



# THE HOBBY

Website: [www.bedsbirdclub.org.uk](http://www.bedsbirdclub.org.uk)

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Editor: Andy Grimsey  
61 Wychwood Avenue  
Luton LU2 7HT  
Tel: 07402 429 312  
E-mail: [editor@bedsbirdclub.org.uk](mailto:editor@bedsbirdclub.org.uk)

## **PROGRAMME MATTERS**

Welcome to the March 2020 edition of The Hobby. After a mostly windy and wet winter, spring is on the way and we look forward to the breeding season, though it feels a long way away as this bulletin is completed during the back end of Storm Jorje on a date I was intending to start searching for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Included with this edition of The Hobby are our Summer Programme leaflet and a form for the Summer Garden Bird Feeding Survey which starts on March 8th. We welcome your support on these club activities and note again that volunteers are still sought to helping us maintain some key functions within the club following the stepping down of Steve Blain as Bird Recorder and Barry Nightingale as Bird Report Editor.

Our last indoor meeting of the year will be on March 31st when Dr Michael Brooke from Dept of Zoology at Cambridge University and a former warden at Skokholm will talk to us about “The Mysterious Life of Seabirds”.

Our outdoor field trips continue with visits to North Norfolk starting at Titchwell on 22nd March and then move into the spring program at Pegsdon Hills on 19th April and Broom GP on 26th. All details are in our program and on the website at [bedsbirdclub.org.uk](http://bedsbirdclub.org.uk). Contact can also be made to Kevin Sharpe for making arrangements on 07827 440394.

## **DECEMBER 2019 – FEBRUARY 2020 THIS WINTER’S BIRD NEWS**

### December 2019

**Great White Egret** - reports included one regularly roosting at Priory CP early in the month noted from 6th with two there on 15th with presumably one of the same birds seen at 100 Acre Lake also on 15th, also maybe the same individuals recorded elsewhere as one at Willington GP on 24th and two at Octagon Farm GP on 31st. Elsewhere one was at Brogborough Lake on 29th

**Pink-Footed Goose** - one at Meadow Lane 25th to 30th at least

**Ruddy Shelduck** - pair at MCP Wetlands NR on three dates between 1st and 6th and again on 21st

**Common Shelduck** - two at Dunstable STW 27th

**Pintail** - adult male at Grovebury SP on 28th and 29th, another at Brogborough Lake on 30th

**Red-crested Pochard** - pair at Cuckoo Bridge Lake on 3rd, female at MCP Wetlands NR on 6th, female at Brogborough Lake 27th and 30th

**Ring-necked Duck** - the bird from November was noted again at Priory CP on 13th and Gadsey Brook GP on 31st

**Common Scoter** - one at Grovebury SP on 22nd

**Goosander** - one at Brogborough Lake on 3rd, five at Felmersham GP on 14th, two in Woburn Park on 25th, one at Henlow Lakes on 28th

**Goldeneye** - two at Stewartby on 26th and 27th

**Marsh Harrier** - one around the brick pits again during the month

**Hen Harrier** - one passed through Grovebury SP on 8th

**Jack Snipe** - one at Meadow Lane on 25th

**Black-tailed Godwit** - two at Chimney Corner North on 27th

**Mediterranean Gull** - one adult on 29th and two adults on 31st in roost at Stewartby Lake

**Little Gull** - one on Peacocks Lake at Broom GP on 29th

**Caspian Gull** - one at Grovebury SP on 2nd, a 2w at Brogborough Lake on 27th and 29th

**Yellow-legged Gull** - a few individuals noted in roost at Stewartby through the month

**Ring-necked Parakeet** - three in Bedford on 3rd and three in Wardown Park Luton at Christmas

**Merlin** - one near Streatley on 11th, another near Old Warden on 23rd

**Waxwing** - one in Bedford on 25th

**Great Grey Shrike** - the bird first noted in November through the month and into February.



**BLACK-THROATED THRUSH** - A first for the county identified from a photograph taken at Whipsnade Zoo on 11th before being seen again by a number of observers on 13th and then daily into the New Year 2020. A full write-up on this bird is planned for the 2019 Bird Report.

