

# Birding Surrey



No.113



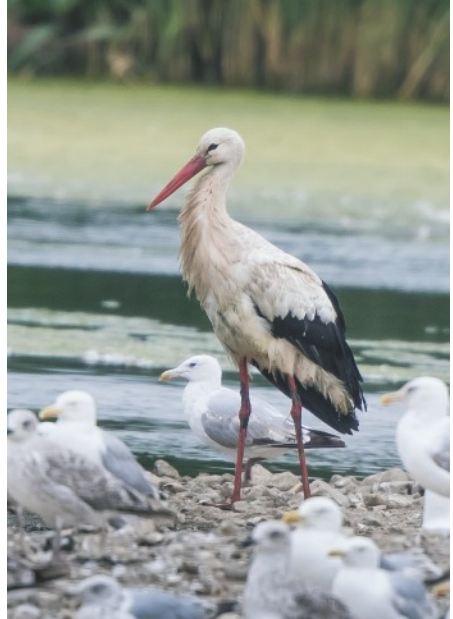
Autumn 2016



# Photograph Gallery



*Fig 1. Little Ringed Plover,  
Staines Res. (David Carlsson)*



*Fig 2. White Stork, Beddington,  
27 July 2016 (David Carlsson)*



*Fig 3 Garganey, Tice's Meadow, 17 May 2016 (David Carlsson)*

# Birding Surrey

The Newsletter of the Surrey Bird Club

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## From the Chairman

Welcome to issue number 113 of *Birding Surrey*.

### Woking Peregrines

James Sellen has provided a further detailed update later in this newsletter but just to say that the project has turned into a triumph with 2 juveniles successfully fledged; many thanks to all those who have helped out and contributed so much over the last few months, I hope you agree with me it has been extremely worthwhile.

### Annual General Meeting Committee Update

Ken Ankorn stepped down as Conservation Officer due to his other commitments after several years in the post, many thanks to Ken for all the knowledge he brought to the General Committee over that period. I am very pleased to say that Sarah Bunce stepped forward to replace Ken so a warm welcome to her. The not particularly onerous but important position of General Secretary remains vacant, please do get in touch if you may be interested.

### Surrey's Breeding Season

After a cool and wet Spring and start to Summer the weather has turned warm and dry (it will almost undoubtedly have turned wet now I've written this of course!). What does this mean for Surrey's breeding birds? My personal observations and conversations indicate that thrushes such as Song

Thrushes and Blackbirds have done rather better than recent years, due to the rain causing damper ground which provides good conditions for some of their principal food items such as earthworms, slugs and snails; I'm sure those of you who are gardeners will be only too aware of the abundance of the latter two this summer. Some warblers such as Chiffchaffs and Whitethroats seem to have fared pretty well after a delayed start. Reed Warblers are particularly vulnerable to strong winds and heavy rain in their reed habitat and several nests I was monitoring were lost in a storm at the beginning of July but some seem to have made a further nesting attempt and recovered somewhat. The species that seems to have suffered most is Blackcap, with for example the total ringed at Queen Mary Reservoir only 15% of the equivalent period last year, which was admittedly a very good one for them. The reasons for this are a mystery, particularly as its close relative the Garden Warbler seems to have had a quite a good season. It may be that your own observations are different, please do let us know.

The Red Kite meanwhile seems to be continuing to firmly establish itself in the county with several nests reported, although the results seem to have been rather mixed. The Common Terns nesting on a raft at Stoke Water Meadows are usually one of the highlights of my summer. Sadly this

time, although birds were present intermittently, they failed to breed for the first time in several years.

*Steve Chastell*

## Bird News - Winter 2015/16

### - part 2: early 2016

*Shaun Peters*

#### ◆ Highlights of the quarter

These included two **Whooper Swans**, a **Great Northern Diver**, a **Great White Egret**, a **Ring-billed Gull**, at least two **Iceland Gulls**, three **Bearded Tits** and a **Snow Bunting**.

**Whooper Swan** On Mar 25th two adults flew east over QE2 Res at 0638hrs and Beddington SF at 0649hrs, having earlier flown south-east over Staines Res (Middlesex) at 0625hrs.

**White-fronted Goose** A flock of 52 flew over Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Jan 19th and one flew west along the Thames at Putney Bridge on Mar 20th.

**Brent Goose** At the London Wetland Centre four flew north-west on Jan 14th and two flew south on Mar 10th. There were two at Holmethorpe SP on Mar 24th.

**Shelduck** Birds were seen at Beddington SF, Berrylands SWks, Frensham Little Pond, Holmethorpe

SP, Island Barn Res, the London Wetland Centre, QE2 Res and Walton Res, with the largest number 13 at Beddington SF on Feb 21st.

**Wigeon** The largest reported numbers were 75 at the London Wetland Centre on Jan 3rd, 254 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 17th, 70 at Frimley GP on Jan 17th, 216 at Walton Res on Mar 15th and 148 at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Mar 18th.

**Gadwall** The largest reported numbers were 115 at Battersea Park Lake on Jan 5th, 80 at Beddington SF on Jan 16th, 161 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 17th, 61 at Walton Res on Jan 17th and 75 at Holmethorpe SP on Jan 21st.

**Teal** The largest reported numbers were 250 at Beddington SF on Jan 16th, 200 at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Feb 9th, 145 at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 18th and 168 on the Thames from Putney to Barnes on Feb 21st.

**Pintail** Single birds were at Beddington SF on Jan 3rd, 11th and 30th and Feb 6th. A male was at Pen Ponds on Jan 3rd, three were at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Jan 24th, with a male there on Feb 1st, and a pair were at Walton Res on Mar 25th. The feral flock at the London Wetland Centre peaked at six on Jan 29th.

**Shoveler** The largest reported numbers were 79 at Holmethorpe SP on Feb 21st, 65 at Beddington SF on Feb 21st and 170 at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 23rd.

**Pochard** The largest reported numbers were 59 at Walton Res on Jan 14th, 47 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 17th and 50 at Beddington SF on Feb 4th.

**Tufted Duck** The largest reported numbers were 344 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 17th, 108 at Frimley GP on Jan 17th, 320 at Walton Res on Jan 21st, 157 at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 21st and 106 at Holmethorpe SP on Feb 21st.

**Scaup** A male was at Hedgecourt Lake on Jan 2nd. The female was back at Newdigate Brickworks SWT

from Jan 13th-19th (after having being at Warnham Mill Pond, Horsham since late December). A first-winter female was at Holmethorpe SP from Feb 21st-Apr 6th and one was at Thorpe Water Park on Mar 13th.

**Goldeneye** As with the first part of the winter numbers did not reach double-figures at any site. The largest numbers were five at Thorpe Water Park on Feb 21st and nine at Walton Res on Mar 28th. Birds were also at Frensham Ponds, Holmethorpe SP, Island Barn Res, the London Wetland Centre, Pen Ponds and QE2 Res. The last was at Pen Ponds on Apr 17th.

**Smew** A female was at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 26th.

**Red-breasted Merganser** A male was roosting at QE2 or Walton Res from Jan 18th-Apr 6th. It was with Goosanders at Pennymead Lake (East Horsley) on Jan 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th, and Feb 1st and 8th.

**Goosander** Numbers in the Walton area peaked at 24 on Jan 1st. The only other sites where numbers reached double-figures were Cutt Mill with 12 on Jan 5th, Forked Pond (Thursley) with 11 on Jan 9th, Pennymead Lake (East Horsley) with 15 on Feb 8th and Painshill Park (Cobham) with 10 on Feb 13th. Smaller numbers were reported from Frensham Great and Outlet Ponds, Holmethorpe SP, Imbham's Farm

(Haslemere), the London Wetland Centre, the River Mole at Leatherhead, Stoke Lake and Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea). The last were at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Apr 5th.

