



Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter - April 2023

eNewsletter Content:

Wash Barrage Special
Who Needs the Wash

1
3

An 'unworkable' tidal barrage
Alpine Swifts!
Global Big Day
Mar 2023 Bird News

6
9
10
16

LBC AGM Final reminder

The Lincolnshire Bird Club AGM is being held at Whisby NP Education Centre, from 14.00hrs on Saturday April 1, 2023 for a talk by Nick Williams on " Nesting of rare birds in South Lincolnshire" The talk is FREE to everyone

Developers are being urged to reconsider the controversial Wash barrage plans.

Despite the significant risks that such a development would pose, plans for a tidal barrage on the Wash estuary in East Anglia have been proposed!

Outrageous plans to redevelop the estuary for electricity generation, at a cost per MWh nearly double that of any comparable low carbon energy source, would fundamentally alter one of the UK's most important wetlands.

The Wash is the most important estuary in the United Kingdom for wild birds, as well as the home of England's largest common seal colony and an important fishery. The nature of the intertidal habitats on which this wildlife depends would be fundamentally altered by a tidal barrage.

The construction of a barrier across The Wash's mouth would disrupt the flow of tidal water into and out of the estuary, raising concerns that this could lead to greater - and more frequent - flooding, as well as significant coastal erosion. Similar projects, such as a tidal barrier at Oosterschelde in the Netherlands, caused flooding further up the coast.

The plans are fronted by businessman, James Sutcliffe, CEO of Centre Port Holdings Ltd. A deep-water port has also been included in the plans.



The Wash's shallow waters would make building a deep-water port difficult, if not impossible, and would necessitate extensive dredging to maintain. It's unclear how this will affect nearby ports in Boston and King's Lynn.

Rivers that flow into The Wash deposit large amounts of sediment into the shallow estuary, making it one of the least suitable locations for tidal power development. Rivers flowing into the estuary drain approximately 20% of England's landmass.

This is not the first-time ambitious proposals for a tidal barrage have been put forward. A similar development along the River Severn was dismissed by a House of Commons Select Committee in 2013 as “prohibitively expensive”. The development was later cancelled on economic grounds.

Phil Espin, Chairman of the Lincolnshire Bird Club said *“The Wash is now the number 1 site for wildlife on the east coast of Britain and contains two of Lincolnshire’s most important nature reserves, for wildlife and people: Gibraltar Point and Frampton Marsh. Both would be wrecked by this proposal and many wading birds like the Knot could face catastrophic loss of migration feeding grounds. The only reason The Wash is No 1 is that our ancestors drained the Fens and ruined its wildlife value. Do we have to keep repeating the mistakes of history and despoil our natural heritage so a few rich people can make even more money. I say no. The whole idea is total madness and we will fight them on the beaches...literally.”*



Who needs a Wash? Written by Graham Appleton

First published in by Wader Quest Article number G19: 29/02/2023

https://www.waderquest.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Who-needs-a-wash-Graham-Appleton.pdfR_.pdf

More details at <https://www.waderquest.net/> and <https://wadertales.wordpress.com/>

There is a new plan to put a tidal barrage across the mouth of the Wash, the large estuary on the east coast of England that is used by half a million or more waders each year. Is this something that should concern us? Is this another mad idea that is going to go away? Contacts at the RSPB think that we need to take the threat seriously, as we did nearly fifty years ago.

I got hooked on waders after my first wader-catching trip with the Wash Wader Ringing Group (now Wash Wader Research Group <https://wwrg.org.uk/>, WWRG) in April 1974. At the time, the main focus of the Group's activities was to collect as much data as we could about nine key species. There was a proposal to build one or more freshwater reservoirs on the mudflats, thereby displacing thousands of Red Knots *Calidris canutus* from Greenland and Canada, Dunlins *Calidris alpina* and Grey Plovers *Pluvialis squatarola* from Siberia and Eurasian Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* from Norway – to name just a few of the species that would have been affected. Conservation organisations across the charity and government sectors worked together to oppose the plan.



Weighing a Turnstone.

and with an increasing emphasis on colour-ringing, flags and resightings, to generate annual survival estimates. There's a summary of what was learnt in the first sixty years (1959 to 2019) in the WaderTales blog 'Sixty years of Wash waders' (<https://wadertales.wordpress.com/2019/08/15/sixty-years-of-wash-waders/>). More recently, tagging has refined our understanding of how individuals move around the Wash and surrounding farmland. Look out for a new paper on this for

As WWRG members, we doubled our efforts to catch waders, in order to be able to estimate the turnover of birds using the site and to assess how birds built up the resources they needed to survive the winter and/or prepare for migration. It became a fortnightly commitment for many of us. The Wash Feasibility Study that was produced by the Natural Environment Research Council is available here (<https://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/507015/1/N507015CR.pdf>). I wish I could say that we stopped the development but the impracticality of building freshwater reservoirs in a saltwater environment was probably a more telling factor in the decision not to go ahead.

Once the fight was over, WWRG reverted to a monthly schedule of volunteer activity. Catching has changed, becoming more targeted



WaderTales blog.



Examining a wader.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* and Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

Eurasian Oystercatcher is one of many species that exemplifies the importance of the Wash. The peak winter Wetland Bird Survey count is about 24,000, with the majority of birds being of Norwegian origin. During the low tide period these birds can be found spread across 270 square kilometres of mud and sand, with some individuals feasting on cockles and mussels and others probing for worms. We already know that life can be a struggle for Wash Oystercatchers. In poor years – and this 2022/23 winter has been particularly bad – many individuals cannot find the resources they need to complete their annual moult and some birds die. Protecting cockle stocks is important to both Oystercatchers and to fishers who depend upon them for their livelihoods.



