

LONGHAM LAKES

BIRD REPORT 2018
plus
DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES



Bonaparte's Gull in summer plumage

by
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LONGHAM LAKES

incl Hampreston Meadows

SELECTED BIRD RECORDS - 2018

WHOOPEE SWAN

Late winter: an immature on 16th & 17th November.

Greylag Goose

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
80+	nc	38+	2	4	10	0	0	75+	60+	2	14

Regularly present January-early June and mid September-December with high counts in January max 80+ on 9th, March max 38+ on 20th, September max 75+ on 24th and October max 60+ on 1st. This species often favours Hampreston Meadows.

Canada Goose

Present throughout most of the year. Bred: 3 pairs with broods on 6th June.

Egyptian Goose

Spring: a pair on 3rd, 12th, 22nd & 28th May. Late winter: a pair on 30th November and 14th December.

Shelduck

Spring: 1 on 4th April, a pair on 11th April and singles on 5 dates 17th April-5th May.

Mandarin Duck

Autumn: a female on 14th August.

Wigeon

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	nc	35	19	0	0	0	0	10	5	23+	40+

Early winter/spring: regularly present in small numbers January to 7th April max 35 on 20th March. Autumn/late winter: regularly present 24th September-December max 40+ on 18th December.

Gadwall

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	nc	nc	nc	3	5	0	3	23+	10+	25+	80+

Regularly present January-early June and from mid August-December with high counts in December max 80+ on 18th. Although a few birds were present during the spring and early summer, there was no evidence of breeding.

Teal

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	nc	nc	nc	0	0	0	2	5+	3+	5	30+

Early winter/spring: regularly present in small numbers January-11th April.

Autumn/late winter: regularly present in small numbers 15th August-December max 30+ on 18th December.

Pintail

Early winter: a pair on 15th January

GARGANEY

Autumn: a juvenile on 5 dates 1st-11th August.

Shoveler

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
25+	nc	28+	25+	0	0	0	2	10+	14+	8	38+

Early winter/spring: regularly present in small numbers January-19th April max 28+ on 23rd March. Autumn/late winter: regularly present in small numbers 31st August-December max 38+ on 18th December.

Pochard

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
77+	nc	9+	8	0	0	1	0	0	19	55+	110+

Early winter/spring: regularly present January-3rd April with high counts during January max 77+ on 20th January. Summer: 1 on 3rd July was unusual. Autumn/late winter: regularly present 25th October-December max 55+ on 30th November and 110+ on 29th December.

Tufted Duck

Present throughout the year. Breeding was late as in previous years with the first brood seen on 3rd July. The numbers of chicks were much lower than last year with a peak of 9 broods and 28 young on 18th July compared to a peak of 200+ young on 1st August 2017.

SCAUP

Spring: a male on 27th March, 17th April and 6 dates 3rd-14th May.

Goldeneye

Late winter: a female on 11th & 21st December.

Goosander

Spring: a female on the late date of 1st May.

Little Grebe

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	35+	nc	nc	0	0	4+	16+	28	14+	nc	8+

Regularly present January-11th April and 9th July-December with high counts of 35+ on 16th February and 28 on 1st September. Although up to 4 birds were present in July, there was no evidence of breeding.

Great Crested Grebe

Present throughout the year. Bred: 1 on a nest 28th June but no further evidence of breeding until a pair with 3 young on 4 dates 4th-14th August and a second pair with 3 young on 10th September. Again like last year, breeding was late

CATTLE EGRET

Late winter: 2+ on 14th December.

Little Egret

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
8+	3+	nc	9+	1	1	1	0	1	2+	2+	25

Although regularly present throughout much of the year, there were few records during June & July and none in August. There was a notable influx in December max 25 on 14th & 19th. Other records involved 1-9 birds.

GREAT WHITE EGRET

Early winter: singles on 5th & 10th January and 2 on 9th January. Spring: singles on 1st, 7th & 13th April. Autumn/late winter: singles on 22nd & 27th October, 2 on 16th & 17th November, 1 on 30th November and in December 1-3 birds on 7 dates with 4 on 21st & 22nd.

RED KITE

Spring: 2 on 15th May and 3 on 22nd May.

