



Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter – November 2024

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Black-faced Bunting – New to Lincolnshire!

October 25th 2024 - the last chance saloon by Graham Catley

Having always been more inspired by trying to find birds than looking at other people's Lincolnshire has been a good location for me and in the course of my 56 years' birding forays I have managed to find 12 new birds for the county and a total of 303 self-found species but in recent times things had rather dried up on the bird finding stakes and adding another species to the county list seemed rather unlikely given that many of the obvious gaps had already been filled. A total knee replacement in mid-August 2023 at least gave me an excuse for finding nothing during the rest of the autumn but spring



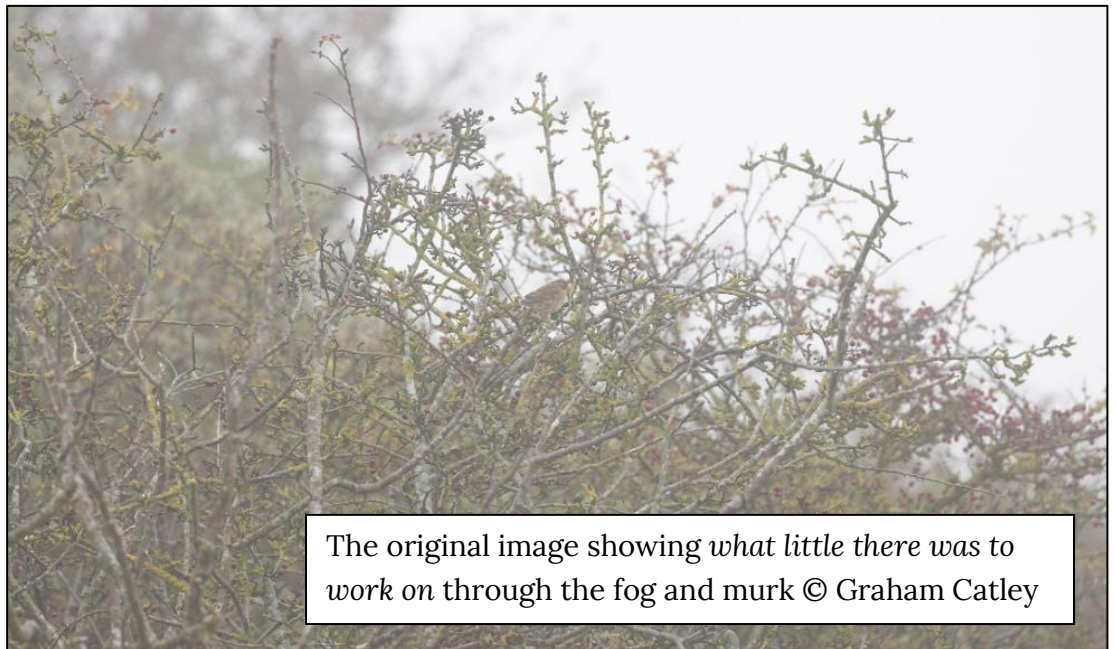
2024 was dire and I estimated I had walked 500 miles and not found a single scarce migrant. Early autumn was no better and in a lighter moment I even put out a joking Tweet suggesting that I was due a big find in the autumn; <https://x.com/GPCbirding/status/1825087577679937739> ...!!

That would be some prediction. As we all know September is a month of constant westerlies with no East Coast potential so a two-week trip to Western Canada, postponed twice already, seemed a safe bet but pre-departure weather maps showing highs all the way to Eastern Siberia were a little worrying. Trying to avoid looking at bird

news while I was away sadly failed and I had clearly missed the fall of the autumn – what had I missed in Lincs? Back in early October a local walk turned up a pair of Snow Geese with the Humber Pink-feet <https://www.grahamcatley.com/blog-1/twosnowgeeseonthehumber> birds with the best credentials of any I had seen in the county but the weather pattern for the next two weeks looked decidedly uninspiring and after daily early morning rounds of Waters' Edge in search of a Yellow-browed Warbler someone else found one in the viewing area while I was 400m away! It seemed the birding gods had turned against me again. Looking at the wind predictions for the next few days on windy.com on 23rd it looked as if a light south-easterly on 25th could maybe, just maybe produce a few birds. A decision was made and I headed to Donna Nook for what may be a last chance saloon for the autumn. The coastal strip between Ponderosa and Pye's Hall had been good to me over the years since I started working it in the late 80's with my best days migration on October 18th 1990 being written up in the December 1992 issue of Birdwatch Magazine. Other notable rare finds included Central Asian Lesser Whitethroat, Siberian and Stejneger's Stonechats, three Pallas's Warblers in a day and then of course the nearly finds like the Little Bunting that I was on the wrong side of the dunes when Chris and Neil found it and two skulking *locustellas* one on October 29th that must surely have been a goody. Talking of Little Bunting my list of 334 British self-found species did not include a single bunting but I did find the second Little Bunting for Cyprus! With the Environment Agency destruction of the Pye's Hall migrant trap and the progressive death of the dune scrub and trees the Stonebridge to Pye's sector had clearly less potential to hold migrants but with a couple of Red-backed Shrikes, Barred Warblers and while I was away Siberian Stonechat and Red-breasted Flycatcher the locale still had pulling power.

