

Lincoln Swan Project

November 2025 Newsletter

Dear Data Collector,

Welcome to the latest Lincoln Swan Project Newsletter! We have a few updates from the 2025 breeding season, and some interesting resightings.

We hope you find the newsletter interesting, and please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at lincolnswansightings@gmail.com with any comments or feedback. Please do continue to submit your swan sighting to us through the App – these are all incredibly valuable in contributing towards our ongoing research on the Lincoln Swan population.

Thank you for submitting your swan sightings to us!

Jenny & Laëtitia
The Lincoln Swan Project Team

Nesting & the 2025 Breeding Season

The first brood of cygnets to hatch this year was the East Brayford pair (L277 and L404). They nested on the Brayford Island, where it is always a bit of a mystery as to how many cygnets will appear, as we can't see into the nest! They managed to hatch 8 cygnets, of which six survived until August, when they were fitted with metal and yellow rings.



One of the first cygnets to hatch this year on the Brayford

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Interesting Resightings



L309 was ringed on the Brayford as one of a brood of 7, and her parents are the East Brayford pair (L277 and L404). She hadn't been seen since leaving her parent's territory in late 2023 but on 19/02/2025 she returned to the Brayford with a mate. It can be quite common for cygnets to return to their parent's territory in the hope they can take over the territory and breed themselves. L309 and mate were however quickly chased off by both breeding Brayford pairs.

L309 at the Brayford being chased off by her parents on the Brayford

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L310 is one of L309's siblings, also ringed at the Brayford on 02/08/2023. After leaving the Brayford, she's been sighted at Short Ferry twice, once in November and the next time in January 2024. She's not been sighted since then, until in April 2025 she was seen in Metherringham.

L312 was part of the same brood as L310 and L309. He hatched in May 2023 on the Brayford and was then ringed with his siblings on 02/08/2023. Since leaving his parents' territory, he hadn't been seen until April, when he was spotted with 12 other swans near Skegness, and in May he had moved on again to Cleethorpes Boating Lake!

L089 was ringed at The Brayford on 09/08/2019 as one of a brood of 8 from the West Brayford pair (L021 and L046). Once dispersing from her parent's territory she was seen on 02/05/2020 on the River Witham by Brant Road. She stayed in this area until later she was seen on a drain by Thorpe Lane on 24/06/2020. On 22/01/2025 she was sighted at Farndon, Newark in a non-breeding group of 80 – 100 swans.



L089 as a cygnet at the Brayford and her now in Farndon

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Avian Influenza

Sadly, Mute swans can be highly susceptible to avian influenza. While the Lincoln swan population has so far been lucky, we have recently received reports of other species of waterfowl showing signs of avian influenza in the Lincoln area, so we need to remain vigilant.

What to do if you find dead swans

If you find one or more dead swans, please avoid directly touching the birds. Please call the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77 (Mon-Fri 8 am to 6 pm) and select option 7. Please also let us know – regardless of whether the bird is ringed. Contact information is below, or you can report this through the App – please say in the comments box that the bird was dead when found.

2025 Ringing

In August we carried out our annual two days of family round-ups and cygnet ringing. The birds were rather elusive this year, but we managed to ring and health check 21 swans in total. Our wonderful BTO-licensed bird ringing volunteers have since been filling in the gaps and ringing any cygnets that we didn't manage to catch in August, meaning that most of the cygnets hatched in the Lincoln area in 2025 are now wearing a yellow colour ring. Please do continue to keep an eye out for colour rings and report your sightings through the App as these cygnets start to find their way in the world and leave their parents' territories.

New e-mail address!

Now that the administrative side of the Lincoln Swan Project has moved away from the University of Lincoln to Keele University, we have a new e-mail address for any e-mail inquiries or sightings that can't be submitted through the App. Please use lincolnswansightings@gmail.com. We will also have a new website up and running soon, at www.keele.ac.uk/lincoln-swan-project. So, please do visit and let us know what you think, and what information you would find useful to see on the website that isn't there already!

Donations

We are always seeking donations to support the work of the Lincoln Swan Project, to fund the cost of metal and colour rings – which costs approximately £4.50 per bird. This helps us continue our monitoring programme of ringing and health checking the Lincoln swan population. We appreciate any size of donation. For more information, please check the link below:

[Click here](#)

Thank You!!

Thank you for all your support for the Lincoln Swan Project!

Many thanks to all the Lincoln Swan Project data collectors who continually send their sightings of swans. If you're interested in becoming a project data collector and haven't yet signed up for the App, please visit – <https://tinyurl.com/lincolnswans> or send sightings via our email (lincolnswansightings@gmail.com). Tag us in any photos of Lincoln Swans on Twitter (@LincolnSwans), BlueSky (@lincolnswans.bsky.social) or Instagram (@lincolnswans)