



## Welcome to the LBC eNewsletter – December 2024

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## NEW YEARS DAY BIRD RACE 2025 – Wednesday 1st January 2025

Do you fancy taking part in the Lincolnshire 2025 New Years Day bird race?

The event has been increasing in popularity over the last few years. Similar to previous years, birders can choose what areas they wish to visit, whether it be a local patch or multiple sites. There are no time constraints for participants you can contribute for as little or as long as you like on the day. The idea is to cover as many different sites and habitats throughout the county to produce a collective list.

2025 will be the fifth consecutive year of the event. Previous year totals have included: 154 species in 2024, 139 species in 2023, 146 species in 2022 and 144 species in 2021. Can these totals be surpassed in 2025?

Highlights from 2024 included 4 Shorelark, Red-necked Grebe and Long-tailed Ducks at Gibraltar Point, drake Smew at Whisby Quarry, Lesser Yellowlegs at RSPB Frampton Marsh, Great Northern Diver at Covenham Reservoir, Great Grey Shrike at Doddington Hall and Waxwings recorded across several sites. In 2022 a White-tailed Plover graced the county at East Halton!



In 2022 a White-tailed Plover graced East Halton Lincolnshire © Graham Catley

The above species just go to show that you never know what you might stumble into and promises to be an enjoyable day for all. Not to mention a good way to start off your 2025 year list.

The only rules for the day are as follows...

- Only species recorded within the county boundary can be counted.
- Species can be counted and recorded any time between 00:00-23:59 on Wednesday 1st January 2025
- Observers can record independently or in groups
- No use of tape luring allowed
- No stringing
- All records/sightings to be submitted via –BirdTrack, eBird or the LBC Forum by January 5th.

Alternatively records can be sent by email to [rdoan@lincstrust.co.uk](mailto:rdoan@lincstrust.co.uk)

## Lincs Bird Club Events

### **Saturday February 1st. 2025 - A guided afternoon walk around Frampton Marsh Reserve**

Starting at 14.30hrs and finishing around 17.00hrs when the whooper swans come into roost. Apart from the swans the main attraction will be the huge numbers of ducks, geese and waders that frequent the Reserve in winter.

There are excellent paths and several hides, but if there has been a lot of wet weather wellies might be advisable. The Visitor Centre and Cafe will be open until 16.00hrs. To book a place, please contact Sally Prescott

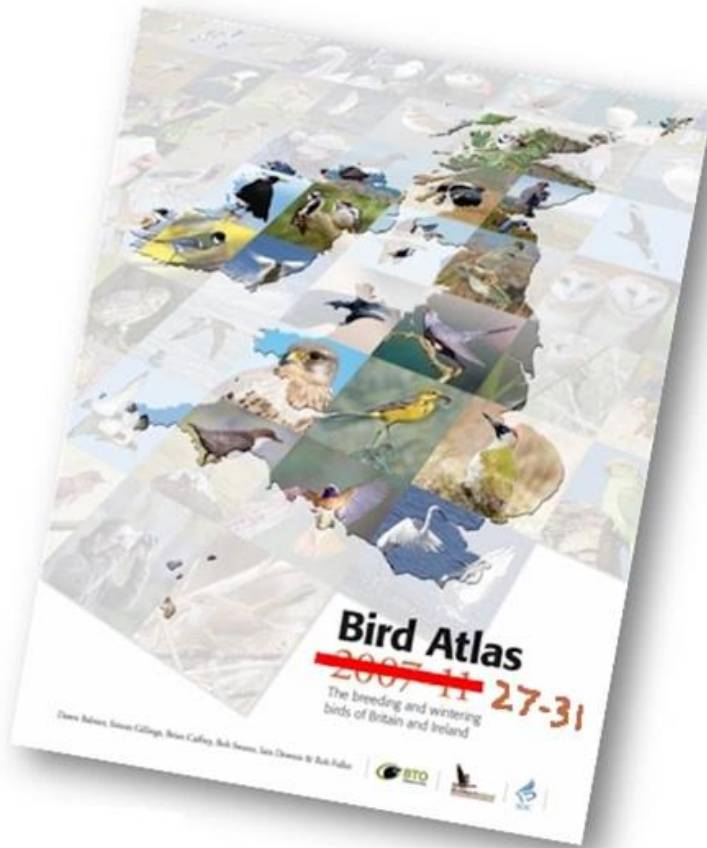
email: [sally.prescott142@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.prescott142@btinternet.com) or Tel: 01472 840142



Further Events to follow to include a morning guided walk around Deeping Fen Farm led by Nicholas Watts on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>. Full details nearer the time.

## Bird Atlas 2027 – 31

Our Chair Phil Espin writes: HOT News from Dawn Balmer Head of Surveys at BTO.



“We’re very excited to let you know that the decision has been made to go ahead with Bird Atlas 2027-31. This has been a big decision to ensure it is truly an Atlas for ‘Impact and Inclusion’. The previous Atlas (Bird Atlas 2007-11) involved over 40,000 volunteers submitting records of over 216 million birds from over 3,870 10-km squares over four years. It required funding of ca £2 million. I know that many of you were involved, and thank you again to all who contributed so significantly to the success. The project also required a lot of staff working on it from right across the organisation. It’s a huge undertaking, but after careful consideration we are confident that we are making the right decision to go ahead!”

Although a lot of hard work was involved, the last Atlas was a great experience for all those taking part. It had a particular impact on me personally as it changed my life. I enjoyed atlasing so much and got involved to such a degree I was invited to become the Atlas organiser for East Lincs and then BTO Regional Representative. That had two other knock on effects.

First a career to become a professional bird surveyor. Then in 2011, I was asked to join the LBC committee to act as BTO liaison and also compile the county annual report to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. That led me to becoming LBC Chair in 2014.

What was it about atlasing? First I realised that my birding skills particularly in relation to identifying birds by call and song were not up to par for someone who had already been birding for 30 years. So I spent a lot of time in the Lincs countryside improving them. Going all over East Lincs atlasing via timed tetrad visits and exploring unfamiliar areas to see what was there was great. I love the Lincs countryside and spending time in it is always a pleasure especially the Wolds, Marsh and Coast but the Fens too.

So I hope in three years time many of you, like me will be rekindling that pleasure or getting to enjoy it for the first time and possibly for the veterans amongst us, the last time.

As a club we will need to take a view on whether we go full tilt and try and get maximum coverage so we can produce and publish a full county atlas to show how our bird populations have changed since our last one in the 1980s. That decision is still to be made and I hope we can discuss it with you all at our next AGM at Whisby on 15th March 2025. If you’d like to be involved please turn up and have your say.

## BTO Regional Representatives Required

This map is taken from the BTO website and shows in blue vacancies for regional representatives. The posts in West and South Lincolnshire are both vacant. Regional representatives lead and help organise BTO volunteer survey effort in their region. It's a crucial role and if you'd be interested in stepping up to help out, please contact [dawn.balmer@bto.org](mailto:dawn.balmer@bto.org) for more details.

### Core Responsibilities of BTO Regional Representatives

#### 1. Volunteer Coordination

- RRs recruit, organize, and support volunteers who participate in BTO surveys and projects, such as the **Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)**, **Garden BirdWatch**, and the **Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)**.
- They help match volunteers with survey opportunities that suit their skills, interests, and local areas.

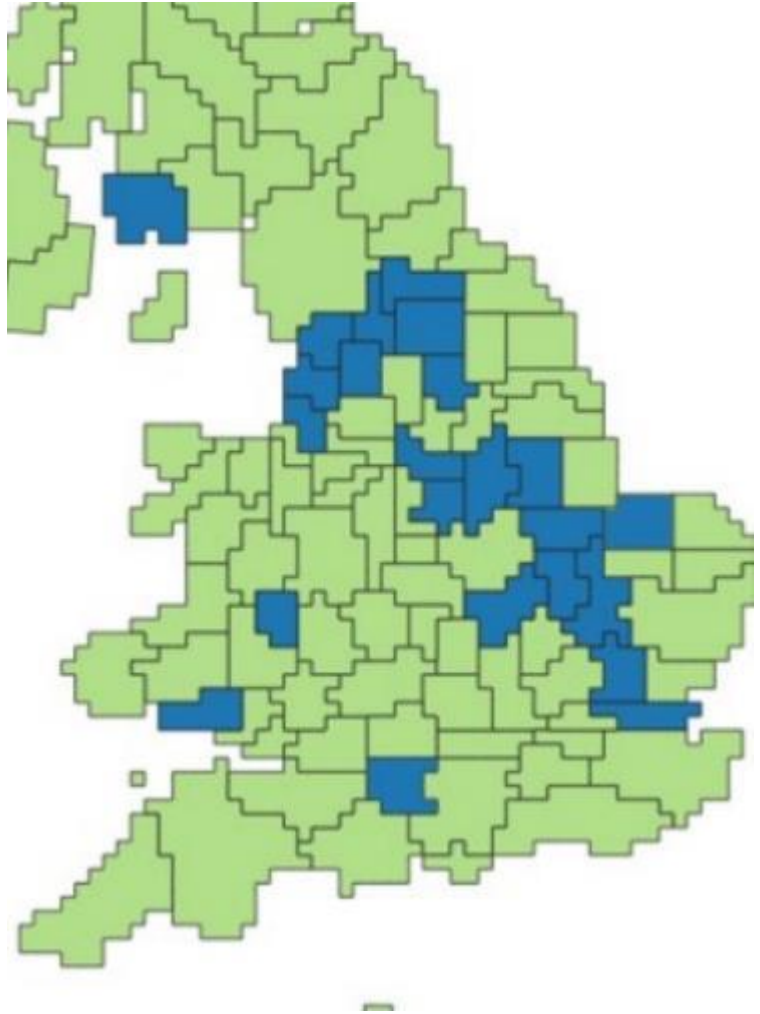
#### 2. Data Collection and Quality Control

- Encourage high-quality data collection by providing advice and guidance to volunteers.
- Act as a point of contact for volunteers with questions or challenges related to survey protocols or methods.
- Sometimes assist in checking and validating submitted data.

