

**LONGHAM LAKES**

**BIRD REPORT 2015**

plus

**DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES**



Male Garganey

by  
**GEORGE GREEN**

**LONGHAM LAKES**  
**incl Hampreston Meadows**  
**SELECTED BIRD RECORDS - 2015**

**Mute Swan**

Present throughout the year.

**Greylag Goose**

Early winter: present on 4 dates 10th January-21st February max 6 on 14th February. Spring: present on many dates 10th March-26th May max 41+ on 10th March. No further sightings during the remainder of the year. This species often favours Hampreston Meadows.

**Canada Goose**

Present throughout most of the year. Bred: 2 pairs with broods on 7th May.

**Egyptian Goose**

Spring: 2 on 12th March. Summer: 1 on 25th, 27th & 29th June. Autumn: 1 on 15th July and 2 on 28th October. Late winter: 3 on 1st, 2nd & 4th December and 2 on 13th December.

**Shelduck**

Early winter: 1 on 10th January. Spring: 3 on 2nd April, a pair on 15th April and 1 on 28th April.

**Wigeon**

Early winter/spring: regularly present 3rd January-24th March but in much lower numbers than last year max 29 on 11th February compared to 305+ on 11th January 2014! Autumn/late winter: 5 on 30th August with small numbers regularly present 30th September-31st December max 34+ on 4th November.

**Gadwall**

Early winter/spring: regularly present 3rd January-20th May with 1-2 pairs lingering throughout much of the spring. Autumn/late winter: small numbers regularly present 23rd August-31st December.

**Teal**

Early winter/spring: regularly present in small numbers 3rd January-21st April. Autumn/late winter: regularly present in very small numbers 30th September-31st December max 7 on 2 dates In December.

**Mallard**

Present throughout the year. Bred: single pairs with broods noted on 2nd April and 1st May.

### **Pintail**

Early winter: a male on 10th January.

### **GARGANEY**

Spring: a male on 6 dates 4th-21st April.

### **Shoveler**

Numbers increased during spring and autumn passage.

Early winter: regularly present max 19 on 7th February. Spring: regularly present up to 1st May with high numbers in March and early April including peak counts 36+ on 10th March and 40 on 22nd March. Autumn/late winter: 1 on 23rd August and regularly present 30th September-31st December with high numbers in October max 30+ on 17th.

### **Pochard**

Early winter: regularly present 3rd January-10th March max 30+ on 4th January. Spring: 3 on 24th March and 1 on 5th April. Summer: a female on 13th June and a male on 25th June. Autumn/late winter: 2 on 31st July and 1 on 21st, 23rd & 27th August then regularly present 30th September-31st December with peak counts 25 on 4th December and 24 on 27th December.

### **Tufted Duck**

Present throughout the year. Breeding was late as in previous years with the first broods seen on 9th July followed by 88 recently hatched young on 11th July increasing to 245+ on 25th July including a single crèche of 100+ chicks.

### **SCAUP**

Early winter: a female regularly present from 4th January to the very late date of 30th May.

### **Goldeneye**

Early winter: a male on 7th & 14th February.

### **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**

Autumn: an immature/female bird on 17th October.

### **Goosander**

Early winter: a pair on the nearby River Stour on 31st January.

### **Little Grebe**

Present throughout the year. During the spring and summer 'trilling' was heard from 2 pairs indicating breeding, but no young were seen subsequently.

### **Great Crested Grebe**

Present throughout the year. Bred: a pair with 2 young on 9th July and a pair with 4 young on 25th July. Late winter: high numbers in November max 81 on 4th.

### **BLACK-NECKED GREBE**

Spring: 2 in full summer-plumage on 12th March. Autumn: 1 in full summer plumage 9th July-2nd August.

### **Cormorant**

Although present throughout much of the year, records were less frequent from early April to mid July.

### **Little Egret**

Regularly present in small numbers 3rd January-1st May and 9th July-31st December.

### **Grey Heron**

Present throughout the year.

### **MARSH HARRIER**

Spring: a female/immature flew south over Hampreston Meadows on 3rd May.

### **Sparrowhawk**

Early winter: 1 on 3rd February. Spring: singles on 17th March and 15th April. Summer: 1 on 13th June. Autumn: singles possibly involving the same bird on 11th July, 2nd & 26th August and 26th September.