Ringing movements of WWRG Eurasian Oystercatchers

There have been many plans to reduce the size of the Wash. Putting a barrage across, with a road running along its length, would connect Norfolk and Lincolnshire and might provide development opportunities but at what cost? The latest plan purports to hit three 'buttons' that may tempt the UK government to invest, suggesting that it can reduce flooding, produce clean energy and deliver a net-zero international port. Tidal power sounds attractive but would involve retaining more water in the Wash and hence reduce feeding opportunities for hundreds of thousands of birds. Building the barrage and creating a new port might deliver new jobs – but in a part of the country with awful road and rail links.

The developers also suggest that "without the scheme many people, communities, businesses, road, rail and water infrastructures are at risk of permanent

Oystercatchers return from Norway in late summer and stay for eight months but populations of other species rely on the Wash for much shorter periods, especially in the autumn. These include Sanderlings *Calidris alba* from Greenland, some of which will travel as far as Namibia, *taymyrensis* Bar-tailed Godwits that refuel on their way from Siberia to West Africa, and Grey Plovers that will move to western Britain and Ireland after their autumn moult. The estuary is never quiet; in May, the last Siberian birds leave, in June there are plenty of young waders that won't breed in their first or second year, and by July adults are flooding back from Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia, the Baltic and Russia.



Sanderlings.



Setting a cannon-net.

flooding" and that the plan "can control storm surges so all the bird sanctuaries, salt marshes and so on don't get washed away" so that "it's going to conserve The Wash and its bird life like it is today". This is all disputed, of course, but you can see why a barrage might sound superficially attractive. I am reminded that flooding in Norway occurs when fresh water cannot escape into the North Sea, either because of heavy rain or because high tides or storms reduce or stop the outflow at Great Yarmouth. The Wash catchment area is much bigger, receiving water that falls as rain on Lincoln, Grantham, Northampton, Milton Keynes, Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds. That's about 12% of the land area of England.

Despite the rhetoric, I thought that the new Centre Port plan would go the way of previous ideas, until I read in The Eastern Daily Press that Centrica was investing in this plan. The company see this as a way to "generate enough electricity to power 600,000 homes and businesses" and is offering "a guaranteed price for the renewable energy produced by the tidal turbines, to underpin their construction". This is a serious threat.

So what can we do now? WWRG will continue to collect information about waders that use the Wash but our current stripped-down government agencies would struggle to have the resources to undertake the work on sediments and plant communities that were so important fifty years ago. Who is going to model salinity levels and who will predict whether shellfish and other marine invertebrates will be able to cope in a less salty and more polluted environment?

On the plus side, many more people know about the Wash these days, thanks to the wonderful BBC Springwatch team, who have shared the amazing wader inspirations on mainstream TV. Thousands of viewers have been inspired by the spectacle on their screens and have travelled to RSPB's excellent Snettisham reserve to witness the swirling mass of waders for themselves, bringing tourist income to Norfolk at the same time. Back in the 1970s, the only engagement with the general public came from an RSPB film by Hugh Miles called 'Who needs a Wash?' that toured the country.

In Winterwatch in January, Chris Packham spoke to millions when he closed a package about waders with "we've got to protect the Wash" and he's right. As wader lovers, we need to share their stories; as conservationists, we need to fight back against plans to water down legislation that protects estuaries; and, as members, we will need to support RSPB, Wader Quest, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. We all need the Wash and the Wash needs us to protect it.



Putting flags on Grey Plovers.



An Inspiration of wades over the Wash; will this spectacle be lost to us? - Elis Simpson

Plans for an 'unworkable' tidal barrage on the Wash estuary in East Anglia have been put forward, despite the significant risks such a development would pose.

Tammy Smalley - Head of Conservation, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Outlandish plans to redevelop the estuary to generate electricity, at a cost per MWh of almost double any comparable low carbon energy source, would fundamentally alter one of the UK's most important wetlands.

Alongside the RSPB, Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT), the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and Wild Ken Hill Estate, we are urging government and developers to re-think this proposal to avoid catastrophic effects on nature and wildlife.

The Wash is the UK's most important estuary for wild birds, home to England's largest common seal colony, and an important fishery. A tidal barrage would fundamentally alter the nature of the intertidal habitats on which this wildlife depends.



The shallow waters of the Wash would make a deep-water port difficult, if not impossible, to build, and would require intensive dredging to maintain. It is unclear what effect this might have on nearby ports in Boston and King's Lynn.

Rivers flowing into The Wash deposit large amounts of sediment into the shallow estuary, making it one of the least suitable sites for the development of tidal power. About twenty per cent of England's landmass is drained by rivers flowing into the estuary.

Nick Bruce-White, director of RSPB England, said:

"It's absolutely necessary to look at where the UK sources its energy and how we produce more of it ourselves from renewable sources, but we have to make sure we're striking the right balance for nature.

"The Wash is one of the most complex coastal habitats for its hydrology and stunning range of wildlife. Spending millions of pounds on assessments and surveys is a waste of time and money that could be better spent on more workable, established solutions to generate green energy, such as wind and solar power.

"Based on the current evidence that demonstrates the destruction this would bring to The Wash, we consider this project a non-starter."

This is not the first time ambitious proposals for a tidal barrage have been put forward. A similar development along the River Severn was dismissed by a House of Commons Select Committee in 2013 as "prohibitively expensive". The development was later cancelled on economic grounds.



Power generated by the Severn Estuary Barrage would have required massive investment and public subsidies at a total cost of more than £30bn, and the same would likely be true for the Wash Barrage.

Dr James Robinson, Director of Conservation at the WWT, said:

"Building a barrage wouldn't address the energy crisis as it would take years to construct. It would, however, cause permanent damage to one of the UK's most important wetland habitats with devastating effects on biodiversity at a time when we are facing a biodiversity crisis in the UK and worldwide.

