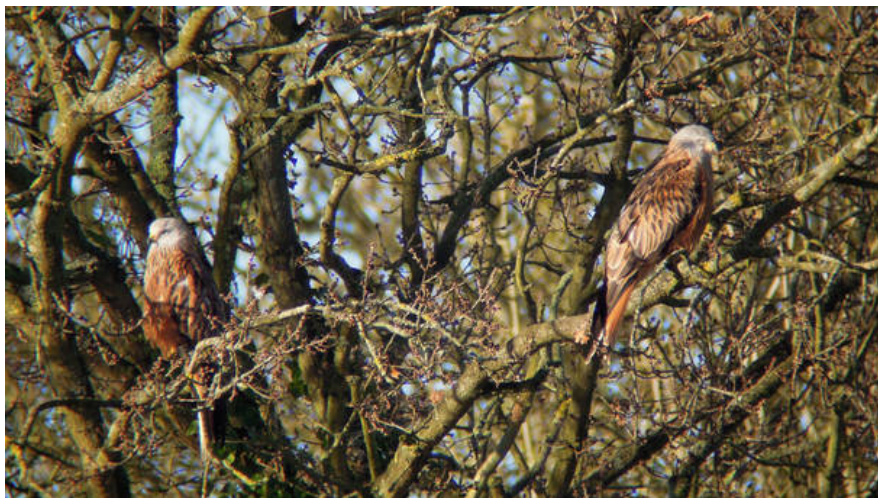


# Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society



## Tenth Annual Report 2012

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## **Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society**

### **2012 Annual Report**

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Covering the Wensum Valley from Norwich to Fakenham and beyond

Formed in March 2003 our aims are to :-

- encourage and share the enjoyment of birdwatching in the Wensum Valley
- encourage novice birdwatchers to take an active part in birdwatching
- share information with other members
- gather and collate data on birds in the area
- participate in regional and national surveys within the defined area
- liaise with other conservation groups within the area and more widely
- administer the Society in an environmentally sensitive manner

Meeting venue Weston Longville Village Hall (Jan – Mar) then North Elmham Village Hall (Apr – Dec) on the third Thursday of each month.

## Committee 2012

### Officers:

President	Alwyn Jackson
Chairman	Vacancy
Secretary	Lin Pateman
Treasurer	Martin Spriggs
Membership Secretary	Richard Norris
Publicity	Vacancy
Newsletter Editor	David Knight
Recorder	David Gibbons
Programme Coordinator	Ray Gribble
Loan Library	Josh Leeder
Member	Liz Bridge
Webpage	<a href="http://www.wvbs.co.uk">www.wvbs.co.uk</a>
Website Manager	Jacky Pett (resigned Oct 2012) Chris Kirby (co-opted Nov 2012)

*Front cover: Red Kites in the River Wensum valley 2012 photographed by member Paul Riley*

## **2012 Programme of meetings and events**

- |                                                  |                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>                        | Outdoor meeting - Winter Count<br>Leader - Richard Norris                            |
| <b>19<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>                       | Indoor meeting - "Galapagos – in the footprints of Darwin". Speaker - Dr Kevin Elsby |
| <b>29<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>                       | Outdoor meeting – NWT Hardley Flood NR<br>Leader – David Knight                      |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>                       | Indoor meeting – "Welney's wintering wildfowl"<br>Speaker – Samantha Lee (WWT)       |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>                       | Outdoor meeting – Holkham Park & NNR<br>Leader Mary Walker                           |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>                       | Indoor meeting – "The Art of Birds"<br>Speaker Steve Cale (WVBS member)              |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>                       | Outdoor meeting – Breckland<br>Leader Glenn Collier                                  |
| <b>19<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>                       | Indoor meeting – AGM followed by talk "NWT Foxley Wood NR". Speaker Alan Dixon       |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 12<sup>th</sup> May</b> | Warblers ID Workshop led by Steve Cale                                               |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>                       | Outdoor meeting – Cobble Acre Lakes, Costessey<br>Leader Alec Waller                 |
|                                                  | Indoor meeting "Sri Lanka's birds and wildlife"<br>Speaker David Pelling             |

<b>19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	WVBS participated in the Wild About the Wensum Conservation Fair at Pensthorpe
<b>27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Outdoor meeting – Dawn Chorus followed by bacon butties at NWT Sparham Pools NR. Leader Glenn Collier
<b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Birds of Prey ID Workshop led by Steve Cale
<b>21<sup>st</sup> June</b>	Outdoor meeting – Nightjar Evening at Marsham Heath. Leader Josh Leeder
<b>23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	WVBS participated in the Bioblitz at Weston Park, Lenwade
<b>19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Summer Social Evening at North Elmham Village Hall
<b>29<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Outdoor meeting – RSPB Lakenheath Fen NR Leader David Gibbons
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	Indoor meeting “Birds of Holkham” Speaker Andy Bloomfield (Warden Holkham NNR)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sept</b>	Outdoor meeting – RSPB Titchwell Marsh NR Leader Colin Fenn
<b>9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 12<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Waders ID Workshop led by Steve Cale
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Indoor meeting “Bears, Bison, Butterflies, Beavers and Bald Eagles”. Speaker Julia Burton

<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sept</b>	Outdoor meeting – Wash Cruise & RSPB Frampton Marsh NR. Leader Liz Bridge
<b>11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 14<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Gulls ID Workshop led by Steve Cale
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	WVBS participated in the Wild About Norfolk Conservation Fair at Easton College
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Indoor meeting “The wildlife of the Western Isles” Speaker David Mason (Wildlife photographer)
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Outdoor meeting – North Norfolk coast Leader Steve Cale
<b>8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Buntings, finches and pipits ID Workshop led by Steve Cale
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Outdoor meeting – East Norfolk Leader Ray Gribble
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Social Evening at North Elmham Village Hall



## Diary of events in 2012

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January: Winter Count.** This year seven teams took part in what has become an established and popular event in our calendar. Among the most notable birds seen were a Tundra Bean Goose among the Pink-footed geese at Shereford, a Short-eared Owl at Gt Ryburgh and a Great Grey Shrike near Fakenham football ground. In all 94 species were recorded and the eventual winners were Ian Brittain, Paul Riley and Tony Forster with a total of 77 species seen.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January: “Galapagos in the Footprints of Darwin” - a talk by Dr Kevin Elsby.** Dr Elsby’s talk described a visit to the Galapagos Islands which are situated 1000km of the coast of Ecuador. These 13 islands were visited by Charles Darwin in 1845 and are thought to be the inspiration for his famous publication on “The Origin of Species”. We were shown the various Galapagos finches that are mainly endemic only to their particular island habitat. The talk also included details of the land and marine animals that inhabit the islands such as iguanas, lizards, tortoises and thousands of sea lions.

This was a very informative and interesting talk that attracted a record total of well over 70 members.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January: Outdoor meeting at Hardley Flood led by David Knight.** The weather was cold and frosty when 18 members met at Chedgrave Church car park. Members got off to a good start with several species being seen even before moving off on what promised to be an excellent day. Hardley Flood was formed in the 1953 floods and in places is only a metre deep at high tide. It is renowned for its diversity of water loving birds and at the time of our visit the tide was out and so it was a mass of birds feeding on the mud. By the end of the day a total of 73 species had been seen on what had been a thoroughly enjoyable day.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February: “Welney’s Wintering Wildfowl” - a talk by Samantha Lee.** Samantha talked about the World Wildlife Trust which was founded by Sir Peter Scott and is dedicated to the restoration of wetlands throughout the UK. The Ouse Washes has the largest roost of Whooper and Bewick’s Swans in the UK and also up to 19 duck species arrive from their summer breeding grounds to winter at Welney. This was an eloquent presentation from someone with boundless enthusiasm for her subject.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February: Outdoor meeting in the Holkham area led by Mary Walker.** A good start to the day was promised when one of a pair of Rough-legged Buzzards was spotted in a bush at Egmere. We departed in bright sunshine and this set the scene for the rest of the day with a total of 87 species being recorded including 4 Shore Larks, 3 Slavonian Grebes, Long-tailed Duck and 9 Snow Buntings. Finally as the sun was going down on what had been a great days’ birding a Barn Owl and 2 Grey Partridge were seen.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March: “The Art of Birds” – a talk by Steve Cale.** This was our last meeting in Weston Longville Village Hall before it closed for refurbishment and was given by Society member Steve Cale.

