

## Lound Lakes Newsletter

### Summer 2011

The Lound Lakes project has been running since 2005 and is a partnership between Essex & Suffolk Water, the Broads Authority, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Through this partnership we have achieved many great things. This includes **improving the conservation value** of Lound Lakes and preventing high nutrient levels in the water. We have formed a **brilliant volunteer group** that carries out much of the active management, created a system to allow local visitors to responsibly use and **enjoy the site** and have delivered **outdoor education** to 1650 school children from some of the most deprived schools in East Anglia, teaching them about the Broads and their drinking water.

Back in 2007, Essex & Suffolk Water converted a barn on site to be used as a volunteer workshop and a class/meeting room. We have developed the area around the barn into a wildlife garden, which is now teeming with life and is a wonderful place for visitors to get up close and personal with some of the fascinating creatures that live there.

It is now time to renew our **management plan** and we want to continue to achieve excellence. We want you to have the opportunity to contribute to site management and Holly Berwick (Conservation and Hydrology Officer) would welcome you getting in contact with your thoughts. Additionally, we will be holding a meeting of the **'Friends of Lound Lakes'** in November. This will give site users a chance to discuss the draft management plan, which will be circulated prior to the meeting. We hope to see you all there.

### Contact us and get involved!

#### Volunteer Sessions – 09:00 – 12:00

**September** Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs 15<sup>th</sup>

**October** Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs 13<sup>th</sup>

**November** Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Friend's of Lound Lakes Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> November 12.30 to 14.30

**Contact:** Holly Berwick

**Telephone:** 07795 460866

**Email:** [holly.berwick@broads-authority.gov.uk](mailto:holly.berwick@broads-authority.gov.uk)

**Post:** Conservation and Hydrology Officer  
Lound WTW, Old Yarmouth Road  
Lound, Suffolk, NR32 5LZ.



## Award Success



Lound Lakes has won a Conservation award in the British Trust of Ornithology's (BTO) Business Challenge. This is a competition to find the best businesses for wildlife, birds and people. Lound won the best site for conservation and BTO recognised the Lound Lakes project's efforts to help safeguard a rare water fern called 'pillwort'. Despite our hard work, the little fern has not yet reappeared. However, the area created to encourage Pillwort's return has had some

interesting plant species appear such as Bog pimpernel and Yellow Sedge. This award would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers in particular the regular bird surveyors Justin Walker and Paul Douch. Many thanks to you all!

## Toads Declining

The Hopton Ponds at Lound are an important breeding site for the Common Toad and we have a large but sadly decreasing population across the site. To help combat the national decline in populations, 'Froglife' oversee the 'Toads on Roads' campaign. This involves Lound Lake's volunteers going out 'en masse' on warm wet evenings in the early months of the year, armed with torches and buckets to help toads cross the road into the breeding ponds. If you would like to join in please get in touch. Unfortunately, the numbers rescued are declining and we believe this may be due to a number of factors. Firstly, despite the volunteer's best efforts, large numbers of toads are still being killed on roads. Additionally, the lakes floral structure has changed considerably over the last few years due to an invasion of a non native plant called 'Australian Swamp Stonecrop' which may benefit invertebrate predators of the tadpoles. To gain more information, we are in search of an MSc student to sponsor to hopefully find out the reasons behind the decline and how we can safeguard the toad population for the future.



*Your Sightings Count:* We are compiling a list of all the interesting sightings of wildlife at Lound Lakes. This will be passed on to the county recorder and used to map out the species presence across Norfolk and Suffolk. If you fancy helping by recording your sightings please let Holly know where, when, what and how many you saw. Alternatively, Holly can supply you with a sightings sheet to fill in. Feel free to email any photos of unusual or interesting species.



Lyster the Cuckoo

## The Cuckoo Controversy

A migrant bird that has been sadly and somewhat controversially absent from Lound Lakes this year is a species whose call is almost universally known – the Cuckoo. Controversial, because Lound Lakes was to be one of the catching sites for the BTO project to track Cuckoo migration using small satellite tags. With Essex & Suffolk Water kindly providing funding towards the cost of this groundbreaking project, all that was needed was for the cuckoos to arrive. Despite Cuckoos having been present over the last few years, this year they have not returned to Lound.

Disappointingly, a Lound Cuckoo isn't one of the five currently being tracked by the BTO. This highlights the need for this research as Cuckoo numbers have declined rapidly over the last 25 years and it is now a red listed bird of conservation concern. Cuckoos lay their eggs in other bird's nests and leave all the hard work to the occupier, which are often small birds such as reed warblers. The reason for the decline is currently unknown and this research could really help pinpoint the cause. Fortunately, five Cuckoos were successfully caught and tagged including 'Lyster' named after leading environmental figure and non-executive director of Essex & Suffolk Water, Dr Simon Lyster. At the beginning of August 'Lyster' was crossing Spain. To find out where he is now, visit [www.bto.org/cuckoos](http://www.bto.org/cuckoos). (JW & HB)

## Volunteer?

Lound Lakes has an active local community volunteer group and we have recently been busy keeping the footpaths, fences and meadows maintained. If you fancy putting something back into your local area and meeting like minded people come and join us.