#### 3. Promoting BTO Activities

- Raise awareness of BTO's mission, projects, and the importance of citizen science in bird conservation.
- Organize and attend local events, such as talks, workshops, and training sessions, to engage the community and promote participation in BTO projects.

#### 4. Networking and Collaboration



- Act as a liaison between local bird clubs, conservation groups, and other stakeholders to build partnerships and strengthen bird monitoring efforts.
- Share regional updates and insights with BTO headquarters to inform national strategies.

#### 5. Reporting and Communication

- Keep volunteers informed about regional and national bird monitoring developments through newsletters, emails, or meetings.
- Provide feedback to BTO on volunteer engagement and any regional challenges or opportunities.

#### 6. Training and Development

- Provide training to new volunteers, ensuring they are confident and skilled in carrying out surveys accurately and effectively.
  - Encourage experienced volunteers to take on more advanced surveys or leadership roles.
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#### Why Are They Important?

BTO Regional Representatives are essential for the success of bird conservation efforts in the UK. Their local knowledge and hands-on involvement ensure that BTO's citizen science projects run smoothly and achieve meaningful conservation outcomes.

By fostering a network of enthusiastic and skilled volunteers, RRs help the BTO collect high-quality data that informs research and policy, ultimately contributing to the protection of bird populations and their habitats.

If you're interested in bird monitoring or conservation, your local BTO Regional Representative can be an invaluable resource!

**Do you know anything about Joomla? If so, the bird club could do with your help... Please email [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)**

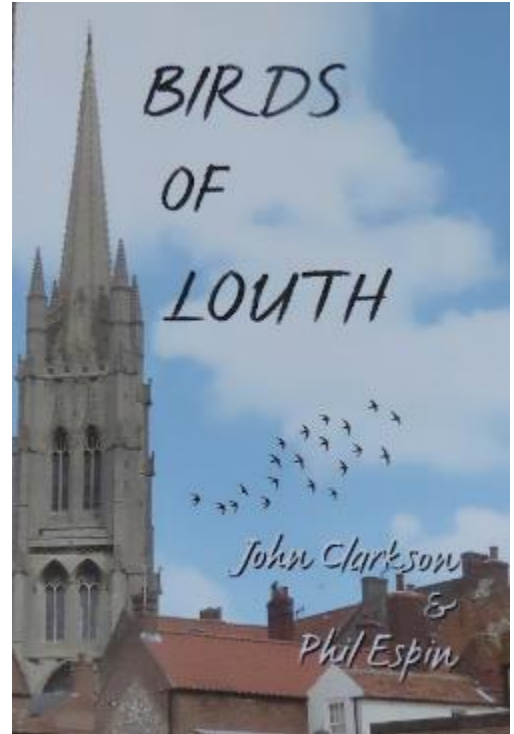


## Joint LBC/LNU meeting at Whisby 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025: a local flavour

The speaker at our next meeting will be our Chair Phil Espin. Following on from the recent publication of *Birds of Louth* (2024) which Phil wrote with former County Recorder John Clarkson who sadly passed away before the book was published, Phil will be talking about changes in the bird populations of Louth over the last 50 years since he started birding in his home town as documented in the book. His talk will be illustrated by some of John's excellent photographs and those of his friends.

Although the book is about Louth specifically it serves as a microcosm of Lincs and the 200 bird species covered in it will be familiar and local to all who live in Lincs. The book will be available for sale at £10 at the meeting. All proceeds will be donated to the charity Brain Tumour Research in memory of John and the illness that curtailed his birding and took him from us.

If you can't wait, and with Christmas fast approaching, the book makes a fantastic Christmas present for anyone interested in birds, you can buy the book online from the Bird Club at [www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/sales](http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/sales).



## Help needed with the LBC Latest Sighting Page

After many years of managing the "Latest Sightings" section of the Bird Club website, Chris Grimshaw has stepped down. The Bird Club would like to extend its thanks to Chris for all his hard work. We are now seeking a new volunteer to take on this role.

What is required...

We need someone to collate the latest bird sightings and upload them to the website (full support given...). This could be done on a daily basis or every other day. It's a relaxed process, it's not an up to the minute resource... with the data included in the newsletter....

**If you are able to help, please contact [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk).**

## Call for Photographs of Birds seen in Lincolnshire during 2023

We hope that bird-photographers can help us by supplying photographs of ANY bird species to illustrate the 2023 LBC Annual Report.

The rules are simple, the image must have been **taken during 2023** and **photographed within Lincolnshire**.

We try to show as many species as possible in a variety of plumages and situations, we are interested in flight shots, pictures of flocks, of birds in non-breeding plumage, of migrants and so on.....

Every year we do get 100's of images to choose from, and sadly we can't use all of them, but we are ALWAYS looking for new images, so please send all pictures in .jpg format...

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE include the species name, location, date and your initials in the **image file name for EACH image** (e.g. BrentGoose\_NthCotes\_22112023\_MDJ.jpg) As you can imagine, receiving dozens of images with generic file names isn't helpful and takes ages to sort AND can result in caption errors within the final report...

If you only have individual images, then please email them to [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk).

Alternatively, if you have a number of images, please use the <https://wettransfer.com/> system to transfer to [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk) – there is NO limit on how many you can send...

And, remember... Please do not CROP your images too tight. When typesetting the report, the printer needs space around your image to help with the final layout.....



All images will be fully credited. All emails will be acknowledged, so if you don't get a response, please check that they have been received by following up with an email to [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk).

## The confessions of a shorebird warden

FASCINATING insights into the life of a shorebird warden come thick and fast in *Clinging to The Edge* by Richard Boon.

Based on his experiences at Beacon Ponds on the Yorkshire Coast in spring and summer 2022, he chronicles the many challenges he and his co-wardens encountered in this fast-paced, informative and very entertaining book.

"Potential predators were legion," he writes. "Gulls, corvids owls and raptors threatened from the air, while, on the ground, there could be foxes, badgers, hedgehogs otters, rats, weasels stoats and grass snakes.

"Sometimes, it seemed anything and everything is a threat."

Tactics (mostly unsuccessful) to repel the threats included lion dung, air horns, and even tying rags to long bamboo canes and waving them furiously at approaching Kestrels or Sparrowhawks.

Sometimes the shorebirds themselves misbehaved. On one occasion, an Oystercatcher was observed taking a Little Tern and shaking it vigorously by the wing until it broke free, and, on another, a pair of Little Terns killed a Ringed Plover chick that ventured too close to their nest.

But off-the-lead dogs were perhaps the most troubling menace.

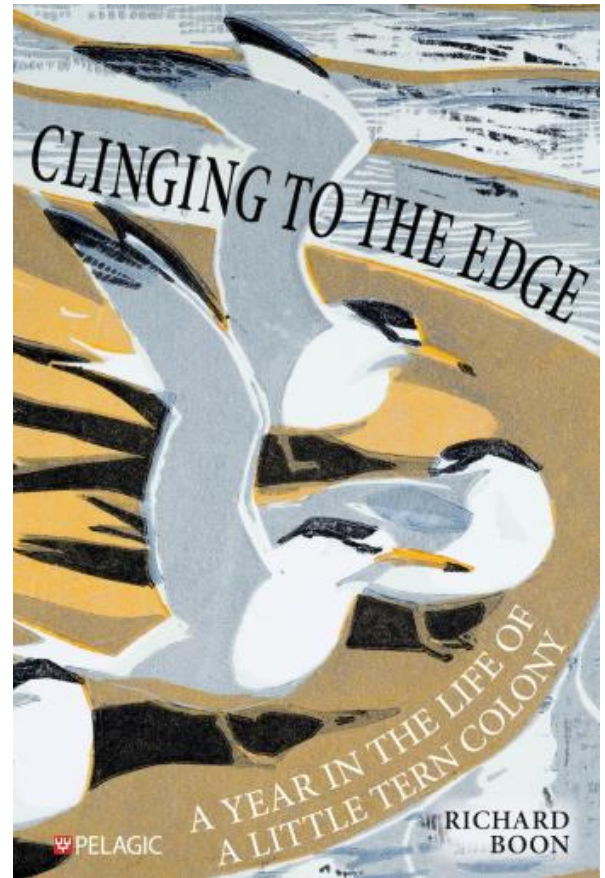
Writes Boon: "Few dogs seem able to resist charging into a flock of shorebirds if only for the thrill - apparently - of the chaos caused. And sometimes it goes beyond that to fatal attack."