### **Hobby**

Spring/summer: singles on 28th April, 3rd May and 13th June. Autumn: singles on 11th July and 21st & 23rd August.

### **Peregrine**

Spring: 1 on 24th April.

### **Water Rail**

Early winter: singles on 3rd & 11th February. Late winter: 1 on 2nd December.

### **Moorhen**

Present throughout the year.

### **Coot**

Present throughout the year and bred.

### **AVOCET**

Spring: 2 on 12th March.

### **Lapwing**

Early winter: 2 on 4th January and 13 on 7th February. Spring: present on 12th March and 1 on 26th May. Summer/autumn: present on many dates 25th June-9th November with peak counts of 10+ on 28th July, 15+ on 30th August, 20 on 30th September, 36 on 4th October and 18+ on 14th October. Late winter: 21+ on 27th November and 1 on 4th December.

### **Snipe**

Early winter: 1 on 7th February. Spring: 1 on 10th March. Late winter: singles on 4th, 20th & 27th November.

### **Black-tailed Godwit**

Early winter: 5 on 21st February. Autumn: 4 on 25th July and a flock of 14 flew over on 20th October. Late winter: another flock of 14 flew over on 20th November and 2 on 23rd December.

### **Common Sandpiper**

Spring: 1 on 19th April. Autumn: 1-2 birds present on 9 dates 11th July-30th August.

### **Green Sandpiper**

Spring: 1 on Hampreston Meadows on 6 dates 22nd March-12th April.

### **Redshank**

Summer: 1 on 25th June.

### **LITTLE GULL**

Spring: a 1st-winter bird on 12th March and a near adult bird on 21st April.

### **Mediterranean Gull**

Early winter: 6 on 10th January, 1 on 14th February and 19 on 21st February. Spring: present on many dates 10th March-3rd May with exceptional numbers in late March and early April including 200+ on 17th March, 130+ on 30th March, 209+ on 2nd April, 170+ on 4th April, 201+ on 5th April and 114+ on 8th April. Winter: singles on 23rd November and 13th December.

### **CASPIAN GULL**

Early winter: an adult on 24th January.

### **Great Black-backed Gull**

Early winter: 1-2 birds present on 4 dates 10th January-3rd February. Spring/summer: 1-2 birds present on 12 dates 12th March-17th June. Autumn: singles on 16th & 25th July. Late winter: singles on 27th November and 1st December with 2 on 27th December.

### **Common Tern**

Spring: 1 on 3rd May and a pair on 15th & 23rd May. Summer: 1 on 29th June. Autumn: an adult with a juvenile on 28th July.

### **SHORT-EARED OWL**

Autumn: one flew north over the North Lake on 4th November.

### **Swift**

Spring: first on 19th April (10+). Autumn: last 4 on 27th August.

### **Kingfisher**

Autumn/late winter: singles on 6 dates 3rd October-2nd December.

### **HOOPOE**

Autumn: 1 flew east over the North Lake on 9th July.

### **Sand Martin**

Spring: first on 30th March (6+).

### **Swallow**

Spring: first on 4th April.

### **House Martin**

Spring: first on 19th April.

### **Meadow Pipit**

Early winter: 1-2 birds present on 5 dates 3rd January-21st February with 4 on 3rd February. Spring: singles on 12th & 17th March. Autumn/late winter: small numbers present on many dates 3rd October-4th December max 10+ on 3rd October.

### **Grey Wagtail**

Present throughout most of the year and probably bred locally.

### **Pied Wagtail**

Spring: high counts of migrant birds in March with 30+ on 10th, 26 on 12th and 20 on 22nd.

#### **White Wagtail**

Spring: 1 on 24th March.

### **Stonechat**

Early winter: singles on 6 dates 24th January-21st February. Spring: 1 on 17th March. Autumn: 3 on 3rd October, 1 on 4th October and 2 on 10th October. Late winter: singles on 4th November and 18th December.

**Wheatear**

Spring: 2 on 17th March.

**Fieldfare**

Late winter: singles on 6 dates 20th November-13th December with 3 on 23rd December. Very scarce this year.

**Redwing**

Early winter: small numbers present on 4 dates 10th January-21st February max 6 on 17th January. Autumn: first bird on 17th October. Late winter: 1 on 4th November then regularly present in small numbers 26th November-31st December max 20+ on 2nd & 27th December.

