

**LONGHAM LAKES**

**BIRD REPORT 2017**

**plus**

**DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES**



**Bonaparte's Gull**

**by**  
**GEORGE GREEN**

**LONGHAM LAKES**  
**incl Hampreston Meadows**  
**SELECTED BIRD RECORDS - 2017**

**Mute Swan**

Present throughout the year.

**Greylag Goose**

Early winter/spring: regularly present January to early June usually in small numbers but higher counts from mid-February to mid March max 30 on 20th February and 35+ on 2nd March. Autumn: 1 on 4th August, 23 on 18th September and 25+ on 7th October. Late winter: 18 on 18th December followed by very high counts of 82+ on 20th December and 80+ on 22nd December. This species often favours Hampreston Meadows.

**Canada Goose**

Present throughout most of the year. Bred: broods present from 4th May including 3 broods on 13th May.

**Egyptian Goose**

Early winter: 1 on 1st February. Spring: a pair on 15th & 19th April with 3 on 22nd April.

**Shelduck**

Spring/summer: a pair present on 6 dates 6th April-9th May.

**Wigeon**

Early winter/spring: regularly present in small numbers January to 16th March max 22+ on 21st January. Autumn/late winter: regularly present from 16th September to December with very high counts from late September to late October rising from 67+ on 28th September to a peak of 125+ on 19th October.

**Gadwall**

Early winter: regularly present January-February. Spring/summer: regularly present March to 12th June with 1-2 pairs during May & June but no evidence of breeding. Autumn/late winter: regularly present from 1st August to December with very high counts from mid September to late October max 100+ on 5 dates during this period.

### **Teal**

Early winter/spring: regularly present January to 8th April max 68+ on 1st February. Autumn/late winter: regularly present in small numbers 24th August to December max 13+ on 26th October.

### **Mallard**

Present throughout the year and bred.

### **Pintail**

Early winter: 13 on 14th January and 3 on 1st February. Late winter: 1 on 16th December, 3 on 18th December and 17 on 30th December. The counts of 13 and 17 were exceptional for the site.

### **GARGANEY**

Spring: a pair on 11th May. Autumn: 3-4 birds regularly present from 11th August-13th September.

### **Shoveler**

Early winter/spring: regularly present in small numbers January to 22nd April max 19+ on 1st February. Autumn/late winter: regularly present 21st August to December with high counts from late September to late October max 47+ on 5th October (also see Wigeon and Gadwall).

### **Pochard**

Early winter/spring: regularly present from January to 5th May with highest counts during January & February max 55+ on 7th January. Summer: a pair on 12th June was unusual. Autumn/late winter: regularly present from 17th August to December.

### **Tufted Duck**

Present throughout the year. Breeding was late as in previous years with the first brood seen on 5th July. The numbers of chicks increased during July to a peak of 200+ on 1st August.

### **LESSER SCAUP**

Autumn: a male on 23rd & 26th October.

### **COMMON SCOTER**

Autumn: 4 (2 pairs) on 7th October.

### **Goosander**

Early winter: a male on 20th February.

### **Little Grebe**

Early winter/spring: regularly present in small numbers January to 16th March. Summer: breeding reports involved a pair on 28th May & 12th June, a pair with 1 young + another pair + a single bird on 15th June and finally 1 on a nest on 15th July. Autumn/late winter: regularly present from June to December with exceptional high counts from late August to the end of October max 50+ on 4th September

### **Great Crested Grebe**

Present throughout the year. There seemed to be several attempts of breeding with nest building and occupied nests involving at least 2 pairs seen on several occasions during July and August. Eventually a pair with 2 young were seen on 25th August and were still present in early September.

### **Cormorant**

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

### **CATTLE EGRET**

Autumn: 1 flew across North Lake and settled with cattle on Hampreston Meadows on 30th September with presumably the same bird with cattle on Hampreston Meadows on 4th October.

### **Little Egret**

Regularly present throughout much of the year except for a short period from early July to mid September. Most sightings involved 1-5 birds but 11+ on 14th January and 7 on 16th March.

### **GREAT WHITE EGRET**

Early winter/spring: 1-3 birds remained from 23rd November 2016 to 28th April. Late winter: 1 on 4 dates from 16th to 24th December with 2 on 30th December.

### **Grey Heron**

Present throughout the year.

### **MARSH HARRIER**

Spring: a female/immature flew over Hampreston Meadows on 5th May.

### **Sparrowhawk**

Early winter: singles on 3rd & 21st January and 1st February. Autumn: singles on 11th & 13th August, 28th September and 7th & 8th October.

### **OSPREY**

Autumn: 1 on 28th August.

### **Merlin**

Autumn: 1 flew across South Lake and mobbed a Peregrine on the nearby pylons on 7th October.

### **Hobby**

Spring: 1 on 27th April. Autumn: singles on 21st August and 2nd & 12th September.

### **Peregrine**

Autumn: singles on 11th August, 16th & 30th September and 7th October.

### **Water Rail**

Early winter: singles on 7th & 19th January and 1st February. Autumn: singles on 21st August and 7 dates from 5th-23rd October. Late winter: singles on 16th & 18th December with 2 on 30th December.

### **Moorhen**

Present throughout the year and bred.

### **Coot**

Present throughout the year and bred. Large numbers present in the autumn including counts of 360+ on 21st August, 410+ on 25th August and 390+ on 30th August.

### **Lapwing**

Early winter: present on 7 dates 3rd January-20th February involving 1-2 birds except 17+ on 30th January. Summer/autumn: regularly present from mid June to late October with high counts during October max 67+ on 16th & 20th October. Late winter: regularly present 16th-30th December max 60+ on 24th December.