"It would also destroy saltmarsh, a vital carbon store that helps combat climate. If the UK Government is truly committed to recovering nature it must oppose any plans for a barrage across the Wash."



Not only is the wide estuary of global importance for its wildlife, but also for the carbon contained in its tidal habitats, and an important part of the government's commitment to protecting 30 per cent of land and sea for nature by 2030 and reaching net zero carbon emissions.

Tammy Smalley, from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, said:

"Having grown up and lived around The Wash all my life I know just what a special place it is and the vital service it provides to communities.

"As a natural flood defence, a source of food, and a wild place to visit, it should be protected at all costs - not destroyed to generate obscenely expensive energy and increase the risk of flooding."



The Wash is one of the UK's most important estuaries for wild birds, at any one time in the winter up to 400,000 birds depend upon it for survival. It's estimated millions more use the area to feed, rest and breed over the course of a year.

Eliot Lyne, Norfolk Wildlife Trust's CEO said:

"With its vast exposed mudflats and warm, shallow waters full of invertebrates, The Wash is one of the UK's most important estuaries for wild birds and supports internationally important bird populations including redshank and knot.

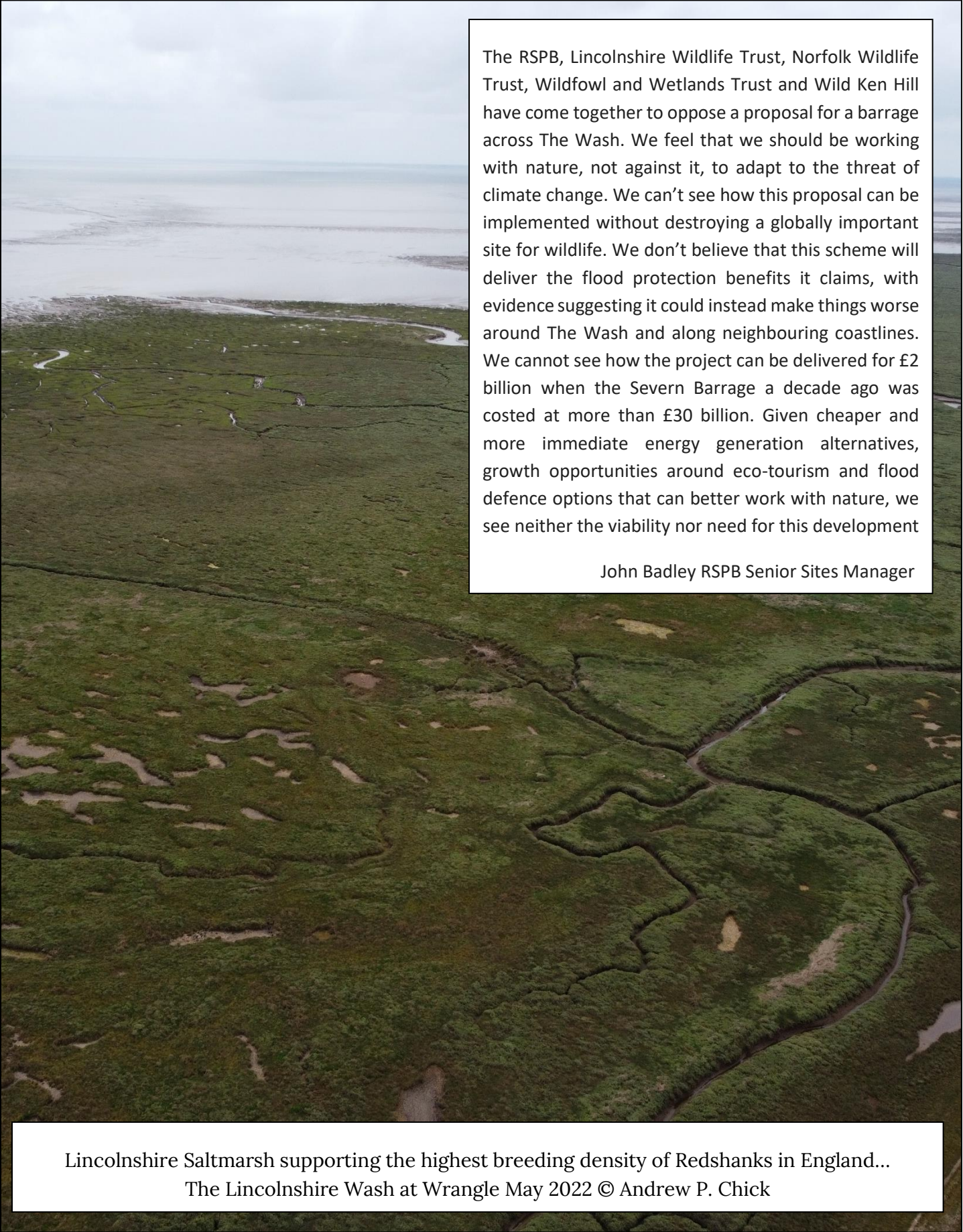
"To ensure we play our part in tackling the global biodiversity crisis, it is our responsibility to safeguard this incredible landscape."



Dominic Buscall, Project Manager at Wild Ken Hill, said:

"The idea for a Wash Barrier is a non-starter. We absolutely cannot afford to interfere with this unique and incredibly special ecosystem, especially in light of the Government's commitment to stabilise the decline of biodiversity by 2030.

"A Wash Barrier is also likely to be deeply, deeply unpopular with residents around The Wash. We derive a huge variety of benefits and pleasures from living on the seaside, and do not want to live next to an artificial saltwater pond, nor the significant amount of new infrastructure required to service it."