But despite all the trials and tribulations experienced by Boon and his teams, the rewards were rich - not least the shared camaraderie among the wardens and the fact that, from 39 nests, Little Terns raised no fewer than 41 chicks beyond fledging stages, while Ringed Plovers "started badly but recovered reasonably well" and Avocets bred for the first time since 2019.

It should also be stated that the book is rich in information about the intriguing courtship, breeding, parental and other behaviour of Little Terns.

In addition, there are several references to similar shorebird-wardening initiatives in Lincolnshire, notably at Gibraltar Point.

Subtitled *A Year in The Life of a Little Tern Colony*, this wittily-written (and amply-illustrated) paperback is published by Pelagic ([www.pelagicpublishing.com](http://www.pelagicpublishing.com)) at £25.



JW



## Appeal for a Local Vet – Swift Rehabilitation Notes

Many members of the Lincolnshire Bird Club (LBC) will know Barry Hancock, who has been working tirelessly to support swifts. Barry has recently compiled some notes on swift rehabilitation and intends to distribute them to all vets in Lincolnshire.

Before taking this step, Barry would like feedback from a local vet to ensure the content is accurate and practical. Ideally, he's hoping to connect with a vet who is an LBC member or someone who can recommend a suitable contact.

The goal is to have everything ready before the swifts return next year!

If you're a vet or know someone who could help, please get in touch with Barry at [hancock721@btinternet.com](mailto:hancock721@btinternet.com). Your expertise and support would be greatly appreciated!



Image of Common Swift by Neil Smith at Frampton RSPB in May 2021

## The Common and Siberian Stonechats: A Tale of Two Species....

Once considered subspecies of the same bird, the Common Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* and the Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* were split into separate species after genetic studies revealed significant differences in their DNA. Part of the *Muscicapidae* family, they share similarities but differ in key aspects such as distribution, migration patterns, plumage, and vocalizations.

Common Stonechat is predominantly found across Europe, North Africa, and parts of western Asia. They are common passage and winter species in Lincolnshire. Unlike its Siberian counterpart, it tends to stay closer to home, being largely resident or a short-distance migrant within its range.



The Siberian Stonechat is a true long-distance traveler. It breeds across Siberia, central Asia, and parts of East Asia, migrating thousands of kilometers to winter in southern Asia, including regions of the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. They very occasionally occur in Lincolnshire in the Autumn!

In short, while the Common Stonechat has a more localized lifestyle, the Siberian Stonechat is a highly migratory bird, covering vast distances between its breeding and wintering grounds.

Both species are often seen in open habitats like grasslands, heathlands, and agricultural fields. Despite this overlap, they exhibit subtle yet significant differences....

Males of both species feature striking patterns, but the Common Stonechat typically has a more vibrant orange breast and a bold black head. The Siberian Stonechat, on the other hand, tends to display a paler appearance, with less contrast in its coloration.

The decision to recognize the Common and Siberian Stonechats as distinct species reflects the evolving understanding of bird taxonomy. Advances in genetic research have provided insights into their evolutionary paths, confirming that the two lineages are genetically distinct enough to warrant separate species status.

The story of the Common and Siberian Stonechats is a fascinating reminder of how science continues to refine our understanding of the natural world. Whether you spot a locally resident Common Stonechat or marvel at the incredible migration of a Siberian Stonechat, these birds are sure to captivate birdwatchers, birders and twitchers alike.

Andrew Chick

Now, this may be all the information you need, and you really don't need any more complication in your life... However, if you wish to know a bit more about Lincolnshire records of Siberian Stonechats then read the following fascinating article by Graham Catley.....

## Siberian Stonechat, Gibraltar Point, November 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

As a new subscriber to British Birds in 1975 the anticipation of the monthly mail delivery of the next issue revolved around the unknown content; would there be an article on identification of some tricky species or accounts of the finding of rare birds or a write up on an extraordinary influx of some scarce migrant or winter visitor or would it be a bit of a non-interest issue! Prior to subscribing I had been given a run of issues from the 1950's all of which had been devoured searching for inspiration and information on rare birds to be honest. While at the BTO I had spent countless hours trawling through all issues from 1960 onwards reading and re-reading accounts of the finding of rare birds like the mythical Red-flanked Bluetail and photocopying identification articles like the Dusky – Radde's warbler paper by Ron Johns and Ian Wallace complete with Ian's pen and ink sketches that spoke a thousand words. All of this information was of course to be hopefully applied in the field when the Lincolnshire coast was blessed by Easterly autumnal winds, or at least that was the theory.

The June 1977 issue of BB contained a paper entitled Identification and European Status of eastern Stonechats by Iain S. Robertson. Complete with some very grainy black and white images and a pencil sketch this threw up a potential rare bird that most people had never heard of or contemplated but the first European record dated back to October 11th 1883 on, where else but that fabled isle of Heligoland with the second on the Isle of May on October 10th 1913 but more to the point there had been an upturn in records since the late 1960's with 10 in 1974 alone so there was hope of discovering one of these gems. In Lincolnshire we did not have to wait long as the Donna Nook stalwarts unearthed a first-winter female on October 7th 1978 that stayed to the 8th and allowed the avid few Lincs twitchers to watch it feeding around the rusty barrels and barbed wire dump. I even managed a couple of very distant Kodachrome slides of said bird. Later a spring male at Donna Nook in the previous May 1978 was also considered an eastern bird but identification of males is harder than immatures.



Eastern stonechat presumably Siberian *maurus* Donna Nook October 8th 1978

Two years later a late autumn search at Donna Nook on November 9th 1980 revealed a dark looking first-winter eastern Stonechat that I identified as *stejnegeri* probably the first for Lincolnshire though at that time all eastern birds were simply classified as a race of Stonechat and it was not until 2004 that these eastern birds were split as Siberian Stonechat with races *maurus*, *variegatus*, *armenicus* and *indicus*, *stejnegeri* and *przewalskii*.

I was fortunate with further finds at Donna Nook of first-winter *maurus* probably male, from my notes on head pattern, on October 2nd 1987 by Ponderosa and an early first-winter female at Pye's Hall on September 22nd 1994. I also saw another first-winter female *maurus* at Saltfleet Haven between October 1st – 3rd 2000 but that was it until 2016 when a first-winter male *stejnegeri* was found by Steve Lorand at Donna Nook on October 6th 2016 curtailing our search at Pye's and involving some brisk southward walking. In the same glorious autumn, we found another eastern bird by Stonebridge car park on October 14th and assumed just on the paleness of the plumage and obvious differences from the earlier Donna bird that this second bird was *maurus*. The 2016 birds were written up with annotated photographs in a short paper in the 2016 Lincolnshire Bird Report pages 238 – 244.

As more identification features came to light firstly in Martin Garner's Birding Frontiers, Challenge Series, Autumn, then in a new paper in BB we started to question whether the second 2016 Donna bird may also have been *stejnegeri*? The BB paper 'Eastern Stonechats' in Britain; by Andy Stoddart and Martin Collinson in the September 2019 BB noted that: Recent taxonomic changes to 'Eastern Stonechats' have separated *Stejneger's* Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* from the five taxa that now comprise Siberian Stonechat *S. maurus*. Images of birds trapped and confirmed by DNA analysis and new plumage features in the paper laid out a set of criteria for identification but two birds identified as one species were in fact confirmed as the other by DNA so things were clearly not that clear cut. The following two paragraphs probably sum things up nicely:

However, the fact that the provisional field identifications of some DNA-tested birds did not align with their genetic identity is a cause for concern. Individual variation and the lack of an absolute feature clearly pose a problem. At the same time, the questions around intergrades/hybrids remain unresolved while, to complicate matters further, could there even be, as suggested earlier, a lack of congruence between the morphological and genetic divides between the two species? In other words, could a proportion of 'Eastern Stonechats' be apparent *Stejneger's* on plumage but genetically Siberian (or vice versa)? These (and other) lingering taxonomic questions also suggest that caution is in order.

Finally, even without these difficulties, any attempt to cherry-pick 'distinctive' individuals would still be problematic. How could 'dark enough' or 'pale enough' be defined? What about the more 'intermediate' birds? And, perhaps most importantly, given the difficulty of establishing true plumage hues, how much reliance can really be placed on field notes (if available), and, in particular, how useful are photographs?

The latest identification handbook, ID Handbook of European Birds by Nils van Duivendijk shows the most reliable features for separating what are now called Siberian *maurus* and Amur *stejnegeri* Stonechats and confirms at least that the Gibraltar Point bird is a first-winter male.

With all this in mind and assuming I had not seen a Siberian Stonechat since 2000 a visit to Gibraltar Point to take in the features of the Siberian Stonechat seemed in order. The weather men had typically got it all wrong and the afternoon was peppered by thick cloud and showers of light to moderate rain. None of the images below were taken in anything other than dull though flat light and most were at ISO 3200 or above. The bird was at times fairly close to a male and female Common Stonechat but was generally on its own.



First winter male Siberian Stonechat (*maurus*) Gibraltar Point November 16th 2024. Images taken in slightly different lights, there was no sun while I was there, and with different toned backgrounds could have the effect of changing the subtle colour tones of the bird's plumage. Images taken later in the afternoon after a series of showers emphasise the blackish feathering in the crown and ear coverts partially due to the crown being wet. The bird could appear strikingly obvious and pallid at times but at others could look quite dark and at a distance could almost be passed off as a Common Stonechat.