In a fascinating talk he showed how he initiates a field sketch by using an arrangement of box like shapes to approximate the shape and posture of the subject and then transforms this into the rounded shape of the bird. Emphasis was placed on the importance of detailed observation particularly concerning how the prevailing light falls on different plumages. Steve continued by showing how making field sketches and careful notes can aid in species identification for anyone prepared to take the trouble. The evening finished with a close look at various Birds of Prey, a subject that is a particular favourite of Steve’s.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March: Outdoor Meeting in Breckland led by Glenn Collier.** This trip had an early start however 20 members were able to make it on time.

The day started at Santon Downham and watchers were soon rewarded by views of Great Grey Shrike, Lesser Redpoll, Siskin, Brambling, Redwing and for a lucky few Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Later the group moved off to Lynford Arboretum where possibly one of the best birds of the day was a Hawfinch and later a Firecrest displaying his raised crest for all to see.

In the afternoon we moved off to The Nunnery lakes taking in views of a Goshawk on the way. In all 68 species were seen and the lakes proved a fitting end to another enjoyable day.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April: AGM followed by a talk given by Alan Dixon on “A Year in Foxley Wood”.** After the Society’s business had been concluded in record time Alan began by outlining the history of the wood which is thought to be at least 6000 years old. Understandably the wood has undergone many changes in that time but its fortunes certainly changed for the better when it was taken over in 1989 by Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Alan showed by means of some detailed photographs how removing conifer plantations and introducing a regime of coppicing had enabled the natural flora and fauna to regenerate and thus providing a diverse habitat for animals and birds to enjoy. This talk was a foretaste of our field trip scheduled for later in the month.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April: Outdoor Meeting at Foxley Wood led by Alan Dixon.** On a grey wet morning 28 members met in the car park to see and learn about the wildlife of Foxley Wood that Alan had spoken about at our last indoor meeting.

Apart from its population of spring migrants such as Willow Warbler, Blackcaps and Chiffchaff the wood flourishes with many plants and flowers. So despite the inclement weather we were able to enjoy the

mass of bluebells in some of the rides as well as all the other spring flowering plants that this wood is famous for.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May: Warbler ID Workshop led by Steve Cale.** May is always a busy month for the Society and this year was no exception.

The first event of the month was an I.D. workshop on Warblers and comprised of a theory session followed on the Saturday morning by an outdoor trip to Swanton Morley Gravel Pits. As usual the Course was well attended and every one benefited from Steve's knowledge and ability to explain the finer points both of specie identification and the habitat they favour.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Outdoor Meeting at Cobble Acre Lakes, Costessey led by Alec Waller.** The purpose of this outing was for Alec to show us some of the 50+ nest boxes that he had made and erected around these fishing lakes.

One disturbing feature was the amount of nests that had been deserted either with cold eggs or young at all stages of development, surely a sign of the very wet cold spring. However from the active nest boxes members were given a demonstration of ringing by Ray Gribble. An added bonus was a pair of Marsh Tits taking food to a nest in a rotten branch less than a metre from the ground.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May: "A Look at some of Sri Lanka's Birds and Wildlife" – talk given by David Pelling.** David gave us an account of his recent trip to Sri Lanka accompanied as always by stunning photography of the wildlife including birds such as Layards Parakeet, Black Knapped Oriole, Paradise Flycatchers and assorted birds of prey, etc. Among other forms of wildlife seen were Langurs, Macaques, Indian Elephants, Water Buffalo and Giant Squirrels.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May: Wild about the Wensum at Pensthorpe.** We supported this event once again by supplying guides for the hides. Visitors fielded a range of questions about the birds on the scrapes and a total of 55 species were seen during the day. In the main marquee the Society also manned a stand which was busy for most of the day with a colouring competition for children.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May: Dawn Chorus and Bacon Butties.** Our annual Dawn Chorus was held on a bright sunny morning at Sparham Pools and 20 members convened for a 4.15am start. As usual we had special permission to walk over private land for this event. The varied habitat to be encountered makes this a privilege not to be missed.

A total of 59 species were seen including Spotted Flycatcher, Turtle Dove and a solitary Sand Martin. Also noted were Green Hairstreak, Orange Tip, Holly Blue and Green-veined White butterflies. As always our morning was topped off with tea and bacon butties to give a fitting end to the event.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June: Birds of Prey ID workshop led by Steve Cale.** Steve's keen eye for detail was bought to bear during this workshop that concentrated on birds of prey that we encounter here in Norfolk. Using a combination of photography, bird guides and sketches Steve provided everyone with clear pointers to the different species and preferred habitats.

Saturday morning gave everyone the chance to put theory into practice and during visits to several sites most of the species discussed earlier were seen by those present including Red Kite and for a privileged few Montagu's Harrier,

During the morning a Kestrel was seen to attack a Barn Owl and unsuccessfully rob the Owl of the prey it was taking to its young nearby.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June: Nightjar Evening at Marsham Heath.** This is another event that is a regular feature on our calendar and 25 members met in the gathering dusk on the heath.

Unfortunately although we could hear birds “churring” around us, sightings were few and far between and our only good view of the evening was when a male bird flew along the edge of the heath and briefly alighted on a nearby tree enabling most people a glimpse.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June: 24 Hour Bio Blitz at the Dinosaur Park.** This was a new event that aimed to record the Dinosaur Park's fauna and fauna present in twenty-four hours. Unfortunately the event was marred to some extent by poor weather but braving the elements some WVBS members were out at dawn to do a bird count that produced nearly 60 species and members were also instrumental, together with Butterfly Conservation, in recording 42 species of macro and 19 of micro moths.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July: Summer Barbecue and Social.** We held this event at our temporary home in North Elmham Village Hall. Despite the rain, awnings were quickly erected to keep both cooks and food dry and as usual everything was appreciated by those present. This was a pleasant and relaxing evening and a chance to catch up with old and new friends.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July: Outdoor Meeting at NWT Weeting Heath NR and RSPB Lakenheath Fen NR led by Ray Gribble.** Our visit started at Weeting where the Warden explained about the Stone Curlew's disastrous year in which only one chick had managed to fledge with the rest either being either predated or falling foul to the weather. All of the birds present appeared to be gathering prior to migration again and this was thought to be due to poor weather. A happier scene was presented by a family of spotted Flycatchers nesting near the hide. Moving on to Lakenheath Fen the group enjoyed good views of Hobby, Bearded Tit,

Kingfisher and in among the heavy showers a Bittern flying over. A bright spot gleaned from the Visitor Centre was the fact that Common Cranes breeding on the site were having a successful season and the flock was increasing in size.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August: “Birds of Holkham NNR” - a talk by Andrew Bloomfield.** Our speaker soon made us realise how much we had missed on previous visits to this beautiful part of the coast and gave pointers of what to look out for in future.

The talk was accompanied by excellent photography of the reserve which stretches from Burnham Overy Staithe to Stiffkey and on which the management has recently passed from Natural England to the Holkham Estate.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September: Outdoor Meeting on the North Norfolk Coast led by Colin Fenn.** The day started at Choseley Barns hoping for a sight of Corn Buntings but once again they proved elusive. However there was better luck at Titchwell where Green Sandpiper, Mandarin Duck, Greenshank and juvenile Red-crested Pochard were added to the list with later additions being Little Stint, Ruff and Hobby. Later on the beach a Purple Sandpiper was very obliging and this was followed by a sighting of an Arctic Skua, Eider and Common Scoter offshore.

The day finished at Holme where Sandwich Terns were on the beach and many Swallows were gathering before heading for warmer climes. In all a fine days birding with 93 species recorded.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September: Wader ID workshop led by Steve Cale.** Following the usual two part pattern the workshop started with a theory section followed by a field trip to Titchwell on the following Saturday. With fresh knowledge from the theory session participants were keen to put their skills to the test and with more expert guidance from Steve were soon picking out the notable points of jizz, shape and wing pattern present in different species. As always on these courses

everyone benefited from Steve's depth of knowledge and his ability to impart it to others.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September: "Bears, Bison, Butterflies, Beavers and Bald Eagles" - a talk by Julia Burton.** This talk covered a journey Julia had taken in the Great Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Accompanied as always by stunning photography the talk encompassed all aspects including history, geology and wildlife of the region and was thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September: Wash Cruise:** These cruises are run by volunteers from the RSPB South Lincolnshire Group and are always a popular event in our calendar. This year was no exception with over 30 members meeting aboard the Boston Belle for a trip down the river Witham and out into the mouth of the river.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October: Wild about Norfolk.** Once again we supported this event using our redesigned information stand and table display. Badge making facilities were provided for the Brownies and as always proved very popular. A steady stream of visitors kept our volunteers busy answering queries about the Society and its activities.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October: Gull ID Workshop led by Steve Cale.** Another in our series of workshops and this time it was on the knotty subject of Gull identification. During the theory session Steve patiently explained plumage changes through the first four years of a gull's life and differences shown during that time in the various species. A practical session was held on the Sunday morning when it was possible to put some of the new found knowledge to good effect. This was another interesting and successful addition to the programme which could only serve to stimulate interest in the careful observation of gulls.