**Great Northern Diver** One was at Island Barn Res from Jan 3rd-13th.

**Black-necked Grebe** One was at QE2 Res from Jan 4th-18th, whilst at Island Barn Res there were two from Feb 13th-Mar 13th and one from Mar 18th-30th.

**Bittern** Up to four were at the London Wetland Centre until Mar 1st. Single birds were seen at Hedgecourt Lake from Jan 2nd-Feb 14th and Frensham Little Pond on Jan 9th and Feb 29th. In March at Frensham Little Pond six were seen with one leaving high east on Mar 1st, another doing likewise on Mar 4th, two leaving west on Mar 17th and the final two leaving high east on Mar 22nd.

**Little Egret** At least 80 were reported from a total of 35 sites. The largest gatherings were 11 at Chilworth Water Meadows on Jan 29th, 12 at Wrecclesham Floods on Feb 5th and 10 at Primrose Farm (Westhumble) on Mar 9th.

**Great White Egret** One flew west at Beddington SF on Jan 20th.

**Marsh Harrier** At Beddington SF a female flew north-east on Jan 17th, a

male flew through on Feb 11th and another female flew north on Feb 12th.

**Hen Harrier** A ringtail was at Beddington SF on Feb 13th.

**Merlin** Single birds were at Papercourt Water Meadows on Jan 19th, Guildford on Feb 21st, Chelsham on Mar 22nd, Holmethorpe SP on Mar 24th and Capel on Apr 13th.

**Water Rail** Birds were reported from Beddington SF (up to 5), Capel (1), Frensham Great Pond (up to 5), Frensham Little Pond (up to 6), Holmethorpe SP (up to 3), Lloyd Park, Croydon (1), the London Wetland Centre (up to 4), Lonsdale Road Res (2), the River Mole at Island Barn Res (2), the River Mole at Leatherhead (1), Papercourt Marshes (1), Pen Ponds (up to 3), Pudmore Pond, Thursley Common (1), Shalford Water Meadows (1), South Norwood CP (up to 4), Stoke Water Meadows (up to 3), Tice's Meadows, Badshot Lea (2), Unstead SF (2), Walton Res (1) and Winkworth Arboretum (2).

**Coot** The largest reported numbers were 217 at Tongham GP on Jan 2nd, 160 at Beddington SF on Jan 16th, 332 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 17th, 256 at Frimley GP on Jan 17th, 176 at Walton Res on Jan 17th and 243 at Holmethorpe SP on Feb 21st.

**Oystercatcher** There were two at Thorpe Water Park on Feb 21st and

Mar 13th and one at Holmethorpe SP on Feb 23rd.

**Jack Snipe** Birds were reported from Beddington SF (up to 9), Holmethorpe SP (up to 10), Leith Hill (2 on Jan 15th), the London Wetland Centre (2), Pen Ponds (1), South Norwood CP (1 on Mar 27th), Tice's Meadows, Badshot Lea (1), Walton Res (1 on Mar 20th) and Wimbledon Common (1 on Feb 29th and Mar 12th). The last were at the London Wetland Centre on Apr 24th.

**Black-tailed Godwit** Two were at Holmethorpe SP on Jan 4th.

**Green Sandpiper** Monthly maxima at Beddington SF were five on Jan 23rd, three on Feb 29th and four on Mar 12th and at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) they were six on Jan 2nd, three on Feb 28th and three on Mar 5th. Birds were also reported from Berrylands SWks (1), Holmethorpe SP (1), Island Barn Res (up to 4), Shalford Water Meadows (1) and the River Wandle from Mitcham to Morden Hall (1).

**Common Sandpiper** The overwintering birds remained at Beddington SF until Mar 28th and Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) until Apr 5th.

**Mediterranean Gull** In the Walton area one or two adults were seen on seven dates between Jan 4th and Feb 29th. Single adults were at

Beddington SF on eight dates between Jan 21st and Mar 11th. Adults were also at Old Deer Park (Richmond) on Jan 15th, Holmethorpe SP on Feb 10th and 25th, the London Wetland Centre on Feb 19th, Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Feb 29th and Shalford Water Meadows on Mar 7th, whilst there were three adults at Shawlands Farm (Newchapel) on Feb 21st and two adults at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Feb 29th. First-winters were at Waddon Ponds on Jan 29th and Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Feb 27th.

**Ring-billed Gull** An adult was reported from the London Wetland Centre on Mar 13th.

**Iceland Gull** At Beddington SF a first-winter was present on Jan 8th and 9th, then again on 24 dates from Feb 16th-Apr 19th. It roosted at Island Barn Res on Feb 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th, and Mar 3rd, and roosted at QE2 Res on Mar 23rd. Presumably the same bird also visited Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Feb 28th and the London Wetland Centre on Mar 16th, 17th and 28th, and May 1st. A second-winter was at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 6th and 13th and it or another was at Beddington SF on Apr 19th.

**Kittiwake** An adult was at Island Barn Res on Jan 30th.

**Short-eared Owl** One or two were regularly seen at Papercourt



**Water Meadows** from Jan 1st-May 4th, with three seen on Feb 3rd and Apr 16th. Other birds were at Leith Hill on Jan 16th, Dunsfold on Feb 3rd, Thursley Common on Feb 22nd, Mar 3rd, 7th and 10th, Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Mar 16th, QE2 Res on Mar 23rd, the London Wetland Centre on Mar 24th, Beddington SF on Apr 1st and 16th, and May 10th, Richmond Park on Apr 2nd and South Norwood CP on May 15th.

**Skylark** There were 75 at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Jan 1st.

**Rock Pipit** One was at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 4th.

**Water Pipit** At Beddington SF monthly maxima were eight on Jan 23rd, three on Feb 14th, four on Mar 15th and four on Apr 3rd-4th, with the last one on Apr 16th. Elsewhere, one was at Holmethorpe SP on Jan 2nd and 21st, two were at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 18th, with one there on Apr 1st, and one was at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Mar 25th.

**Black Redstart** One was at Battersea Power Station on Jan 9th.

**Fieldfare** The latest reported were at Pewley Down on Apr 12th and Dungeon Hill (Woodmansterne) on Apr 19th.

**Redwing** The latest reported were at Dungeon Hill (Woodmansterne) on Apr 19th and Capel on May 9th.

**Cetti's Warbler** Wintering birds remained at Holmethorpe SP until Mar 14th, Beddington SF until Mar 28th, Walton Res until Mar 31st and South Norwood CP until Apr 26th.

**Dartford Warbler** The wintering birds remained at Beddington SF until Jan 14th and Richmond Park until Feb 21st. One was at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Mar 7th.

**Chiff-chaff** Single birds showing the characteristics of the race tristis were at Beddington SF from Jan 5th-20th, Thorpe Water Park on Jan 15th and the London Wetland Centre from Mar 26th-30th.

**Firecrest** Two were at Box Hill on Jan 2nd and two were at Shalford Water Meadows on Jan 3rd, with one remaining to Mar 28th. Single birds were at Bramley Mill Pond on Jan 4th, Bagshot on Jan 7th-8th, Badshot Lea on Jan 10th, Frensham Great Pond on Jan 10th-11th, Merrow Downs on Jan 11th, Wimbledon Common from Jan 17th-Feb 3rd, Winkworth Arboretum from Jan 17th-Mar 23rd, Wire Mill Pond on Jan 19th, Witley from Jan 20th-Feb 2nd, Horton CP from Jan 25th-Mar 7th, Thorpe Water Park on Jan 27th, Woodstreet on Jan 28th, Thursley Common on Jan 30th, Thorncombe Street on Feb 11th, Rydes Hill Common from Feb 12th-20th, Redhill Common on Feb 13th and Mar 19th, Compton on Feb 15th, Addington Hills on Feb 19th, Tooting Bec Common from Feb 21st-Mar

25th, Lloyd Park (Croydon) on Feb 24th, Beddington SF from Feb 25th-Mar 12th, Bookham Common from Feb 28th-Mar 12th, Wonersh on Mar 2nd, Stoke Water Meadows from Mar 7th-11th, Cutt Mill on Mar 13th, Pewley Down on Mar 14th, Albury on Mar 19th and Holmethorpe SP on Mar 20th. Up to three were at Barnes Common from Jan 31st-Mar 5th, two were at Sydenham Hill Wood on Feb 1st and four were at Stave Hill Ecological Park (Rotherhithe) on Mar 18th.