**Stonechat** - pairs opposite The Lodge and near Upper Caldecote on 2nd, one in Chimney Corner North pit on 5th, four at Yelden Airfield on 26th, one at Meadow Lane 27th, two at MCP Wetlands NR on 29th

**Chiffchaff** - one of "tristis" race noted at Bedford STW on 7th, 8th and 27th with good numbers of regular "collybita"

**Firecrest** - two at Capability Green in Luton on 5th, one at Brogborough Hill on 16th and 31st

**Siskin** - relatively scarce so far this winter, but c50 at Sandy Smith NR on 27th

## January 2020

**Whooper Swan** - two flew over Myers Farm near Potton on 4th

**Pink-footed Goose** - presumably the same one individual with Greylag and Barnacle Goose flock around Castle Mills / Willington / Roxton area early in the month until 12th at least

**Shelduck** – one, the first of the year, at Broom East GP on 28th

**Pintail** - pair at Radwell GP on 12th, another male north of Dunstable on the same date

**Ring-necked Duck** - bird from November still present with sightings at Gadsey Brook GP from 1st to 12th and then at Priory CP from 16th to the end of the month



**Pochard** - one leucistic male at Brogborough Lake on 5th to 12th at least

**Red-crested Pochard** - two females at Brogborough Lake from 1st to 12th at least

**Common Scoter** - three at Stewartby Lake on 3rd

**Goosander** - a few reports of up to five from their regular sites at Lower Drakelow Pond, Woburn and Eversholt Lake. A pair at Broom East GP on 28th

**Smew** - a "redhead" briefly at Priory CP on 17th

**Bittern** - one noted at Cainhoe Lakes on 12th

**Great White Egret** - up to two birds regularly reported around Priory/Meadow Lane/Willington area at the throughout the month. Other reports included one near Dunstable STW on 31st

**Marsh Harrier** - female-type regularly reported around the brick pits during the month, a male also near Brogborough on 16th

**Black-necked Grebe** - one at Priory CP on 27th until early morning next day

**Mediterranean Gull** - adult in Stewartby Lake roost on 5th, one over Blunham Lakes 12th

**Caspian Gull** - adult north of Dunstable on 4th

**Great Black-backed Gull** - a bird at Grovebury SP on 5th was ringed and traced to a scheme at Portland, Dorset

**Merlin** - birds recorded near Staploe on 1st, female near Woodbury Hall on 8th with presumed the same near Tempsford Airfield on 16th, and near Cainhoe Lakes on 12th

**Stonechat** - wintering birds noted at Brogborough Tip, East Hyde, MCP Wetlands NR, near Staploe, on Thurleigh Airfield, near Gadsey Brook and in Quest CIP

**Firecrest** - one at Brogborough Hill all month

**BLACK-THROATED THRUSH** - continued at Whipsnade Zoo throughout the month

**Great Grey Shrike** - continued around Brogborough Hill area through the month

**Waxwing** - one in Sandy from 9th until the end of the month

**Lesser Redpoll** - very few reports this winter. A group of six were briefly at Broom GP on 17<sup>th</sup> with odd reports there into February.

## February 2020

**Pink-footed Goose** - a single being noted regularly in the Ouse Valley throughout the month

**Pintail** - male at Broom East GP on from 1st to 12th at least, another male at MCP Wetlands NR on 2nd, six at Brogborough Lake on 21st

**Red-crested Pochard** - one at Flitwick STW on 5th, a male at Chimney Corner South on 22nd

**Ring-necked Duck** - wintering bird continued to be seen at Priory CP throughout the month

**Goosander** - two at Harrold CP on 13th, one at Meadow Lane GP on 21st, one at Derek Whites Eggs Pit and two at Black Cat GP on 22nd, others around Eversholt/Woburn throughout the month

**Great White Egret** - one or two continuing around Meadow Lane area reported from 3rd to 24th, one near Sandy reported occasionally between 2nd and 21st, one from the M1 at Houghton Brook on 26th