**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October: “The Western Isles” - a talk by David Mason.**

This was the inaugural meeting in the brand new Weston Longville Hall For All and attracted a near record audience.

David's talk was accompanied by superb photography and really gave a feel for the islands. He visited each one in turn giving a brief outline of their history and customs, before showing the fantastic variety of birds and mammals that inhabit this corner of the British Isles at various times of the year.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October: Outdoor Meeting to the North Norfolk Coast led by Steve Cale.**

The trip started with a sea watch on what proved to be the coldest day of the autumn so far. But members were soon rewarded with fine views of a Little Auk together with flocks of Eider, Goldeneye, Teal, Common Scoter and Red-breasted Merganser flying past. Watchers were enlivened by the sight of a solitary Shag showing off its diving techniques. Stop-offs at Salhouse, Glanford and Stiffkey Fen produced a fine selection of species including Barred Warbler, Snow Bunting, Barnacle Goose, Black Redstart and finally a roost of 30-40 Little Egrets at Stiffkey Fen. In all a total of 91 species were recorded for the day.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November: Buntings, Pipits, Larks and Finches ID Workshop led by Steve Cale:**

Members met for the theory session at Sparham Old School Hall where the various plumage details between different species were patiently explained. This was followed on the Sunday by a visit to Titchwell when most of the species that were present on the day were successfully identified. A visit in the late afternoon to Thornham produced among other sightings a group of Rock Pipits flying over and against a brilliant picture book sunset a Barn Owl flying low over the marshes.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November: “Birding in Ethiopia” - a talk by Allan Hale.**

This was an account of a trip taken by Allan and friends in 2006. The talk was enlivened by interjections from other members of the party who were in the audience and who provided much humour for members. In addition to a very entertaining talk his stunning photography showed off the numerous brilliantly plumaged birds that inhabit this part of the world and showed the difficult conditions that some species have adapted to in this arid land.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November: Outdoor Meeting to Strumpshaw Fen, Great Yarmouth and Stubbs Mill Raptor Roost led by Ray Gribble.**

This was a very stormy day and after a quiet start at Strumpshaw Fen 11 members headed for the beach at Great Yarmouth and welcome refreshments. After this there was a session on the promenade to identify coloured ringed Mediterranean Gulls but here again a strong wind whipped up the sand making identification difficult. Undaunted we carried on to Hickling and a walk down to Stubbs Mill. By now the wind had dropped considerably and conditions were almost balmy. As the light began to fail we had good views of 10 Marsh Harriers in the sky together coupled with 1 male and two female Hen Harriers. In addition 2 Barn Owls were searching the marsh intent on an evening meal. In the gathering gloom 8 Common Cranes flew in to roost followed by a skein of around 500 Pink-footed Geese that circled around against a backdrop of rising moon and dark blue sky before finally landing in front of us. In all 62 species were recorded for the day.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Social.** This is an annual and popular event for members to finish the year off in style with music, quizzes and mountains of good food. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event such a success.

*This diary has been compiled from monthly contributions by David Knight, Liz Bridge, Glenn Collier, Lucy Topsom, Colin Wright, Ray Gribble, Richard Norris, Alwyn Jackson, Mary Walker, Lin Pateman, Sue Gale and David Gibbons.*

## The Systematic List

This Systematic List contains records from the Society's defined recording area astride the River Wensum valley (see map on page 72). Most records are *ad hoc* observations so the Report is therefore unsystematic and inevitably incomplete, reflecting observer interests, distribution and their inclination to submit records. Thank you to all the members who have contributed their records.

Records have been entered into the Society's spreadsheet by David Gibbons and the species texts have been drafted by David Gibbons, Ray Gribble, Alwyn Jackson and David Knight. The Systematic List has then been compiled by the Editor Alwyn Jackson. Steve Cale produced the line drawings that enhance it.

The Systematic List follows *The British List: a checklist of the birds of Britain* published by the British Ornithologists' Union. Those species which are proven or near proven escapes are treated in the Appendix. Throughout the List the English vernacular name is given first followed by the current scientific name.

Each entry contains a reference to the species' considered local status and the following status descriptors:-

Vagrant	A bird well outside its usual range
Passage Migrant	Mainly a migrant in spring and/or autumn
Resident	Breeds and present all year
Winter Visitor	Mainly occurs in winter
Summer Visitor	Mainly occurs as a breeding visitor in summer
Naturalised	Introduced deliberately or accidentally by man and now breeds in the wild

Each species header also indicates whether the species is included in the “Red”, “Amber” or “Green” List of *Birds of Conservation Concern 3 – The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man*.

“Red List” species are those which are “Globally Threatened” according to IUCN criteria, those whose population or range has declined rapidly over a twenty-five year period and those which have suffered a historical decline in breeding population.

“Amber List” species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe, those whose population or range has declined moderately over a twenty-five year period, those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery, rare breeders and those with internationally important or localised populations.

“Green List” species are those which meet none of the above criteria.

Abbreviations used in the Report may be found in the following list:-

BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
GP	Gravel Pit
HBW	Hoe Bird Walk
HOT	Hawk & Owl Trust
NarVOS	Nar Valley Ornithological Society
NR	Nature Reserve
NWT	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SW	Sewage Works

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

*Fairly common breeding resident. Green listed.*

Numbers 1 to 10 seen every month throughout the valley. Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe, Hoe Common with a nest at Sparham Pools. Highest numbers 35 at Swanton Morley on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr, 36 at Bylaugh Marshes on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr and 31 at Sennowe Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The Costessey / Ringland area saw numbers around 25 on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. (DG)

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus colombianus*

*Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed.*

One report of 7 at Pensthorpe on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. (DG)

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

*Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed.*

Two reported sightings, 15 at Pensthorpe on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb and 28 flying west over Sparham on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. (DG)

**Bean Goose** *Anser fabilis*

*Both nominate form (Taiga Bean Goose) and Siberian form rossicus (Tundra Bean Goose) very scarce winter visitors to valley. Taiga form Red listed. Tundra form Amber listed.*

Two reported sightings of Tundra form, 4 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan at Toftrees and single bird on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan during the Society's Winter Bird Count. (DG)

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

*Uncommon winter visitor to WVBS area, most birds are recorded flying over. Amber listed.*

Twenty records of birds flying over the valley this year during both winter periods. Highest counts - 1000 at Toftrees on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2000 at Shereford on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, 100 seen on HBW on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, 150+ at Drayton on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, 125 over the Tud Valley at Costessey on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct and 120 at Hindolveston on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. (DG)

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

*Very scarce winter visitor. Red listed.*

Two sightings this year both at Pensthorpe with 9 on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb and 6 on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar. (DG)

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

*Common naturalised resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Notable counts - 250 during HBW (Hoe Common area) in Jan, 200 at West Raynham Lakes in June and 130 at Pensthorpe in Dec. Evidence of breeding at Hevingham and Lenwade Common with 20 and 7 juveniles in May respectively. (DG)

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

*Common naturalised resident. Green listed.*

Recorded in the valley in every month. Highest count at Costessey/Ringland with 50+ on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 42 at Pensthorpe on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24 recorded at Swanton Morley on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb and also at Hoe Common on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 10 seen at Sparham Pools on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. Evidence of breeding at Hevingham and Lenwade Common and Sennowe Park. (DG)

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

*Mainly naturalised resident but birds from east Greenland and the Russian/Baltic populations possibly scarce winter visitors. Amber listed.*

Records from 2 sites, 1 at West Raynham in Aug and max 75 in the first winter period at Pensthorpe with max 30 in second period. (DG)

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

*Naturalised resident, locally common.*

Recorded in the valley in most months. Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe, Hoe Common and at Lenwade Common with 2,7 and 8 juveniles respectively. Highest counts - 12 at Swanton Morley on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 10 during HBW on 19<sup>th</sup> May and 28-55 in Aug/Sept at Pensthorpe. (DG)