Driving down to Donna on the 25th it was foggy all the way with light drizzle and the last approach produced a few thrushes in the roadside hedges always a positive sign but the car park bushes were not jumping with migrants. The weather remained damp and foggy so I only took my 100-500 lens and set off towards Pye's.

A few Redwings and Song Thrushes in the bushes with a couple of ticking Robins were scant reward as I approached the dell on the inland side of the dunes. A gang of Reed Buntings, standard Stonebridge – Pye's fodder, were fighting between the dell and the saltmarsh then at about 09:45 I heard a thin tsic call coming from out on the edge of the saltmarsh. It seemed unfamiliar but was clearly not the tic of a Little or Rustic Bunting. Could it be just a Song Thrush or an odd Robin call? The fog was a little less dense but there was still a light drizzle and visibility was not good. I decided to walk out into the saltmarsh just to be sure the call was coming from something common. Reed Buntings kept getting up from the



The original image showing *what little there was to work on* through the fog and murk © Graham Catley

tide wrack just beyond a small clump of sea buckthorn and conveniently perching in full view. The call had gone and I was almost about to give up looking when what appeared to be a Reed Bunting got up and perched with its back to me about 10m away. It looked unremarkable but kept fanning its tail revealing large amounts of white on the two outermost feathers then it leant forward and dropped down. Other birds, Dunnocks, Wrens and the odd Chaffinch were still getting up and I moved to scanning them when the bird I had been watching suddenly flew out and called the tsic call as it headed for the large hawthorns in the dell – IDIOT why did I not look closer at it when it was in view? I suppose because it looked quite like a Reed Bunting and I had forgotten just how similar first-winter Black-faced Bunting can be to Reeds but this was surely just an odd Reed Bunting and the call was from another bird?. Not wanting to flush it again I scanned the hawthorns in the dell from a distance and

eventually saw it climbing up through one tall hawthorn. In the fog it looked as unremarkable as before but then it turned to face me and a striking pale sub-moustachial stripe and chin – throat with a pale pink lower mandible said this is no Reed Bunting but it cannot be a Black-faced Bunting! The rest of the underparts were



First-winter Black-faced Bunting Donna Nook October 25th 2024 - the faint paler central crown stripe, pale creamy sub-moustachial and chin and the pale pink lower mandible are visible in this shot along with the faint paler wing bars, creamy almost yellow tinged underparts with heaviest black streaking on the rear flanks and the Dunnock like black and brown striped mantle scapulars. © Graham Catley

creamy with the most prominent dark streaks on the rear flanks and the legs pale fleshy pink. It turned side on and the head pattern with just a faint paler supercilium and grey shawl were visible while the upperparts lacked any pale tram lines shown by most Reed Buntings and looked more Dunnock like. I scrambled for the camera and managed to take a few images through the fog before it flew into the other end of the dell. I managed a few further brief views in the hawthorns but when it landed on the track all the birds flushed before I could creep round the reeds to view them. Then it showed one more time in the big hawthorn and I lost it. Two birds flew out and across the saltmarsh towards the inundation channel but I wasn't sure if it was one of them. I spent the next hour desperately trying to re find it but failed to see or hear anything and then I eventually dared to look at the miniscule pictures on the back of camera. The first ones had its head turned away and were distinctly soft then there was a side-on shot that looked to be almost in focus! And then there was one showing the head – on view. It looked good but I was still doubting myself and needed some confirmation. A quick look at Birdguides showed

a scatter of Yellow-browed Warblers on the East coast but nothing major not even at Spurn – how could I have the only eastern mega? Another search of all the Reed Bunting hot spots revealed a fall of Dunnocks, 20+ in total, Wrens and at least 40 – 50 Reed Buntings but no sign of the Black-faced. At this point I realised two things my phone was nearly flat and the latest Collin's App only has an image of an adult male Black-faced Bunting. I took two BOC shots of my dire images and *WhatsApped* them to a few people in the county. Asking James Siddle if I was making a big up cock his immediate response from Scilly was No! but apart from Neil Drinkall who identified it no-one else responded and I assume they wondered why I was sending them pictures of a Reed Bunting! The bird had disappeared at around 10:15 and understandably only a couple of people made the effort to come and join the search but I stuck at it for another six hours before giving up and heading home to check references on ID.

First-winter probably female Black-faced Bunting Donna
Nook October 26th 2024 © Graham Catley



Looking at the new Handbook of European Birds by Nils van Duivendijk there was an image of a first-winter that was even less marked than my bird but all the features were supportive and other texts mentioned the call and the tail fanning habit. Happy that this was indeed a Black-faced Bunting I put a message on the Lincs Rare bird WhatsApp group that night but pointed out the negative search details.