The RSPB, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Wild Ken Hill have come together to oppose a proposal for a barrage across The Wash. We feel that we should be working with nature, not against it, to adapt to the threat of climate change. We can't see how this proposal can be implemented without destroying a globally important site for wildlife. We don't believe that this scheme will deliver the flood protection benefits it claims, with evidence suggesting it could instead make things worse around The Wash and along neighbouring coastlines. We cannot see how the project can be delivered for £2 billion when the Severn Barrage a decade ago was costed at more than £30 billion. Given cheaper and more immediate energy generation alternatives, growth opportunities around eco-tourism and flood defence options that can better work with nature, we see neither the viability nor need for this development

John Badley RSPB Senior Sites Manager

Lincolnshire Saltmarsh supporting the highest breeding density of Redshanks in England...
The Lincolnshire Wash at Wrangle May 2022 © Andrew P. Chick

Multiple Alpine Swift in Lincolnshire – What a Month!

Who could have predicted that there would be multi-records of this species during March 2023!

First recorded in Lincolnshire on Apr 23rd 1964 at Sturton Park near Horncastle. There have been a further 20 confirmed records with the earliest on Mar 20th, the latest on Oct 24th. Gibraltar Point has been the best site to see one of these huge swifts with nine records. Not all of these birds have arrived in the best of health. The bird at Healing on Aug 6th 1971 was found in a weak condition, later dying and the bird seen at Gibraltar Point on Apr 24th 1987 was later found dead at Seacroft on May 2nd. Alpine Swifts can sometimes be tracked as they travel across the county and such was the case with one first seen at 07:00h Apr 27th 2003 at Gibraltar Point. It flew south with two Common Swifts and was later seen at two localities in Norfolk and then at Minsmere, Suffolk in the evening where it stayed for a few days.

The species was ex-BBRC in 2006, unsurprisingly given that in the peak years for this species more than 20 were being recorded and between 1950-2005 there were 484 UK records.

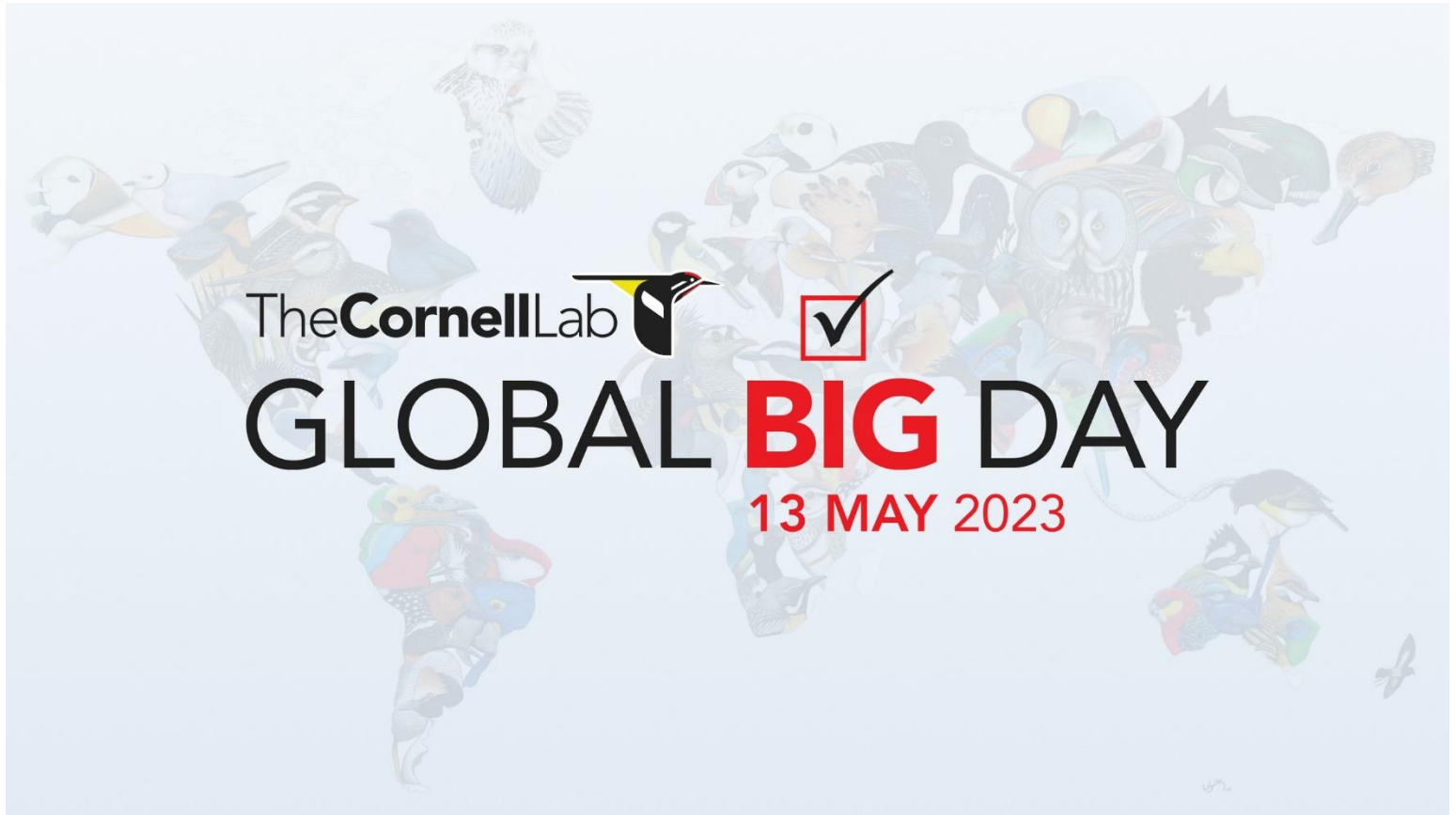
However, March 2023 has been a major event.... The national influx began on Monday 13th March with an extraordinary group of seven over Dungarvan, Co Waterford – the biggest flock ever recorded in Ireland. After another bird in Cheshire on 14th, further new individuals appeared in Co Cork, Cornwall and Gloucestershire on 15th, as suitable departure conditions in northern Iberia and a 'funnel' of south-westerly winds produced a large-scale arrival of common summer migrants across Britain and Ireland.