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

*A scarce visitor to the valley. Amber listed.*

Recorded at 5 sites. Five at Dereham SW 8<sup>th</sup> Jan; 4 during HBW 15<sup>th</sup> Jan; 3 at Bittering GP on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr; 1-7 at Pensthorpe between Jan – July with pair having up to 5 juvs in June. Evidence of breeding also at West Raynham Lakes in June. (DG)

**Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

*Very scarce naturalised resident.*

A single bird present at Dereham SW on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr (IB). (DG)

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

*A fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

Seen Jan-Apr and Sept-Dec at Bittering Pits, Costessey, Ringland, Sparham Pools, Lenwade and Pensthorpe. Highest counts – 40 at Bittering Pits and 129 at Pensthorpe in Jan. Many counts of between 20 – 142 in second winter period at Pensthorpe. (DG)

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

*Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

Seen throughout the year with highest counts at Sparham Pools of 20, 30 and 50 in the first winter period. Evidence of breeding at West Raynham Lakes and Pensthorpe. Regular sightings at Pensthorpe with the highest count of 41 in Dec. (DG)

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

*Fairly scarce winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.*

Recorded most months and at 6 valley sites. At Sparham Pools 10 birds in Jan but highest counts were from Pensthorpe with 105 in Jan and 258-546 in the second winter period. (DG)

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

*Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

Recorded in small numbers every month of the year in the valley.

Hoe Common saw numbers around 10 from Jan to Apr, 14 at Sparham Pools in Jan, 16 at Pensthorpe in Nov, 23 recorded at Lenwade Common and a record 20+ in Costessey/Ringland area in Dec. Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools. (DG)

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

*Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Records from 2 sites. In Jan a duck at Pensthorpe on 1<sup>st</sup> and a male on 12<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. In Feb 2 at Sparham GP on 8<sup>th</sup> then 3 males & a female at Pensthorpe on 16<sup>th</sup> with male still present on 19<sup>th</sup>. A male at Pensthorpe on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct & 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov considered to be a captive bird was followed by 2 females on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec with one still present on 30<sup>th</sup>. (DG)

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

*Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

A single record – 1 pair at Sparham GP on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr (CS). (DG)

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

*A winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.*

Seen most months at Pensthorpe with up to 20 in Mar. Also seen at Sparham and Sparham Pools with 2 to 4 birds in Jan and Feb. (DG)

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

*Very rare wild or naturalised vagrant.*

Two records from Pensthorpe with 1 male on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2 males & 1 female 18<sup>th</sup> Apr. (TS). (DG)



**Pochard** *Aythya farina*

Fairly common passage migrant & winter visitor, rare breeder. **Amber listed.**

Recorded at 4 sites, highest counts 12 at Sparham Pools on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan & 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 11 at Sparham GP on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 12 at Pensthorpe on 15<sup>th</sup> Mar and 6 Hall Walk Lakes, Lenwade on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. Present at Pensthorpe in every month except Aug and Sept with numbers in single figures. (DG)

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Scarce breeder, fairly common passage migrant & winter visitor. **Amber listed.**

Records from 12 sites in the valley and present all year. Highest counts 80 at Pensthorpe in Jan and 30 in Mar; 85 at Sparham Pools in Feb. Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe (5 broods). In the second winter period around 50 daily at Pensthorpe and 24 at Swanton Morley GP and Sparham Pools in Nov. (DG)

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Very rare winter visitor. **Red listed.**

Male at Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> Apr (GE). (DG)

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Very scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

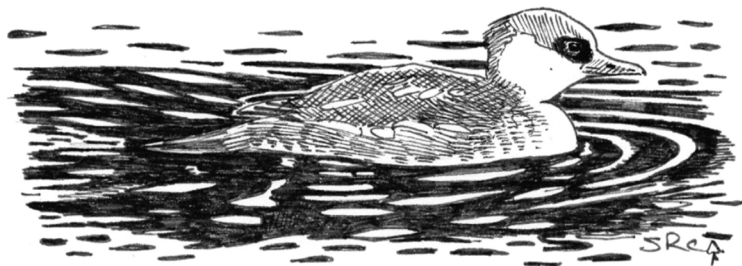
Records from 3 sites. Pensthorpe recorded up to 5 birds on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan with 2 birds on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec; Sparham GP 2 birds on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb; Costessey Pits recorded 2 birds on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. (DG)

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

Very rare winter visitor. **Amber listed.**

Recorded at 2 sites. At Pensthorpe 1 bird (drake) was recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Jan with 3 birds (drake/2 redheads) on 6<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Feb and 1 bird on river on 9<sup>th</sup>. A bird at Sparham GP on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb remained until 12<sup>th</sup>. Latest record 1 redhead at Pensthorpe on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. (DG)

*Smew female/immature, by Steve Cale*



**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

*Scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Green listed.*

Recorded at 3 sites in both the first and second winter periods. Highest numbers were at Sparham Pools with 11 birds on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Sparham Lakes saw 8 birds on Mar 6<sup>th</sup>. Pensthorpe again had birds in both periods with a maximum of 4 birds on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. (DG)

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

*Common naturalised resident.*

The area around Springfield Cottage, North Tuddenham was a good place to see these birds with up to 14 in most months. Worthing saw the greatest numbers with 16 in Jan, 30 in Oct and 38 in Dec with the area around the church being particularly fruitful. Recorded at Pensthorpe in all months with a maximum of 20 in Oct. Hoe Common had records in most months with 17 recorded in Aug and we also had records from Marriott's Way, Drayton and Costessey areas. (DG)

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

*Scarce resident, declined in recent years. Red listed.*

The highest count was just outside Fakenham with 23 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and 8 birds were recorded at Colkirk on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. North Tuddenham was again a good place for these birds with the highest count of 4 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> Aug. Sparham Hall Farm recorded 4 birds on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. Records were also from the Daffy Green and Scarning areas. (DG)

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

*Very common naturalised resident.*

Game management in the valley is widespread and involves the release of thousands of pheasants in the late summer/early autumn.

Recorded throughout the valley in most months of the year with the highest counts of 10 birds at Pensthorpe in May and 16 from the Hoe Bird Walk in Dec. (DG)

**Golden Pheasant**

*Chrysolophus pictus*

*Very scarce naturalised resident.*

One record of single bird at Sculthorpe Moor in Jan. (DG)

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

*Very rare irruptive visitor. Amber listed.*

One interesting record of an immature bird inland at Shereford on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept (JL). (DG)

*Immature Gannet, by Steve Cale*



**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Fairly common winter visitor increasing in numbers, some non-breeding birds present in summer. **Amber listed.**

The Hoe Bird Walk and Pensthorpe recorded birds in all months with 18 on the HBW and 19 at Pensthorpe in Jan. Records of 2's and 3's from Lyng and Costessey and 6 at Sparham Pools in Jan. (DG)

**Bittern** *Botaurus Stellaris*

Very scarce winter visitor. **Red listed.**

Recorded at 2 sites, at Pensthorpe in both winter periods with 1 bird seen on a regular basis and 2 birds seen on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec and at Sculthorpe Moor 1 bird on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. (DG)

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Very scarce resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded at Worthing, Ringland, Swanton Morley, North Tuddenham, Elsing, HBW, Scarning, Hindolveston, Lenwade, Scarning with 4 in Feb, Sparham Pools, Costessey and Pensthorpe with 5 in Apr. Reported in all months at one or more of these sites. The highest count was at Worthing Village with 12 birds in Apr. (DG)

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

A very rare vagrant.

Single on marsh adjacent to Costessey Lane, Drayton on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (LP). (DG)

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded at 18 sites in the valley including Lenwade, Guist Common, Bintree, Taverham, West Raynham Lakes, Scarning, Worthing and Swanton Morley.