On the following morning, Saturday 26th a small group of birders gathered in the area where the bird was last seen but in spite of there being good numbers of Reed

Buntings present there was no sign of the bunting in question by 09:46 when I received a call from Owen Beaumont informing me that he had re found the bird with a small group of Reed Buntings and it had been trapped at the regular ringing site at Quad three! This was somewhat staggering as the ringing site was, as the bunting flies in a direct line not using the coastal route, 3.85kms or 2.4 miles from where it was last seen. Surely there were not two! Owen kindly brought the bird round to Stonebridge as we assembled all the searchers present and it was briefly photographed

before being released into the hawthorn by the car park emitting a rather loud series of hard tsic call notes. It preened briefly in the hawthorn before flying out and across the road and into more impenetrable scrub south of the car park. In spite of my views being less than optimal on the previous day it did not show any obviously different features and the assumption had to be made that it was indeed the same bird particularly given the species rarity in a British context although news of a third bird for the autumn trapped in Pembrokeshire the same morning does raise the question has there been a major movement of this species into western Europe this autumn?

So, persistence pays and the bird finding gods do eventually reward. My 13th addition to the Lincolnshire list – will there be a 14th? At last, a rare bunting and being the 12th for Britain a major rare bunting find – maybe now I can find some more regular rare buntings.

Graham Catley



Black-faced Bunting 26/10/24 © Owen Beaumont



Black-faced Bunting 26/10/24 © Owen Beaumont



Request for a volunteer to cover the monthly WeBS at Messingham SQ

WeBS is one of the most important BTO surveys undertaken by volunteers across the county. It ensures that we have a detailed knowledge of our changing waterbird populations. The data is particularly important for our annual Lincolnshire Bird Report and most of the volunteers who covers WeBS sites are also LBC members.

An opening has recently emerged for a new volunteer at Messingham SQ. This site was ranked as the 20th most important site in the county in Birds of Lincolnshire 2021 and the most important inland site in the north west of the county. It has recorded at least 204 species with 14 of them being rare or scarce. The stars are perhaps two county first Herons: Great White Egret as recently as 1979 and even more sensationally Britain's first spring Green Heron in 2001. Just as importantly it features in the top 10 Lincs sites in LBR 2022 for amongst others: Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Moorhen and Coot. It lies between Scunthorpe and Lincoln and it would suit any local birder in that area looking for a regular patch. Visits once a month within 7 days either side of the published WeBS survey dates are required. The current volunteer would be happy to introduce you to the site.

If you are interested please contact local WeBS organiser Chris Gunn on donandchris@hotmail.co.uk.



Still spaces on club's mid-January birding holiday to Scottish Highlands

THERE are still spaces on the New Year holiday in the Scottish Highlands that is being promoted by Lincolnshire Bird Club.

Although we will obviously be watching out for Crossbills, Crested Tits, Hen Harriers and Golden Eagles, it won't be heavy-duty twitching - though some might want to venture independently to the mountain tops in search of Ptarmigan and Snow Buntings.

The dates are: January 14 to January 18, 2025.

The Speyside holiday includes:

- Coach trip to and from Kingussie, with pick-ups in Lincoln, Grimsby, Cleethorpes and possibly Louth and or Brigg/Scunthorpe.
- Four nights at the Duke of Gordon Hotel, with five-course candlelit evening meals and full Scottish breakfasts
- Live evening entertainment
- Walks in various habitats within a three-mile radius of the hotel, probably plus at least one excursion to a birding destination.



The all-in price: £259 each for the holiday for two persons sharing a room. There is a single person supplement - but this charge will be waived for the first 10 singles to make a booking.

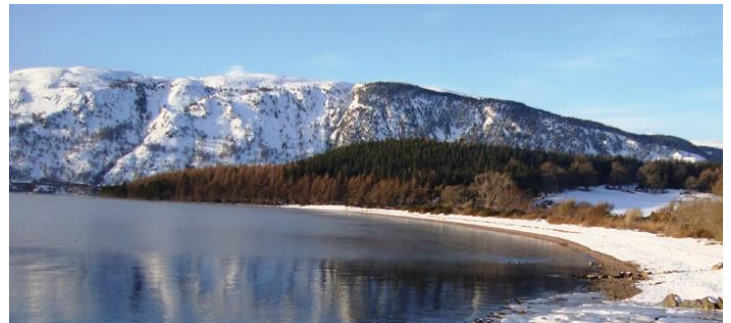
As with our two previous trips, the holiday is being put on by the Lincolnshire Bird Club's partners, Goole-based company Cairngorm Travel (01405 761334), through whom all bookings need to be made.

The birding holiday is bespoke and thus not in the company's brochure, but more details about the Duke of Gordon hotel can be found at the Cairngorm Travel website

www.cairngorm-travel.co.uk

The booking number for the holiday is 01405 761334

The name of holiday is SB25-1/ Scottish Bird Safari January.



Our last two holidays to the Cairngorms have been really friendly, enjoyable events, with a good blend of birders and non-birders of various levels of experience/ expertise - and some who are not birders at all but just enjoy the tonic of a change of scene, a welcoming hotel, fresh Highland air, magnificent scenery and convivial company.

For more info, email Jim Wright at: secretary@lincsbirdclub.co.uk

RSPB Lincoln Group offers hand of friendship to LBC members

Welcome contact has been made with the Lincolnshire Bird Club by the RSPB's Lincoln Group.

The latter's field trips organiser, Geoff Styles (a member of both), says LBC members will always be welcome at their indoor meetings and field trips.