Sparrowhawk

Early winter: singles on 8th & 16th February. Spring: singles on 23rd March and 4th May & 20th May. Summer: 1 on 7th June. Autumn: singles on 11 dates 1st August-27th October.

Merlin

Autumn: 1 on 27th October.

Hobby

Spring: singles on 5 dates 8th-25th May with 2+ on 17th May. Summer: singles on 1st & 7th June and 3rd July. Autumn: singles on 23rd August and 27th September.

Peregrine

Early winter: singles on 9th & 20th January. Autumn: singles on 20th & 27th August and 9th October.

Water Rail

Early winter: singles on 7 dates 5th January-12th February with 2+ on 16th February. Autumn: singles on 4 dates 9th-27th October with 2 on 19th. Late winter: singles on 30th November and 4th December with 2 on 27th December.

OYSTERCATCHER

Spring: 1 on 20th March.

Lapwing

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
150+	5	#	2	1	4	6	12	19	50+	1	100+

Early winter: present on 12 dates during January & February with high counts in January max 150+ on 5th & 60+ on 13th. Spring/Summer: present in small numbers on 9 dates March-June. Display was seen on Hampreston Meadows but there was no evidence of breeding. Autumn: regularly present July-October with high counts during October max 50+ on 22nd. Late winter: present on only 3 dates November-December including an isolated high count of 100+ on 14th December.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Spring: 1 heard flying overhead on 6th May.

Snipe

Early winter: 1+ on 10th January and 2 on 6th, 8th & 12th February. Spring: 6+ on 26th March and 1 on 11th April. Autumn: 1 on 5th October, 3+ on 9th October and 1 on 27th October. Late winter: 1- 3 birds on 4 dates 19th-29th December.

Black-tailed Godwit

Early winter: 17+ on 9th January and 1 on 18th January. Autumn: 8+ on 27th August. Late winter: a good series of records with 3 on 17th November, 30 on 30th November, 3 on 14th December, 7 on 18th December and 50+ on 29th December.

WHIMBREL

Spring: 7 on 28th April.

Common Sandpiper

Spring: 1-2 birds present on 6 dates 17th April-15th May with 3 on 29th April. Autumn: 1 on 30th June then 1-2 birds on 9 dates 1st August-10th September.

BONAPARTE'S GULL

Spring: last year's bird reappeared on 26th March and remained until at least 5th May. Initially it was in 2nd-winter plumage but subsequently moulted into adult plumage.

Mediterranean Gull

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	3	100+	10+	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	0

Early winter/spring: 6 on 20th January followed by a modest passage up to 17th April with the highest counts in March max 100+ on 27th. Otherwise very few records throughout the remainder of the year with 2 in May, 2 in June, 1 in August and 1 in November.

BLACK TERN

Autumn: an immature on 27th & 29th August.

Common Tern

Spring: 1 on 10th April followed by 1-2 birds involving a pair on 9 dates 4th-28th May.

Swift

Spring: first on 28th April

Kingfisher

Spring: 1 on 22nd May. Autumn: singles on 5 dates 21st July to 24th September with 2 on 1st October. Late winter: 1 on 4th & 14th December.

Sand Martin

Spring: first 2 on 11th April. Autumn: 50+ on 28th July and a partial albino bird on 4th August.

Swallow

Spring: first 2 on 6th April. Autumn: last 5 on 16th October.

House Martin

Spring: first on 13th April.

TREE PIPIT

Spring: an early migrant on 23rd March.

Meadow Pipit

Early winter: 1-5 birds on 7 dates 1st January-8th February. Spring: 3+ on 20th March. Autumn: 1-6 birds on 5 dates 9th-27th October with 10+ on 22nd. Late winter: 1-4 birds on 6 dates 30th November-29th December with 12+ on 14th December.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Spring: 3 on 29th April. Autumn: 4+ on 27th August and 3 on 1st September.

Pied Wagtail

At least one pair bred successfully. Autumn: 20+ on 16th October was a high count.

Stonechat

Early winter: singles on 13th January and 8th February. Spring: 6 on 20th March was a high count. Autumn/late winter: singles on 1st October and 16th November.

Wheatear

Autumn: 1 on 24th September.

Fieldfare

Generally very scarce again for the 3rd year in succession.

Early winter: large flock on 9th January with 4 on 18th January. Spring: 100+ on 20th March. Late winter: 1+ on 29th December.