Present at Pensthorpe and on the HBW in all months with small numbers of 1 to 3 birds. (DG)

**Little Grebe** *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

*Very scarce resident and winter visitor. Breeds in small numbers. **Amber listed.***

Recorded at Pensthorpe in all months with a max 5 in May. HBW recorded them in most months with 2 sightings in Mar being the highest. Also records from Ringland, Swanton Morley and Bintree Mill. (DG)

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

*Scarce resident often departing to the coast in winter months. **Green listed.***

Good numbers throughout the year with evidence of breeding at Lyng GP (2 pairs) and at Sparham Pools (1 pair). Recorded at Pensthorpe and on the HBW in most months. Records also from Swanton Pits with 5 in Jan and Lenwade Common with a pair in Apr. (DG)

**Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

*Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. **Amber listed.***

Only 2 records, both of late migrants. Toftrees 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept (JLa) and Swanton Morley GP 6<sup>th</sup> Oct (IB, DN). (RG)

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

*Very scarce resident established from reintroductions elsewhere in England. **Amber listed.***

Seen more frequently this year, in most months, with the majority of sightings in the Ringland - Costessey area with 2 birds on several occasions. Honingham also was a good spot for viewing this bird. Also recorded at Frans Green, Hockering, Springfield Cottage (N Tuddenham), Lyng Easthaugh, Lenwade, Colkirk, Sculthorpe Moor, Pensthorpe and Marsham Heath. (DG)

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

*Very scarce passage migrant and increasing summer visitor to valley breeding in small numbers. **Amber listed.***

Recorded in most months in the valley. Evidence of breeding at Helhoughton with 3 juveniles ringed and tagged in July and one pair at Guist Common in Apr. Two at Swanton Morley in Feb, 5+ birds at Sculthorpe Moor in Mar and recorded at Pensthorpe in most months. Also single bird at Scarning in Apr and at Tattersett in July with regular fly-throughs during the year at Sparham Hall Farm. (DG)

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

*Rare passage migrant and winter visitor to the valley. **Red listed.***

Six sightings during the first 5 months of the year. Single birds at Sculthorpe, Sculthorpe Mill, Coxford Abbey with ringtail at Queen's Hill, Costessey in Jan. Ringtail also recorded at Honingham in Feb, at Pensthorpe in May and a female flying between Fakenham and Great Ryburgh also in May. (DG)

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

*Rare passage migrant and winter visitor to valley. **Green listed.***

A single bird was recorded at Pensthorpe on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (MP). (DG)

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

*Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. **Green listed.***

Reports from over 30 sites throughout the year with evidence of hunting for garden birds in several sites. Recorded on the HBW and at Pensthorpe in most months. Highest numbers include 3 on the HBW in Feb and Apr, 4 at Ringland in Apr with 3 in Hockering Woods and 4 at Scarning in Aug. Possible evidence of breeding at Scarning where 1 fem and 3 juvs seen on 8<sup>th</sup> Aug. (DG)

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo**Scarce resident and passage migrant. Green listed.*

Recorded at Pensthorpe in all months with 6 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 4 on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar, 5 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr and 5 on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. The HBW had records for most months with 6 on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr, 4 on 17<sup>th</sup> June and 3 on 5<sup>th</sup> July. At Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham records of 11 on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar and 6 on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. Further high counts of 5 at Ringland on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10 at Honingham on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6 at Hindolveston on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar, 6 at Costessey/Ringland on 10<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Apr & 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 8 at Swanton Novers on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 7 at Costessey on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 8 at Scarning on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept and 5 on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct, 5 at Swanton Morley GP on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. The highest count on one day was 16 at Lyng on 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. One report of a breeding pair at Sparham.

Records from a further 44 sites largely of 1 or 2 birds. (DG)

**Osprey** *Pandion halaetus*

*Very scarce passage migrant, increasing in frequency in recent years. Amber listed.*

The first record was a single Tuddenham on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr (PS) then one sitting on the Osprey platform at Pensthorpe on 29<sup>th</sup> May must have raised expectations (TS). Possibly the same bird was at Swanton Morley GP on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June (PR). Two were at the latter site on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct (DK) and 1 the next day (IB). There were several autumn sightings from Sparham Pools area – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept and 5<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct (CS). (RG)

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

*Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Records of 1 to 3 birds in many locations. Evidence of breeding at Sparham Hall Farm where 2 pairs bred and at Pensthorpe where 3 juvs were ringed in June. A family party of 4 subsequently reported at Pensthorpe on 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug. Seen on most months on the HBW with 3 on 15<sup>th</sup> July and 4 birds on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. Swanton Novers recorded 3 birds on 10<sup>th</sup> June. (DG)

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

*Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.*

The first record was an incredibly early 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar at Sculthorpe Moor HOT (NMid). This matches the earliest ever record for Norfolk – at Belaugh in 1866!

Records flowed in from 30<sup>th</sup> Apr when 1 at Sparham Hall Farm (CS) then 3 at Costessey Pits 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2 at Pensthorpe 8<sup>th</sup> May where 8 sightings of singles through May. Also from Costessey, Gt Ryburgh, HBW, Lenwade Common, Lenwade Dinosaur Park, Scarning, Sennowe Park, Swanton Morley GP, Swanton Novers. At Sparham Hall Farm there were “1 or 2 during May then none until Aug. A lot of Sept records”

The last record was 1<sup>st</sup> Oct Pensthorpe (DW). (RG)

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

*Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

A pair at Norwich Cathedral recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb bred again and 2 chicks flew from the nesting platform on the spire in June but unfortunately the 3<sup>rd</sup> sibling did not survive. There were many sightings of single birds at other times with 2 birds still present on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. Single on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan at Sculthorpe and Pensthorpe where a female was seen killing a Tufted Duck. Continued records of single birds at Pensthorpe in Apr and May as well as a juvenile female in Sept, Nov and Dec. Also 1 bird at Sparham Pools on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan probably the same bird seen at Sparham on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. (DG)

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquatus*

*Very scarce resident and winter visitor. Green listed.*

At Sculthorpe Moor HOT sightings can almost be guaranteed on your visit with the highest record of 3+ birds on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Pensthorpe submitted records in the two winter periods with the highest record of 3 on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Records elsewhere from Hellesdon Mill Marshes, Scarning, Swanton Morley, Sparham GP and at Dereham SW where 3 birds were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar. (DG)



**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*.

*Common resident supplemented by autumn immigrants. Green listed.*

Recorded in 9 locations and throughout the year. This is an overlooked species and probably under-recorded. Highest counts 8 during HBW on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7 at Pensthorpe on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Proof of breeding at Lenwade Common on 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug where 3 chicks were observed (RG). (DK)

**Coot** *Falica atra*.

*Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.*

Records from only 6 locations with the highest counts of 25 at Sparham Pools on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and 50 on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb (DH) with 41 at Swanton Morley GP on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. Proof of breeding at Hevingham Cobble Acre Lakes on 26<sup>th</sup> Apr when 1 pair and 4 juveniles were seen (RG). (DK)

**Common Crane** *Grus grus*.

*A rare visitor from the small resident population in the Broads, free flying from Pensthorpe's breeding programme or less likely a continental vagrant. Amber listed.*

There was 1 at Sculthorpe Moor on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (IB), 2 over the B1146 near Brisley on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb (CF) and singles on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr & 2<sup>nd</sup> May both at Costessey (AB). The remaining 25 sightings were at Pensthorpe throughout the year with a max count of 11 on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb (MP *et al*). (DK)

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

*Scarce summer visitor. Amber listed.*

First sighting of the year 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan at Pensthorpe then recorded regularly through to end of Aug with a max of 9 on 9<sup>th</sup> July and breeding observed of 2 juveniles with 2 adults on 29<sup>th</sup> May (TS). Other sites with up to 4 birds include Dereham, Gunton Lakes, Hoe Bird Walk, Scarning, Sennowe Park, Sparham, Swanton Morley and Worthing. (DK)

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Recorded from 2<sup>nd</sup> March through to 25<sup>th</sup> Aug with by far the majority of sightings at Pensthorpe where a max count of 7 on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr (TS, *et al*) and three chicks observed at the nest between 18<sup>th</sup> July and 25<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Other sightings were 2 at Sparham Pools on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr (DN), 2 at Sparham GP on 28<sup>th</sup> May (CS) and 1 at Sennowe Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (PJ). (DK)

**Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedichnemus*

Very scarce summer visitor. **Red listed.**

A single record from the Marsham area on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr (DG). (DK)

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Passage migrant and very scarce summer visitor. **Green listed.**

Reported from 19<sup>th</sup> Mar at Pensthorpe where at least 1 pair bred on the scrape. Max count was 3 adults with 3 chicks on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Last record 3 on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug (TS *et al*).

Elsewhere singles Sennowe Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (NarVOS) and Ringland on 19<sup>th</sup> June (PS). (DK)

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Very rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

Six records all at Pensthorpe through the month of May with 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> were the first for 5 years (TS). Single bird on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May with a further single on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug (BS *et al*, E B-J, TS, GE). (DK)

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. **Amber listed.**

Between Jan and Apr max counts of 120 at Collin Green, Lyng on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (RG), 60 at Longham on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (IB et al), 200 during HBW on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan (DK), c100 at Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> Mar (PJ), 100 at Scarning on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar (IB) and 150+ at N Tuddenham on 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr (B&BP; DN).

