

RSPB Langford Lowfields – October 2019

Exciting news arrived this month in the form of a pallid harrier which was spotted on the reserve. This is only the second recorded sighting in Nottinghamshire ever and is the rarest bird to be seen at Langford. This sighting was verified by a few individuals on Saturday 12 October.

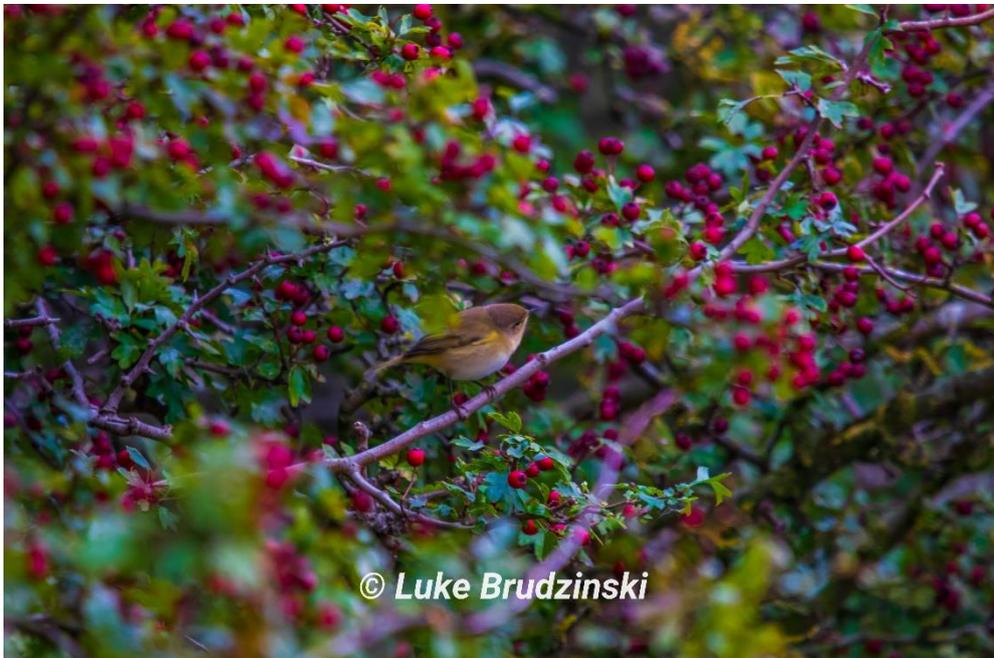
Starlings have started gathering, building up to the usual murmurations. We are currently seeing approximately 3000 starlings wheeling around on site at moment. This number should grow and grow up to December. If you are hoping to see a murmuration, you should aim for about one hour before sunset as this is the best time, and the weather needs to be windless with no rain.

The Environment Agency sent a group of 30 people as part of their annual outcome days to work on site. On this occasion they were helping to transplant reed from established areas on phase 2 across to phase 3 where we have bare mud and want reedbed to establish. It will take up to 30 years for reed to establish on phase 3 so it's still very much early days.

The volunteers and the Warden, Jenny, have started their annual scrub management work. They are thinning out a block of scrub on the western side of the reserve to make the habitat more favourable for grasshopper warblers. These are one of the priority species we want to try to provide for at Langford. Grasshopper warblers like isolated small bushes surrounded by long rank grass near to water. We had four on the reserve this year, compared to one last year and the year before that.

Other wildlife spotted recently include :

Wheat ear, spotted fly catcher and ringed plovers in September. Marsh harrier, stonechat, great white egret, bearded tits, whinchat, whooper swans flying overhead, and big flocks of pink footed geese seen during October.



© Luke Brudzinski

The water levels in the river and on the reserve are high at the moment so we are actively keeping an eye on Environment Agency flood warnings. If the river gets too high we will have to close the reserve – any updated information will be put out on twitter (@rspblangford); our blog

(www.rspb.org.uk/community/placestovisit/langfordlowfields/blog); or Facebook (<https://en-gb.facebook.com/RSPBNottinghamshireDerbyshire/>)

Join us for our next event at Langford

We are holding our Winter Wonderland Guided Walk on Saturday 7 December 2019 1.00-3.00 pm at Langford. Joe Harris, Site Manager, will lead the walk around the reserve talking about the site and its work, and seeing nature along the way. Booking is essential on 01636 893611 or Langford.Beckingham@RSPB.org.uk. Meet at Cottage Lane Car Park. Payment to be made on the day as follows:

Member Adult £8.00 / Child £4.00

Non Member Adult £10.00 / Child £5.00