

LONGHAM LAKES

BIRD REPORT 2019

plus

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES



Cattle Egret

by
GEORGE GREEN

LONGHAM LAKES
including Hampreston Meadows
SELECTED BIRD RECORDS - 2019

NB: This report only includes my bird records.

Greylag Goose

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
28	70+	67+	9	14	3	2	2	nc	1	nc	0

Present in good numbers January-March max 70+ on 12th February.

Bred: one pair with 3 young on 9th May. Much scarcer with very low numbers June-November with no records in December. This species often favours Hampreston Meadows.

Barnacle Goose

Autumn: a presumed feral bird on 15th October.

Canada Goose

Present throughout most of the year. Bred: at least 4 pairs with broods on 9th May.

Egyptian Goose

Early winter: pair on 26th January. Spring: 12 on 18th March, a pair on 19th March, 1 on 2nd April, a pair on 9 dates 5th April-16th May with 2 pairs on 11th April and 3 on 9th May. Autumn/late winter: pair on 5th October and 9th November, 1 on 12th November, 5 on 29th November, a pair on 2nd December and 1 on 14th December.

Ruddy Shelduck

Late winter: a feral bird with 2 Egyptian Geese on 9th November.

Shelduck

Early winter: a pair on 15th February. Spring: a pair on 8 dates 11th April-16th May.

Wigeon

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
86+	65+	63+	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	30+	90+

Present in higher numbers than recent years during both winter periods.

Early winter/spring: regularly present January-March max 86+ on 26th January. Autumn/late winter: first return 1 on 19th September but not present in good numbers until November and December max 90 on 24th December.

Gadwall

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	nc	3	7	6+	0	0	13+	11+	6+	nc	80+

Regularly present January-May and August-December with high counts in December max 80+ on 14th.

Teal

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
15+	20+	22+	9	0	0	0	2	3	3	10+	27+

Regularly present in small numbers January-early April and late August-December.

Pintail

Early winter: a male on 11th February. Spring: a female on 14th May was unusually late. Late winter: a pair on 14th December.

GARGANEY

Spring: a male on 18th & 19th March. Autumn: an immature male 3rd-15th October.

Shoveler

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
30+	47+	47+	14	0	0	0	0	3	8	13+	14+

Early winter/spring: regularly present in high numbers January-19th April max 47+ on 26th February and 2nd March. Autumn/late winter: present in small numbers September-December.

Pochard

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
160+	160+	100+	4	0	0	0	4	0	24+	40+	90+

Present in much higher numbers than recent years during both winter periods. Early winter/spring: regularly present January-19th April max 160+ on 12th January and 1st February. Spring: 1 on 3rd May. Autumn: 4 on 11th August. Autumn/late winter: regularly present 10th October-December max 90+ on 4th December.

RING-NECKED DUCK (a new species for Longham Lakes)

Autumn/winter: an immature female from 15th October-9th November.

Tufted Duck

Present throughout the year. Breeding was not only late as in previous years but very poor with the first brood of 3y on 24th July and a peak of 2 broods and 6 young on 6th August compared to a peak of 9 broods and 28 young on 18th July 2018 and a peak of 200+ young on 1st August 2017.

SCAUP

Autumn/late winter: 1-3 birds (immature male+2 females) present 19th September-1st November with 3-4 birds ((immature male+3 females) present 3rd November-31st December and into 2020.

Goldeneye

Late winter: 1-2 immature/female birds 6th November-14th December with 3 immature/female birds on 4th December.

Goosander

Spring: a pair on 24th & 26th February & 2nd March.

Little Grebe

Monthly max nc = no count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	4+	1	1	1	1	1	9+	13+	nc	16+	23+

Regularly present January-April and August-December with singles on 20th May, 25th June and 3 dates in July. Highest count was 23+ on 2nd December.

Great Crested Grebe

Present throughout the year, but no evidence of breeding.

CATTLE EGRET

Spring: 1 on 18th & 19th April. Autumn: 1 on 26th September. Late winter: 1 on 29th November, 2 on 28th December and 1+ on 31st December.

Little Egret

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
18+	18+	14	2+	1	1	1	3	1	10	13	5+

Regularly present January-March and October-December with fewer records during the rest of the year. The highest counts were 18+ on 26th January and 12th February with 13 on 6th November.

GREAT WHITE EGRET

Early winter: 1-4 birds present 2nd January-5th March. Autumn/late winter: 1-3 birds present 22nd October-31st December.