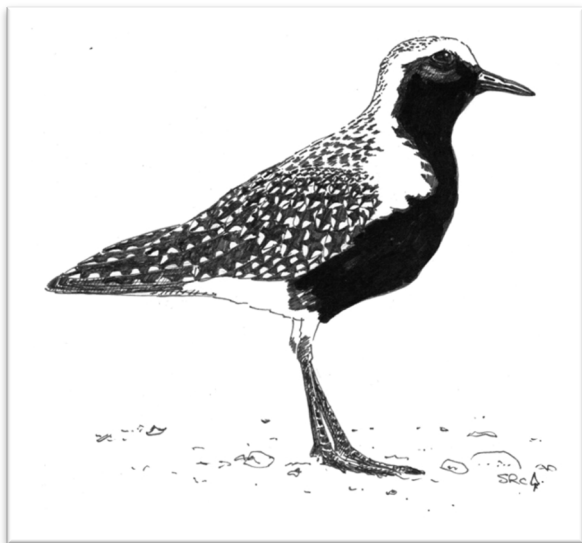
Only two records in the second winter period - 25 at Mill Farm, N.Tuddenham on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct (B&BP) and 15 at Sparham on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (CS). (DK)

**Grey Plover**

*Pluvialis squatarola*

Very rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

A single bird at Pensthorpe on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May the first record there for five years (TS, BS et al). (DK)



Grey Plover,  
by Steve Cale

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

*Scarce summer visitor, common winter visitor and passage migrant. **Red listed.***

Recorded every month with significant sightings of 600 at Scarning on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (TB), 200 at Hoe (C&JF et al) and 300 at Rushmeadow, Dereham on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (IB, PR, TF), 88 at Pensthorpe on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan (TS), 46 at Worthing on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan (DK) and 92 at Pensthorpe on 29<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe where separate adults with 4 chicks and one with large juvenile during the month of July (TS). Although 5 pairs were recorded at Sennowe Park in June no subsequent reports of breeding received.

During the second winter period max monthly counts at Pensthorpe were 170 in Sept, 110 in Oct, c70 in Nov and c200 in Dec. Other sites with good numbers include 62 at Swanton Morley GP on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct and 77 in Tud Valley, Costessey on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. (DK)

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

*Very rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.***

Just one record of a single bird at Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> July (TS). (DK)

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

*Very rare passage migrant. **Red listed.***

Four records all at Pensthorpe in May 5 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 19<sup>th</sup> with a single bird on 10<sup>th</sup> July (BS et al, MB, TS). This was only the second time in five years this species had been recorded at this site. (DK)

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

*Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. **Amber listed.***

Single bird at Pensthorpe from beginning of Jan until 9<sup>th</sup> Feb with 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan (EB-J, GE). A single bird at Sculthorpe Moor on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan (DH) and a further 2 at Dereham SW on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar (IB). (DK)

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

*Very scarce resident and scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.*

**Amber listed.**

The first winter period showed some significant counts in the valley with several counts in the high teens - 16 at Costessey on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan (AB), 31 at Pensthorpe on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan (TS) and 16 at Dereham SW on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar (IB). Smaller numbers recorded at Guist Common (4), Scarning (2), Sculthorpe Moor (7) and Sparham Hall Farm Lakes (1).

During the second winter period there were much smaller numbers and mainly 1-3 seen at Pensthorpe with a max of 4 on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct (EB-J, GE, TS). Singles also at Ringland Flood Marsh and Worthing Church area. (DK)

**Woodcock** *Scotopax rusticola*

*Scarce resident, fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Amber listed.**

Generally singles during the first winter period with 4 at Whitwell on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (PL, BB), 8 at Sparham on 1<sup>st</sup> Mar (CS) and 15 at Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> Mar (PJ) were the exceptions. The latest record of this period was 1 at Costessey Marshes on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr (AB).

In the second winter period singles at Costessey, Drayton, Pensthorpe and Salle with the exception of 2 at Pensthorpe on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (TS). (DK)

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed. (islandica).*

Three records all at Pensthorpe with 2 on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar and singles 30<sup>th</sup> Mar and 7<sup>th</sup> Apr (TS). (DK)

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

One sighting of a single bird at Costessey on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept (A&AG). (DK)

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

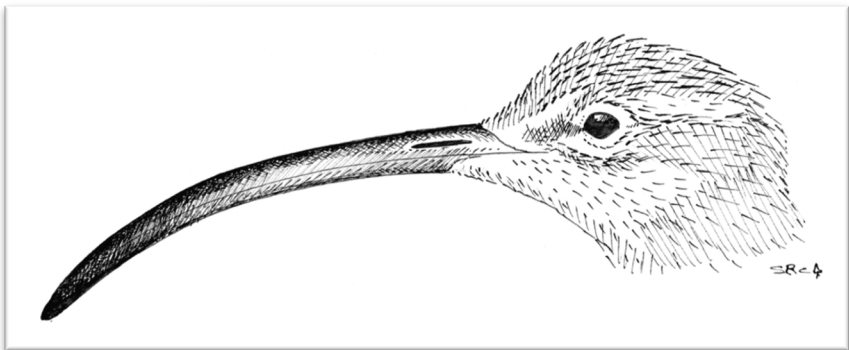
Rare passage migrant. **Red listed.**

Single bird recorded at Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> July (GE). (DK)

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

Rare sighting in the valley with 2 at Swanton Morley (Carrick Estate) on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr (DH) and 1 heard HBW on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar (DK). (DK)



*Curlew, by Steve Cale*

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

First sighting of 2 at Pensthorpe on 2<sup>nd</sup> May with further records through the month with max 4 birds the 19<sup>th</sup> (BS *et al*, EB-J, TS). Also single bird at Sparham GP on 9<sup>th</sup> May (CS). Two at Pensthorpe on 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug possibly autumn passage birds. (DK)

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

*Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

There were two early sightings of single birds at Scarning and Dereham SW both on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (IB). All others were seen at Pensthorpe with 2 on 16<sup>th</sup> June followed by other sightings of 1-5 birds through June, July and August with a max 7 on 13<sup>th</sup> July (TS). Two later records of single birds on 4<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Sept (TS). (DK)

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

*Very rare passage migrant. Green listed.*

Two records of single birds both at Pensthorpe on 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Aug (GE, TS). (DK)

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Single birds at Pensthorpe on 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Aug (EB-J, TS). (DK)

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.

*Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

First of the year seen at Pensthorpe on 19<sup>th</sup> Mar with 2 of the 3 birds displaying (EB-J). Then birds present throughout Mar, Apr, May, and until 11<sup>th</sup> June with up to 3 on 4<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May (TS). Two later records of single birds at Scarning on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct (IB) and on river's flood plain at Ringland on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec (AB). (DK)

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce breeder. Amber listed.*

Recorded every month of the year in the valley with some significant numbers. Several counts of up to 60 in 7 locations with 83 at Sparham Pools NR on 2<sup>nd</sup> May with at least 14 on nests (RG). The highest first winter count of 680 at Pensthorpe was an unusually high number for that area (TS). (continues)

**Black-headed Gull** (continued)

A high summer count of 60 at North Tuddenham on 20<sup>th</sup> June (B&BP) was also unusual. Breeding at Sparham Pools NR where 25 pairs nesting on island having displaced the Common Terns. One pair nesting on the Society's tern raft at Sparham Hall Farm fishing lake and a juvenile recorded at Pensthorpe on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July. Highest counts in the second winter period were 170 at Pensthorpe on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept, 150 at Worthing on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov and over 1000 in the Costessey/Ringland area on 4<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Dec (SC). (DK)

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

*Rare winter visitor. Amber listed.*

Nine sightings mainly single birds at Pensthorpe through the summer months with the first record of 2 adults on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr. Two birds also on 28<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> July with the latest a single on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept (GE, TS). (DK)

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

*Common winter and scarce summer non-breeding visitor. Amber listed.*

Good numbers in the first winter period with several counts in the mid-twenties with 64 at Pensthorpe on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (TS) and 40 at Ringland on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan (DH). Numbers declined over the summer months to 1's, 2's, and 3's with HBW, Pensthorpe and Worthing being predominant sites.