He hopes that there could be further opportunities for co-operation in the future.

In the meantime, Lincoln RSPB's next field trip is destined for WWT Welney Marsh on Sunday November 17, leaving at 8am from the pick-up point at Huws Gray builders' merchants on Canwick Road.

The cost is £33 for adults (accompanied under-16s go free) or £25 for WWT members.

RSPB anger at 'scandalous' EU challenge of ban on sandeel fishing in British waters

THE RSPB has reacted angrily to the EU's decision to challenge the British Government's imposition of a ban on sandeel fishing in all Scottish waters plus those off the Yorkshire and Northumberland coasts.

It fears that, if the ban is lifted, there will be a continued decline in numbers, with knock-of effects for many seabirds.

Says the charity's director of conservation, Katie-jo Luxton: "The EU's move flies in the face of its commitment to protect and restore marine ecosystems.



"It is a scandalous attempt to reverse a hard-won victory for under-pressure seabirds such as Puffins and Kittiwakes as well as the many other marine species whose diets depend on sandeels.

When the British fisheries were closed in March this year, there was widespread jubilation among conservation organisations. But there was dismay for those Danish fishermen who depend on sandeel catches for their livelihood - hence the decision by the EU to trigger what is termed an "arbitration process" .

It maintains that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea allows for harvesting sandeels stocks at levels that permit them to "maintain a healthy population".

Since April, there have been consultations between the two sides but without reaching mutual agreement.

Jim Wright - Photo: courtesy RSPB

'Meet the BTO in Lincolnshire & Northwest Norfolk' Zoom session

A message from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO's) Engagement & Surveys Officer; David White

I am the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO's) Engagement & Surveys Officer for England. I am writing to you as I am organising a FREE 'Meet the BTO in Lincolnshire & Northwest Norfolk' Zoom session on Monday 2 December, 7pm-8.45pm.

The session will consist of an opportunity to find out more about the BTO and some information about how bird populations are currently fairing in Lincolnshire and beyond. There will also be an opportunity to meet BTO staff and local representatives virtually, and ask any questions about the organisation that you may like to know the answer to.

The session is open to EVERYONE, and you do not need to be a BTO member and/or volunteer to attend.

If you are able to share details of this event with your members and/ or on social media, I would really appreciate it.

The link to book onto the event is as follows:

<https://www.bto.org/community/events/202412-meet-bto-lincolnshire-and-northwest-norfolk>

If participants are unable to join the session live, it will be recorded and shared with all registered attendees afterwards. Please note that registration for the session will close on Friday 29 November at 9am. **If you have any questions or queries about the above, please email me on david.white@bto.org.uk or ring me on 01842 750050.**

The club needs a new Honorary Secretary. Can you help?

Having been a stalwart in the job for 7 years, Jim Wright has decided not to offer himself for re-election at our next AGM on 15th March 2025. He has done a great job and we need a replacement by the end of December so Jim can offer guidance in an overlap period in January to March next year. The good news is that Jim will stay on the committee and will be able to offer guidance to his successor if needed. He has listed the key tasks of his role as follows:

1. Prepare the draft agendas and prepare minutes for all committee meetings (3-4 per year) for the chairman to check and amend where necessary. Most meetings are now done by Zoom and can be recorded. The March AGM requires attendance in person.
2. Sometimes matters arising, leads to a requirement to fire off questions and or, comments to other organisations/ individuals.
3. Booking the venue and liaise with the speakers for our AGMs.
4. Ad hoc contributions both to the monthly newsletter and the website forum



5. Field occasional email questions either from members or non-members. These are answered if possible but sometimes referred to which ever committee member might best be able to help.

Jim adds “That’s the basics. For whoever takes over, the secretary has a ringside seat on the Lincolnshire birding scene. I have really appreciated getting a range of insights from other wildlife organisations as well as you and committee colleagues. Obviously, I shall be more than happy to offer any help, if required, to my successor.”

If you would be interested in being considered for this vital role in the Club, please email chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk or phone me, Phil Espin on 07966325380.



Study of Snipe by Lincolnshire artist could fetch up to £400 at Yorkshire auction

This study of a Snipe by artist George Lodge (1860-1954), of Scrivelsby, near Horncastle, will go under the hammer at a sale of British, European and Sporting Art at Leyburn in Yorkshire on November 16. According to auction house Tennants, it is expected to fetch between £250 and £400.



The 2024 Arable Farmer of the Year was awarded to Nicholas Watts. Congratulations!



A huge congratulations to **LBC Member Nicholas Watts**, who has won Arable Farmer of the Year at the [British Farming Awards](#).

The judges noted that Nicholas has been at the forefront of arable farming for decades, with **his longstanding commitment to wildlife, biodiversity**, coupled with his adaptability in the face of challenging markets making him the unanimous winner.

His knowledge and passion for farming and wildlife resulted in the Vine House Farm Bird Seed business that supplies many of our farms with bird seed and is available for the public to buy.

Congratulations again Nicholas!

Book review: Of the Trees and the Birds

AFTER having read *Of the Trees and the Birds*, I will never look at a tree (or hedge) in the same way again!