RED KITE

Spring: 1 on 18th April.

Sparrowhawk

Present throughout the year. Bred: a pair with a single fledged young on 11th August.

Hobby

Spring: 1 on 9th May.

Peregrine

Spring: 1 on 21st March. Autumn: singles on 26th August, 4th September and 3rd October.

Water Rail

Early winter/spring: singles (usually only heard) on 10 dates 2nd January-21st March with 3 on 6th February. Autumn/late winter: singles on 10 dates 27th October-28th December with 2+ on 6th November and 17th & 24th December.

Moorhen

Autumn: adult with a very young chick on the late of 19th September.

OYSTERCATCHER

Spring: 1 on 2nd April, 2 pairs on 5th April and then 1 pair from 8th April to 21st May which attempted to breed without success on the island at the north end of the South Lake.

GOLDEN PLOVER

Early winter: 2 on 2nd February.

Lapwing

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
100+	5	0	0	1	3	10	15+	36+	25+	24+	23+

Early winter: highest count was 100+ on 23rd January. Spring/Summer: a few records of 1-3 birds. Autumn/late winter: regularly present in small numbers July-December max 36+ on 26th September.

RUFF

Autumn: 1 on 5th October.

Snipe

Early winter/spring: 1-6 birds regularly present January-March. However there were isolated high counts* of 30+ on 1st February and 20+ on 19th March. Autumn/late winter: 1-4 birds regularly present late October-December with isolated high counts* of 20+ on 14th December and 10+ on 4th December. NB: the isolated high counts occurred when birds were flushed from the main island on the South Lake reflecting the true size of the wintering population.

Black-tailed Godwit

Early winter: 18+ on 2nd January. Spring: singles on 19th March and 8th, 12th & 15th April. Autumn: 3 on 6th October. Late winter: 16 on 2nd December.

WHIMBREL

Spring: 2 on 25th April and 3 on 7th May.

Common Sandpiper

Spring: singles on 19th April and 1st May, 2 on 7th & 8th May and singles on 9th & 14th May. Autumn: 3 on 2nd July and singles on 5th July, 11th & 20th August and 4th September.

REDSHANK

Spring: 1 on 19th March. Autumn: 1 on 2nd July.

LITTLE GULL

Spring: adult on 8th April.

Mediterranean Gull

Monthly max

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	10	20+	100+	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2

Early winter/spring: 2 on 26th January followed by a modest passage during February-April with the highest counts in April max 100+ on 2nd & 5th. Only 2 other records during the remainder of the year with 1 on 1st November and 2 on 31st December.

CASPIAN GULL

Late winter: 1st-winter bird on 24th December.

'AMERICAN' BLACK TERN (a new sub-species for Longham Lakes)

Autumn: this extremely rare visitor to the UK was present from 4th-20th October.

Common Tern

Spring: 1 on 27th April and a pair on 30th April.

Swift

Spring: first on 25th April, 50+ on 3rd May and very large numbers 7th-9th May. Autumn: last 2 on 24th August.

Kingfisher

Early winter: singles on 2nd & 22nd January and 2nd February. Summer: 1 on 25th June. Autumn: singles on 15th & 20th August and 4th & 28th October.

Skylark

Early winter: a small flock in the stubble field on 2nd February. Autumn: 1+ on 8th October and 8+ on 20th October.

Sand Martin

Spring: first 3 on 5th March. Autumn: 300+ on 8th August, 500+ amongst c1000+ hirundines on 11th August and 700-1000+ on 4th September. Last 1 on 4th October.

Swallow

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

House Martin

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

Meadow Pipit

Early winter: 1-5 birds on 11 dates 7th January-19th February. Spring: counts of 10+ on 22nd & 26th February were evidence of passage followed by 1-5 birds on 5 dates 2nd March-2nd April. Autumn: 10+ on 5th October followed by small numbers on 6 dates 6th October -1st November.

Pied Wagtail

Early winter: 14+ on 19th February. Spring: 13 on 19th March and 20+ on 21st March.

Stonechat

Early winter: 1-2 birds on 8 dates 11th January-5th March. Autumn/late winter: 1-2 birds on 9 dates 5th October-2nd December.

Wheatear

Spring: singles on 17th & 18th April.

Fieldfare

Early winter: present on 7 dates 11th January-2nd March max 10+ on 2nd March. Late winter: present on 7 dates 6th November-28th December max 50+ on 12th November.