The first Lincolnshire bird was at Grainthorpe Haven 19/03/2023, the bird flew towards Horseshoe Point and was photographed by Mark Johnson and a second bird was at Gib Point. Then on the 20th Richard Doan found two birds at Chapel Six Marsh which incredibly stayed until 25th also being recorded at Wolla Bank and Chapel Point. At the time of writing a bird has been recorded north over Weelsby Road Grimsby on 20th by Josh Forrester.



One of the two Alpine Swifts that gave good views over the Mid-Lincs coastal areas - Image © Russell Hayes

Global Big Day on 13th May



Global Big Day is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, join us virtually on 13 May, help celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, and share the birds you find. More details to follow in the next LBC eNewsletter.

Request for information

A House Martin was reported at Sutton Bridge on Feb 27th 2021. This is a very early record and if you have any further information please contact the county recorder....

Lincolnshire Bird News - March 2023

Compiled by Chris Grimshaw

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

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

Lincolnshire Latest Bird News – March 2023

30/03/2023

Anderby Marsh

Willow Warbler

Caythorpe

Barn Swallow

Covenham Reservoir

Wheatear

Fiskerton

Chiffchaff, 8 Grey Heron, Willow Tit

Frampton Marsh

Buzzard, Great White Egret, Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Spoonbill, Barn Swallow, Whooper Swan, Yellow Wagtail

Gibraltar Point

32 Avocet, Eider, Firecrest, 2 Mediterranean Gull, Hen Harrier, 60 Linnet, 2 Pintail, 15 Siskin

Grimsby

Alpine Swift

Humberston Fitties

Red Kite

Kenwick Park GC

Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Stenigot

2 Grey Heron, Willow Tit

29/03/2023

Frampton Marsh

2 Little Egret, Peregrine Falcon, 4 Goldeneye, Barnacle Goose, 8 Pink-footed Goose, White-fronted Goose, 3 Marsh Harrier, 4 Pintail, Little-ringed Plover, Ringed Plover, 15 Pochard, 2 Spoonbill, 14 Whooper Swan

28/03/2023

Baumber/Wragby

Osprey

Frampton Marsh

2 Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Goldeneye, Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, Kingfisher, 3 Sand Martin, Barn Owl, Pintail, Ring Plover, Pochard, Sparrowhawk, Spoonbill, 73 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler,

Gibraltar Point

Water Pipit

Scopwick

Whooper Swan

27/03/2023

Chapel Six Marshes

Chiffchaff, **Firecrest**, **Hen Harrier**, **Barn Owl**, **Cetti's Warbler**

Cleethorpes

60 Red Knot, 60 Turnstone

Far Ings

Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Swallow

Keelby

Barn Swallow

Messingham

5 Reed Bunting, 4 Buzzard, 4 Chiffchaff, 73 Gadwall, Kestrel, 4 Lapwing, 4 Sand Martin, 2 Oystercatcher, 2 Lesser Redpoll, 17 Shelduck, 23 Shoveler, Song Thrush, Cetti's Warbler

Wolla Bank

Barn Owl

Wasp's Nest

Barn Owl

26/03/2023

Cress Marsh

12 Avocet, 3 Buzzard, 23 Curlew, **2 Peregrine Falcon**, **Kingfisher**, Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper

Doddington Park

Brambling, **Common Redpoll**

Frampton Marsh

Cattle Egret, **2 Peregrine Falcon**, 7 Pink-footed Goose, **Hen Harrier**, 2 Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, 30 Ringed Plover, **Spoonbill**, **12**

Whooper Swan

Mablethorpe

Woodlark

Marston

120 Whooper Swan

Swanpool

Blackcap

Tetney Lock

300 Golden Plover

Trent Port

24 Gadwall, 2 Oystercatcher, Shelduck, **78 Whooper Swan**, 12 Teal, Great Spotted Woodpecker. **Green Woodpecker**

25/03/2023

Anderby Marsh

2 Avocet, Curlew, 3 Little Egret, 2 Oystercatcher, Redshank, Shoveler

Barton (Water's Edge)

Long-tailed Duck



The Long-tailed Duck that was present at Water's Edge - Image © Roy Harvey

Chapel Obsevatory

2 Alpine Swift

Chapel Six Marsh

2 Marsh Harrier, 3/4 Cetti's Warbler

Deeping Lakes

Cattle Egret

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier

Gibraltar Point

Brambling, Red Kite, Stonechat, 3 Woodcock, Woodlark

Halton Marshes

Spoonbill, White Stork

Ingoldmells

2 Alpine Swift

Willow Tree Fen

11 Common Crane, Hen Harrier

24/03/2023

Boultham Mere

2 Sand Martin

Burgh-le-Bain

2 Common Crane

Chapel St Leonards area

2 Alpine Swift

Doddington Park

Blackcap (m), 21 Lesser Redpoll

Frampton Marsh

Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, 2 Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, Barn Owl, Pintail, Spoonbill, White Stork