Numbers increased again in the second winter period with by far the highest count of 200 at Ringland (SC). (DK)

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

*Fairly common winter and scarce non-breeding summer visitor. Amber listed. (graellsii).*

Generally single birds seen throughout the year except Mar and July. Good numbers at East Costessey with 36 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, at Gunton Lane, Costessey 30 also on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, Costessey (SC) and North Tuddenham with 20 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept (B&BP). (continues)



### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (continued)

Several counts of 3-4 birds with 3 at Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr and 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, 3 at N Tuddenham on 20<sup>th</sup> June and 4 during HBW on 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. There were birds also recorded at the Bio-Blitz held at Lenwade Dinosaur Park in June. (DK)

### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

*Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor with some birds remaining throughout the year. **Amber listed.***

First winter period max 4 at Pensthorpe on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (TS), 4 at Costessey on 6<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Apr (SC) and 3 on 30<sup>th</sup> (PS). There were three sightings midseason all at Pensthorpe with 2 on 14<sup>th</sup> Jul and two single birds on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. The second winter period majority of records were from Pensthorpe with 12 on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec being the highest number of the year, a single at Worthing on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov and 6 during HBW on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. (DK)

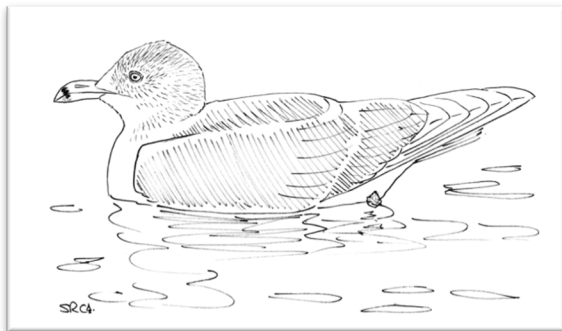
### **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

*Very scarce but increasing passage migrant. **Amber listed.***

A single bird recorded at Sparham on 31<sup>st</sup> July (CS). (DK)

### **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides glaucoides*

*Very rare winter visitor and passage migrant. **Amber listed.***



One record of single bird at Dereham SW on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (IB). (DK)

*Third winter  
Iceland Gull,  
by Steve Cale*

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

*Scarce non-breeding visitor present throughout the year. Amber listed.*

During first winter period mainly single adult birds recorded at HBW, Pensthorpe, Ringland and Scarning. Five at Ringland on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan was the highest count and the latest sighting was at Scarning on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr. The second winter period birds were all recorded at Pensthorpe with a max 3 on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. (DK)

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

*Very scarce passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Three at Sparham Pools on 19<sup>th</sup> May (IB, DN, CS). (RG)

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

*Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Recorded from Lenwade to Guist Common along the river. Earliest record 12<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes (tern raft lake) (CS).

Breeding records from Pensthorpe where 1 pair and 2 chicks on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug (TS); NWT Sparham Pools NR 6 pairs on 25<sup>th</sup> May; WVBS tern raft on Sparham Hall Farm fishing lake 12 pairs also on 25<sup>th</sup> May (RG *et al*).

There were no records after 25<sup>th</sup> Aug when there were 4 adults with 3 large chicks at Pensthorpe (TS). (RG)

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

*Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

A single was reported from Costessey Pits on 1<sup>st</sup> May (AB). (RG)

**Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia*

*Common resident associated with human habitation. Green listed.*

Three records – present at Sparham on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 3 at Costessey-East on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr and single during HBW on 15<sup>th</sup> July. (DK)

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

*Fairly common resident. Amber listed.*

Seen throughout the valley and recorded every month of the year. The majority of sightings were of 1-4 birds with higher counts of 18 at Worthing and 14 at Pensthorpe on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, 13 at Worthing on 13<sup>th</sup> Mar, 10 at N.Tuddenham and Pensthorpe on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 20 at Pensthorpe on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept and 20 at Worthing on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.

There was proof of breeding at Felthorpe on 24<sup>th</sup> May where the young were ringed and a nest at Taverham Fishery produced 1 chick. (RG, RN). (DK)

**Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*

*Very common resident. Green listed.*

Surprisingly only 30 sightings recorded for this very common bird. Obviously under-recorded. Seen every month over nine locations with flocks of up to 30 being quite common.

However some significant numbers were 100 at Costessey East on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr (SC), 1000 at Tud Valley, Costessey on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct (A&AG) and 500 at Sennowe Park on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov (RG). (DK)

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

*Fairly common resident associated with human habitation. Green listed.*

Under-recorded with only 16 separate records. In the first winter period there was a max of 9 at New Costessey on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb (DH). No breeding records received and only one record received of 2 at N.Tuddenham 9<sup>th</sup> July during the breeding season (B&BP).

The second winter period 1's and 2's were the norm but a count of 80 at Fulmodeston on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct (G&AJ) was by far the largest. (DK)

**Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur turtur***

*Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.*

Earliest record at Lenwade on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (SG). Single birds reported from Fakenham (SC), Guist/Fakenham road (SC), Pensthorpe (GE, EB-J, DW), Sparham Hall (CS), Sparham Pools (DN), Swanton Morley GP (LB) and Worthing (DK) with 4 at Lyng Easthaugh on 11<sup>th</sup> June (AH, RN, RG) and up to 3 at N Tuddenham on 21<sup>st</sup> June (B&BP). The latest bird recorded at Primrose Green, Lyng on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug (RG). (RG)

**Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

*Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.*

Recorded Apr - July with the first at Sparham on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr (CS) and the last at Pensthorpe on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug (TS). Mainly single birds and more often heard than seen from 11 locations. Some birds were seen - 1 at Hindolveston on 14<sup>th</sup> May (JAJ) and 1 at Sparham on 15<sup>th</sup> May (CS). One sighting of a pair at Pensthorpe on 19<sup>th</sup> May where a juvenile was also seen on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug (TS). (DK)

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

*Fairly common resident. Amber listed.*

Nearly 130 records from 26 locations with evidence of breeding in 6 sites and 2 juv ringed at Pensthorpe on 26<sup>th</sup> June. On 17<sup>th</sup> June members of HBW witnessed 5 young being ringed from the nestbox at Roosting Hills Trout Lake near Beetley. (DK)

**Little Owl *Athene noctue***

*Fairly common naturalised resident.*

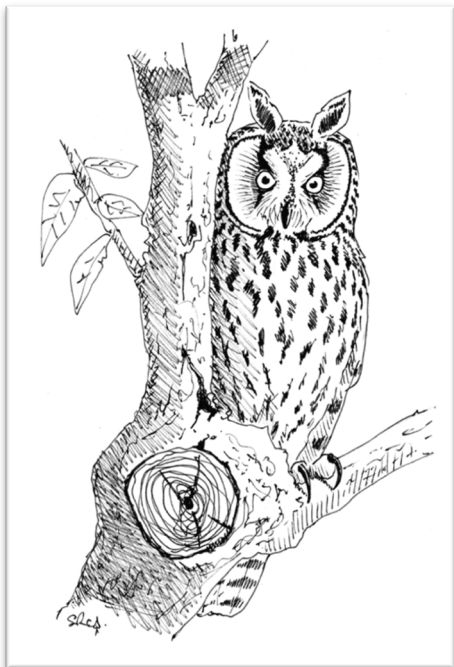
This is the owl species more often seen than heard. Good areas were Daffy Green, North Tuddenham, Scarning and Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley where 1 pair and two young were seen on 10<sup>th</sup> July (BM). Fewer birds recorded during the year at Sparham (CS). (DK)

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded in the valley every month of the year but mostly heard and rarely seen. There were some notable exceptions however. SMHOT had cameras relaying pictures from nestboxes with eggs laid during Feb in one of two pairs breeding in boxes and 2 juveniles ringed at Pensthorpe on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Evidence of breeding also at East Rudham where 1 juv ringed on 13<sup>th</sup> May (RG), at Mattishall where 1 adult with 2 juvs in a garden oak tree (EW) and at Sparham where two pairs present (CS).

Single birds seen at Hoe on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar and 15<sup>th</sup> Apr, at Hindolveston on 17<sup>th</sup> July, at Scarning on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept and at Worthing on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. (DK)

**Long-eared Owl**

*Asio otus*

Present all year but very scarce.

**Green listed.**

One record of bird calling on HBW on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan (DK). (DK)

*Long-eared Owl,  
by Steve Cale*

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus flammeus*

*Very rare passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

Single bird at Great Ryburgh on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (IB,PR,TF). (DK)

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

*Scarce summer visitor. Red listed.*

Recorded from Marsham Heath on the Society's annual "Nightjar" evening.