**Bearded Tit** The wintering bird remained at South Norwood CP until Mar 21st and a pair were at Holmethorpe SP from Mar 22nd-28th.

**Great Grey Shrike** The wintering birds remained at Frensham Common until Apr 3rd, Ash Ranges until Apr 4th and Thursley Common until Apr 19th. Two were seen at the latter site on several dates and one of these presumably accounted for sightings at Witley Common on Jan 16th and 24th and Hankley Common on Mar 30th. Other birds were at Chobham Common from Jan 9th-24th and Old Dean Common from Feb 20th-Mar 18th.

**Raven** Notable were single birds over Richmond Park on Jan 12th and Mar 20th, two over Riddlesdown on Feb 3rd and single birds over the London Wetland Centre on Feb 7th and 12th.

**Chaffinch** There were 1,100 at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Mar 14th and 15th.

**Brambling** The low numbers of late 2015 continued into early 2016 with no real evidence of an increase of passage birds in March/April. Birds were reported from 20 sites, with the largest numbers 25 at Thorncombe Street on Jan 1st (with 24 still present on Mar 9th) and 20 in a stubble field at Haslemere on Mar 20th. No other sites saw numbers into double-figures. The last was at the London Wetland Centre on Apr 27th.

**Goldfinch** There were 88 at Beddington SF on Jan 9th and 80 at Holmethorpe SP on Feb 24th.

**Siskin** A slight improvement on late 2015 with birds reported from 12 sites. With the exception of an impressive flock of 300 at Shalford Water Meadows on Jan 31st numbers were similar to late 2015 with the next largest flocks being 60 along the River Wey at Frensham Manor on Jan 1st, 53 at the London Wetland Centre on Jan 20th and 50 in Richmond Park on Feb 6th.

**Linnet** There were 100 at Beddington SF on Jan 17th, 160 at Holmethorpe SP on Feb 28th and 175 at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Mar 15th.

**Lesser Redpoll** Birds were reported from eight sites with the largest flocks

31 at Beddington SF on Feb 13th and 25 at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 14th.

**Crossbill** Numbers remained low during the early year with reports from three sites in January (totalling 36 birds) and a different three sites in February (totalling four birds). An improvement in March saw a total of 78 birds reported from four sites, including 20 at Leith Hill on the 18th and 40 at Haslemere on the 21st.

**Hawfinch** One flew east at Newdigate Brickworks SWT on Jan 12th, two were at Great Brook on Feb 6th and one was at Bookham Common on Feb 14th and 15th.

**Snow Bunting** One flew north over West Putney on Mar 6th.

**Yellowhammer** There were 33 at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Jan 1st, 50 at Holmethorpe SP on Jan 22nd and 28 at Thorncombe Street on Mar 7th.

*Some records are subject to final check by the county or national records committees.*

### ♦ Escapes/Hybrids

**Reeves's Pheasant** There were two males at Prestwick Farm (near Grayswood) from Feb 25th-Mar 3rd.

### ♦ Contributors

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**Note: April to June 2016 news to Shaun Peters ASAP please at:  
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## Paradise Lost?

### The Battle for Beddington Farmlands

The commercial, public and governmental sectors are historically not always easy bedfellows, but when it comes to preserving biodiversity there is often also a timeline to factor in, with a countdown on the clock. Whilst conservation projects gain increasing space in the media, how hard is it to oversee the implementation of these projects at a ground roots level? With many interested parties, how are different interests being served, and how is progress overseen? The difficulties in the general process of conservation can be observed in a case study that I have been involved with.

### Beddington Farmlands: An Overview

Beddington Farmlands is a 400 acre site in South London, designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), is Metropolitan Open Land and has a total of over 2,029 recorded species including 258 bird species (eight red data list breeding species including Northern Lapwing [*Vanellus vanellus*] and Tree Sparrow [*Passer montanus*] and nationally important wintering populations of Green Sandpiper [*Tringa ochropus*], Caspian Gull [*Larus cachinnans*] and Water Pipit [*Anthus spinoletta*]), 526 species of moths and butterflies, 361 species of

diptera, 262 species of coleoptera and 99 species of hymenoptera.

### The Past

In 1995, Viridor, a waste management company, applied for permission to landfill the area on the condition that it would be restored to a public nature reserve by 2015. Following a Public Enquiry, permission was granted with several stipulations, including the creation of a number of biodiversity action plan habitats such as wet grassland, acid grassland and reed beds. At that time, a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan was drawn up and various target species were selected for conservation, and they would be monitored to measure the success of the restoration.

Ten years later, Viridor applied for permission to extend waste management on site until 2023, delaying the opening of the public nature reserve. In 2012 an application was put forward to build a 300,000 tonne incinerator on the site of the wet grassland. Though there was local opposition, permission was granted to build the incinerator in 2013 and, after a judicial review, work commenced in 2015. However concurrent to this, a complaint was made to the local ombudsman about how the area was being affected ecologically. According to an extract from the Planning Officer's Report for the site,

final dates of restoration put forward in the 1995 proposal ranged from 2003 for the Southern Lake, with actual restoration occurring in 2009, to 2011 for the proposed area of wet grassland, for which restoration has yet to begin. The Southern Lake, however, has been restored in both 2000 and 2009, as proposed.

### The Present

The lack of enforcement behind the proposed restoration to the Farmlands has contributed to a collapse in the population of the majority of target species. In table 1, the impact of this stasis of restoration can be clearly seen in the decline and extinction of several bird species in the area. Sadly, in 2014 the Tree Sparrow population -the iconic species of Beddington and the mascot of the local naturalist community-crashed to only one pair, yet as recently as 2007 there had been

a thousand birds in the post-breeding season.

At present the conditions at Beddington Farmlands have not improved. Viridor have verbally offered to amend the situation and local government has pledged to encourage the company to fulfil their future planning obligations, but without immediate action the situation continues to deteriorate. With new threats on the horizon-including the de-designation of Metropolitan Open Land along the east boundary of the site, and the phasing out of sewage disposal in an area that makes up nearly 50% of the SINC - the idea of Beddington Farmlands as a major urban nature reserve in South London seems almost lost. Its fate represents the enormous difficulties that can occur where pressures on 'open' land can literally build up, with

	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014	2015	Notes on breeding population
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	1	0	0	0	Extinct
Ringed Plover	0	1	0	0	0	0	Failed
Lapwing	11	18	22	14	10	10	Initial improvement now declining
Redshank	4	1	2	0	0	0	Extinct
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	Failed
Yellow Wagtail	5	0	0	0	0	0	Extinct
Sedge Warbler	11	25	1	2	0	0	Extinct
Reed Warbler	31	19	13	32	13	32	Fluctuating
Whitethroat	73	76	66	55	41	53	Declining
Tree Sparrow	83	52	75	80	1	1	Near-extinct
Reed Bunting	23	17	5	3	2	2	Near-extinct

*Table 1. Breeding pairs of the target species for selected years (extracted from BBS data)*



conservation needs and public concerns needing to be reconciled with both commercial interests and those of local authorities.

### **The Future**

The Farmlands offer the opportunity to be both of huge benefit to the local community and to preserve one of the most important locations for biodiversity in London. It is an area which ranks alongside the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds's (RSPB) Rainham Marshes in Purfleet and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust's (WWT) London Wetland Centre in Barnes as one of the most significant places for birds in London, though this status is rapidly slipping away. This seems slightly at odds with the fact that Viridor also offer funding to organisations, through the Viridor Credits scheme, for Community, Heritage or Biodiversity projects. In order to resuscitate the situation, biodiversity action plan habitats need to be created, and fundamental changes need to be driven by more than just verbal commitment.