**Redshank** - one at Meadow Lane GP on 1st was the first returning bird of the year

**Kittiwake** - an adult at Grovebury SP on 2nd, a juvenile there on 16th

**Mediterranean Gull** - two in the county on the 8th with different individuals noted at Priory CP and in roost at Stewartby Lake

**Merlin** - one near Broom on 13th successfully caught a Skylark, perhaps same near Upper Caldecotte on 15th with another reported near Streatley the same day

**Stonechat** - wintering birds included four at Meadow Lane GP, three near Slip End, two near Sandy, and three pairs noted around various pits in Marston Vale

**Great Grey Shrike** - continuing south of Brogborough Lake last reported on 19<sup>th</sup>



**Waxwing** - one in Sandy from January still present until 20th at least, report of 13 in Biggleswade on 19th

**BLACK-THROATED THRUSH** - still present at Whipsnade Zoo until 24th at least

**Tree Sparrow** - three near Chicksands early in the month with at least one remaining until 22nd

We thank all contributors who have submitted their records directly to the Recorder, or via Bedsbirds Email Group as well as other sources. Please note that Steve Blain has stepped down as County Bird Recorder and that this role is being supported in the interim by Peter Nash and Andy Grimsey. Records are welcomed to the email address below, and any questions, requests or reports otherwise can be directed to Peter on 07753411786 or Andy on 07402429312. We will endeavour to give the high quality support that Steve was able to do while a full time Recorder is sought.

Records are preferred via the online system BirdTrack, using the Excel file found on the Bird Club Website, singly using the online form ( <http://tinyurl.com/2v6oweh> ), or on paper.

Compiled by Andy Grimsey  
recorder@bedsbirdclub.org.uk

## **EAST NORFOLK FIELD TRIP - 12th January 2020**

The first trip of the New Year, saw ten brave souls leaving a wet and windy Bedfordshire for a damp and blustery East Norfolk morning. We met up at Strumpshaw Fen RSPB at 9.00am before heading to Buckingham Marsh RSPB for the wintering wildfowl. Unfortunately for us the Bean Geese had left a couple of days before, but there was still plenty to see. We had good views of Russian White-fronted and Pink-footed Geese with large numbers of Lapwings with some Ruff weaving their way through the flock and Snipe hiding in the grass, besides the usual things like Teal, Wigeon, Greylags, Canadas with a couple of Barnacle Geese.

Our next stop saw us sheltering from the wind by the bridge at Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth. With a very high tide there was not much dry land, which meant what little that remained, was teeming with waders. As the tide started to go out and the water dropped they started to spread out and were joined by others from the fields. Large numbers of Golden Plovers and Black-tailed Godwits were there, plus Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit mixed in and one lone Avocet. A total of 14 wader species was seen but the star bird had to be a young Peregrine Falcon which terrorised them for over an hour by flying through the flocks again and again trying to catch one.

After lunch and a pit stop we made our way to Acle Bridge and obtained close views of 17 Common Cranes feeding in a field by the A1064 before continuing on to the final stop of the day was Hickling Broad and Stubbs Mill, a Norfolk Wildlife Trust Reserve. Parking at the visitors centre, we then walked down a very waterlogged road to the old Mill and the famous Raptor Watch Point. Thankfully the wind had dropped and Brown Hare and another pair of Cranes greeted us, while 14 Marsh Harriers in the air or perched up were visible at the same time. A fly over of 3000+ Pink-footed Geese made a nice display plus three Barn Owls hunting along with the male Hen Harrier who sneaked in at dusk and was nearly missed by us as it went straight to roost.

We rounded off the day with a calling Tawny Owl and a Woodcock flying over us in the car park with the failing light.

A total of 83 species were seen for the day and a big thank you to our two leaders for the day, Carolyn and Malcolm Hawkes.

Kevin Sharpe

## **MAKING OUR BIRD DATA MORE VALUABLE - KEY BREEDING SPECIES TO RECORD ANNUALLY.**

There are species on the Bedfordshire Red List of Breeding Birds that we should collect breeding records for every year. Recording breeding species is particularly important because it allows us to identify the most important sites for birds and may help to protect sites from damaging development. In addition, the data can be used to secure long-term benefits; for example, minerals sites. All records should be entered on to the ***BTO BirdTrack website*** and each entry should contain a breeding code. This important information confirms the status of breeding species and allows us to prove how valuable some of the county's sites are in supporting a range of birds, including scarce and rare species.

