartsholme Park/ Swanholme Lakes

2 Coal Tit, 4 Cormorant, Goosander (5 ♂ 4 ♀), 2 Jay, Kingfisher, 50 Mallard, 1/2 Nuthatch, c70 Shoveler, 60 Tufted Duck, 100 Wigeon

Kirkby on Bain

Bullfinch, Little Egret, 8 Egyptian Geese, 5 Goldeneye, Kingfisher, 340 Lapwing, 2 Water Rail, Redshank, 5 Siskin

Mablethorpe

Long-tailed Duck, 400 Common Scoter

Marston

Short-eared Owl

Messingham

2 Buzzard, Chiffchaff, Great White Egret, 3 Goldcrest, Egyptian Goose, 400 Greylag Goose, 24 Common Gull, 2 Lesser Redpoll, 7 Shelduck, 8 Siskin, 14 Pochard, 16 Shoveler, 2 Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Cetti's Warbler

Wroot

Hen Harrier (♂)

09/12/2021

Covenham Reservoir

Grey Phalarope, Snow

Bunting

Crook Bank

30 Snow Bunting

Gibraltar Point

Great Northern

Diver, White-billed

Diver (the two divers

flew south in to the

Wash), Red-necked

Grebe

Mablethorpe

Long-tailed Duck,

Purple Sandpiper

Millennium Green

22 Cormorant, 124

Tufted Duck, 12

Goldeneye, 2

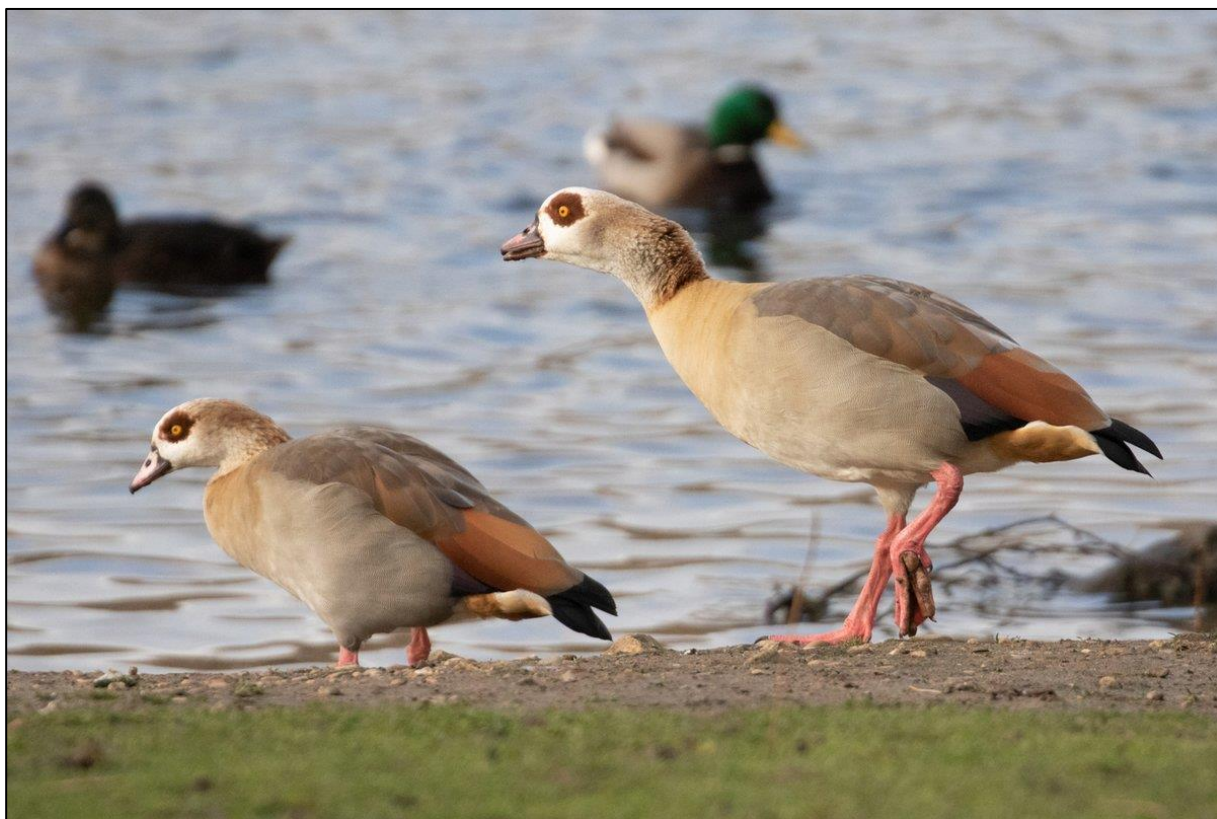
Goosander, 3

Goldcrest, 2 Egyptian

Goose, Jay, 12 Siskin,

Song Thrush, 34 Long-

tailed Tit



Egyptian Geese on Millennium Green, Lincoln - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Westwoodside

35 Whooper Swan

Witham End

Red-throated Diver, 20 Eider, 9 Goldeneye, 6 Guillemot, Slavonian Grebe, 6 Red-breasted Merganser