Could Beddington Farmlands be a glimpse of the future for the rest of the UK? In many ways the commercial corporations are just doing their job, but it comes at such a high cost that it is worth asking: what must the conservation community do to curtail similar damage from happening in years to come? While it is disheartening to think that 'the Battle of Beddington Farmlands' has been

lost, in an ideal world the conservation community needs to remodel itself and move away from its reliance on corporate funding to survive.

Perhaps the answer lies in involving as many people as possible, at all levels, in the conservation and ownership of these places of biological interest. If there is enough public pressure and benefit, not all may be lost. In order to build a nature reserve, we need to build an active and vocal community.

*Peter Alfrey*

*(Beddington Farm Bird Group)*

*Note.* The group needs new members to help with recording on the site and also with helping out with achieving other group objectives. Anyone interested should contact Peter at [littleoakgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:littleoakgroup@btinternet.com)

## Woking Peregrine Project update

Since the 2nd of May 2016, when I wrote the Woking Peregrine Project article for the summer edition of Birding Surrey, much has happened to the Woking peregrine family. Unique nest box CCTV coverage has been enjoyed by many people who have visited the Project's website and we have even had enquiries from a TV production company in Australia. If you would like to see some of the many highlights, I recommend watching the 'Woking Peregrines Timeline 2016' video which can be found on the Project's website; <http://www.wokingperegrines.com/video/> The webmaster, Craig Denford (Akiko Design), has done an excellent job editing and putting together this summary of what's been achieved so far.

John Bannister's project management and on going help from; Nick Dixon ( [www.urbanperegrines.co.uk](http://www.urbanperegrines.co.uk) ), Richard Denyer, Denis Corley, Martin Pooley (Woking Shopping Ltd), Craig Denford, and Shahid Azeem (Arcom) has been most welcome. Surrey Bird Club's Charlotte Gray and Penny Williams have helped to promote and raise interest in the local peregrines by organising a stand in Woking town centre's Jubilee Square. This occurred on four Saturdays (7th May to 11th June) with both morning and

afternoon sessions. On many occasions those manning the stand were kept very busy and it was impossible to record everyone who was spoken to. However, the Club has recorded speaking to 100 individuals / groups (each family was recorded as one entry). On the first date the stand was in Jubilee Square, 20% of those spoken to had already heard of the Project and by the 28th May this had increased to 80%. Most of those who knew of it did so through the Woking Borough Council website. A special Surrey Bird Club flyer, promoting the Club and the Project, was produced and given to many people who visited the stand. With the help of the following Surrey Bird Club members, there were 8 new Club sign-ups; Charlotte Gray, Chris Venables, James Sellen, Kate Lee, Ken Anckorn, Matt Phelps, Neil Bew, Nigel Burke, Penny Williams, Rich Mooney, Richard Denyer, Roy Benson, Simon Stacey and Tony Cummins.

Google Analytics has shown the following interesting statistics for the Woking Peregrine Project website; From the 19/04/2016 to 21/06/2016, the website had 204,753 hits and the Partners section had 2030 views. (The Surrey Bird Club logo and link to the website can be found here) On the 19/04/2016, the website had 730 hits and it peaked on 02/05/2016 with

5490. (This was the period when the eggs were hatching) The number of hits has reduced with peaks of 4757 on 06/05/2016, 4555 on 03/06/2016 and 1431 on 21/06/2016. We are finding the Project is continually evolving and there's a strong possibility CCTV coverage external to the nest box will be available for the next breeding season. This will encourage more views of the website for a longer period once the juveniles have fledged or left the nest box.

Since I started working in Woking, I've kept an unscientific log of my peregrine sightings and key events concerning this project. It would be interesting to hear of others' experiences which would give a better understanding and insight into the lives of our local peregrines. Here are a few of my records;

01/05/2016 - Two of the four eggs hatched. Unfortunately, the falcon has managed to tread on one of the chicks as she got up from brooding to leave the nest box. This chick has become separated from the other and two remaining eggs.

02/05/2016 - Third egg hatched. Now appears to be two healthy chicks - the other looks lifeless and now must have died. 18.30: finally had clear view on CCTV - 2 live chicks, 1 remaining egg, 1 dead chick. Falcon seen feeding chicks.

03/05 to 06/05/2016 - Still 1 unhatched egg, 2 chicks being well

fed and increasing in size. Much interest on the website!

10/05/2016 - Tiercel seen feeding both chicks. Growth rate is amazing. Last egg still being brooded with chicks.

16/05/2016 - Plans being made for chick ringing on the 18th by Richard Denyer and Jeremy Gates (who holds a special licence to ring this schedule 1 species). Due to meet at 17.30 / Export House.

18/05/2016 - Arranged with Craig to stop CCTV coverage whilst ringing takes place. 17.30 to 17.50 - Richard and Jeremy did an amazing job ringing and taking measurements of the chicks. B.T.O. metal ring is on the right leg / red ring on the left leg. 17.50 to 18.20 - myself, John and Richard saw both adults near the nest box (viewed from the Peacock's car park) Tiercel went in first and fresh prey taken into the nest box shortly afterwards.



*Jeremy Gates temporarily removing chicks for ringing (James Sellen)*



*Richard Denyer ringing a chick  
(James Sellen)*



*Jeremy Gates weighing a chick  
(James Sellen)*

19/05 to 20/05/2016 - No sign of any adverse reactions to ringing. Chicks being feed regularly and noticeable growth of tail / primary feathers.

31/05/2016 - weather very wet / cool (11 degrees) - 1 lapwing left in nest box - 1 juvenile seen perched on opening to nest box.

01/06 & 02/06/2016 - Juvenile (male?) seen outside nest box on ledge! Both juveniles often seen (via CCTV) perched in entrance to box.

03/06/2016 - Both juveniles seen approx. 20ft to the right of the nest box (viewed from the WWF Living



*Peregrine chick after ringing and before being returned to the nestbox  
(James Sellen)*



*Adult falcon & juveniles outside of nestbox, 5 Jun 2016 (James Sellen)*

Planet Centre and Peacock's car park) whilst adult tiercel was perched at the s/west end of Export House.

05/06/2016 - 13.00 to 17.10: photographed peregrines from Peacock's car park. Juveniles at s/west end approx. 100ft from nest box. Both adults brought in prey and juveniles seen going into nest box and at n/west end. Juvenile tiercel appears to look ready to fly.

07/06 & 08/06/2016 - both juveniles seen feeding and vigorous wing exercising s/west end of Export House. (07/06/2016: 23.30 - heavy rain - both juveniles seen on CCTV going into nest box to dry off!)

10/06/2016 - 12.30: Whilst showing colleagues the peregrines from the rear of the WWF Living Planet Centre building - juvenile tiercel made its first flight!! It took off from the n/west

stairwell ledge (over looking the entrance to Sainsbury's in Wolsey Place), did a small circuit and landed on a window ledge 2nd floor down / middle of west side (Export House) Both adults stayed close and juvenile remained there for at least 1 hour. 17.30 to 18.00 - juv. tiercel on a different window ledge 2 floors lower down. Amazing photos and video taken by people working in Export House!

11/06/2016 - 12.00 to 17.00: Juv. tiercel on north end of Export House roof, occasionally above nest box. Juvenile falcon on n/west stairwell ledge vigorously wing exercising and on occasions looked like it might try to fly. Photos taken.

13/06/2016 - 14.00 to 14.30: Adults and juv. falcon seen on n/west stairwell ledge - juv. tiercel at north end of roof near maintenance ladder.

14/06/2016 - 17.25 to 17.45: BOTH juvs seen near maintenance ladder above n/west stairwell ledge. Juv. falcon must have made her maiden flight!

17/06/2016 - 13.45 to 14.00: 3 peregrines seen flying close together between WWF Living Planet Centre and Export House. Late afternoon: food pass photographed by Craig Denford from Peacock's car park - awesome photos!