It is a fascinating study which explores the ways in which birds and trees interact to their mutual advantage (or, in some rare cases, to their detriment).

Devon-based author Ian Parsons is a former forest ranger and bird tour guide so he writes with expertise, referencing some 67 bird species and 57 trees.

He is particularly good on thrushes, such as Fieldfares, and their capacity to determine which berries will make the tastiest and nutritious provender based on the depth and shade of their redness.

He also describes how birds tend to shun blackthorn berries/ sloes, which are black, until, as autumn gives way to winter, some develop "an almost powdery bloom" on their surfaces.

This substance apparently reflects ultraviolet light, giving out a signal to birds that the berries are ready to be eaten.

Unsurprisingly, woodpeckers also come under detailed scrutiny from Parsons (who, incidentally, is partly colour-blind).

It might seem that they must be damaging trees with their pecking activity. Indeed, a forest ranger colleague of the author was convinced that this resulted in the eventual death - by ten thousand pecks - of the targeted tree.

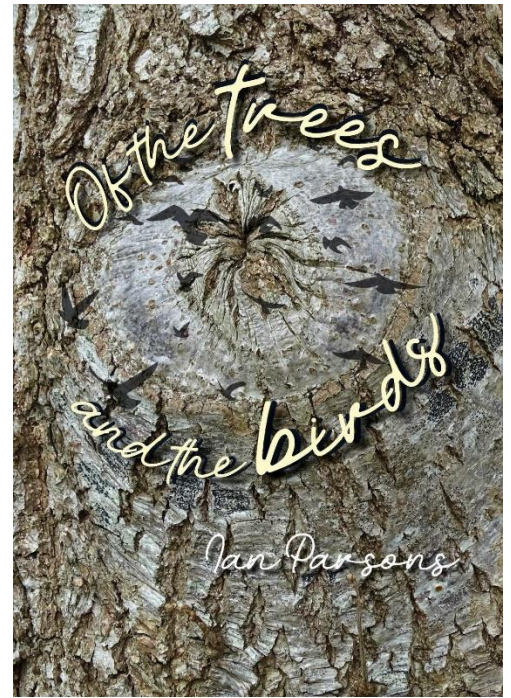
Not so, insists the author. It is because the trees were already dead that the woodpeckers will have chosen them to excavate their nest cavities.

Of his former colleague he notes: "The fact that he had got the ecology of one of our commonest woodland birds completely wrong came as a bit of a shock to me."

Parsons goes on to note that grubs of insects harmful to trees are not infrequently form part of the diet of woodpeckers.

An example is the Three-toed Woodpecker, a continental species which feeds on the larvae of the harmful spruce bark beetle, thereby regulating its population.

There are many more intriguing insights in this fast-paced and chatty study, with a particularly interesting section on how the demise of the Dodo in Mauritius also had dire consequences for an endemic variety of a particular tree, the Tambalacoque (a distant relative of the Rhododendron).



Also of note, and somewhat, disconcerting, is how the European Blackbird - a much-loved species within our shores - has become so common since its introduction to Australia that, for various reasons, it is now widely regarded as a 'pest'.

This is an informative and entertaining book which will delight both expert ornithologists and those whose interest in birds is more casual.

Handsomely illustrated, it costs £18.99 in paperback and can be obtained from Caithness-based publishers Whittles Publishing at www.whittlespublishing.com (01593 731 333).

JW



Lincolnshire Bird News – October 2024

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.

31/10/2024

Burringham

Buzzard, 2 Little Egret, 100 Common Gull, 3000 Starling

Frampton Marsh

2 Hen Harrier, Curlew Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper

Rimac

Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Stonechat

Tetney Marsh

Lapland Bunting, 7 Snow Bunting, 2 Greenshank, 2 Hen Harrier, 2 Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, 148 Common Scoter, 2 Stonechat, 5 Twite, 2 Cetti's Warbler

30/10/2024

Donna Nook

Buzzard, Gannet, 3 Goosander, 170+ Pink-footed Goose, 3 Tundra Bean Goose, Greenshank, Hen Harrier (rt), Stonechat, 14 Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

Goldeneye, Wood Sandpiper

Freiston Shore

Slavonian Grebe

Gibraltar Point

3 Cattle Egret

Grainthorpe Haven

2 Spoonbill

Huttoft

Shore Lark

Tongue End

Short-eared Owl

29/10/2024

Barton on Humber

Hawfinch

Caythorpe

Hawfinch

Deeping Lakes

Gloosy Ibis

Donna Nook

Black-faced Bunting, Hen Harrier, 2 Spoonbill

Fishtoft

3 Hawfinch

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier, Wood Sandpiper

Freiston Shore

Hawfinch, Water Pipit, American Wigeon

Fulbeck

Hawfinch

Gibraltar Point

Hawfinch, Water Pipit, Yellow-browed Warbler

Marston

Bearded Tit (trapped & ringed)