Nice close up of an Eider at Cut End - Image © Dave Roberts

Wroot

c1000 Pink-footed Goose, 54 Whooper Swan

08/12/2021

Brickyard Lane

Siberian Chiffchaff

Covenham Reservoir

Grey Phalarope

Gibraltar Point

5 Little Gull (S), Water Pipit

Mablethorpe

Purple Sandpiper

Whisby area

Bittern, 150 Blackbird, Blackcap, 17 Bullfinch, Chiffchaff, Great White Egret, 2 Goosander, Oystercatcher, 2 Water Rail, 115 Lesser Redpoll, 38 Redwing, 42 Siskin, 3 Treecreeper, Grey Wagtail

07/12/2021

Boultham Mere

5 Whooper Swan

Covenham Reservoir

Snow Bunting, Grey Phalarope

Frampton Marsh

100 Dunlin, Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint

Gibraltar Point

Lapland Bunting, 3 Snow Bunting, Great Northern Diver

Saltfleetby

33 Snow Bunting

06/12/2020

Barton - Far Ings

Bittern, 6 Brambling, 4 Marsh Harrier, Raven, 40 Siskin



A gorgeous shot of a Bittern taken in the Barton area - Image © Graham Catley

Cleethorpes

Red Knot, Turnstone



A turnstone at Cleethorpes - Image © Andy Sims

Covenham Reservoir

Grey Phalarope

Crook Bank

2 Long-tailed Duck, Great White Egret, 2 Velvet Scoter, Jack Snipe

Gibraltar Point

12 Snow Bunting

Mablethorpe

Caspian Gull

Millennium Green

Mandarin Duck, Great White Egret, 17 Goldeneye, 68 Redwing, 17 Siskin, 3 Whooper Swan

Trent Port

2 Peregrine Falcon, 120 Fieldfare, 120 Pink-footed Geese, 268 Redwing, 2 Sparrowhawk

05/12/2021

Chapel Point

Red-necked Grebe

Cleethorpes

25 Snow Bunting

Covenham Reservoir

Snow Bunting, Grey Phalarope

Cress Marsh

2 Reed Bunting, 60 Gadwall, Goldeneye, Little Grebe, 6 Black-headed Gull, 40 Great Black-backed Gull, 39 Herring Gull, 9 Redshank, Green Sandpiper, 5 Shoveler, 13 Mute Swan, 17 Teal

Crook Bank, Churchill Lane

20 Snow Bunting

Donna Nook

Caspian Gull

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, 3 Marsh Harrier, Little Stint, Stonechat

Gibraltar Point

Great Northern Diver

Pinchbeck

Cattle Egret

Tallington Lakes

Greater Scaup

Trent Port

52 Blackbird Peregrine Falcon, 110 Fieldfare, Kingfisher, 240 Redwing, Sparrowhawk, Treecreeper

Witham End

Long-tailed Duck, 14

Eider

04/12/2021

Far Ings

Bittern

Frampton Marsh

2 Little Stint, Twite

East Halton Skitter

2 Barnacle Goose,

Bittern, 3 Marsh

Harrier, 2 Water Pipit, 4

Common Scoter, 2

Stonechat

03/12/2021

Covenham Reservoir

Grey Phalarope



A stunning photograph of the Grey Phalarope at Covenam Reservoir - Image © Graham Catley

Far Ings

Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Redshank

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier (2 ♂ 1 ♀), Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Short-eared Owl, Little Stint

Gibraltar Point

Long-tailed Duck, Great Northern Diver, 16 Snow Bunting

Mablethorpe

25 Snow Bunting, 4 Long-tailed Duck, Peregrine Falcon, 3 Velvet Scoter

Millenium Green

2 Brambling, Siberian Chiffchaff, Firecrest, Goldcrest, 14 Goldeneye, 4 Goosander, 2 Goldcrest, 2 Tree Sparrow, Grey Wagtail

02/12/2021

Boultham Mere

2 Bullfinch, Little Egret, 20 Redwing, 5 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Cleethorpes

Mediterranean Gull, Purple Sandpiper

Covenham Reservoir

Grey Phalarope

Gibraltar Point

Great Shearwater

Grantham

3 Lesser Redpoll

Huttoft

Great Shearwater

Millennium Green - North Hykeham

Siberian Chiffchaff

Tallington Lakes

Greater Scaup

01/12/2021

Baston Fen

Water Pipit

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier, Little Stint

Gibraltar Point

Great Northern Diver, 32 Snow Bunting

Millennium Green

Blackcap, Brambling, Chiffchaff, Great White Egret, Little Grebe, 2 Jay, 170 Lapwing, 2 Whooper Swan, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Trent Port, Marton

2 Bullfinch, 70 Fieldfare, Jay, Kingfisher, 80 Redwing, 3 Whooper Swan, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

Wroot

Hen 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/>

Nature Lister - <http://www.naturelister.co.uk>

Wildlife Recorder - <https://www.wildlife.co.uk>

Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union Website

<http://lnu.org/>

LNU e-mail: info@lnu.org

Love Lincs Plants <https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/what-we-do/love-lincs-plants>
Love Lincs Plants Twitter feed
[@LoveLincsPlants](#)

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