19/06/2016 - 09.45 to 14.45: I managed to photograph juveniles and





*Juvenile peregrines, Export House, Woking, 19 Jun 2016 (James Sellen)*



*Adult tiercel with juvenile peregrines, Export House, Woking, 19 Jun 2016 (James Sellen)*

adults in flight and perched on roof / window ledges of Export House. Food pass wasn't to be .... 1 red kite flew close to Export House and a cormorant was chased off by one of the adult peregrines.

18/07/2016 - 13.50 to 14.30: 1 adult and both juvs seen west side of Export House whilst window cleaning was being done on the east (station) side. (All 4 peregrines reported being seen on Export House Saturday morning - 16/07/2016)

19/07/2016 - 14.00 to 14.30: Adult tiercel brought in pigeon but managed to drop it whilst approaching nest box. He dived down and caught it approx. 20ft from where I was watching from the Peacock's car park! Should have had my camera with me ...

01/08/2016 - 13.45 to 14.30: both juveniles seen west and s/west side of Export House from Peacock's car park. Adult tiercel did food pass with one of the juvs (above car park) and both juvs were then seen on the roof edge / south end of Export House. When one juv. landed next to its sibling, they 'head bowed' - similar greeting the adults show.

At the time of writing (15/08/2016), I regularly see both adults and at least one of the juveniles on or near Export House.

Craig Denford has responded to many email enquiries made via the Woking Peregrine Project website. Here are a

couple examples of feed back we've had:

*'Just a line to say what fabulous food drop photos Craig has taken! Absolutely amazing! Thank you to all of the team too for such an excellent website!'*

*'Love your gallery photo updates! Keep them coming!'*

*'Think maybe next year you should put cameras on the ledges too! The chicks obviously loved the ledges once they were able to get out of the nest box and explore! Bit scary for us to watch at first, not realising how adept they are at balancing, but they knew what they were doing!'*

*'Well done to everyone and the peregrine family!'*

*Carole*

*'Thanks so much for the cam which I have been avidly watching - to see the rate at which the chicks grew was astonishing and then how quickly they fledged.'*

*'The pictures of them and a parent with the pigeon drop was amazing, great photography and seeing the flying skills of the young was fascinating.'*

*'This has been a very worthwhile project which I have thoroughly enjoyed. Again, many thanks to all who made it possible.'*

*John Loney*

*Woking*

*June '16*

*Makes it all worth while.*

*James Sellen*

## Selected Ringing Recoveries/Controls

I have made a selection of interesting ringed birds, notified in 2014 and 2015. These will be reported in full in the relevant Surrey Bird Club annual report, when published:

**Little Egret.** Nestling, 10/6/13, North Cotes, Lincolnshire.  
Colour rings seen 30/12/14, Tices Meadow

**Lesser Whitethroat.** First year, 31/7/14, Queen Mary Reservoir  
Caught by ringer, 26/3/15, Makabin, West Bank, ISRAEL, 3629km.

**Goldcrest.** Full grown male, 16/10/15, Tjome, Vestfold, Norway  
Caught by ringer, 1/11/15, Frimley, 1118km.

**Lesser Redpoll.** First year, 9/11/13, Capel  
Caught by ringer, 4/1/15, Tilburg, Nord Brabant, The Netherlands, 373km,

**Bar-tailed Godwit.** Full grown, 16/5/04, Tershelling Polder, Midsland-o'-end, The Netherlands  
Colour rings seen, 26/4/14, Walton Reservoir

**Common Sandpiper.** Adult male, 10/5/14, Norangdal, Orsta, Norway.  
Colour rings seen, 17/7/14, Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea, 1297km.

**Caspian Gull.** Nestling, 24/5/13, Paczkow, Opolskie, Poland  
Colour rings seen, 23/9/13, Beddington Sewage Farm, 1217km.

**Meadow Pipit.** First year, 23/9/13, Chobham Common  
Freshly dead, 31/10/13, Cadaujac, Gironde, France, 736km.

**Brambling.** Adult male, 30/3/11, Ebeltoft, Arhus, Denmark  
Caught by ringer, 26/2/14, Leith Hill, 991km.

**Common Redpoll.** Adult female, 07/2/14, Worplesdon.  
Caught by ringer, 9/11/14, Aneby, Jonkoping, Swedon, 1237km.

*Richard Denyer*  
*Ringing secretary*

## BTO Matters

### The Heronries Census

For the first time ever Surrey has had Little Egrets recorded as part of this survey. Great news. The survey is now online but, anyone who is a reluctant IT user, can still fill in cards which I send out. However, John Marchant, who has now retired from the BTO, who was the heronry census organiser, has put on the website a video tutorial which is really helpful and shows how easy it is to record the results.

This year two new heronries were discovered (one with the breeding Little Egrets) so, as it is clear that new heronries do get established, please do let me know if you find one so that I can check whether or not it is currently monitored.

I have two sites where I need surveyors to cover the heronry census in 2017 due to the current surveyor standing down. One is at Moor Park near Farnham and the other is Thorpe Park. For Thorpe Park we will need to organise getting the surveyor access but I hope this will not be a problem. You could combine it with helping with the WeBS survey at Thorpe Park (see below for more on this). If you could help with either site please do contact me. I Help is needed with this survey next spring.

In the meantime, if you are a Heronry census surveyor already and have not got your 2016 results in yet, please can you do so as soon as possible.



*House Martin nest (Penny Williams)*

### The House Martin survey

I have been really lucky as I have been able to monitor a house in my road which has had 13 nests built on it this year. The Martins nested on the house last year but the owners took the nests down over the winter in the hope (for the female owner) that the Martins might move elsewhere as she is not very happy with the mess they make (although she loves birds in general). However, much to the delight of the male owner, lots of nests have been constructed again this year. He is only keen on certain species of birds, mainly raptors, but does like Martins too!

One of the nests did not get finished but the remaining 12 have been used and young have been fledging from the nests. It has been wonderful visiting the house and seeing so many Martins. Here is a photo of one of the nests with the young peeking out. Unfortunately, despite the BTO publicity, only 4 other sites are being

monitored in Surrey. I know the forms looked a bit daunting at first but, once the nests were set up, it was really very easy to put the results in. As the survey carries on until September I will report on the results in the winter newsletter.

### **The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Waterbirds Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS)**

The survey periods for these two surveys are also at an end. I am pleased to report that the number of sites I have covered by surveyors is going up every year and I now only have 12 BBS sites looking for surveyors. All my WBBS sites are covered and, even better, all the WBBS results are in already and all were entered online. About 75% of the Surrey BBS sites now have their results in so, if you are one of the 25% who have not yet entered your results or sent your forms through to me, please could you do so as soon as possible.

As I am typing this the latest results from the survey for 2014-15 have just been published. As you would expect Red Kite and Ring-Necked Parakeets numbers are increasing long term with the biggest declines being for Turtle Dove, Willow tit and Cuckoo. So far as short term trends are concerned, Barn Owl, Siskin and Snipe have been doing well with declines in Tawny Owl and Yellow Wagtail. You can look at the report (if you have internet access) by going to <https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files>

*/bbs-report-2015.pdf.*

If you are one of the surveyors you will have been sent the report already. For those who are not you will be interested to know that there were some 215 species seen (lower than the previous year when it was 223) with the most common being Woodpigeon, followed closely by Blackbird and Chaffinch.

### **The Wetland Bird Survey**

I am really pleased with the amount of coverage I have now managed to achieve for this survey. I now have 140+ sites covered in Surrey and Greater London. However I do still have some areas where I am looking for surveyors. As we are just entering the start of the main survey period for 2016/17, it seems a good time to list the sites where I still need surveyors. A list is set out on the next page.

You will see Thorpe Park is listed. As it is such a large site, there is a team that covers it. The team needs more surveyors so, if you can help, please contact me and I will pass your details on to the team organiser Peter Hambrook. You are not expected to cover the whole site yourself!