Scunthorpe

50 Pink-footed Goose

Sutton on Sea

10 Twite

Willow Tree Fen

21 Common Crane, 2 Goosander, 4 Grey Heron, 5 Marsh Harrier, 2 Kestrel, Barn Owl, 4 Stonechat

28/10/2024

Bourne

Short-eared Owl

Buck Beck

Goldeneye, Little Grebe, Kingfisher

Coleby

Hen Harrier

Donna Nook

Spoonbill

Frampton Marsh

Wood Sandpiper

Kirton in Lindsey

Buzzard, 2 Grey Heron, Pintail, 15 Shoveler, 30 Whooper Swan

Paradise

Kestrel, 9 Redshank, 42 Shoveler, 2 Whooper Swan, 64 Teal

Swanholme Lakes

Grey Heron, 44 Gadwall, 2 Jay, 36 Shoveler, 38 Wigeon

27/10/2024

Caythorpe

Hawfinch

Deeping Lakes

Black-necked Grebe, 2 Long-eared Owl

Donna Nool

Black-faced Bunting (heard only), Snow Bunting, Ring Ouzel, 2 Spoonbill, 3 Twite

Frampton Marsh

3 Cattle Egret, Wood Sandpiper

Freiston Shore

Black-necked Grebe

Gibraltar Point

Ring Ouzel, Water Pipit, 8 Bearded Tit, Yellow-browed Warbler

Goxhill Haven

2 Twite

Gibraltar Point

Ring-necked Parakeet



Ring-necked Parakeet at Gibraltar Point - Image © Russell Hayes

Willow Tree Fen

24 Common Crane

26/10/2010

Caythorpe

Hawfinch

Deeping Lakes

Black-necked Grebe, Long-eared Owl

Donna Nook

Black-faced Bunting, 5 Greenshank, 3 Little Gull, Hen Harrier (rt), 2 Spoonbill, 5 Whooper Swan



The Black-faced Bunting at Donna Nook on Saturday - Image © Owen Beaumont

Frampton Marsh

6 Cattle Egret, Short-eared Owl, Wood Sandpiper

Gibraltar Point

Parrot Crossbill (sound recorded), Hawfinch, 8 Spoonbill

Goxhill Haven

2 Twite, Wheatear

Seaview

Cattle Egret

Scunthorpe

c200 Pink-footed Goose

Willow Tree Fen

32 Common Crane, 7 Cattle Egret

25/10/2024

Caythorpe

Ring Ouzel

Donna Nook

Black-faced Bunting

Frampton Marsh

Spotted Redshank, Little Stint

Gibraltar Point

2 Cattle Egret, Yellow-browed Warbler

Halton Marshes

2 Water Pipit

North Willingham

Common Crane

Willow Tree Fen

36 Common Crane, 9 Cattle Egret

24/10/2024

Deeping Lakes

Black-necked Grebe

5 Pink-footed Goose, 15 Whooper Swan

Elm House Farm

Marsh Harrier, 15 Whooper Swan

Frampton Marsh

Red-necked Grebe

Gibraltar Point

Ring Ouzel

Huttoft Bank

Red-throated Diver, 2 Eider, 1 Gannet, 8 Common Scoter

Seaview Farm

5 Cattle Egret, Yellow-browed Warbler

23/10/2024

Baston Pits

Cattle Egret

Deeping Lakes

Black-necked Grebe

Frampton Marsh

Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Harrier

Gibraltar Point

Brambling, Lesser Redpoll, Water Pipit

Huttoft Bank

Black-throated Diver

Huttoft Marsh

Marsh Harrier, Stonechat

Sandilands

Reed Bunting, 8 Snow Bunting

Sutton on Sea

Snow Bunting

Willow Tree Fen

40 Common Crane

22/10/2024

Baston & Langtoft Pits

Dotterel

Brocklesby Park

Pink-footed Goose, 2 Snow Goose

Deeping Lakes

Black-necked Grebe

Far Ings

Avocet, Bittern, Pink-footed Goose, Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, 4 Barn Owl, Water Rail, Stonechat, Bearded Tit

Gibraltar Point

2 Bewick's Swan, 8 Whooper Swan

Middlemarsh Farm

2 Bewick's Swan, 8 Whooper Swan

Tetney Lock

3 Goosander, Greenshank

Willow Tree Fen

26 Common Crane

21/10/2024

Chapel Six Marshes

Hawfinch

Frampton Marsh

Cattle Egret, Short-eared Owl

Gibraltar Point

Snow Bunting, Cattle Egret, Short-eared Owl, Purple Sandpiper

Immingham

2 Snow Goose

20/10/2024

Baston Fen

7 Cattle Egret

Frampton Marsh

Cattle Egret, Short-eared Owl, Spotted Redshank

Freiston Shore

Cattle Egret, Black-necked Grebe

Gibraltar Point

3 House Martin, Water Pipit, Red-rumped Swallow

Novartis Ings

Spoonbill

Willow Tree Fen

42 Common Crane

19/10/2024

Boultham Mere

Great White Egret, 31 Whooper Swan (21+10 over)

Deeping Lakes

Black-necked Grebe

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier, Yellow-browed Warbler, American Wigeon