## **BTO BirdTrack breeding codes:**

The key period for recording breeding behaviour is mid-March to the end of July.

### **Probable breeder:**

- Pair in suitable nesting habitat (P)
- Permanent Territory (defended over at least 1 week) (T).
- Courtship and display (D).
- Visiting probable nest site (N).
- Agitated behaviour (A).
- Brood patch of incubating bird (I).
- Nest building or excavating a nest hole (B).

### **Confirmed breeder:**

- Distraction display or injury feigning (DD).
- Used nest or eggshells found from current season (UN).
- Recently fledged or downy young (FL).
- Adults entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest (ON).
- Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young (FF).
- Nest containing eggs (NE).
- Nest with young (NY).

### **Key Species for 2020**

These are the same listed in the article below but include this year for the first time: Corn Bunting

**Colonial breeding species.** We would also ask please for all records of the number of pairs or active nests of the following species.

Grey Heron; Common Tern; Black-headed Gull; Sand Martin;

Graham Goodall. Hon Research Officer, Bedfordshire Bird Club; BNHS.

## **REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE RECORDS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE IN 2019**

### **Recording scarce breeding species.**

Members were asked to specifically record eighteen species on the Bedfordshire Red List of Breeding Birds:

Common Pochard	Eurasian Bittern	Northern Lapwing
Ringed Plover	Eurasian Curlew	Turtle Dove
Common Cuckoo	European Nightjar	Ls Spotted Woodpecker
Marsh Tit	Woodlark	Grasshopper Warbler
Mistle Thrush	Spotted Flycatcher	Common Nightingale
Yellow Wagtail	Grey Wagtail	Tree Pipit

Many records are submitted via BirdTrack and contributors have the option to enter their data on to a species list, which gives a good measure of how frequently individual species are recorded during the year. This enables us to monitor the annual changes in the detectability of some, but not all, species, and these are shown as a percentage in the annual Bird Reports. The number of locations includes repeat visits by numerous people; therefore, the number of species lists varies from year to year:

- 2015: 126717 records, 4257 complete species lists, from 2365 locations.
- 2016: 140281 records, 4842 complete species lists, from 2395 locations.
- 2017: 153527 records, 5417 complete species lists, from 2600 locations.
- 2018: 152216 records, 5915 complete species lists, from 2444 locations.

### **Data analysis and monitoring of rare breeding birds.**

Data for rare breeding birds was analysed in order to keep documents and systems up to date. As a result, the list of *Rare Breeding Birds in Bedfordshire* and *Breeding Bird Indices by Habitat* have been updated and formally adopted. The monitoring of key breeding species is documented via an annual report; *The State of Red Listed Breeding Birds in Bedfordshire*. The report shows the state of each species; i.e. the number of sites where species were recorded and whether they are declining or increasing. This is achieved by extracting information from *British Birds*, BTO *Breeding Bird Survey* reports and *Bedfordshire Bird Reports*.

### **BTO Surveys: English Farm Woodland Birds Survey 2019.**

Participants were asked to conduct four morning visits between 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019; each survey to be at least two weeks apart and carried out between 05:00am and 11:00am. All birds seen or heard were recorded using standard BTO species and activity codes. All live mammals observed were recorded separately. Woodland composition and habitat features were also recorded as well as tree species and stand-type.

### **Three-year Turtle Dove research project (2019-2021); G. R. Goodall.**

Operation Turtle Dove (OTD), a consortium of RSPB, Fair to Nature, Pensthorpe Conservation Trust and Natural England, seeks to halt the decline by establishing feeding habitat and supplementary feeding sites in key areas where Turtle Doves (TD) continue to breed in good numbers. As Bedfordshire lies outside the OTD project area, it was decided to design a similar project on a farm at Dunton. TD feeding habitat and two supplementary feeding sites were established. Single birds were seen displaying and feeding on one of the supplementary feeding sites; however, breeding was not confirmed.