The unmarked white undertail coverts and vent contrasted with the peachy underpart colouration. Depending on the angle of the head the mask formed by the blackish feather bases in the ear coverts could also appear striking or much less obvious. According to some published images the small very pointed bill is also a *maurus* feature with *stejnegeri* being thicker and blunter tipped.



After several showers the crown and head feathers became a bit matted with water. The buffy – cream tips to the greater coverts and greater primary coverts rule out this being an adult male.



In duller light there was more contrast in the mantle and scapular feathers with the dark feather centres appearing blacker. On the underparts the upper breast also showed a deeper orange colouration than the remainder of the underparts.



The darker orangy area on the upper breast shows well on this image taken in dull light just after some rain.



Also shown is the orangy colour on the upper breast in this flight shot where the throat appears to be marked with black feathers, actually feather bases and also note the black underwing coverts with pale whitish fringes another feature of first-winter males.



Most of the rump was essentially white to pale cream with a faint apricot wash to the uppertail coverts and distal part of the rump feathering. In flight at any sort of distance the rump looked uniform and pale creamy coloured but frozen images show the peachy wash.





The chin and throat were mainly white and contrasted with the peachy breast and underparts but faint blackish feather bases were visible in the throat patch.



The narrow white-buff fringes to the lesser and median wing coverts are shown here with the creamy – buff outer web fringe and tips to the greater coverts. The tail feathers were essentially black with a narrow and worn whitish tip. The pointed tips are usually a feature of juveniles.



In particularly dull light with thick dark clouds the apparent colour of the bird changed making it less contrasting and more female Common Stonechat like.



Unlike the Common Stonechats nearby nearly all of the Siberian's feeding forays consisted of aerial pursuits of insects and this made it easy to locate. It used high perches in the buckthorn and elders and occasionally resorted to a nearby barbed wire fence. At one point it flew 150m out onto the saltmarsh to bathe quickly in a shallow area of water before quickly drying and preening and returning to the dunes.



The black underwing coverts contrasted markedly with the paler flight feathers typical of a first-winter male



The black tertials with crisp white broad fringes and the white-cream outer webs of the secondaries formed the typical striking wing panel.



Whitish tips to blackish tail feathers with narrow white fringe to outermost



All in all, a beautiful little bird but how does it compare to the two 2016 birds at Donna Nook?

Looking first at the presumed Amur Stonechat found at the south end on October 6th – 10th it was a dark looking bird and at a distance could have been passed over as a Common Stonechat. The following description was compiled by Steve Lorand who found the bird:

At distance, it resembled a female Common Stonechat, but differing light intensities and viewing angles could cause some variation in impressions of the bird's general colouration. It was overall darker and more richly-coloured than any *maurus* birds seen by any of us, while the obvious sharply-demarcated throat patch and the deep orange rump were particularly striking features. In very good sunlight, the dark mottled crown and ear-coverts contrasted with the pale cream supercillium which met just above the base of the bill. A broad dark line from the bill passed through the eye and widened to form a patch on the ear-coverts. The creamy throat patch was very conspicuous, particularly with the sharp demarcation from the warm peachy-buff of the breast and slightly paler belly. The undertail-coverts were whitish. The underwing was silvery-grey with black axillaries and underwing-coverts, thus determining the bird as a male. The upperparts were dark brown with orange-buff fringes on the mantle and scapulars. The greater coverts were tipped orange-buff. The primaries, secondaries and tertials were brown-black with cream fringes. The rump was a striking clean deep orange and the tail feathers were brown-black narrowly tipped with orange-white which extended along the outer webs of the outer feathers. One or two of Graham's photographs show a creamy suffusion on the upper rump and also dark shaft streaks to two central uppertail coverts. The bill, legs and feet were blackish.



Presumed Amur Stonechat Donna Nook October 6th 2016. Note general similarity to a female Common Stonechat but clearly demarcated creamy throat and unstreaked orange underparts with obvious pale supercilium.



Blackish underwing coverts confirm that this was a male. The rather dark orange rump and rear flanks contrast with the black tail.





Black underwing coverts contrast with paler flight feathers. Deeper orange underparts with only hint of paler colour on undertail coverts.



Orange not peachy underpart colour and dark upperparts, to some extent exaggerated by low sun, with dark ear coverts and crown make this bird look very similar to some female Common Stonechats. Note stubby looking bill with broad base a feature noted by Garner and Scally.



Deep orange rump extends over uppertail coverts with two obvious black shaft streaks on longest uppertail covert feathers.



Amur Stonechat Donna Nook October 6th 2016. Note here the pale creamy tips to the black tail feathers with the deep orange lower rump and uppertail coverts also the fringes to the flight feathers are buff to rufous not white as are the tips to the greater coverts.

The second Donna Nook October 14th – 16th 2016. Found by GPC and ND after a long day slogging the Pye's Stonebridge area this bird looked paler than the earlier Amur and suggested that it was a *maurus* but good images reveal features that appear to be at odds with that identification and suggest that it was probably a second Amur Stonechat.



The very pale underparts of this bird immediately suggest Siberian but note the heavy black centres to the scapulars and mantle and the deep orange rump just visible between the closed wings. The head is also generally dark with little sign of a paler supercilium. Tips to the greater coverts and fringed to the flight feathers are creamy as are the tips to the tail feathers. Bill looks a little stubby?



From the front underparts are richer coloured and contrast with the white throat. Head pattern is still very unremarkable with only a hint of pale supercilium. Alula and primary coverts are jet black.





Uppertail coverts are deep rufous with obvious black shaft streaks; tail black with pale whitish tips to all feathers. Fringes to flight feathers are creamy to buff but not white and mantle and scapulars quite dark with heavy black centres to all feathers.



On a duller day the underparts look much darker.



Black underwing coverts make this a male and note the rather dark coloured rump and darker uppertail coverts with white fringe to outermost tail feathers.



Blackish shaft streak on one of the uppertail coverts visible here in a poor flight image but also note the deep orange rump and uppertail coverts.



Deep orange or rump again visible in this image with general appearance of a darker duller bird than initial views suggested.



Graham Catley

November 2024

Lincolnshire eastern stonechat records:

Donna Nook May 23rd 1978 1, Adult Male *Stejnegeri?*  
Donna Nook October 7th – 8th 1978 1, First-winter male *maurus*



Siberian Stonechat Donna Nook October 8th 1978 G P Catley

Donna Nook November 9th 1980 1, first-winter male *Stejnegeri*

Bill black

Chin whitish – creamy separated from breast which was pale orangey – buff; Paler under belly undertail coverts. Short narrow, pale supercilia to just over eye; Ear coverts dusky brown, Crown brown streaked darker blackish; Mantle brown with darker blackish streaking; Tertiaries black with orange fringes and tips; Primaries blackish – brown. Secondaries fringed with bright orange – buff forming a prominent pale wing panel. Rump orange and quite large, unstreaked and with a white lower edge. Tail black with buff fringe to outers and tips to all feathers; Prominent white patch in wing in flight

Donna Nook October 2nd 1987 1, First winter male *maurus*

Probable first-winter male *maurus* but note underwing coverts not seen

Feeding on seeded onion crop and weeds in field just north of Ponderosa; often in the same area as Whinchats and when perched at a distance could have been overlooked as that species. Generally pale buff above with dark wings and tail and very pale salmon below looking creamy at a distance.

Bill fine and black; a narrow pale supercilium ran back from the forecrown meeting over the bill to just behind the eye. Eye dark and large with a narrow white eye ring; lores dusky joining into a dark eye stripe/mottled ear coverts; ear coverts mostly buff-brown but with some underlying back feather bases showing through giving a mottled look; Crown buffish brown with rows of fine black spots extending backwards giving a streaked appearance from further off; nape buff-brown but only lightly streaked darker, mantle, back and scapulars all looked buff-brown with darker blackish streaking greater coverts blackish-brown with buff-brown edges and pale creamy tips forming a curved but narrow wing bar; Tertiaries black edged and tipped with white quite broadly