Gibraltar Point

Water Pipit

Halton Marsh

Yellow-browed Warbler

Holbeach Marsh

4 Short-eared Owl

Pyewipe

8300 Black-tailed Godwit

Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR

5 Cattle Egret

Sourh Ferriby

Green-winged Teal

18/10/2024

Baston Fen

2 Cattle Egret

Boultham Mere

21 Whooper Swan

Croft Marsh

Cattle Egret

Deeping Lakes

Long-eared Owl

Frampton Marsh

2 Cattle Egret, Hen Harrier

Gibraltaar Point

Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Water Pipit



Short-eared Owl early morning at Gibraltar Point - Image © Sam Goddard

Halton Marshes

2 Barnacle Goose, Brambling, Greenshank, Water Pipit, 8 Stonechat,

Killingholme Haven

2 Spoonbill

Kirkstone Bridge

Great White Egret

Marston

Marsh Harrier, 5/6 Water Rail, 5 Snipe, 3 Cetti's Warbler

Messingham

Cuckoo

Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe

8 Cattle Egret



Unhappy resident being pestered by one of eight Cattle Egret at Theddlethorpe Dunes - Image © Owen Beaumont

Willow Tree Fen

37 Common Crane

17/10/2024

Baston Fen

8 Cattle Egret

East Butterwick

Corn Bunting, 2 Buzzard, 200 Pink-footed Goose, Kestrel, 15 Grey Partridge

Deeping Lake

Black-necked Grebe, Long-eared Owl, Rock Pipit

Donna Nook

Great White Egret, Greenshank, 3 Marsh Harrier, Ring Ouzel, 1 Grey Plover, 3 Shelduck, 2000 Starling

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier, Little Stint

Gibraltar Point

Cattle Egret, 2 Russian White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier, 2 Black Redstart, 4 Yellow-browed Warbler

Read's Island

2 Snow Goose, Pink-footed Goose

Pye's Hall

Firecrest



Firecrest in top of a Hawthorne at Pye's Hall - Image © Chris Grimshaw

Riseholme

1/2 Hawfinch

Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR

3+ Yellow-browed Warbler

Sutton on Sea

Black-throated Diver, 3 Gannet, Goosander, 14 Brent Goose, 460+ Pink-footed Goose, 8 Sanderling, 14 Common Scoter, 25 Skylark, 10 Whooper Swan

Trent Port

8 Goosander, Red Kite, 5 Redwing

Willow Tree Fen

33 Common Crane

16/10/2024

Anderby Creek

Water Pipit

Caistor

Yellow-browed Warbler

Deeping Lakes

Black-necked Grebe

Donna Nook

Firecrest, Hen Harrier (rt), 4 Ring Ouzel, 3 Yellow-browed Warbler

Freiston Shore

Cattle Egret, Ring Ouzel, Spotted Redshank, Yellow-browed Warbler

Gibraltar Point

2 Cattle Egret, Hawfinch, 2 Hen Harrier, 5 Ring Ouzel, 3 Yellow-browed Warbler

Rimac

Yellow-browed Warbler

Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR

2 Yellow-browed Warbler

15/10/2024

Anderby Creek

Ring Ouzel, Pomarine Skua

Caistor

Yellow-browed Warbler

Caythorpe

Common Scoter (sound recorded)

Donna Nook

Hen Harrier, Yellow-browed Warbler

Freiston Shore

12300 Redwing

Gibraltar Point

Lapland Bunting, Cattle Egret, 6 Ring Ouzel, 27300 Redwing

Huttoft

Yellow-browed Warbler

14/10/2024

Baston

Yellow-browed Warbler

Folkingham

4 Common Crane (over)

Freiston Shore

2 Black Swan, 3 Pintail, Red-necked Grebe, 5 Whooper Swan



Red-necked Grebe at Freiston Shore - Image © Andy Sims

Gibraltar Point

2 Cattle Egret, 4 Bearded Tit, Yellow-browed Warbler

Nocton Fen

4 Buzzard, 5 Cattle Egret, 2 Great White Egret, 2 Little Egret, 8 Egyptian Geese, 6 Kestrel, 1000+ Lapwing, Little Owl, 21 Whooper Swan

Read's Island

Pink-footed Goose, 2 Snow Goose

RAF Woodhall

Buzzard, Great White Egret, Little Egret, 4 Egyptian Goose, Marsh Harrier, Kestrel

13/10/2024

Frampton Marsh

14 Common Cfrane (south), Cattle Egret, Spotted Redshank, Little Stint

Freiston Shore

Red-necked Grebe

Gibraltar Shore

Cattle Egret, Yellow-browed Warbler

Kirton Marsh

Short-eared Owl

Read's Island

Pink-footed Goose, 2 Snow Goose

Willow Tree Fen

36 Common Crane

12/10/2024

Frampton Marsh

Little Stint

Freiston Shore

Red-necked Grebe, Water Pipit

Gibraltar Point

Spotted Redshank

Read's Island

2 Snow Goose

Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR

6 Cattle Egret

Willow Tree Fen

30 Common Crane

11/10/2024

Anderby Creek

Richard's Pipit, 620 Whooper Swan

Elm House Farm

3000+ Pink-footed Goose, 2 Marsh Harrier, 8 Whooper Swan

Freiston Shore

Red-necked Grebe

Gibraltar Point

4 Bearded Tit

East Halton

Woodlark

Reed's Island

2 Snow Goose, Pink-footed Goose

Rimac

Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, Merlin

Sutton on Sea

11 Gannet, 320+ Pink-footed Goose, 22 Whooper Swan

Tetney

Yellow-browed Warbler

Tongue End

3 Cattle Egret

Willow Tree Fen

31 Common Crane

RAF Woodhall

54 Whooper Swan

10/10/2024

Baston Fen

Cattle Egret

Frampton Marsh

Little Stint

Freiston Shore

Water Pipit

Gibraltar Point

Black-throated Diver, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Puffin, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Skua, 4 Yellow-browed Warbler