### **Broom East CWS. Tarmac: 20 Year Biodiversity Management Plan (2019 – 2038).**

The Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) objectives are monitored and reported on annually. Agreed management for 2019 was as follows:

- Information boards were erected in April.
- The site was grazed by Dexter cattle, plus a hay cut in the north basin. Signs to prevent public access inside the stock fencing have been erected.
- Scrub and ruderal vegetation. A site meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the invasive willow, which will be monitored to see if grazing keeps it under control. If grazing does not control the willow, then chemically treatment or cutting will need to be considered.
- The three gravel-topped 'islands' supported breeding Common Terns.
- The second annual management meeting was held on 19th November; agreed works for 2020 are:
- Continue grazing Dexter cattle; mid-April to November.
- Pigs will graze the north-west corner of the south basin and it is anticipated that they will create bare ground for breeding waders.
- A birders screen will be erected lower down the slope from the existing area. We must encourage BBC members to use the new viewing site.

### ***Mineral Products Association 'Quarries & Nature 2019; 'Uniquely Placed for Net Gain'***

The event celebrated best practice through the MPA Restoration Awards and MPA Biodiversity Awards in association with Natural England. Tarmac was represented through entries in the restoration category (Broom Quarry, Bedfordshire & Loudounhill, Scotland) and biodiversity categories (planned restoration with SLR Consulting), and innovation (with Cranfield University). Tarmac entered Broom East CWS in the 2019 MPA Restoration Awards and the site was judged on 15<sup>th</sup> August and was considered to be really

impressive. The entry recognises the contribution that Bedfordshire Bird Club has made towards the management of the site.

***Result of the MPA Restoration Awards; 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.***

We were joint winners of the Cooper-Heyman Cup for the restoration of Broom East CWS. This is Britain's top award for outstanding achievement in quarry restoration. This recognition would not have been possible without the help of the Shuttleworth Estate and Bedfordshire Bird Club during these years so I would like to say a massive thank you.

Enrique Moranmontero  
Restoration Manager



*Tarmac is the UK's leading sustainable  
building materials and construction solutions company*

**Derek White's Eggs; County Wildlife Site submission.**

SB supplied GRG with bird data for 2015-19. Following analysis, the site met the following CWS bird criteria:

- Lowland Open Water and Margins. Threshold met in four years.
- Lowland Damp Grassland and Marsh. Threshold met in four years.
- Colonial breeding species; Black-headed Gull and Common Tern.
- Winter wetland birds other than waders. Threshold met in two years.
- Winter waders. Threshold met in two years.
- Passage wetland species. Threshold met in three years.

A copy of the CWS submission has been sent to Elizabeth Anderson (Central Bedfordshire Council) and Laura Downton (Wildlife Trust), who will send it to CEMEX – current owners of the site – to ask if they agree to the site being identified as a CWS. They have the option to refuse!

**Planning responses.**

**Application No: CB/19/01753/MW**

**Location: Bryant's Lane & Reach Lane Quarries, Heath & Reach, Leighton Buzzard  
Proposal: Extraction of sand; installation of new mineral processing plant; progressive restoration of site by infilling with an estimated 3.9M m<sup>3</sup> of imported inert material.**

It is proposed to restore the site to pre-quarry hillside topography, with surface drainage to a small pond and a large attenuation pond in the base of a shallow basin at the centre of the site. An exposed sand-face will be created to benefit burrowing invertebrates.

The following recommendations were submitted:

- Additional bird surveys should be conducted during the restoration process, to ensure that breeding plovers – particularly Ringed and Little Ringed – are not breeding on the site, or if they are, that appropriate measures are taken to protect their nests and young. We recommended that advice is taken from the RSPB on this issue.
- The site lies within the Greensand Ridge Nature Improvement Area. As such, restoration should take account of this and advice should be sought from the Wildlife Trust on how to restore the proposed grassland.
- The proposed sand-bank should be constructed as a nest site for Sand Martins.