Siberian Stonechat Saltfleet October 1st 2000 G P Catley

Gibraltar Point October 5th - 6th 2013

1, First winter Male maurus



Flight shots © Russell Hayes of the 2013 Gibraltar Point bird also shown below



Siberian Stonechat Gibraltar Point October 2013 © Russell Hayes

Donna Nook October 6th – 10th 2016

1, First Calendar year Male

*Stejnegeri*

Donna Nook October 14th – 16th 2016

1, First Calendar year Male

*Stejnegeri?*

Donna Nook September 23rd – 28th 2024

1, first-winter female *maurus*

Images by Mark Johnson annotated by Liam Andrews

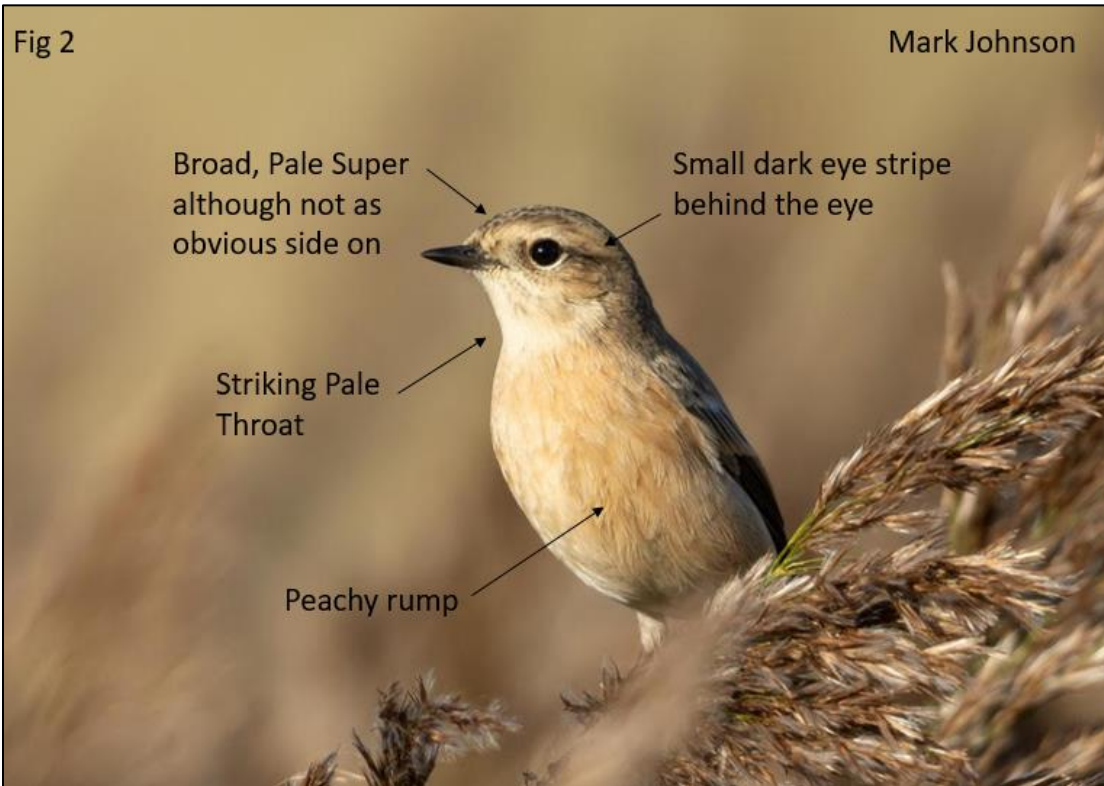


Fig 3

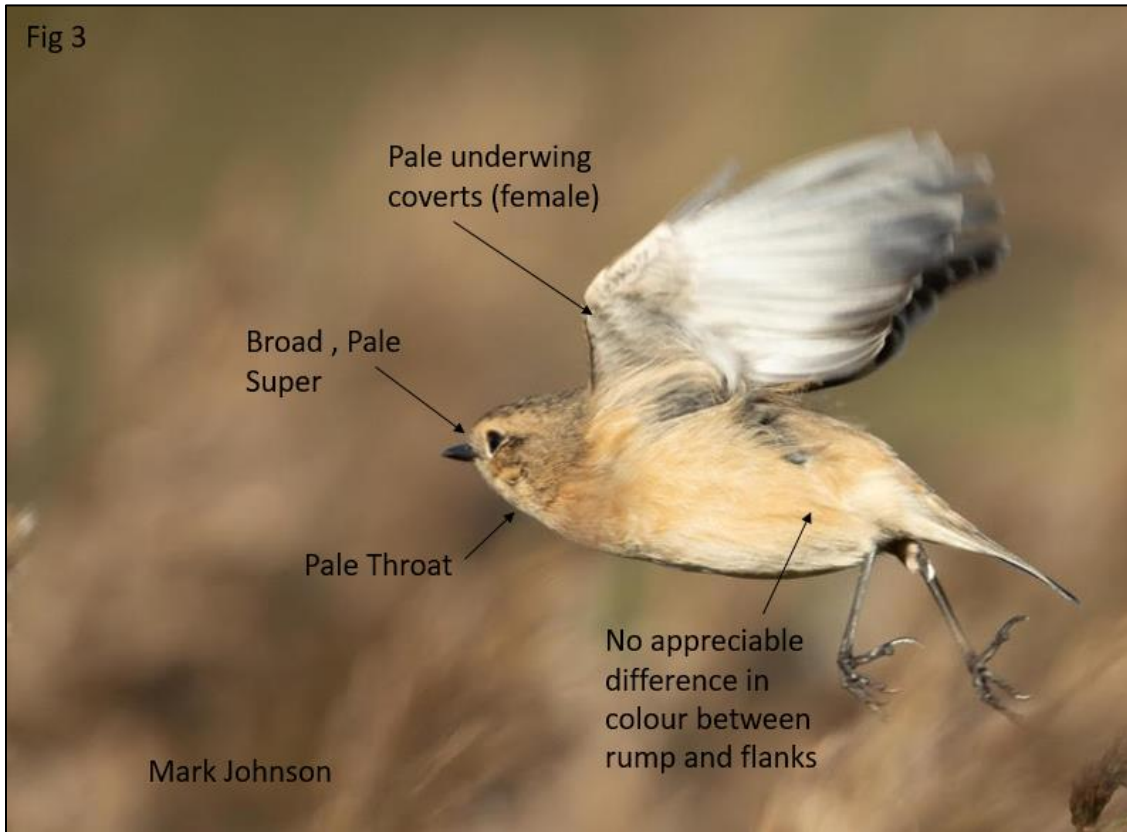
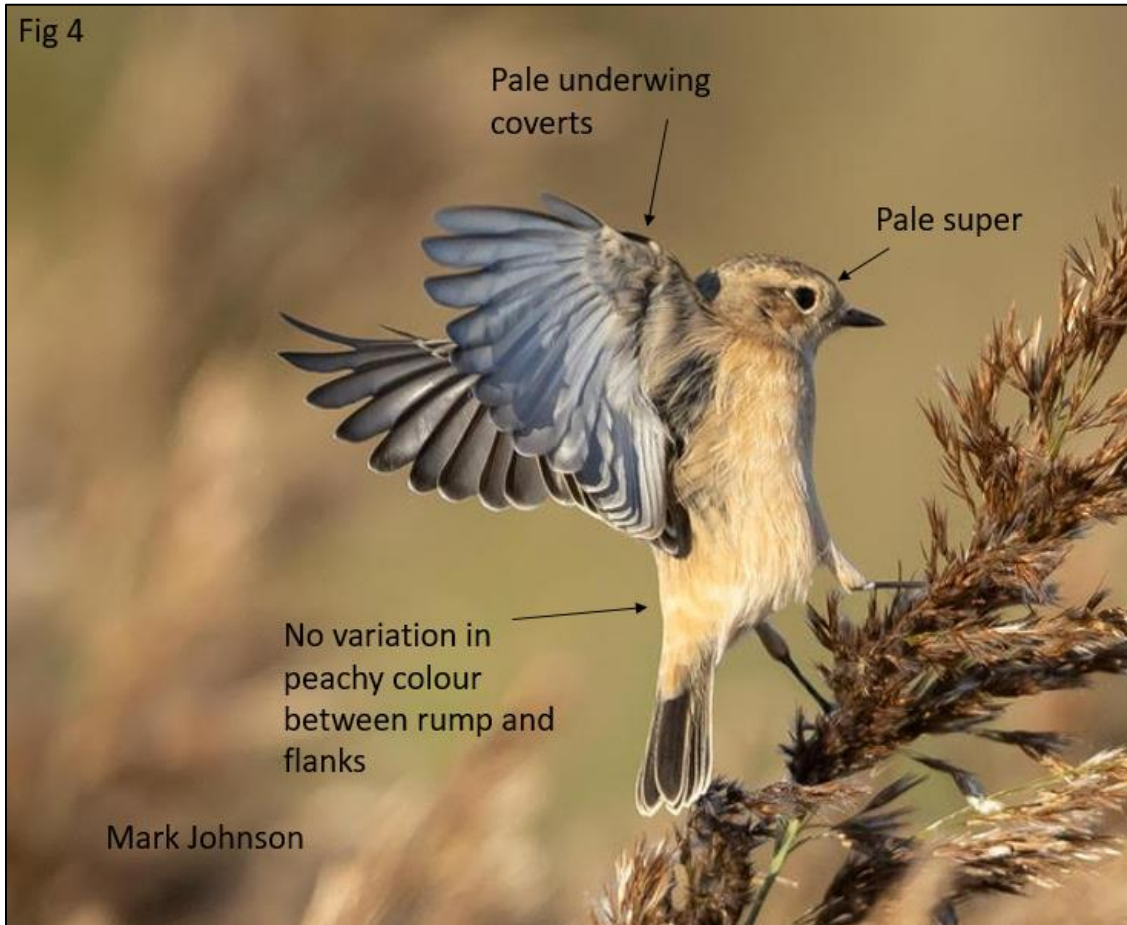


Fig 4



## 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](mailto:chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk) or phone me, Phil Espin on 07966325380.





## Bluesky – the real alternative to Twitter?

Bluesky is fast becoming a new home for many communities that once thrived on Twitter

By Andrew Chick

As LBC IT Officer I am considering moving the LBC away from the LBC Twitter feed and on to BlueSky social. **If you have any concerns about this, please contact me on [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)**.