Redwing

Early winter: present on 11 dates January-February with a large flock on 9th January and 30+ on 18th January. Spring: present with Fieldfare flock on 20th March. No records in autumn and late winter.

Cetti's Warbler

Present throughout the year with at least 5 probably more males holding territory.

Sedge Warbler

Spring: 1 on 28th April. Autumn: singles on 9th & 29th August.

Reed Warbler

Spring: first on 19th April.

Blackcap

Spring: first 2 on 6th April. Autumn: last on 3rd October.

Whitethroat

Spring: first on 2nd May.

Chiffchaff

Early winter: 2 on 10th January and singles on 12th January and 16th February. Spring: first migrants 6+ on 20th March. Autumn: regularly present August-October mainly in small numbers (1-6 birds) but 20+ on 29th August.

Willow Warbler

Spring: none recorded. Autumn: 1-5 birds on 9 dates 1st August-3rd September.

Goldcrest

Early winter: 1-2 birds on 5 dates 20th January-16th February. Spring: 1 on 26th March.

FIRECREST

Spring: 1 on 23rd March.

Spotted Flycatcher

Autumn: 2 on 1st September and 1 on 3rd September.

Nuthatch

Autumn: singles on 6 dates 27th August-9th October with 2 on 10th September. Late winter: 1 on 27th December.

Raven

Early winter: a pair on 9th January and 1 on 10th January. Spring: singles on 17th & 22nd May. Autumn: 2 on 21st July.

Linnet

Spring: 7+ on 20th March, 5 on 6th April and 1 on 16th April. Autumn: 2 on 16th October.

Other birds recorded during the year:

Mute Swan, Mallard, Cormorant, Pheasant, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kestrel, Moorhen, Coot, 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, Grey Wagtail, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Reed Bunting.

DAMSEFLY & DRAGONFLY REPORT - 2018

DAMSELS

Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

A wanderer from the nearby River Stour.

Present 15th May- 21st July.

Azure Blue Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*)

Breeds - almost certainly overlooked.

Present 15th May-13th July.

Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*)

Breeds.

Present 22nd May-4th August.

SMALL RED-EYED DAMSEFLY (*Erythromma viridulum*)

Breeds. This is a recent colonist to Britain.

Present 24th June-7th August.

Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*)

Breeds.

Present 10th-28th May.

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

An abundant breeder.

Present 17th May-3rd September.

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ishnura elegans*)

Breeds.

Present 17th May-4th August.

White-legged Damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*)

A scarce wanderer from the nearby River Stour.

Singles on 18th, 22nd & 24th June and 3rd & 18th July.

DRAGONS

Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*)

A wanderer or very scarce breeder.

One on 4th August and a probable on 27th August.

Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)

A common breeder.

Present 22nd June-3rd September.

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

A common breeder.

Present 20th August-19th October.

Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

A common breeder.

Present 25th May-7th August.

LESSER EMPEROR DRAGONFLY (*Anax parthenope*)

THIS NATIONAL RARITY APPEARS TO HAVE ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A SCARCE BREEDER

Single males on 24th & 30th June and 6th, 9th, 13th & 21st July. Other observers have reported seeing copulating pairs.



Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*)

A very scarce breeder only present at the main 'dragonfly' pond in the SW corner of the site.

Single males on 5 dates 15th-28th May with 2 on 22nd May and a pair on 6th June.

Golden-ringed Dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*)

A scarce wanderer from nearby heathlands.

Singles on 22nd June and 3rd July.

Downy Emerald (*Cordulia aenea*)

A very scarce breeder only present at the main 'dragonfly' pond in the SW corner of the site.

Singles on 15th & 22nd May.



Broad-bodied Chaser (*Libellula depressa*)

A scarce breeder favouring the main 'dragonfly' pond in the SW corner of the site.

Singles on 5 dates 6th June-13th July with a pair copulating + another male on 18th June and 2+ on 30th June.

Scarce Chaser (*Libellula fulva*)

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

Present in small numbers 20th May-6th July.

Four-spotted Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*)

A fairly common breeder favouring the main 'dragonfly' pond in the SW corner of the site.

Present in small numbers 15th May-21st July.

Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)

A common breeder.

Present 28th May-3rd August.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

A common breeder.

Present 21st July-5th October.