**Mistle Thrush**

Early winter: singles on 7th, 11th & 21st February. Spring: singles on 17th & 24th April. Summer: singles on 25th June and 9th July. Late winter: singles on 27th November and 27th December.

**Cetti's Warbler**

Spring/summer: at least 2 singing males holding territory 10th March-25th June. Autumn/late winter: singing males heard on 3rd & 20th October and 4th & 23rd November.

**Sedge Warbler**

Spring: singles on 15th & 24th April and 23rd May.

**Reed Warbler**

Spring: first on 15th April.

**Blackcap**

Spring: first on 24th March. Autumn: 2 on 3rd October.

**Garden Warbler**

Spring: a singing male on 1st May.

**Whitethroat**

Spring: first on 17th April.

**Chiffchaff**

Early winter: singles on 10th, 17th & 31st January and 21st February. Spring: first migrant on 10th March. Autumn: regularly present 26th September-28th October with peak counts 12+ on 26th September and 20+ on 3rd & 11th October. Late winter: 8+ on 23rd November with 1-2 birds present on 6 dates 8th November-18th December.

**Willow Warbler**

Autumn: 1 on 28th July - my only record!

**Goldcrest**

Early winter: 1 on 21st February. Autumn/late winter: singles on 8 dates 11th October-31st December with 2 on 23rd November.

**Nuthatch**

Autumn/late winter: singles on 26th September, 27th November and 13th December.

**Treecreeper**

Spring: 1 on 28th April. Late winter: 1 on 23rd November.

**PENDULINE TIT**

Autumn: 2 adults by the small pool near the south-west corner of the South Lake on 23rd November.

**Raven**

Early winter: 1 on 17th January. Spring: singles on 8th April and 20th May. Autumn: 1 on 11th October. Late winter: 1 on 20th November and 2 on 2nd December.

**Siskin**

Late winter: 3+ on 20th November and small flock on 27th November.

**Linnet**

Summer: 1 on 17th June.

**Bullfinch**

Autumn: 4 on 17th October. Late winter: singles on 27th November and 9th & 13th December.

**Other birds recorded during the year:**

Pheasant, Buzzard, Kestrel, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Feral/Rock Dove, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting.



## **DAMSELFLY & DRAGONFLY REPORT - 2015**

Although a total 13 species were recorded during 2015 it is very likely that a few additional species were overlooked. The 2 pools just to the south of the South Lake were excellent sites for damselflies and dragonflies and were particularly favoured by the Red-eyed and Small Red-eyed Damselflies and the Four-spotted Chasers.

### **DAMSELS**

**Banded Demoiselle** (*Calopteryx splendens*)

**A wanderer from nearby River Stour.**

Small numbers present on 17th, 25th & 29th June.

**Red-eyed Damselfly** (*Erythromma najas*)

**Scarce breeder.**

Small numbers present 15th July-2nd August.

**SMALL RED-EYED DAMSELFLY** (*Erythromma viridulum*)

**This is a recent colonist to Britain.**

Small numbers present 9th-31st July.

**Common Blue Damselfly** (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

**Common breeder.**

Present 13th June-26th August.

**Blue-tailed Damselfly** (*Ishnura elegans*)

**Scarce breeder, perhaps overlooked.**

Present on 25th June.

### **DRAGONS**

**Brown Hawker** (*Aeshna grandis*)

**Fairly common breeder.**

Present 31st July-27th August.

**Migrant Hawker** (*Aeshna mixta*)

**Scarce breeder.**

Present on 26th August and 2 late Individuals on 4th November including one eating a bumblebee!

**Emperor Dragonfly** (*Anax imperator*)

**Common breeder.**

Present 17th June-31st July.

**Golden-ringed Dragonfly** (*Cordulegaster boltonii*)

A presumed wanderer from nearby heathland habitats.

Singles on 29th June & 15th July.

**Scarce Chaser** (*Libellula fulva*)

A presumed wanderer from the nearby River Stour which is a favoured river for this nationally rare species.

Singles on 23rd May and 9th July.

**Four-spotted Chaser** (*Libellula quadrimaculata*)

A scarce breeder.

Present on 29th June.

**Black-tailed Skimmer** (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)

Fairly common breeder.

Present 13th June-2nd August.

**Common Darter** (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

Fairly common breeder.

Present 31st July-26th August.

## **NOTABLE BUTTERFLIES 2015**

**Clouded Yellow**

1+ present on 2nd August.

**Painted Lady**

1 present on 21st August.