However, please read the following first....

At this point I can't see us deleting the LBC Twitter news feed, its just we probably won't be monitoring it as much!

The main reason for the move is outlined below....

Twitter was once a dynamic platform for ornithologists and other researchers to engage on. Twitter has been a presence on the LBC Website for almost a decade. However, after the sale of Twitter in 2022, and the platforms subsequent decline into the rebranded X platform, many birders/ornithologists have left the platform as it was no longer the enjoyable space they'd come to know and love.

As Twitter haemorrhaged users, new, developing platforms sprang up including Mastodon and Threads – none of which provided the Twitter alternative that many of us were seeking.

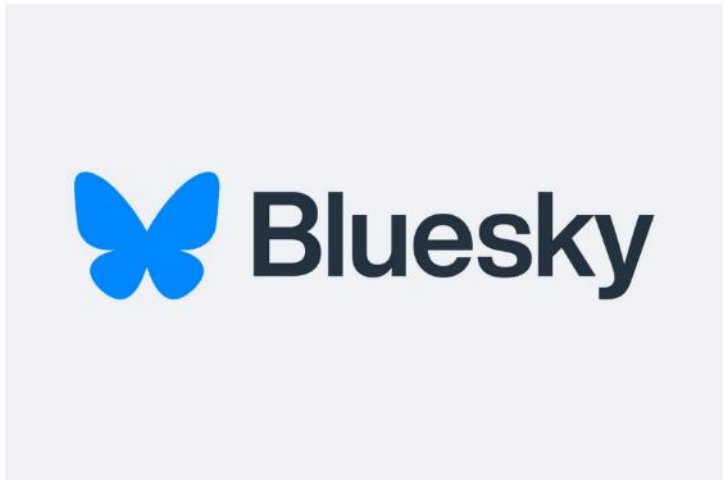
Then came Bluesky Social (simply known as Bluesky, or sometimes Bsky). I was immediately struck by just how Twitter-like the platform was. It instantly felt familiar.

This shouldn't come as a surprise given its roots lay deep within Twitter, for Bluesky is an open-source social network founded by, among others, Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey. Being open-source means that, unlike other social networks, there is no single entity with complete control over the platform, it is completely transparent in how it works, and how posts are moderated and it is shaped by its users.

So, it looks a lot like Twitter, and it feels a lot like the Twitter and because it is open-source, it is advert free and feels fresh and safe (for the moment)....

### **BlueSky features....**

This open approach also means that, despite some similarities, there are also some fundamental differences between Bluesky and Twitter. A key one is the hashtag. Twitter tried to drive the use of tags, but it soon became an unruly free-for-all with everyone and their dog making up tags on the fly. Tags are great for events (as long as have a unique one), but it got harder for general users, including researchers trying to group people and content together, as communities fragmented with the loss of key community members.



Bluesky has resolved many of these issues by implementing hashtag use as we know it from Twitter into 'Feeds', that function as curated, user-driven timelines (or, skylines on Bluesky). Feeds collate content and use hashtags, keywords, usernames and even emojis, to group subject content. Users then follow/subscribe to Feeds that interest them – just search for your interest be it ornithology, birding, politics, photos of cats, or whatever – and there's sure to be a Feed for you.

Anyone can set up a Feed and a well-managed Feed is a real thing of beauty. Feeds tend to be like Russian-dolls – Feeds sitting within one another – with broader Feeds collating the content of narrower-focused Feeds. For example, we already have a mature Science Feed (managed by Dani Rabaiotti) that collates, among many other topics, the fast-growing Ornithology Feed (managed by the BOU). Likewise, there is a Feed for birds generally that collates posts on birding, bird art and photography, Big Bird from Sesame Street and pretty much anything else bird-related. For birders there are a number of dedicated Feeds that collate just birding content at different scales – a global one (Birding), one for just UK birding (UKbirding managed by Jamie Dunning), another for birding in Scotland (birdingScotland, managed by Jared Wilson), regional birding (e.g. WorcsBirding) and even several for well-watched local patches. Many individual birders also use their own hashtags to collate their own birding content in the traditional way (and not as a Feed), such as Steve Dudley #WestrayBirding, and these are then collected by the various Feeds.

Another benefit of the Feeds system is that it gives you algorithmic choice. That is, you decide what you see by which Feeds you follow, not content churned out by some algorithm based on your use of the app.

### **Accessing Feeds**

Following a Feed is simple. Once you're logged into BlueSky, select the hashtag icon (at the bottom of your screen on your mobile app or the left-hand side of your screen in the web client). From there you can search in 'Discover New Feeds' (popular Feeds are listed here without searching). If you search 'Ornithology' the BOU-managed Feed will appear in the list. Select the '+' icon on the right and the Feed is saved to your list of Feeds (and by selecting a Feed from your saved list you can then 'pin' any Feed you follow to your own home screen). That's it! You're now part of that community and can post and share by tagging your own posts with the Feed tag/keyword/emojiji (in this case with the #ornithology tag).

### **No followers, no problem**

So, Feeds are dynamic and are what drives Bluesky, not the rush to attract new followers like most other social platforms. You can have no followers yet subscribe to several active Feeds and feel instantly connected and able to engage with others in these discrete communities. Well-managed Feeds can dictate what content appears on them. Many are open and all you have to do is use the Feed tag, keyword(s) or emoji and your posts will appear there. Some Feeds, such as Science, only allow registered users to post to the Feed itself but the content is open for everyone to read and engage with. Inappropriate content can be blocked from the Feed by the Feed owner/moderator, even when the post contains a relevant tag.

### **Community needs?**

With my LBC hat on, I can instantly see the community benefits of Bluesky for societies and groups – and far greater than we ever had on Twitter. I can easily see organisations and groups hosting similar events on Bluesky

using their own event Feeds. No other platform could handle a social media event in this way, but for this to be a reality we need more people to come over and help us to build communities within Bluesky.

### **Still growing**

Bluesky is still developing. Some functionality hasn't yet been delivered, direct messaging was only added on 23rd May, and uploading video media in posts is still very new, but it's getting there. And with more people using the platform, additional functionality will be delivered faster as developers incorporate user needs.

Some key bird organisations have already migrated to Bluesky – BOU, BTO and RSPB – but we need a critical mass of users there before they, and others, feel they have a large enough audience to really start building their own presence and consider running Bluesky events.

### **Welcome home**

Bluesky is fast becoming a new home for many communities that once thrived on Twitter. As you can see above, there are already familiar names managing the core ornithology and birding content. And, as you'd expect with a community driven platform, there is plenty of help for newbies both on the platform and elsewhere.

So, come over and give Bluesky a try and hopefully like many of us already there, you'll rediscover the community you thought was lost and your love for social engagement reborn.

### The LBC and Bluesky

LBC is making its presence known on Bluesky (@ibisjournal.bsky.social) and we can feel the beginnings of a thriving ornithological community with good engagement across our posts. We now post regularly on Bluesky

### Join the Bluesky community

Download the mobile app (iOS and Android) from your usual app store or go to <https://bsky.app/> to use the web client.

### Further reading and resources

[About Bluesky](#)

[What is Bluesky? Everything to know about the app trying to replace Twitter](#)

[How to get started using Bluesky Social: Everything you need to know](#)

[What is Bluesky, and how is it different from Twitter?](#)

This article expresses the views of the individual author and not those of the LBC.

# Lincolnshire Bird News – November 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](mailto:recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk). Records of more common species are still very important and should be submitted to the county Recorder (again, send all records to [recorder\\_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)) or submitted online using the **BTO BirdTrack** or **eBird Apps**. ALL records will then be added to the Lincolnshire Bird Club data-base, to be included in the Annual Reports. **PLEASE NOTE** that none of these reports have been verified or checked by the Lincolnshire Bird Club Records Committee.