If you would be interested in helping with the survey, do get in contact. You just need to commit to surveying the site on a set Sunday once a month (although it does not matter if you cannot make the precise date if you can cover the site a couple of days either side nor if you miss a month or two).

*Penny Williams*



Table. Vacant Wetland Bird Survey (WEBS) Sites

10K	Unit	Unit Code	Grid Ref
SU84	Badshot Lea	17064	SU862490
SU84	Swamp in Moor Park	23321	SU865465
SU84	Waverley Abbey Lake	23013	SU869454
SU85	Greatbottom Flash	23016	SU895532
SU85	Mytchett Gravel Pit	23222	SU885546
SU85	Tomlin's Pond	23006	SU887586
SU86	Rapley Lakes	23005	SU898646
SU86	RMA Lakes	23008	SU862606
SU94	Broadford Pond	23042	SU996470
SU94	Unstead Sewage Farm	23326	SU995453
SU95	Worplesdon Place Hotel	23019	SU975535
TQ03	Vachery Pond	23050	TQ070372
TQ05	Clandon Park Lakes	23023	TQ039523
TQ06	Angling ( Disabled) Gravel Pit	23257	TQ037692
TQ06	Ashford Common Waterworks	23105	TQ086697
TQ06	Charlton GP	23212	TQ087694
TQ06	Charlton Village Gravel Pit	23219	TQ086692
TQ06	Elmbridge Model Club Gravel Pits	23262	TQ017694
TQ06	Ferry Lane Gravel Pit	23218	TQ076662
TQ06	Genets Marine Gravel Pits	23255	TQ038694
TQ06	Littleton Lane West Gravel Pits	23216	TQ055675
TQ06	Old Charlton Road Gravel Pit	23230	TQ078683
TQ06	Penton Hook Marina	23256	TQ040689
TQ06	Pickhurst Reserve	23047	TQ040691
TQ06	Twynersh Fishing Complex	23265	TQ033674
TQ06	Wey Farm	23028	TQ017627
TQ07	Brps GP	23268	TQ035745
TQ07	Poyle GPs (Old)	23202	TQ025765

10K	Unit	Unit Code	Grid Ref
TQ07	Poyle Meadows	23306	TQ022759
TQ07	Poyle Meadows Gravel Pits	23204	TQ027767
TQ07	Spout Wood GP	23203	TQ045755
TQ07	Staines Moor GPs	23206	TQ032736
TQ07	Staines Moor Meadow	23305	TQ031731
TQ07	Stanwell Moor GPs	23201	TQ035744
TQ07	Stanwell Moor West Gravel Pit	23208	TQ049746
TQ13	Vann Lake	23065	TQ156395
TQ14	Ockley Court Lake	23068	TQ156404
TQ14	Park Farm Reservoir	23069	TQ164414
TQ16	Longwater Burwood Park	23027	TQ103641
TQ16	Molesey Gravel Pit (part of Molesey Heath N reserve)	23272	TQ132668
TQ17	Ham Common Pond	24012	TQ189717
TQ26	Ewell Court Pond	23094	TQ212638
TQ27	King George's Park Lake	24020	TQ254743
TQ27	R Thames - Battersea to Vauxhall	24419	TQ285777
TQ27	R Thames - Wandsworth Br to Putney Br	24423	TQ250752
TQ27	R Wandle - Mill Close to Beddington Park	24309	TQ283652
TQ27	R Wandle - Carshalton to Mill Close	24313	TQ281651
TQ27	R Wandle - Mill Close to Goat Bridge	24318	TQ274663
TQ27	R Wandle - Morden Hall Tram crossing to Wandsworth	24316	TQ260715
TQ35	Glebe Lake	23209	TQ307514
TQ36	South Norwood Country Park	24059	TQ355684

## From your Membership Secretary

### Outstanding renewals

There are a few members who have still not renewed. The membership year runs from 1st April and the cut off date is 30th September. If you have not renewed by then your membership will lapse so no more newsletters.

If you have not renewed, you will have received this newsletter in a white envelope with a separate renewal reminder. Please arrange to pay the subscription that is due as soon as possible. There will be no more reminders issued.

### Membership for Junior people

The club is trying to encourage more younger members. Quite a few of the newer members are younger than me now (perhaps that is a sign that I am getting older) which is really good news. However we would like to get a few more junior members. As a result the AGM agreed in 2015 that, as from 1st April 2016, a junior member could have one year's free membership. To date only one junior member has taken advantage of this offer. It is for anyone under the age of 21 so, if you know of someone who is keen on birds and under the age of 21, please do encourage them to join.

### Sub-committee to increase membership

Kevin Duncan has stood down from this sub-committee and so, currently, the only members are myself, Charlotte Gray and Matt Phelps. The purpose of the committee is to increase membership (with a specific emphasis on getting more young people involved with the club) and so the meetings discuss what events we can attend to try and get new members, publicity and publications (including the website) and what else we can do to increase the membership. We meet about three times a year and it would be nice to have a couple of other members (you do not have to be on the main committee) to give some input. If you are interested why not come along to a committee meeting and see what you think. Please contact me if you would like to come along.

### Designing posters

As a result of the Woking Peregrine Project we now have some A-Boards. We have posters for the project but need to design some posters for other events we attend, such a Bioblitzes. If you would like to help with the design (or just have some ideas of what could go onto a poster) please contact me.

*Penny Williams*

# Minutes of Annual General Meeting

## **Surrey Bird Club AGM**

**8pm Friday 24th June 2016**

**East Horsley Village Hall, KT24 6QT**

**Apologies:** Geoff Barter, John Birkett, Debbie Hodges, Nigel & Barbara Howse, Martin Kettell, Sarah Marsh, Tony Perry, Tim Reynolds, Richard Seargent, Ben Smithies, Simon Stacey, Jean Wheatley.

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were taken as read; no matters arising. Officers' reports are available in the Summer 2016 newsletter.

### **Chairman's report:**

Highlights of the year included the Woking Peregrine Project and the Chairman thanked all those who were involved with it: Charlotte Gray, Penny Williams, Richard Denyer, Matt Phelps, Ken Anckorn, Chris Venables, James Sellen, Neil Bew, Nigel Burke, Rich Mooney, Roy Benson, Simon Stacey, Tony Cummins, Barbara Howse and Kate Lee.

The 2012 Bird Report is due for publication later this year, as is the BTO Surrey Atlas. 20,451 birds were ringed in Surrey in 2015, and there are now 476,000 Surrey bird records.

A good variety of Field Trips had been arranged, both new and old.

We gained 35 members and lost 30.

### **Treasurer's report:**

Draft accounts in the Summer 2016 newsletter. The Club's finances are in good standing. We made a donation to the Woking Peregrine Project and are considering another. Subscriptions to stay the same for the next financial year. An appeal for members to sign up for Gift Aid if they have not already done so. Please contact Penny Williams for a form. No questions were raised.

Accounts accepted: Proposed Tony Quinn, seconded Hugh Evans.

### **General Committee:**

Ken Anckorn stood down as Conservation Officer.

Re-elected: Hugh Evans (President), Steve Chastell (Chairman), Eric Soden (County Recorder), Stella Bignold (Bird Report Editor), Penny Williams (Membership Secretary and BTO Rep), Dave Harris (Webmaster), Tim Chinn (Newsletter Editor), Steve Cupit (Treasurer), Richard Denyer (Ringling Secretary), Charlotte Gray (Field Meetings), Matt Phelps (Social Media) and David Griffin.

Proposed: Robin Stride, seconded David Stubbs.

New Officer: Sarah Bunce (Conservation), Proposed Penny Williams, seconded Hugh Evans.

### Records Committee:

Dave Harris (Chair), Eric Soden, Steve Chastell, Jeremy Gates, Jeff Wheatley, Shaun Peters, David Campbell, John Clark.