### **LITTLE STINT**

Autumn: 1 on 15th & 16th September.

### **Dunlin**

Autumn: singles on 4th August and 13th October.

### **RUFF**

Autumn: 1 on 1st & 2nd September and presumably another single on 18th & 20th September.

### **Snipe**

Early winter: present on 9 dates 3rd January-20th February mostly involving 1-2 birds except 8 on 19th January and 4+ on 21st January. Spring: singles on 4th & 6th April. Late winter: 2 on 18th & 22nd December.

### **Black-tailed Godwit**

Early winter: 1 on 17th February. Autumn: 1 on 24th August and 3 on 2nd September. Late winter: singles on 16th & 18th December, 2 on 20th December and a flock of 30+ on 30th December.

### **BAR-TAILED GODWIT**

Spring: 1 on 13th May.

### **Common Sandpiper**

Spring: 1-2 birds present on 8 dates 11th April-10th May. Autumn: singles on 30th June and 6th July, 4 on 12th July and 1 on 13th July.

### **GREENSHANK**

Autumn: 1 on 17th August.

### **Redshank**

Spring: 1 on 16th March.

### **GREY PHALAROPE**

Autumn: 1 on 12th September.

### **BONAPARTE'S GULL**

Spring: a 1st-summer bird was found on 26th April and seen subsequently on 10 dates up to 18th May.

### **Mediterranean Gull**

Early winter/spring: 1 on 1st February followed by a modest passage compared to recent springs from 14th February-11th May, the highest counts being in March and early April max 72+ on 16th March. Autumn: singles on 30th June and 6th July. Late winter: singles on 22nd & 24th December.

### **BLACK TERN**

Spring: 3 on 7th May.

### **Sandwich Tern**

Autumn: singles on 5th & 15th July.

### **Common Tern**

Autumn: 1 feeding 1 young on 15th July.

### **Cuckoo**

Spring: presumably the same male calling regularly from 30th April to 13th May.

### **Swift**

Spring: first on 19th April (2+) followed by the main arrival on 22nd April. Autumn: last on 9th September.

**Kingfisher**

Early winter: singles on 3rd & 6th January. Autumn: singles on 6 dates 13th July-10th October.

**Sand Martin**

Spring: first on 15th April.

**Swallow**

Spring: first on 8th April. Autumn: last 3 on 13th October.

**House Martin**

Spring: first on 22nd April.

**RED-RUMPED SWALLOW**

Spring: 1 present over 'The Causeway' during the evening on 27th April.

**Meadow Pipit**

Early winter: 2 on 7th & 21st January and 17th February. Spring: 5+ on 4th March and 3 on 16th March. Autumn: 1-2 birds on 10 dates 28th September-26th October. Late winter: small numbers present on 18th December.

**Grey Wagtail**

Present throughout most of the year and probably bred locally.

**Pied Wagtail**

Spring: evidence of migrant birds in early March with 8 on 2nd.

**Stonechat**

Early winter: a pair on 19th January. Spring: 1 on 2nd March. Autumn/late winter: 1-2 birds present on 9 dates 18th September-18th December with 3 on 4th October.

**Wheatear**

Spring: 1 on 22nd April. Autumn: singles on 6th & 29th September.

**Fieldfare**

*Very scarce again for the 2nd year in succession.*

Early winter: 75+ on 14th February. Late winter: 1 on 20th December.

**Redwing**

Early winter/spring: small numbers on 5 dates 7th January-20th February.

Late winter: present on 4 dates 16th-22nd December max 20+ on 16th & 20th December.

**Mistle Thrush**

Early winter: 1 on 17th February. Spring: singles on 15th & 29th April.

**Cetti's Warbler**

Present throughout the year with at least 3 probably more males holding territory.

**Sedge Warbler**

Spring: singles on 22nd & 29th April. Autumn: singles on 13th August and 12th, 15th & 16th September.

**Reed Warbler**

Spring: first on 15th April.

**Blackcap**

Spring: first on 4th April. Autumn: last on 7th October.

**Whitethroat**

Spring: first on 15th April.

**Chiffchaff**

Spring: first migrant 2 on 14th March. Autumn: regularly present August-October max 30+ on 9th September and 10+ on 7th October. Late winter: 2 on 16th December and singles on 18th & 22nd December.

**SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF**

Late winter: 1 on 16th December.

**Willow Warbler**

Spring: singles on 15th & 22nd April. Autumn: 2 on 9th September and 1 on 16th September.

**Goldcrest**

Autumn: singles on 7th & 8th October. Late winter: 2 on 16th December and 1 on 18th December.

**Spotted Flycatcher**

Autumn: 1 on 15th August and 2+ on 9th September.

**BEARDED TIT**

Autumn: 1+ on 17th October and 2 on 22nd October.

**Nuthatch**

Early winter: 1 on 3rd January. Spring: 1 on 16th March. Autumn: singles on 9th & 15th September.

**Raven**

Spring: 1 on 7th May. Autumn: 1 on 22nd October.



### **Starling**

Autumn: flocks of 150+ on 4th & 5th July and 100+ on 28th August. Late winter: huge roost of 1000+ late afternoon on 30th December.

### **Linnet**

Early winter: 8 on 14th February. Spring: singing male 22nd April and 1 on 29th April. Autumn: 4 on 15th July and a small flock on 7th & 8th October.

### **Other birds recorded during the year:**

Pheasant, Buzzard, Kestrel, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed 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, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Reed Bunting.