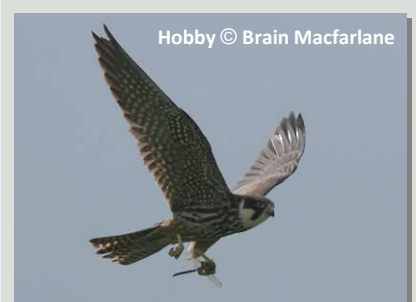
## Nesting success stories

Whitethroats at Lound, as elsewhere, seem to be having a good year with at least two pairs breeding within sight of Fen Barn where the males were singing incessantly throughout May and June with spectacular song flights regularly observed.



Whitethroat  
© Liz Cutting

The presence of what is undoubtedly a star species of Lound is more easily discernable as the Hobbys have once again nested on site. The loud screaming calls of the adults are frequently heard, with mornings being the best time. It is interesting to note that with the arrival of cooler, wetter weather, which adversely affects dragonfly activity, Hobbys have been seen hunting further away from the lakes – undoubtedly taking advantage of young Swallows and House Martins on the wing. (JW)

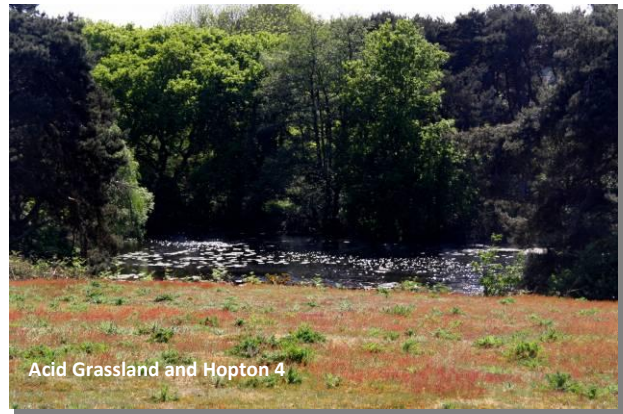


Hobby © Brain Macfarlane

## Clean Water and Fantastic Grassland

The variety of different grassland at Lound makes it a very special place to visit and acts as a large sponge soaking up nutrients in water running down towards the lakes. This is essential for a sustainable drinking water supply and helps to bring you healthy drinking water while keeping your water bill to a minimum! One of the most important types of grassland is 'acid grassland'

which can be easily recognised by the red hue of the plant Sheep's sorrel during the warmer months. Acid grassland occurs on acidic, nutrient poor soil in dry areas and at first glance can seem rather bare. However, upon further examination, you begin to notice the array of small annuals that take advantage of these conditions including Centaury and Dove's foot crane's-bill. This grassland attracts a wealth of invertebrates which the Mistle thrush and Green spotted woodpeckers love to feast upon. We have recently found a new plant species on the acid grassland called Clustered clover. This nationally scarce species was found by the naturalist Bob Ellis, who has been carrying out an extensive plant survey to monitor if our past management has been beneficial to the site. This research will be used to influence our new management plan.



## Flying Migrants: A Result of Climate Change

Lound has a wealth of butterflies, moths and dragonflies on site and this year we have seen the tops of large Oak trees come alive with dancing Purple Hairstreaks and fluttering White Admirals, feeding on the honeydew. The wildlife garden has been frequented by the Hummingbird Hawk moth which has migrated from southern Europe and Africa. Lound often gets migrant species blown in from the east coast and acts as corridor to the Waveney valley and the wider Broads area. We are seeing migrant moths and butterflies which we believe is



a result of climate change. This is one of the benefits from a warmer climate but many native species face challenging times and will have to adapt as will we. County wildlife sites like Lound will play an increasingly important role in allowing species to travel between habitats.

Thank you to Justin Walker (JW) for his interesting articles. Additionally, thank you to Chris Wilkinson, Liz Cutting ([www.lizcuttingphotos.com](http://www.lizcuttingphotos.com)), BTO and Brian Macfarlane for the fantastic pictures.



**Wanted**

### Lound Lakes Warden

Would you like to work with the Broads Authority and Essex & Suffolk Water to manage the beautiful County Wildlife Site Lound Lakes for conservation, water quality and public enjoyment?

Can you volunteer one day a week?



If so please get touch.

