



Cemex & RSPB Partnership Blog November 2025



Welcome to the November 2025 edition of **Earthly Matters**, the blog dedicated to the partnership between Cemex and the RSPB.

Partnership Update

By Carl Cornish, RSPB Senior Business Conservation Adviser

As we move further towards winter, birds are flocking together and arriving from further north. I visited Willington Sand and Gravel Quarry this month for the annual restoration progress meeting between Cemex and Derbyshire County Council. The restored lakes were alive with flocks of ducks and Lapwings. Wonderful to see them flying over the lakes and showed the importance of wetlands in river valleys for wildlife. Birds flock together for safety in numbers from predators, to find food, and roost together for warmth.

Bill Newton, Willington Quarry Manager, has a knowledgeable passion for the wildlife on the site and how he can help it thrive. I first met Bill at the Quarry and Nature Awards earlier this year when he deservedly received an award for his work.

A flock of Wigeon feeding on bank. Flocks arrive from northern Europe to spend the winter in the UK. They feed on grass by water.



Photo © Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

Guest Blog

Thank you to Jon Randle from east Leake Quarry who recently contacted the Communications team to let us know about the abundance of wildlife sightings at his sand and gravel quarry.

If you would like to share your wildlife sightings or experience with us please contact us gb-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com

By Jon Randle, Weighbridge Operative at East Leake Quarry

I joined Cemex this summer as a Weighbridge Clerk at East Leake Quarry in Nottinghamshire. Since then I've been blown away by the variety of wildlife that uses the site. So far I've logged 63 bird species, including Kingfishers and a late-staying Yellow Wagtail.

Over the summer we had at least 30 pairs of Sand Martins successfully breed here. That wouldn't have happened without Daren Stevens and Jamie Ewing, who kept an eye on water levels to stop the nests from flooding. At one point I counted more than 100 Sand Martins feeding overhead.

The quarry is also great for birds of prey, I've seen seven species hunting here, from Merlin and Peregrine to Red Kite. Clearly there's plenty of food around, from small mammals to other birds.

Now winter's arrived, the scene has changed again. We've seen big flocks of Greylag Geese, Starlings are gathering (I recently watched a murmuration of around 4000 Starlings), and Pink-footed Geese have been flying over. We've also had winter visitors from Scandinavia such as Fieldfares and Redwings.

It just shows how much wildlife a working quarry can attract when the habitat is right. I've been interested in birds and nature for over 50 years, and as a long-time RSPB and Wildlife Trust member, it's great to see this site getting the balance so right.

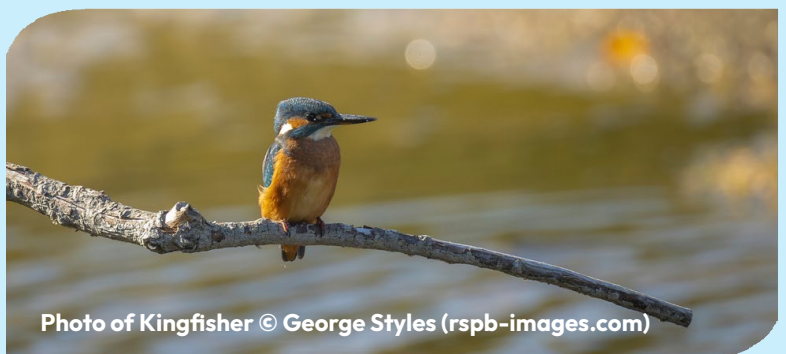


Photo of Kingfisher © George Styles (rspb-images.com)

Actions for Nature

This month we highlighted avian influenza (bird flu). The simple message for your safety is don't touch dead birds, but please do report so dead birds can be safely removed and tested. Testing tracks the species affected and where there are outbreaks.

Please read the article below for information on how to report. This advice applies to anywhere you see dead birds – gardens, parks, etc.

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) – Guidance for All Site Managers

This winter is expected to present a high risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the UK. Water birds such as ducks, geese, swans and gulls are among the groups most commonly affected. Because many Cemex sites include waterbodies, there's an increased likelihood that dead or sick wild birds could be found on site.

Signs of bird flu on a site is an increase in the number of dead birds. Symptoms in live birds can include:

- Swollen head
- Closed, runny eyes
- Unresponsiveness
- Lack of coordination, loss of balance and tremors
- Drooping wings
- Dragging legs
- Twisting of the head and neck

Key Risks

Avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds, but the virus can spread rapidly between wild populations and, in rare cases, may pose risks to people handling infected birds. For this reason, it's essential that no site staff, contractors or visitors handle dead or sick birds under any circumstances.

Your Responsibilities

All Site Managers and site teams have a duty to help prevent disease spread and support national monitoring efforts. If you find any dead wild birds on or near your site:

1. Do not touch or move the birds. Avoid direct contact with feathers, droppings, or surfaces contaminated by birds.
2. Report the finding immediately. Use the government's online reporting tool: [Report dead wild birds – GOV.UK](#). This helps Defra monitor species affected and track the spread of the disease.
1. Notify your Line Manager so the information can be logged and any additional site precautions assessed.

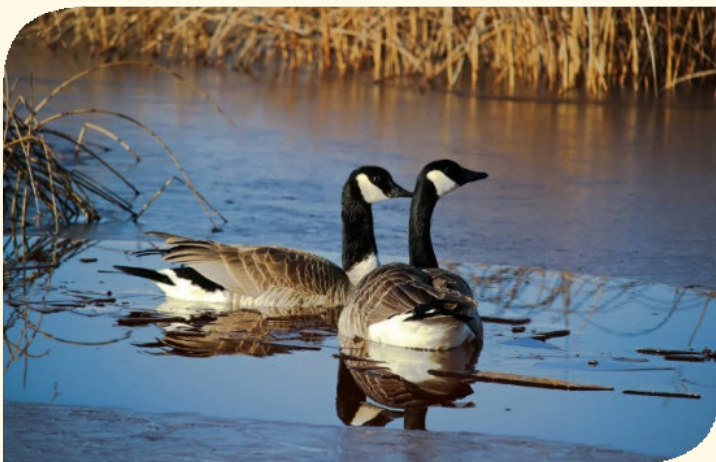
Further Information

Up-to-date information about affected species and locations can be found at:

[Bird flu \(avian influenza\): cases in wild birds – GOV.UK](#)

Remember – Do not touch but do report.

Helping monitor avian influenza protects wildlife, people, and our operations.



Send us your stories and photos

We are looking for staff stories to include in upcoming blogs, these can be experiences from work or home. We would love to share them in an upcoming blog.

Send them in to: ab-communicationsandpublicaffairs@cemex.com