**30/11/2024**

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

15 Russian White-fronted Goose

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup

**Frampton Marsh**

Hen Harrier

**Gibraltar Point**

Water Pipit

**Middlemarsh Farm**

Yellow-browed Warbler

**Willow Tree Fen**

33 Common Crane, 8+ Cattle Egret

**29/11/2024**

**Chapel St Leonard's**

Little Auk

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck

**Gibraltar Point**

Black-necked Grebe

**North Scarle**

Greater White-fronted Goose

**Willow Tree Fen**

29 Common Crane, 10 Cattle Egret

**28/11/2024**

**Covenham Reservoir**

Yellow-Legged Gull, 2 Common Scoter



Two female Common Scoter on a flat Covenham Reservoir - Image © Andy Sims

**Deeping High Bank**

Hen Harrier

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck

**Huttoft**

Long-tailed Duck, Slavonian Grebe

**Rimac**

4 Cattle Egret (at least, 300+ Sanderling

27/11/2024

**Brickyard Lane**

19 Snow Bunting

**Chapel Pit**

Great White Egret

**Chapel Six Marshes**

Woodcock

**Frampton Marsh**

500 Fieldfare

**Wilder Doddington**

Stonechat

26/11/2024

**Cradge Bank**

Short-eared Owl

**Frampton Marsh**

Hen Harrier (rt)

**Gibraltar Point**

Water Pipit, Twite

**Willow Tree Fen**

26 Common Crane, 10 Cattle Egret, 50 Goosander, 20 Marsh Harrier, 3 Barn Owl

25/11/2024

**Cowbit**

Little Auk

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck, 2 Glossy Ibis, Greater Scaup

**Frampton Marsh**

Hen Harrier

**Gibraltar Point**

Long-tailed Duck, Black-necked Grebe, Hen Harrier, Siberian Stonechat

**Huttoft**

Greater Scaup, 50+ Wigeon

**Rimac**

3 Cattle Egret, 100+ Fieldfare, 2 Marsh Harrier, 33 Common Redshank, Stonechat

**Willow Tree Fen**

26 Common Crane, 6 Cattle Egret

4/11/2024

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup

**Frampton Marsh**

Hen Harrier

**East Halton Skitter**

Water Pipit

23/11/2024

**Covenham Reservoir**

150 Cormorant, Goldeneye, 5 Redshank, Sparrowhawk

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis

**Frampton Marsh**

Spotted Redshank

**Willow Tree Fen**

25 Common Crane

22/11/2024

**Deeping High Bank**

Hen Harrier

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck, Cattle Egret

**Gibraltar Point**

Snow Bunting

**Huttoft**

Little Auk

**Marston**

Barnacle Goose, 1200 Greylag Goose

**Willow Tree Fen**

20+ Common Crane

**21/11/2024**

**Cleethorpes**

9 Snow Bunting

**Cut End**

3 Red-throated Diver, Long-tailed Duck, 3 Eider, 3 Goldeneye. 9 Great Crested Grebe, 2(?) Red-necked Grebe, 2 Slavonian Grebe, 11 Common Scoter

**Freiston Shore**

Slavonian Grebe

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck, Black-necked Grebe,

**Gibraltar Point**

Little Auk, Black-throated Diver, Gannet 2 Marsh Harrier, Common Sandpiper, 4 Goldeneye, Woodcock

**Mablethorpe**

Little Auk

**20/11/2024**

**Anderby Creek**

Little Auk

**Barton upon Humber**

Little Auk

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Black-throated Diver

**Cut End**

Little Auk

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck, Black-necked Grebe, Greater Scaup

**Freiston Shore**

Slavonian Grebe

**Gibraltar Point**

Little Auk, Long-tailed Duck

**Huttoft Bank**

4/5 Little Auk, 11 Gannet, 8 Goldeneye, Little Egret (at sea), 125 Kittiwake, Short-eared Owl, 4 Greater Scaup, Velvet Scoter

**Mablethorpe**

2 Little Auk, 2 Greater Scaup

**Wolla Bank**

Grey Phalarope

**19/11/2024**

**Chapel Point**

7 Little Auk, 3 Short-eared Owl, Storm Petrel, 2 Velvet Scoter, Sooty Shearwater

**Covenham Reservoir**

Great Northern Diver

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck

**Frampton Marsh**

Hen Harrier, Spotted Redshank

**Gibraltar Point**

2 Little Auk, 6000 Pink-footed Goose, Purple Sandpiper, 3 Greater Scaup, Velvet Scoter, 1440 Whooper Swan

**Huttoft**

Little Auk, Black-throated Diver, Little Gull, Sooty Shearwater

**Mablethorpe**

Little Auk

**Market Deeping**

Hawfinch

**Saltfleet**

Glaucous Gull

**Willow Tree Fen**

25 Common Crane, 4 Cattle Egret

**18/11/2024**

**Cut End**

Ring-necked Duck

**Deeping Lakes**

2 Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Cattle Egret, Russian White-fronted Goose, Spotted Redshank, Purple Sandpiper

**Freiston Shore**

Cattle Egret

**Gibraltar Point**

Siberian Stonechat, Yellow-browed Warbler

**Langtoft**

Hawfinch

**Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR**

Spoonbill

**17/11/2024**

**Alkborough Flats**

Little Auk

**Anderby Marsh**

Cattle Egret

**Branston Fen**

4 Cattle Egret

**Cleethorpes**

2 Snow Bunting

**Deeping Lakes**

Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup

**Gibraltar Point**

Siberian Stonechat, Bearded Tit, Yellow-browed Warbler

**Holbeach St Matthew**

Hen Harrier

**Goxhill Haven**

10 Snow Bunting

**Halton Marsh**

2 Snow Bunting, 2 Purple Sandpiper

**Messingham**

Buzzard, Great White Egret, 2 Marsh Harrier, Peregrine, 34 Pochard, Water Rail, 50 Siskin, Cetti's Warbler

**Middlemarsh Farm**

Caspian Gull



**Willow Tree Fen**

Short-eared Owl

16/11/2024

**Deeping Lakes**

Black-necked Grebe

**Gibraltar Point**

Lapland Bunting, Slavonian Grebe, Hen Harrier, Siberian Stonechat

**Freiston Shore**

Cattle Egret, Hen Harrier

**Halton Marsh**

Short-eared Owl

**Langtoft Pits**

Ferruginous Pits



Goldeneye at Buck's Beck - Image © Jim Wright

15/11/2024

**Anderby Marsh**

3 Cattle Egret

**Boultham Mere**

Goosander, Goldeneye

**Donna Nook**

Spoonbill

**Gibraltar Point**

2 Cattle Egret, Siberian Stonechat

**Langtoft**

Hawfinch

**Saltfleetby/ Theddlethorpe**

30 Snow Bunting

**Willow Tree Fen**

7 Cattle Egret

14/11/2024

**Cleethorpes**

Goldeneye, 5 Whooper Swan

**Linwood Warren**

2 Redpoll sp. 30 Redwing, Woodcock

**Nebraska Wetlands**

Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, 50 Redwing, 18 Whooper Swan

13/11/2024

**Branston Booths**

5 Buzzard

**Caythorpe**

Hawfinch

**Far Ings**

Slavonian Grebe

**Gibraltar Point**

Northern Harrier (probable)

**Mablethorpe**

Northern Harrier (probable)

**Sutton on Sea**

Northern Harrier (probable)

**Wolla Bank**

Northern Harrier (probable)

12/11/2024

**Boultham Mere**

106 Pink-footed Goose, 5 Whooper Swan

**Chapel Observatory**

Black-throated Diver, Leach's Petrel

**Frampton Marsh**

7 Marsh Harrier, Red-breasted Merganser, 10 Stonechat, Bearded Tit

**Gibraltar Point**

4 Little Auk, Great Northern Diver, Red-necked Grebe, 2 Slavonian Grebe, 389 Kittiwake, 2 Pomarine Skua, 3 Arctic Tern

**Humberston**

Merlin

**Saltfleet**

Cattle Egret

**Sutton on Sea**

Grey Phalarope, Shag

**11/11/2024**

**Cut End**

Water Pipit

**Donna Nook**

Spoonbill

**Far Ings**

Slavonian Grebe

**Frampton Marsh**

Spoonbill

**Gibraltar Point**

2 Cattle Egret, Wood Lark, Water Pipit, 2 Arctic Skua 3 Arctic Tern

**Huttoft Car Terrace**

6 Snow Bunting

**Langtoft**

Hawfinch

**Mablethorpe**

Pomarine Skua

**Pyewipe**

Caspian Gull

**Rimac**

Spotted Redshank

**Swanpool**

Barn Owl

**Tongue End**

4 Cattle Egret, Short-eared Owl

**Wigtoft**

Hawfinch

**Willow Tree Fen**

29 Common Crane

**10/11/2024**

**Deeping Lakes**

Black-necked Grebe

**Ewerby Waithe**

150 Fieldfare, 200 Redwing

**Far Ings**

Slavonian Grebe

**Frampton Marsh**

Water Pipit, Spot Redshank

**Gibraltar Point**

23 Russian White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier, Water Pipit, Twite, Yellow-browed Warbler

**Moulton Marsh**

Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan

**Sutton on Sea**

2 Snow Bunting

**Willow Tree Fen**

29 Common Crane

09/10/2024

**Belton**

Hawfinch

**Caythorpe**

Hawfinch

**Deeping Lakes**

Black-necked Grebe

**Donna Nook**

2 Spoonbill

**Far Ings**

Slavonian Grebe



Slavonian Grebe at Far Ings - Image © Roy Harvey

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Hen Harrier (male, ring tail)

**Molecey Mill Pit**

Hawfinch, Red Knot

**Pinchbeck**

2 Hawfinch

**Rimac**

11 Cattle Egret

**Tallington Lakes**

Ferruginous Duck (£5 entrance fee)

08/11/2024

**Belton Park**

5 Whooper Swan

**Brickyard Lane**

Yellow-browed Warbler

**Caythorpe**

Hawfinch

**Chapel Six Marshes**

100,000 Starling

**Elmhouse Farm**

Black Redstart



Black Redstart at Elmhouse Farm - Image © Owen Beaumont

**Far Ings**

Slavonian Grebe

**Frampton Marsh**

Hen Harrier, Spotted Redshank, Twite

**Gibraltar Point**

Red-necked Grebe

**Messingham**

Buzzard, 2 Cetti's Wabler, 84 Gadwall, Marsh Harrier, 23 Pochard, 2 Water Rail, 40 Siskin