- The proposed large attenuation basin should feature a large gravel and sand island as a breeding site for Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers. Lapwing may also breed on adjoining grassland; therefore, this should be managed appropriately by grazing cattle of a suitable rare breed. The waterbody should be fenced to facilitate grazing, and to prevent disturbance of breeding birds by walkers and dogs.

Graham R. Goodall, Honorary Research Officer.

## A BRIEF REPORT OF THE 2020 BIRD CLUB AGM

The AGM was held at Maulden Village Hall on Tuesday 25th February, and was attended by 41 members.

Stuart Elsom, Hon. Meetings Secretary, chaired the meeting.

The elected officers for 2020 are:

Hon. President (2020-22):	Mary Sheridan
Hon. Secretary:	Sheila Alliez
Hon. Research Officer:	Graham Goodall
Hon. Assistant Treasurer:	Sonnie Wing
Hon. Bulletin Editor:	Andy Grimsey
Hon. Meetings Secretary:	Stuart Elsom

County Bird Recorder:	VACANT
BNHS Membership Secretary:	Mary Sheridan

The elected committee members for 2020 are:

Phil Cannings  
 Roger Hicks  
 Peter Nash  
 Kevin Sharpe

The nominated Chairman for 2019-21 is Richard Bashford (to be re-confirmed at the BNHS AGM in March).

The Club membership at the end of December was 282. The Assistant Treasurer's summary of the accounts stated that the increase in expenditure of c. £4,521.11 (to £6,000.32) was due to the invoices for the 2017 Bird Report being delayed from 2018. He again asked members to consider switching to electronic delivery of *The Hobby*, which would cut costs. Income was £997.73, including £450 sponsorship from Opticron, £150 donation from the Southill estate for ongoing survey work, and 2x£75 from Sunbird Travel for adverts. Thanks were due to the Peter Smith Charitable Fund for Nature which allowed the inclusion of colour plates in the *Journal* for a third year. Members using the services of advertisers in *The Hobby* and the *Journal* were urged to tell advertisers that they saw their advert in a Bird Club publication. The Research Officer's report will be published in *The Hobby* and also the Bird Report 2018.

After the completion of business, Mark Ward gave an illustrated talk on Pan-species birding.

Sheila Alliez, Hon. Secretary

## SIXTY YEARS AGO – 1960

A glimpse at the records shows that only three Buzzards were reported for the year. At Luton Hoo on January 21st and February 7th, and near Bedford on 5th May

## ACCEPTED COUNTY RARITIES 2019

The following records have all been accepted on to the county records after review by the Rarities Committee, data provided by Matt Burgess.