Proposed Andrew Kingston, seconded Penny Williams

### Any Other Business:

Maggie Washington was made an Honorary Member in recognition of her and her late husband Derek's contribution to the club.

SWT Bioblitz cancelled on Sunday 26th June.

Meeting closed 8.10pm.

## Notes

### ❖ Welcome to new members:

Pauline Kirby, Tadworth  
Jeremy, Finlay & Treena Elson,  
Cranleigh,  
Marilyn Frame, Woking,  
Linzi Clark, Godalming,  
Tony Foy, Woking,  
Gillian Stokes, Woking,  
Franco Maroevic, Richmond,  
Paul & Shirley Graber, Guildford,  
and  
Gareth Dagnall, Stevenage

❖ **Birds of Surrey** - Our county avifauna. Available from Penny Williams. Great value at £25.

❖ **Notes, Sketches, Articles, Photographs** - Anything that you think may be of interest to the members of the Club would be gratefully received for publication in *Birding Surrey*, the *Surrey Bird Report* or on our website.

### ❖ The Surrey Countryside Access Forum is looking to recruit new members.

If you have a specific interest in land management and nature conservation, or are a landowner, and would like to have a say on issues relating to access to the countryside, please email [rightsofway@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:rightsofway@surreycc.gov.uk) to receive more information and an application form, or call Joanne Porter Countryside Access Assistant, Surrey County Council, Tel: 020 8541 9576

The closing date for applications is 22nd September 2016.

Details about the Forum can be found at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/accessforum](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/accessforum)

Note: They are especially keen to get members with an interest/knowledge of biodiversity as this is not represented at the moment.

# SBC Records Committee News

Our most recent meeting took place at my house in Walton on June 23rd. Present were Jeff Wheatley, John Clark, Jeremy Gates, Shaun Peters, Steve Chastell and myself. David Campbell, who recently took over as Surrey-in-London recorder also joined us, despite the long drive up from Dungeness.

We had over 60 records to wade through, the majority of which were relatively straightforward. Highlights included the County's 3rd Long-tailed Skua and Serin, both from Beddington SF. The first Black-winged Stilt since 1973 (amazingly

still a BBRC bird) and a couple of Bee-eater records, one of which was photographed flying around over Wimbledon Common this spring.

If you are fortunate to find a good bird in the County, then please submit details as soon as possible after the event. For full details and a downloadable rare bird form please visit the 'How to report a sighting page' on the Club's website.

[http://www.surreybirdclub.org.uk/how\\_to\\_report.html](http://www.surreybirdclub.org.uk/how_to_report.html)

*Dave Harris, August 2016.*

Species	Observer	Date	Location	Decision
Guillemot	Blackfriars Bridge	07/09/2012	Robert Butlin	OK
Long-tailed Skua	Beddington SF	25/09/2012	Peter Alfrey	OK
Honey Buzzard	Richmond Park	07/05/2013	Jan Wilczur	OK
Sanderling	Frensham Great Pond	15/05/2013	Shaun Peters	OK
Spoonbill (6)	Richmond Park	12/09/2013	Jan Wilczur	OK
Merlin	Molesey Heath	02/01/2014	Tony Quinn	OK
Glossy Ibis	Frensham Great Pond	11/01/2014	Shaun Peters	OK
Scaup	Frimley Gravel Pits	19/01/2014	Shaun Peters	OK
Mealy Redpoll (2)	Frensham Great Pond	08/02/2014	Shaun Peters	OK
Black-necked Grebe	Frensham Great Pond	31/03/2014	Shaun Peters	OK
Red-rumped Swallow	Tice's Meadow	01/05/2014	Richard Horton	OK
Spoonbill	Chertsey Hospital	27/05/2014	Steve Spooner	OK
Great White Egret	Tice's Meadow	21/06/2014	Jeremy Gates	OK
Merlin	Devil's Punch Bowl	01/10/2014	Gerry Hinchon	OK
Great White Egret	Worplesdon	01/10/2014	Jeremy Gates	OK
Pectoral Sandpiper	Beddington SF	13/10/2014	Roger Browne	OK
Great White Egret	Worplesdon (Hollow Farm)	18/12/2014	Ian Gunner	OK
Whinchat	Frensham Common	26/12/2014	Shaun Peters	OK
Snow Bunting	Wimbledon Common	04/01/2015	David Wills	OK
Red-breasted Merganser	Pennymead Lake, East Horsley	09/01/2015	Gareth Lewis	OK
Stone Curlew	Shawlands Farm	04/04/2015	Kenneth Noble	OK
Stone Curlew	Fairoaks	05/04/2015	Anne Emerson	OK
Fulmar	Marrow Downs, Guildford	11/04/2015	Jeremy Gates	OK
Wryneck	Tice's Meadow	15/04/2015	Richard Seargent	OK
Stone Curlew	Beddington SF	21/04/2015	Glenn Jones	OK



Species	Observer	Date	Location	Decision
Black-necked Grebe (2)	Frensham Great Pond	21/04/2015	Shaun Peters	OK
Common Crane	Thursley Common	04/05/2015	Paul Sell	OK
Red-rumped Swallow	Holmethorpe SP	14/05/2015	Gordon Hay	OK
Ring-necked Duck (drake)	London Wetland Centre	25/05/2015	Rupert Kaye	OK
Bee-eater (2)	Betchworth Quarry	04/06/2015	David Stubbs	OK
Great White Egret	Frensham Common	15/08/2015	Shaun Peters	OK
Black-winged Stilt	Walton (Lambeth) Res	23/08/2015	Dave Harris	OK
Wryneck	Leith Hill	03/09/2015	Piers Devereux	OK
Honey Buzzard	Beddington SF	07/09/2015	Roger Browne	OK
Black-necked Grebe	Frensham Great Pond	15/09/2015	Shaun Peters	OK
Lapland Bunting	Thorpe Park	25/09/2015	David Darrell-Lambert	OK
Ferruginous Duck	Frensham Great Pond	28/09/2015	Shaun Peters et al	OK
Yellow-browed Warbler	Riddlesdown	10/10/2015	Nicola Hunt	OK
Goshawk	Frensham Great Pond	14/11/2015	Shaun Peters	OK
Serin	Beddington SF	15/11/2015	Pete Alfrey et al	OK
Great Skua	Island Barn Res	15/11/2015	Dave Harris et al.	OK
Goshawk	Bookham Common	28/12/2015	Alan Prowse	OK
Slavonian Grebe	Frensham Great Pond	29/12/2015	Shaun Peters	OK
Siberian Chiffchaff	Thorpe Park	31/12/2015	David Darrell-Lambert	OK
Gannet	Epsom	02/01/2016	Andrew Barrett	OK
White-fronted Goose (52)	Canons Farm	19/01/2016	Duncan Jennings	OK
Iceland Gull	LWC	13/02/2016	Angus Innes, Simon Fogg et al.	OK
Iceland Gull	Island Barn Res	15/02/2016	Dave Harris et al.	OK
Goshawk	Leith Hill	23/02/2016	David Campbell et al	OK
Iceland Gull	Canons Farm	28/02/2016	David Campbell et al	OK
Merlin	Holmethorpe SPs	24/03/2016	Ray Baker & Gordon Hay	OK
Whooper Swan (2)	QE2 Res	25/03/2016	Dave Harris	OK
White Stork	Box Hill	14/05/2016	Wes Attridge	OK
Bee-eater	Wimbledon Common	19/05/2016	Magnus Andersson	OK
Red-backed Shrike	Trenchleys	15/09/2013		NP
Gannet	Holmwood Common, Dorking	24/02/2015		NP
Montagu's Harrier	Ash Ranges	19/06/2015		NP
Alpine Swift	Shere	18/07/2015		NP
Black Stork	Hutchinsons Bank	02/08/2015		NP
Quail	Beddington SF	25/08/2015		NP
Pectoral Sandpiper	Beddington SF	30/08/2015		NP
Little Bunting	Thorncombe Street	24/10/2015		NP
Hen Harrier	Beddington SF	28/12/2015		NP
Common Crane	Tice's Meadow	22/03/2016		NP
Caspian Gull	Tice's Meadow	26/03/2016		NP
Black Kite	Woodside, Croydon	08/05/2016		NP
Marsh Warbler	South Norwood Country Park	22/05/2016		NP

## Field Trip Report

### **Crooksbury Common Field Trip Saturday 18th June 2016**

Richard Horton had very kindly agreed to lead this field trip and I went along as the committee member attending. I had never been to Crooksbury Common before but had heard good reports of previous field trips so I was keeping my fingers crossed. I help with nightjar surveys on the Surrey Heaths, so had already seen Nightjar and Woodcock this year at Ash and Chobham, but was still hoping for good views because I really enjoy seeing both species of bird.