Gibraltar Point

Water Pipit

Heckington Fen

2 Whooper Swan

Swanpool

2 Egyptian Goose

23/03/2023

Chapel Point

2 Alpine Swift

Chapel Six Marshes

2 Alpine Swift

Lincoln

110 Whooper Swan (NW)

Mablethorpe

2 Woodlark

Messingham

2 Buzzard, Chiffchaff, Lapwing, Lesser Redpoll, Cetti's Warbler

Rimac

2 Buzzard, 10 Chiffchaff, 5 Fieldfare, 3 Marsh Harrier, 2 Barn Owl, Water Pipit, 3 Stonechat, 2 Wheatear, 4 Woodcock, Whooper Swan

Scotter

Alpine Swift

Swanholme Lakes

Goosander (f), 2 Jay, Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Woodcock

22/03/2023

Barton On Humber

Black-necked Grebe

Boultham Mere

45 Common Gull

Chapel Observatory

2 Alpine Swift

Doddington Park

2 Chiffchaff

Far Ings

Bittern

Frampton Marsh

308 Avocet, 750 Dunlin, 2 Mediterranean Gull, 4 Marsh Harrier, Little Ringed Plover, 13 Ringed Plover, 42 Ruff, 14 Pintail, 2 Golden Plover, 3 Spoonbill, 34 Whooper Swan, 3500 Wigeon

Gibraltar Point

Hen Harrier, Merlin

Toft Newton

Black-necked Grebe

Wolla Bank

Alpine Swift

21/03/2023

Anderby Creek

2 Alpine Swift

Chapel Six Marshes

2 Alpine Swift



One of the two Alpine Swifts that gave good views over the Mid-Lincs coastal areas - Image © Russell Hayes

Doddington Park

Chiffchaff

Frampton Marsh

4 Spoonbill

North Thoresby

3 Buzzard

Walesby

2 Chiffchaff

Wolla Bank

Alpine Swift

20/03/2023

Chaper Six Marsh

2 Alpine Swift

Donna Nook

2 Hen Harrier

Swanpool, Lincoln

4 Common Crane (over)

Trent Port

2 Bullfinch, 3 Chiffchaff, Tawny Owl, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker

19/03/2023

Boultham Mere

51 Whooper Swan

Branston Booths

Garganey

Doddington Park

Buzzard, 2 Common Redpoll, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Frampton Marsh

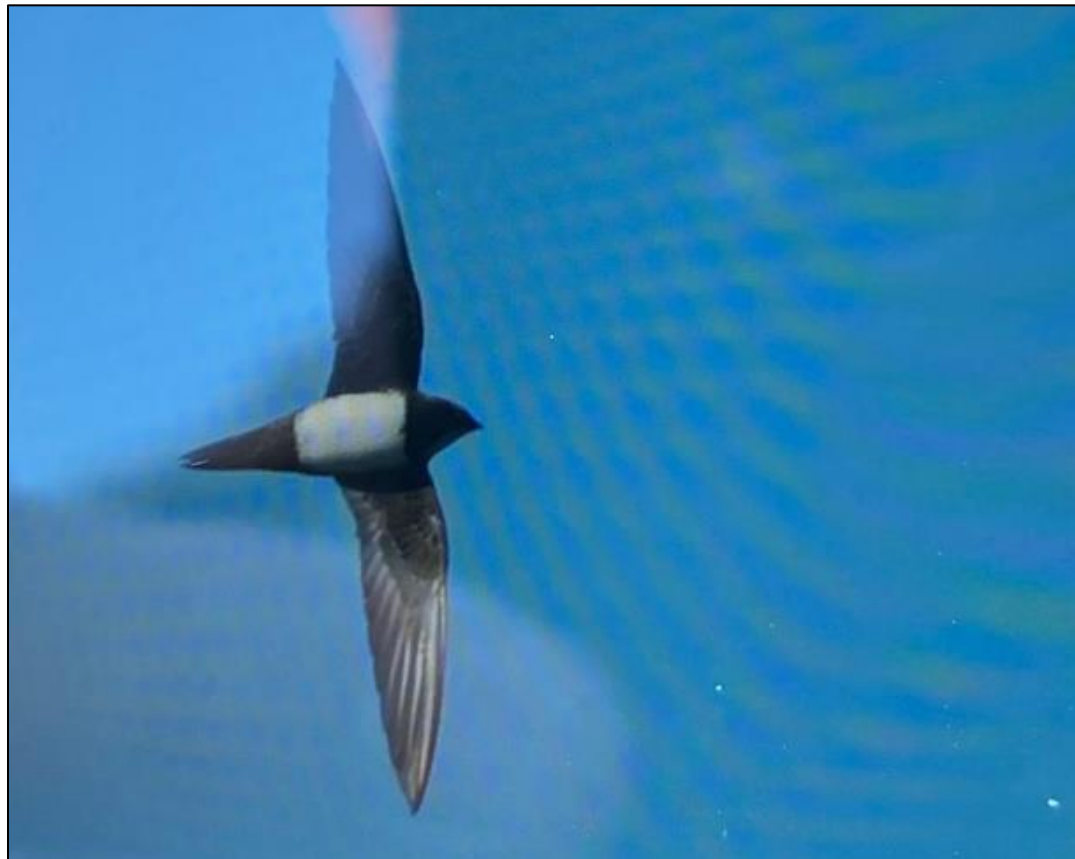
2 Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, 2 Marsh Harrier, Little Ringed Plover, 2 Spoonbill, 22 Whooper Swan, Wheatear

Gibraltar Point/Seacroft

Alpine Swift

Grainthorpe Haven

Alpine Swift



Alpine Swift at Grainthorpe Haven - flew towards Horseshoe Point - Image © Mark Johnson

Teal Lake Whisby

2 Brambling, House Martin, 16 Whooper Swan

Trent Port

Bullfinch, Chiffchaff, Little Egret, Oycatcher. 2 Redshank, Redwing, 2 Shelduck, 16 Teal, 95 Wigeon