**Rimac**

11 Cattle Egret, 4 Little Egret, 3 Marsh Harrier, 2 Stonechat, Swallow



Eight of the eleven very mobile Cattle Egrets at Rimac - Image © Chris Grimshaw

**Sturton by Stow**

Ring-necked Parakeet

**Sutton on Sea**

2 Goldeneye (south), Yellow browed-Warbler

07/11/2024

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Ferruginous Duck

**Caythorpe**

Hawfinch

**Deeping Lakes**

2 Glossy Ibis

**West Deeping**

Hawfinch

**Frampton Marsh**

Russian White-fronted Goose, Tundra Bean Goose, American Wigeon,

**Freiston Shore**

Slavonian Grebe

**Gibraltar Point**

Red-necked Grebe

**Halton Marshes**

14 Hawfinch

**Market Rasen**

Great White Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Raven, Purple Sandpiper, 5 Common Scoter

**Marston**

Hawfinch

**Rippingale**

Hawfinch

**Saltfleet Haven**

Long-eared Owl

**Sturton by Stow**

Hawfinch

**Trent Port**

30 Cormorant, 26 Fieldfare, 2 Kingfisher, Water Rail Raven, Lesser Redpoll, 90 Redwing

**Trusthorpe**

Snow Bunting

**Willow Tree Fen**

29 Common Crane

**06/11/2024**

**Boultham Mere**

Goldeneye, 2 Pintail

**Cut End**

9 Cattle Egret, 3000 Brent Goose, 6000 Pink-footed Goose, Whooper Swan, 2 Woodcock

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Cattle Egret, Tundra Bean Goose, Wood Sandpiper

**Freiston Shore**

Slavonian Grebe

**Gibraltar Point**

Lapland Bunting, White-fronted Goose, Yellow-browed Warbler

**Swanpool cow-fields**

Jack Snipe

**Tallington Lakes**

Ferruginous Duck (apparently £5 entrance fee)

**Willow Tree Fen**

25 Common Crane, 7 Cattle Egret

**RAF Woodhall Spa**

Great White Egret, 15 Whooper Swan, Cetti's Warbler

**05/12/2024**

**Anderby Marsh**

Short-eared Owl, Bar-tailed Godwit

**Deeping Lakes**

2 Glossy Ibis

**Donna Nook**

Pallas's Warbler

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Cattle Egret

**Gibraltar Point**

Yellow-browed Warbler

**Job's Lane**

Jay, Raven

**Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park**

Great Northern Diver, Eider

**Saltfleetby Theddlethorpe NNR**

Siberian Chiffchaff

04/11/2024

**Anderby Creek**

Slavonian Grebe

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

6 Hawfinch

**Deeping Lakes**

Glossy Ibis

**Donna Nook**

Greenshank, Spoonbill, Goldcrest, Pallid Swift, Pallas's Warbler



Pallid Swift at Donna Nook - Image © Graham Catley

**Frampton Marsh**

2 Bewick's Swan

**Freiston Shore**

Slavonian Grebe



**Gibraltar Point**

2 Cattle Egret, Greater Scaup, Yellow-browed Warbler

**Read's Island**

2 Snow Goose

03/11/2024

**Baston & Langtoft Pit**

Common Scoter

**Boultham Mere**

87 Pink-footed Goose, 6 Whooper Swan, Woodcock

**Caythorpe**

2 Hawfinch

**Chowder Ness**

2 Snow Goose

**Donna Nook**

Black Redstart, 2 Spoonbill, Pallas's Warbler



The Pallas's Warbler in the bushes adjacent to Stonbridge car-park Image © Mark Johnson

**Freiston Shore**

Slavonian Grebe

**Gibraltar Point**

3 Mediterranean Gull, 3 Tawny Owl, 2 Water Rail, 2 Stonechat, 4 Cetti's Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Woodcock

**Messingham**

Great White Egret, 4 Egyptian Goose, 4 Pink-footed Goose, 2 Marsh Harrier, 34 Common Pochard, 11 Red-crested Pochard, Water Rail, 5 Cetti's Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Sutton on Sea**

Black-throated Diver, 2 Short-eared Owl

**Swanholme Lakes**

2 Goldeneye

**Tongue End**

2 Cattle Egret

**Willow Tree Fen**

30+ Common Crane, 4 Cattle Egret, 2 Goosander, 12 Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl, 2 Stonechat 18 Whooper Swan

**02/10/2024**

**Baston Fen**

3 Cattle Egret

**Baston & Langtoft Pits**

Ferruginous Duck

**Blow Wells**

Hen Harrier

**Caythorpe**

Hawfinch

**Donna Nook**

2 Spoonbill

**Frampton Marsh**

Curlew Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper

**Freiston Shore**

Slavonian Grebe



Slavonian Grebe at Freiston Shore - Image © Matt Dineen

**Gibraltar Point**

Snow Bunting, Water Pipit, Pomarine Skua

**Mablethorpe**

Snow Bunting

**Normanby**

6 Hawfinch

**Willow Tree Fen**

35 Common Crane, 3 Cattle Egret

**01/11/2024**

**Boultham Mere**

Lesser Redpoll, 253 Pink-footed Goose

**Caythorpe**

3 Hawfinch

**Deeping Lakes**

Black-necked Grebe, Long-eared Owl

**Frampton Marsh**

Pintail, Curlew Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper

**Freiston Shore**

Bittern, Slavonian Grebe

**Huttoft**

2 Velvet Scoter

**Saltfleetby/ Theddlethorpe NNR**

Bittern, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl

**Tetney Marsh**

Lapland Bunting, Ruddy Shelduck

### Lincs Bird Club Website

Website: <http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk>

Twitter [@Lincsbirding](#)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LincolnshireBirdInformation/>

LBC County Bird Recorder

Phil Hyde [recorder\\_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)

BTO - <https://www.bto.org>

RSPB - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

Birdguides - <https://www.birdguides.com/>

Rarebird Alert - <https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/>

### Recording

BTO Birdtrack - <https://app.bto.org/birdtrack/login/login.jsp>

eBird - <https://ebird.org/home>

iRecord - <https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>

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](mailto:info@lnu.org)

Love Lincs Plants [https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/what-we-](https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/what-we-do/love-lincs-plants)

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

[@LoveLincsPlants](#)

### Sir Joseph Banks Society

<http://www.joseph-banks.org.uk>

[enquiries@joseph-banks.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@joseph-banks.org.uk)

### Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

<http://www.lincstrust.org.uk/>

### Lincolnshire Bat Group website

<http://www.lincsbatgroup.co.uk/>

### Butterfly Conservation Lincolnshire Branch

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/300/lincolnshire-branch.html>

### FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME

Rural Crime Officer

Pc 160 Nick Willey

Force Wildlife, Rural Crime Officer

Force Dog Training Establishment

Lincolnshire Showground.

Grange-De-Lings.

Lincoln

[nicholas.willey@lincs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicholas.willey@lincs.pnn.police.uk)

OFFICE: 01522-731897

MOBILE :07768-501895

PAGER : 07654-330877

Rural Crime News - <https://www.lincs.police.uk/news-campaigns/news/2019/rural-crime-news/>

### STAYING SAFE

EasyTide

<http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/EasyTide/index.aspx>

Met Office Severe Weather E-mail Service

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/guide-to-emails>

Environment Agency Flood Information/Floodline

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/default.aspx>

Lyme Disease

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

### SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDING

#### Botany

Botanical Group in South Lincs

Contact: Sarah Lambert - [sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com](mailto:sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com)

Also see: <http://bsbi.org/south-lincolnshire-v-c-53>

LNU Sawflies, Bees, Wasps and Ants Recorder

Dr. David Sheppard - [d.a.sheppard@btinternet.com](mailto:d.a.sheppard@btinternet.com)

#### Lincolnshire Mammals

Chris Manning, [Chris.LincsDeer@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.LincsDeer@gmail.com)

#### Mammal Atlas

You can download and print off a hard copy or view it online.

<http://www.glnp.org.uk/our-publications/biodiversity/projects-and-reports.php>

#### Lincs Amphibian and Reptile Group

The Lincolnshire ARG (Amphibian & Reptile Group)

Ashley Butterfield - [learningoutdoors@btinternet.com](mailto:learningoutdoors@btinternet.com)

#### Local Bat Helpline

Grounded bats, bat problems, advice and information.

Contact Annette and Colin Faulkner on

01775 766286 or e-mail: [annettefaulkner@btinternet.com](mailto:annettefaulkner@btinternet.com)

Confidential Bat Records

You may send confidential bat records direct to Annette

Faulkner on: [annettefaulkner@btinternet.com](mailto:annettefaulkner@btinternet.com)

### USEFUL WILDLIFE CONTACTS

#### Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

<http://www.glnp.org.uk/>

Contact: [charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk](mailto:charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk)

or for more general [queries:info@glnp.org.uk](mailto:queries:info@glnp.org.uk)

#### Natural England

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

#### Lincolnshire Environmental Awards

[www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk](http://www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk)

#### Life on the Verge and Wildflower Meadow Network Project

<http://www.lifeontheverge.org.uk/>



Lincolnshire Bird Club  
Follow us on twitter @lincsbirdclub  
<http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk>

The Lincolnshire Bird Club, supporting the recording & conservation of wildlife in Lincolnshire