Redwing

Early winter: present on 13 dates 4th January-2nd March max 50+ on 2nd March. Late winter: present on 6 dates 28th October-28th December max 10+ on 28th December.

Cetti's Warbler

Present throughout the year with at least 10 probably more males holding territory.

Sedge Warbler

Spring: singles on 8th & 19th April and 7th May

Reed Warbler

Spring: first on 8th April. Autumn: last on 4th September.

Blackcap

Spring: first 4 on 31st March. Autumn: last on 30th September.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Spring: singing male on 27th April. Autumn: singles on 13th, 24th & 26th August and 1st September.

Whitethroat

Spring: first on 27th April. Autumn: last on 30th September.

Chiffchaff

Early winter: singles on 1st & 11th February with 2 on 19th February. Spring: first 2 on 2nd March. Autumn: see Willowchiffs.

Willow Warbler

Spring: first 2+ on 5th April. Autumn: specifically identified birds were 1 on 6th August, 3+ on 24th August, 1 on 26th August and 1 on 19th September. Otherwise see Willowchiffs.

Willowchiffs (Willow Warblers and/or Chiffchaffs - combined due to identification difficulties)

Autumn: regularly present 6th August-22nd October usually in small numbers with occasional high counts notably 50+ on 13th & 20th August and 1st September and 25+ on 19th September.

Goldcrest

Early winter: 1 on 26th January. Late winter: 2 on 3rd November and 1+ on 2nd December.

Spotted Flycatcher

Autumn: 2 on 6th October.

COAL TIT

Autumn: 1 on 1st September. (My 1st Longham record!)

Nuthatch

Early winter: 1 on 2nd February. Spring: singles on 2nd March and 2nd & 8th April. Autumn/late winter: singles on 11 dates 1st August-17th November.

Treecreeper

Spring: a pair on 2nd April. Autumn: 1 on 13th August. Late winter: 1 on 28th December.

Raven

Early winter: a pair on 6th February. Spring: singles on 21st March and 8th April. Autumn: 1 on 16th July, 1+ on 11th August, 1 on 19th September and 3 on 6th October. Late winter: 1 on 14th November.

Linnet

Early winter: 1 on 26th January. Spring: 5 on 5th April.

Other birds recorded during the year:

Mute Swan, Mallard, Pheasant, Cormorant, 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.



Female Ring-necked Duck

DAMSELFLY & DRAGONFLY REPORT - 2019

DAMSELS

Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

A regular wanderer from the nearby River Stour.

Present 21st May-20th August.

Beautiful Demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*)

A rare wanderer from nearby streams.

One on 13th August.

Azure Blue Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*)

Breeds.

Present 21st May-8th July.

Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*)

Breeds.

Present 25th June-2nd July.

Small Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma viridulum*)

Breeds.

Present 5th July-15th August.

Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*)

A scarce breeder.

Present on 3rd & 16th May.

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

An abundant breeder.

Present 16th May-21st September.

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ishnura elegans*)

Breeds.

Present 3rd May-17th July.

White-legged Damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*)

A regular wanderer from the nearby River Stour.

Present 19th June-6th August.

DRAGONS

Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)

A common breeder.

Present 25th June-1st September.

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

A common breeder.

Present 6th August-27th October.

VAGRANT EMPEROR (*Anax ephippiger*)

A major national rarity.

Very brief views of a female on 22nd October.

Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

A common breeder.

Present 25th June-26th August.

LESSER EMPEROR DRAGONFLY (*Anax parthenope*)

This national rarity is now established as a scarce breeder.

Single males on 5th, 8th, 17th & 24th July and 15th & 20th August with 2 males on 16th July.

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 16th & 21st May.

Golden-ringed Dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*)

A scarce wanderer from nearby heathlands.

Singles on 2nd July and 1st August.

Downy Emerald (*Cordulia aenea*)

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

A male on 21st May.

Broad-bodied Chaser (*Libellula depressa*)

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

A female and possibly a male on 26h June.

Scarce Chaser (*Libellula fulva*)

A regular wanderer from the nearby River Stour.

Present 3rd May-30th June.

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 21st May-30th June.

Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)

A common breeder.

Present 25th June-20th October.

Red-veined Darter (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*)

This national rarity was present in large numbers, but its breeding status is uncertain despite ovipositing taking place.

Present 25th June-24th July with exceptional numbers in early July including 50+ on 5th and 40+ on 8th.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

A common breeder.

Present 16th July-27th October.



Beautiful Demoiselle damselfly