Winter's Pool

Buzzard, 8 Chiffchaff, 20 White-fronted Goose, Merlin, Woodcock and an escaped (?) Gyr Falcon

18/03/2023

Baston GP

18 Whooper Swan

Churchill Lane/ Rimac

Chiffchaff, 2 Marsh Harrier, Water Pipit, Water Rail, 3 Cetti's Warbler

Covenham Reservoir

2 Black-necked Grebe

Crook Bank

30 Twite

Deeping Lakes

7 Whooper Swan

Dunston

Buzzard, 2 Chiffchaff, 30 Fieldfare, 30 Redwing, 137 Whooper Swan, Woodcock

Frampton Marsh

123 Avocet, Peregrine Falcon, 7 Pink-footed Goose, Marsh Harrier, Pintail, 4 Spoonbill, 3 Whooper Swan

Messingham

Avocet, 12 Brambling, 12 Buzzard, 7 Chiffchaff, 2 Little Egret, 168 Gadwall, 4 Goldeneye, 5 Egyptian Goose, 4 Lesser Black-backed Gull, Marsh Harrier, 2 Jay, Kestrel 12 Pochard, Water Rail, 9 Shelduck, 20 Shoveler, 16 Siskin, 3 Sparrowhawk

RAF Woodhall Spa

3 Little Ringed Plover

Trent Port

Chiffchaff, 2 Little Egret, 2 Goldcrest, 17 Whooper Swan, Treecreeper, Woodcock, 2 Green Woodpecker

Weelsby Woods

3 Chiffchaff, Stonechat, White Wagtail

Whitton Sands

700 Whooper (upper Humber) with 500 on the Sands (far shore)

17/03/2023

Alkborough Flats

Probable Siberian Chiffchaff, 2 Sand Martin

Boston & Langtoft Pits

Tundra Bean Goose

Doddington Park area

2 Buzzard, Firecrest, 3 Siskin, 21 Lesser Redpoll



Firecrest again in a private garden today, Doddington Park - Image © John Farmer

Hartsholme Park/Swanholme Lakes

Gadwall, 5 Goosander, Great Crested Grebe 4, 4 Grey Heron, 5 Jay, **Nuthatch**, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Molecey Pit

3 Little Ringed Plover

Gibraltar Point

Wheatear

16/03/2023

Black Bank

8 Redwing, Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Cleaatham

2 Buzzard, Lapwing

Cleethorpes

2 Purple Sandpiper

Crook Bank

17 Twite

Messingham

4 Sand Martin



Purple Sandpipers at Cleethorpes - Image © Jim Wright

Nebraska Wetlands

Buzzard, Curlew, 25 Gadwall, 22 Pink-footed Goose, 33 Common Gull, 2 Kestrel, 2 Oystercatcher, 4 Shelduck

Trusthorpe Point

Wheatear

Tuetoos

Little Owl



Perhaps the first Lincs Wheatear of the year at Trusthorpe Point - Image © Andy Sims

Frampton Marsh

Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, 8 Russian White-fronted Goose, Rock Pipit, Water Pipit, 4 Spoonbill, Stonechat

Huttoft Marsh

24+ Curlew, 2000 Starling, 300 Wood Pigeon

Novartis Ings

Caspian Gull, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull

Stamford

2 Peregrine Falcon

Sutton on Sea

2 Avocet (s), Red-thoated Diver

Trent Port

Great Northern Diver

15/03/2023

Deeping Lakes

White Wagtail

Doddington Park

Blackcap, Lesser Redpoll 27, Sparrowhawk

Frampton Marsh

8 Russian White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier (rt), 3 Spoonbill

Molecey Pit (Market Deeping)

4 Little Ringed Plover

Stanton's Pit

2 Russian White-fronted Goose

14/03/2023

RAF Digby

Black Redstart

Doddington Park

Common Redpoll, Lesser Redpoll, Siskin, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Frampton Marsh

Brambling, 2 Peregrine Falcon, 7 Pink-footed Goose, 4 Mediterranean Gull, 2 Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite Barn Owl,

Merlin, Water Rail, 3 Spoonbill, Stonechat, Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

7 Water Pipit

Hartsholme Park

2 Goosander

Millennium Green

2 Goosander

Seacroft Marsh

12 Snow Bunting

Tetney Blow Wells

2 Buzzard, Chiffchaff, 6 Goldeneye. Marsh Harrier

13/03/2023

Donna Nook

28 Bar-tailed Godwit, Marsh Harrier, 14 Meadow Pipit, 3 Snipe

Frampton Marsh

84 Avocet, Peregrin Falcon, 2 Marsh Harrier, Pintail, 2 Spoonbill, 2 Stonechat, 4 Whooper Swan

North Somercotes

Chiffchaff

Swanpool cow-fields

Jack Snipe

12/03/2023

Cress Marsh

Buzzard, 3 Common Gull, 7 Curlew, 30 Gadwall, 3 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 40 Lapwing, 3 Meadow Pipit, Little-ringed Plover, 3

Green Sandpiper, 5 Shelduck, 21 Teal, 10 Pied Wagtail, 45 Wigeon

Gibraltar Point

2 Common Crane, Hen Harrier (m), Short-eared Owl, Water Pipit,

Moulton Sea End

Sand Martin

Mablethorpe

Siberian Chiffchaff

Trent Port

Bullfinch, Gadwall, Greylag Geese, Raven, Redwing, Snipe, Sparrowhawk, Teal, 95 Wigeon, Green Woodpecker