As it was such a lovely evening my husband and I left home early and had a picnic supper at Cutt Mill before going to Crooksbury. The fishing season had just started so there were quite a few fishermen there but we were also treated to a couple of Common Terns, some Black-Headed Gulls and a couple of Great Crested Grebe with one young still with its humbug coloured head. There were quite a few Mallard swimming around too but very few woodlands birds amongst the trees, just Wren, Chiffchaff and a Blackcap singing away.

Then on to Crooksbury. Like some others I initially missed the turn into the road leading to the small car park but it was easy enough to turn around and come back. When I got there, lots

of people had already arrived and insect repellent was being put on, just in case! Fortunately it did not seem to be needed.

After Richard arrived, he explained about the track (one person had come along bringing a motorised wheelchair) and about how some of the trees had been cut down since the previous field trip. Richard gave us a list of birds that might be seen (which included Cuckoo) but explained that nothing was guaranteed. It never is with wildlife! We started up the track and Stonechats were seen and, in the distance, a Song Thrush was singing. A short while later a Woodlark was heard and, I think, everyone got decent views of that species. Further up the track, Richard showed us the nestboxes put out for the Redstarts but we did not, unfortunately, see or hear any. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was calling and a Chiffchaff was singing but it was quite quiet. A short while later Stonechats were heard making an alarm call and I briefly heard a Dartford Warbler alarm call. Richard saw a Dartford Warbler moving in the distance but, unfortunately, this was not seen by most.

However a Tree Pipit was more obliging as the dusk began to appear and everyone got decent views. Very early on a short churr from a Nightjar was heard and then it all went quiet again. However then we not only

going churring but also at least three Nightjars flying around following each other with some really good views. This was on one side of the track where we were standing and we also heard churring coming from the other side of the track too. At the same time the most beautiful moon was rising, the mist was settling over the heather and a Tawny Owl started calling. To finish it all off at least one Woodcock was roding along the stand of trees (quite possibly two) so that everyone could hear its roding "click" sound.

As it was almost dark by now we started walking back, by joining the track we had walked up originally (having done a short circular walk in the middle). After walking down the track a short distance, we came up to a few pines which were left in the area where the majority had been cut down. In one of the trees was a Nightjar churring so everyone was able to see its outline in the tree. The Nightjar then flew, but not far, and then started churring again. A great end to a lovely evening with all the target heathland species seen. Thanks very much to Richard

In all 21 people came on Richard's field trip of whom 8 were not members. However one has subsequently joined making it a successful recruitment evening too!

*Penny Williams*

## **Queen Mary Reservoir (Hersham Ringing Group) Saturday 13th August 2016**

Good numbers turned up to this field trip but I then discovered that almost everybody belonged to Ashted U3A and only 4 of the 13 attending were bird club members. However I started talking to Gareth Dagnall, who was down visiting family, and he mentioned that he had previously been a bird club member. Gareth has decided to join again which is great news.

Tony Beasley welcomed us all and had a juvenile Reed Warbler in his hands. A good chance for everyone to see its size and how long its bill was as compared to the ChiffChaff which we saw shortly afterwards. Tony explained that the breeding season had not been good for a number of species including Tits and it was evidenced by how few Tits we saw compared to recent years.

Unfortunately no rarities were caught by I did see one species in the hand which I had not seen before and that was a Woodpigeon. Kevin Duncan, who is now a trainee with the ringing group, was given the doubtful pleasure of ringing it (it was the first time he had handled a Woodpigeon) and he had a large audience watching him!

As usual Diane Williams was on good form using her varied vocabulary to describe the birds. One Long-Tailed tit was a "sweetie" and another species (sorry I cannot now remember which)



*Long-tailed Tit ("Sweetie")*  
(Penny Williams)

was described as being quite "mankie". Diane is excellent at explaining how she sexes and ages the birds and was asking the audience whether the tail of the Blackbird was black or brown. No consensus was reached with differing opinions so the bird was just recorded as a juvenile.

Despite Tony's warning of it having been a poor breeding season, throughout the whole morning there were birds being handled which we could enjoy. As well as Robin and Dunnock, we had Song Thrush, Willow Warbler, Common Whitethroat and Great Spotted Woodpecker (a loud species in the hand!).

As well as looking at the ringed birds, we also looked at a Cormorant which had a damaged wing which had been seen around the site for some time. The Cormorant could not fly properly, although Steve Chastell reported that it seemed able to fish in the drainage channel OK, but it did not want to be caught. However, with all of us there, it became possible to catch it, and it was caught by Tony Galsworthy. One

of those attending from U3A offered to take the bird to the Wildlife Hospital at Leatherhead. I do not know how it is doing there.

We also had the chance to go to the top of the steps and look over Queen Mary reservoir. As usual there were well over one hundred Great Crested Grebes with large numbers of Tufted Ducks too. A Peregrine honoured us by perching on a pylon and Common Terns were flying around too.

Thanks very much to the Hersham ringing group for their hospitality and for their patience in explaining to us what is involved.

*Penny Williams*

## Future Field Meetings

If you have a local patch you know well and would like to lead a field trip to show others what is there please contact Charlotte Gray at [charlotte.gray88@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.gray88@gmail.com)

### **Saturday 10th September, Staines Moor**

Meet at 9am on Hitherwood Road, Staines Moor. The nearest postcode is TW19 6AT. Park in road after sharp right hand bend. Wellies recommended if wet. Morning only. Leaders Simon Stacey (0777 467678) and Penny Williams.

### **Sunday 25th September, Holmethorpe Sandpits**

Meet at 9am at the Aquasports shop/cafe, Mercers Country Park, Merstham, Redhill, RH1 4EU. Leaders: Ian Kehl (07593 532521) and Gordon Hay. The cafe is a couple of minutes walk beyond the first car park.

### **Saturday 22nd October, Leith Hill Migration Watch**

Meet at 6.30am at Starveall Corner carpark, Abinger Road (RH5 6LU) for the 20 minute walk up to the tower. There is limited space up on the tower so no telescopes please. Refreshments available at the tower from 10am. Leader Matt Phelps (07809 870034)

### **Saturday 17th December 2016, London Wetland Centre, Barnes**

Meet in the visitor car park at 9.30 am. Unless you are a WWT member you will have to pay for entry. Entrance fee is 10% less if pre-booked via <https://wwt.digitickets.co.uk/tickets?branches.branchID=332>  
Leader Penny Williams Tel 07771 804357 (on day) or 01276 857736 beforehand.

All the walks are FREE (except for travel costs, car park or entrance fees). Everybody is welcome, from beginners to experts. Field trip details can be found on the Surrey Bird Club website [www.surreybirdclub.org](http://www.surreybirdclub.org) or in the 'Birding Surrey' quarterly magazine.

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*Fig 4. Ringed Plover, Staines Res., 30 Apr 2016 (David Carlsson)*



*Fig 5. Woodlark, Thursley, 19 May 2016 (David Carlsson)*



*Fig 6. Male Stonechat, Thursley, 19 May 2016*

*(David Carlsson)*



*Fig 7. Female Stonechat, Thursley, 12 May 2016*

*(David Carlsson)*