Huttoft

Sabine's Gull

Read's Island

Pink-footed Goose, 2 Snow Goose

Willow Tree Fen

35 Common Crane

09/10/2024

Frampton Marsh

27 Avocet, Great White Egret, Greenshank, Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, Merlin, Golden Plover, 9 Curlew Sandpiper, 20 Snipe, 4 Bearded Tit

Gibraltar Point

Ring Ouzel, Long-tailed Skua, Yellow-browed Warbler

Read's Island

2 Snow Goose, Pink-footed Goose



The two Snow Geese that have been on Read's Island - Image © Graham Catley

Sutton on Sea

Black-throated Diver

Trent Port

Blackcap, Little Egret, Merlin, 5 Redwing, Stonechat, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker

08/10/2024

Baston Fen

6 Cattle Egret

Frampton Marsh

Hen Harrier, Kingfisher, Whooper Swan, Bearded Tit

Freiston Shore

Water Pipit

Gibraltar Point

4 Yellow-browed Warbler

Read's Island

Spoonbill, 2 Snow Goose

Sleaford

Yellow-browed Warbler

07/10/2024

Crook Bank

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Frampton Marsh

Water Pipit, Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Spoonbill,

Gibraltar Point

Firecrest, Red Kite, 2 Bearded Tit, 4 Yellow-browed Warbler

Huttoft Bank

Barred Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler

Willow Tree Fen

25 Common Crane

Read's Island

2 Pink-footed Goose, 2 Snow Goose

Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR

8 Cattle Egret

06/10/2024

Baston Fen

6 Cattle Egret

Deeping Lakes

Glossy Ibis

Donna Nook

Yellow-browed Warbler

Frampton Marsh

Spoonbill

Gibraltar Point

Hen Harrier (male), 2 Yellow-browed Warbler

Pyewipe

Little Stint, Yellow-browed Warbler

Sleaford

Rock Pipit

Sutton on Sea

Pomarine Skua

05/10/2024

Deeping Lakes

Glossy Ibis

Gibraltar Point

2 Bearded Tit, Bittern (Harvey's Hide), Caspian Gull, Hawfinch, c500 Teal, Yellow-browed Warbler

Humberston

c100 Pink-footed Goose

Rimac

Yellow-browed Warbler

Skegness

Caspian Gull

North Somercotes

Yellow-browed Warbler

04/10/2024

Baston Fen

6 Cattle Egret

Brickyard Lane

Radde's Warbler



Radde's Warbler at Brickyard Lane - Image © Owen Beaumont

Churchill Lane

Yellow-browed Warbler

Frampton Marsh

Spotted Redshank, Spoonbill

Freiston Shore

Yellow-browed Warbler

Gibraltar Point

5 Yellow-browed Warbler, 2 Bearded Tit

Messingham

3 Buzzard, 71 Gadwall, 13 Goosander, 50+ Pink-footed Goose, Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, Kingfisher, 8 Lapwing, 7 Red-crested Pochard (4m

3f), 2 Pintail, Water Rail, 96 Teal, 3 Cetti's Warbler

Rimac

Yellow-browed Warbler

North Somercotes

Jay, Song Thrush, Yellow-browed Warbler

03/10/2024

Anderby Creek

3 Yellow-browed Warbler

Chapel Six Marshes

Firecrest

Covenham Reservoir

Arctic Tern

Frampton Marsh

Lapland Bunting, Hen Harrier, Spotted Redshank, 2 Spoonbill, Little Stint,

Gibraltar Point

Avocet, 2 Firecrest, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Black-tailed Godwit, Pink-footed Goose, Goldcrest, 2 Ring Ouzel, Olive-backed Pipit, Redwing, 2 Sparrowhawk, Song Thrush, Barred Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler



Spooked by a Sparrowhawk, Black-tailed Godwit and Avocet near Harvey's Hide, Gibraltar Point - Image © Chris Grimshaw



One of the two Ring Ouzel seen at Gibraltar Point on Thursday - Image © Andy Sims

Huttoft Bank

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Huttoft (village)

Yellow-browed Warbler

Tetney

Yellow-browed Warbler

Wolla Bank

Long-tailed Skua

02/10/2024

Boultham Mere

7 Whooper Swan

Freiston Shore

Common Quail

Gibraltar Point

Black-throated Diver, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Skua, Blyth's Reed Warbler, 2 Yellow-browed Warbler

01/10/2024

Gibraltar Point

Long-tailed Skua, Yellow-browed Warbler

Mablethorpe

Long-tailed Skua, Pomarine Skua

North Thoresby

Yellow-browed Warbler

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