11/03/2023

Crook Bank

2 Corn Bunting



A corn bunting at Crook Bank - Image © Owen Beaumont

Deeping Lakes

4 Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

Great White Egret, 2 Peregrine Falcon, 8 Russian White-fronted Goose, Merlin, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Sparrowhawk, Spoonbill, Stonechat, 9 Whooper Swan

Freiston Shore

200 Curlew, 800 Dunlin, 1000 Black-tailed Godwit, Hen Harrier (rt), Marsh Harrier, 2 Merlin, 150 Pintail, 45 Grey Plover, Water Rail, 200 Shelduck, Stonechat, 1500 Wigeon

Halton Marsh

27 Russian White-fronted Goose

North Somercotes

5 Buzzard

Strubby

2 Bewick's Swan, 108 Whooper Swan

Willow Tree Fen

15 Common Crane

Witham End

12 Red-breasted Merganser

10/03/2023

Frampton Marsh

117 Avocet, Buzzard, 3 Marsh Harrier, 20 Ruff, Sparrowhawk

Gibraltar Point

Snow Bunting, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl, 3 Water Pipit

Lincoln Cathedral

Peregrine Falcon

Louth

Siskin

Market Rasen

45 Goldfinch

Metherringham

Sparrowhawk



A sparrowhawk in a snowy Metherringham garden - Image © Andy Brewitt

09/03/2023

RAF Digby

Black Redstart

Far Ings

Short-eared Owl

Gibraltar Point

13 Snow Bunting, Hen Harrier, Water Pipit, Woodlark

08/03/2023

Frampton Marsh

117 Avocet, 2 Peregrine Falcon, 8 White-fronted Goose, Mediterranean Gull, Marsh Harrier, 5 Pintail, 38 Ruff, 8 Snipe, 4 Spoonbill Whooper Swan

Ingoldmells

9 Snow Bunting

Martin Moor

Kestrel, Red Kite

Middlemarsh Farm

Caspian Gull

Pyewipe

7 Snow Bunting

Snipe Dales

2 Buzzard, Lesser Redpoll, 200+ Siskin

North Somercotes

Chiffchaff

07/03/2023

RAF Digby

Black Redstart

Doddington Park

Common Redpoll, 26 Lesser Redpoll

Freiston Shore

Spotted Redshank

Halton Marsh

Hen Harrier

Lincoln University

32 Lesser Redpoll

Saltfleetby

7 Snow Bunting

06/03/2023

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Tundra Bean Goose

Fiskerton Fen

Bittern, Curlew, 5 Goosander, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Lapwing, 3 Shelduck, 3 Shoveler



Bittern at Fiskerton Fen this afternoon - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Frampton Marsh

2 Peregrine Falcon, 12 Pink-footed Goose, 8 Russian White-fronted Goose, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, 2 Spoonbill, 6 Whooper Swan

Freiston Shore

2 Spoonbill

Middlemarsh Farm

Caspian Gull

North Somercotes

Chiffchaff

Swanpool cow fields

97 Wigeon

05/03/2023

Boultam Mere

Marsh Harrier, Cetti's Warbler

Doddington Park

50 Lesser Redpoll, 2 Siskin

Frampton Marsh

93 Avocet, Peregrine Falcon, 5 Goldeneye, 13 Pink-footed Goose, 8 White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier (male), 2 Marsh Harrier, Rock Pipit, 22 Pochard, 63 Ruff, Mistle Thrush, Cetti's Warbler

Gibraltar Point

2 Snow Bunting

Marston

Water Rail, Green Sandpiper, **3 Stonechat**

Swanpool cow-fields

220 Redwing 91 Wigeon

Tongue End

7 Common Crane

04/03/2023

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Doddington Park

Goldcrest, **Firecrest**, 42 Lesser Redpoll, 10 Redwing, Siskin

Far Ings

Starling (**murmuration**)

Fiskerton Fen

5 Goosander



A firecrest in a private pool on Doddington Park, Lincoln - Image © John Farmer

Frampton Marsh

115 Avocet, 3 Buzzard, **2 Peregrine Falcon**, Goldeneye, **8 White-fronted Goose**, Marsh Harrier, **Barn Owl**, Pintail, 52 Ruff,

Sparrowhawk

Gibraltar Point

27 Snow Bunting, Short-eared Owl, 2 Water Pipit, Stonechat

Swanholme Lakes

12 Goosander

03/03/2023

Deeping

Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

8 White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier, 8 Twite, Spoonbill

Gibraltar Point

2 Hen Harrier, 5 Water Pipit

Withern

2 Bewick's Swan

02/03/2023

Cleethorpes

Snow Bunting



One of seven Snow Bunting on Cleethorpes Beach - Image © Jim Wright

Deeping Lakes

2 Little Owl, Long-eared Owl

Doddington Park

Common Redpoll, 30 Lesser Redpoll, Great Spotted Woodpecker

Donna Nook

Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, Kestrel, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

65 Avocet, Red-troated Diver, Eider, 2 Peregrine Falcon, 14 Pink-footed Goose, 8 Russian White-fronted Goose, Marsh Harrier, 4 Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin, Barn Owl, Ringed Plover, 2 Spoonbill, Spotted Redshank, 58 Whooper Swan

Gibraltar Point

Black-throated Diver, Water Pipit

Marston

5 Curlew, Little Egret, 3 Water Rail, Green Sandpiper

Withern

2 Bewick's Swan

01/03/2023

Gibraltar Point

13 Snow Bunting, Hen Harrier, 3 Water Pipit, Woodlark

Jobs Lane

Smew

Marston

Oystercatcher, Water Rail

Trent Port

145 Fieldfare, Oystercatcher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

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-](http://www.glnp.org.uk/our-publications/biodiversity/projects-and-reports.php)

[publications/biodiversity/projects-and-reports.php](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