Species	Location	Date	Number	Observer
Great Northern Diver	Stewartby Lake	01/01/2019	2	Martin Palmer for 2nd bird
Caspian Gull	Dunstable STW	02/01/2019	1	John Lynch
White-headed Duck	Roxton	05/01/2019	1	Richard Bashford
Siberian Chiffchaff	Bedford STW	12/01/2019	1	Steve Blain
Siberian Chiffchaff	Stotfold Mill NR	11/02/2019	1	Mike Illet
Glossy Ibis	Thorn	25/02/2019	1	Norman Finnan
Mealy Redpoll	Coopers Hill	09/03/2019	1	Paul Wright
Brent Goose	Broom GLE	09/03/2019	1	M J Stevens
Siberian Chiffchaff	Bedford STW	26/03/2019	1	Darren Oakley-Martin
Caspian Gull	Stewartby Lake	12/04/2019	1	Neil Wright
Water Pipit	Broom GLE	13/04/2019	2	Paul Nye
Stone-curlew	Streatley	19/04/2019	1	Kirsty Brenham
Rough-legged Buzzard	Pegsdon Hills	21/04/2019	1	Steve Blain
Black-necked Grebe	Stewartby Lake	02/05/2019	2	Martin Palmer
Pied Flycatcher	Wrest Park	08/05/2019	1	RBA
Little Tern	Grovebury SP	08/05/2019	1	Lee Evans
Black-necked Grebe	Priory CP	10/05/2019	1	Dave Kamer
Little Tern	Grovebury SP	13/05/2019	1	Tringbirds
Temminck's Stint	Grovebury SP	25/05/2019	1	John Lynch
Pied Flycatcher	Brogborough Hill	03/08/2019	2	Neil Wright
Great Skua	Grovebury SP	19/08/2019	1	Tringbirds
Ortolan Bunting	Meppershall	21/08/2019	1	Jim P
White-headed Duck	Roxton Pit	22/08/2019	1	Richard Bashford
Pied Flycatcher	Streatley	24/08/2019	1	Allan Cutts
Pied Flycatcher	Brogborough Hill	26/08/2019	1	Neil Wright
Pied Flycatcher	Cooper's Hill	26/08/2019	1	Paul Wright
Ortolan Bunting	Biggleswade	26/08/2019	1	Steve Blain
Pied Flycatcher	Icknield Way, Pegsdon	26/08/2019	2	Andy Grimsey
Pied Flycatcher	Pegsdon Hills	26/08/2019	2	Stuart Winter
Pied Flycatcher	Luton	27/08/2019	1	Allan Cutts
Pectoral Sandpiper	Broom Quarry South	29/08/2019	1	Jim P
Pied Flycatcher	Sandy Heath	30/08/2019	1	?
Pied Flycatcher	The Lodge	30/08/2019	1	Steve Blain
Pied Flycatcher	Pulloxhill	30/08/2019	1	Richard Revills
Caspian Gull	Grovebury SP	12/09/2019	2	Tringbirds
Caspian Gull	Grovebury SP	28/09/2019	1	Tringbirds
Shag	Houghton Brook Pools	03/10/2019	1	Jonathan palmer
Ring-necked Duck	The Pillinge	05/10/2019	1	Steve Northwood
Goshawk	The Lodge	09/10/2019	1	Dave Buckingham
Caspian Gull	Grovebury SP	12/10/2019	1	Tringbirds
Great Grey Shrike	Brogborough Lake	18/11/2019	1	Tony Donnelly
Ring-necked Duck	Cuckoo Bridge Lake	20/11/2019	1	Richard Bashford
Black-throated Thrush	Whipsnade Zoo	11/12/2019	1	Dave Allen
Siberian Chiffchaff	Bedford STW	27/12/2019	1	Patrick Giles

## **ROGER'S ROOKS**

Roger Hicks will be continuing to manage his long running Rookeries survey this year.

Details are on the Bird Club website at <http://bedsbirdclub.org.uk/research-projects/rookery-survey/> which includes also a link to the survey's own pages at [www.rookeries.uk](http://www.rookeries.uk)

Please contact Roger with news and support

## **BTO SURVEYS 2020**

Another survey underway this year will be looking at Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows, a page has been created with links to this also on the Bird Club website.

For Bedfordshire a number of sites are identified to look at, with Lapwing the likely species to be encountered, but a few of the sites may hold Redshank and if very lucky, Curlew and Snipe which are almost or presumed extinct as breeding species unfortunately.

<http://bedsbirdclub.org.uk/breeding-waders-of-wet-meadows-2020-bto-survey/>

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Beds Bird Club:

Tim Alberry, Leighton Buzzard  
Andrew Currington, Houghton Regis  
Mrs E Garner, Blunham  
Nicola Shepherd, Kempston  
Hannah Woods, Olney

We hope you will enjoy many years of membership with us.

Mary Sheridan

## **ARTICLES FOR THE HOBBY**

If you have any articles for The Hobby, particularly those that relate to birds and birding experiences within Bedfordshire, please forward text, graphs, pictures and any other information to [editor@bedsbirdclub.org.uk](mailto:editor@bedsbirdclub.org.uk) for inclusion in a future edition.

**It'll soon be  
Spring !**



**IMAGES BY:**

**Jim P:** Swallow  
**Steve Blain:** Black-throated Thrush  
**Sean D'Arcy:** Ring-necked Duck; Great Grey Shrike

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*The Bedfordshire Bird Club is the ornithological section of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society  
Registered Charity Number 268659*