Also 2 recorded at Pensthorpe on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (PJ), the first record there for 5 years. (RG)

**Swift** *Apus apus*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

First record Sparham Pools on 20<sup>th</sup> Apr with next movement on 26<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Double figure counts were received from Costessey (40+), East Rudham (40), HBW (30), Lenwade (30), Pensthorpe (60) and Sennowe Park (100+).

Proof of breeding was received from Elsing, Mill Street and Worthing.

Last report was from Pensthorpe on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug (TS). (RG)

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

*Scarce resident. Amber listed.*

Over 120 records for this beautiful but elusive bird over the year in 13 locations. Reports in every month of the year in the valley especially at Pensthorpe. A pair seen mating there on 20<sup>th</sup> Mar and a juv was ringed on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug (GE). This was the only proof of breeding received. High count of 6+ at Costessey Pits on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (AB). (DK)

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

*Very rare passage migrant.*

Single bird at Brandiston on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr (DR). (DK)

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla torquilla*

*Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

A single bird reported at North Elmham on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr (BG). (DK)

**Green Woodpecker** *Picis viridis*

*Fairly common resident. Amber listed.*

Recorded in all areas of the valley and in every month. Mainly single birds with some pairs and a max 3 at Marsham Heath on 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar (RG). Adults feeding 1 juvenile through July at Hindolveston (JAJ). (DK)

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

*Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders. Amber listed.*

Recorded every month of the year through the valley. Mainly single birds but pairs were quite common with a max 3 at Mannington Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, at Scarning on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and at N.Tuddenham Common on 24<sup>th</sup> May where young were heard calling from nest hole. A juvenile visited feeders regularly with an adult during June in Worthing (DK). (DK)

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

*Very scarce resident. Occasionally visiting garden feeders. Red listed.*

Only one record of a single bird at HOT Sculthorpe Moor NR on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (Volunteer). (DK)

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

*Very rare passage migrant and winter visitor.*

This bird stayed for several weeks in early Jan along the Old Holt Road, Fakenham and must have been seen by many members throughout that time but only BB, BM, C&JF, DK, IB, PR, PL, TF reported it. (DK)

**Jay** *Garrulus glandaris*

Fairly common resident and winter visitor. Resident British Jay (*rufiturgum*) **Amber listed**. Very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn (Continental Jay). **Green listed**.

Mainly between 1 – 4 birds recorded every month of the year from eleven locations. Higher counts of a 4 at Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 6 during HBW on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar, 10 at East Costessey and Gunton Lane, Costessey on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, 4 at Pensthorpe on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug, 9 during HBW on 16<sup>th</sup> Aug and 11 at Worthing on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. (DK)

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Common resident. **Green listed**.

Highest count of the year 16 at Costessey on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr. No more than 5 recorded at eight other sites. No breeding records received. (AJ)

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Common resident. **Green listed**.

Highest counts 25 during HBW on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 80 at Lenwade on 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar, 30 at Worthing on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct with 15 on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. In Dec 14 during HBW on 16<sup>th</sup>, c300 over Hindolveston on 18<sup>th</sup> and 90 at Worthing village on 29<sup>th</sup>. No breeding records received. (AJ)

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident. **Green listed**.

Highest counts Jan 80+ Sparham Pools and 70+ Lenwade on 8<sup>th</sup>, 50 during HBW on 15<sup>th</sup>; Feb 250 at Worthing on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 60 during HBW on 19<sup>th</sup>, 230 at Swanton Morley on 23<sup>rd</sup>; Apr 60 at Swanton Morley on 15<sup>th</sup>; Oct 20 at Worthing on 12<sup>th</sup>; Nov 25 at Worthing on 9<sup>th</sup>, 30 during HBW on 18<sup>th</sup>; Dec 200 during HBW on 16<sup>th</sup>, c300 at Wood Norton on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Rookery nest count at Pensthorpe on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar revealed c24 nests with 10+ juvs on 16<sup>th</sup> May. (AJ)



**Carriion Crow** *Corvus corone**Common resident. Green listed.*

Highest count 26 at Costessey on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr with 30 there on 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 during HBW on 15<sup>th</sup> July. 1-4 birds at 4 other sites. Mixed flock of 200+ corvids in flight over Hindolveston on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. (AJ)

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus**Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

1-3 birds at 20 sites and recorded throughout the year at Pensthorpe and during HBW. Singing males at Pensthorpe in Feb, Foxley Wood in Apr, Marsham, Felthorpe and Lenwade in May probably indicating evidence of breeding at these sites. A juvenile flew into a conservatory at Hindolveston in June with young begging to be fed at garden feeder in Sept at the same site. "Loads" at Sparham Hall Farm with "masses in autumn" possibly indicating an influx or successful breeding season. (AJ)

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus**Common resident. Green listed.*

Recorded throughout the year during HBW with highest counts 13 Feb, 15 Mar and 17 June. Also high count of 10 at Costessey in Apr. Evidence of breeding at North Tuddenham Common where 80 juveniles in 10 boxes being fed by 20 adults; at Mattishall in May where adult feeding juv; in Hindolveston garden where 3 juvs in June and where adults feeding young in July. (AJ)

**Great Tit** *Parus major**Common resident. Green listed.*

Recorded throughout year during HBW where highest counts were 8 in Jan, 6 in Feb, 7 in Mar, 7 in June and 8 in Dec. Highest garden counts 6 in North Tuddenham in Feb, 4 at New Costessey in Apr and 6 in N Tuddenham in Aug. Evidence of breeding in Mattishall garden where 2 dead fledglings found in May and at Hindolveston in June where 2 young fed by adult. (AJ)

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater**Common resident. Green listed.*

Present at Pensthorpe Jan-May and Aug-Dec. Highest count of 6 during HBW in June. Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe where single bird singing during Feb and a family party of 5+ in May. Visiting garden feeders in New Costessey, Hindolveston and Worthing. (AJ)

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris**Fairly common resident. Red listed.*

Reports of single birds from 13 sites at various times through the year except July. Higher counts of 3 during HBW in Jan and 4+ at HOT Sculthorpe Moor NR in Feb. Evidence of probable breeding at Lenwade Common and Foxley Wood where pairs seen in late Apr. Also a family party of 5 at West Raynham Hall Park in early June. Two visiting a garden in Costessey in Feb/Mar but no subsequent reports received. (AJ)

**Woodlark** *Lallula arborea arborea**Scarce summer visitor. Amber listed.*

One pair and two singing males at Marsham Heath on 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar (RG,RN,PLa). Four birds at same site on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (LB). (AJ)

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis**Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.*

Highest counts first winter period **Jan** 24 at Pensthorpe, 30 on western outskirts of East Dereham, 40 at Old Costessey; **Feb** 200+ at Scarning, 100 at N Tuddenham, 25 at Worthing, 125 at Old Costessey, 100+ at Mill Farm, N Tuddenham. High count of 20 at East Costessey on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr reduced to 12 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

At Pensthorpe the first singing bird noted on 19<sup>th</sup> Mar increased to 6+ by 27<sup>th</sup> June. Eight pairs bred on one field at Sparham Hall Farm but here "numbers generally in decline".

(continues)

**Skylark** (continued)

Between 9<sup>th</sup> Oct-11<sup>th</sup> Nov 66 birds counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey. Otherwise during second winter period only reported from Pensthorpe where highest count was 5 in mid-Dec. (AJ)

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Decreasing. Amber listed.*

Earliest report 1 at Sparham Hall Farm on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr (CS).

The small sand quarry at Lyng Easthaugh had 80 nest holes by mid-May and there were 10 at Bintree Mill on 28<sup>th</sup> June. The number of nest holes was not reported from Pensthorpe but 20 birds were present on 19<sup>th</sup> May. The only other sites with any numbers were Guist Common with 15 and Sparham Pools with 20. Ringing showed them to have had a particularly poor year with less than 20% of the birds caught being juveniles cf. 2005 when 40% were juveniles.

Latest recorded 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at Dereham SW (NarVOS). (RG)

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Decreasing. Amber listed.*

Earliest report Sparham Hall Farm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr (CS) then multiple records from mid-April.

Seven active nests at Swanton Morley Waterfall Farm (BM) brought off relatively small broods – 2s and 3s. Other confirmed breeding was from Guist, Hindolveston, Kettlestone, Lenwade (Dinosaur Park), Lyng Easthaugh and Worthing.

Autumn gatherings included 200+ Guist Common on 9<sup>th</sup> Aug, 24 HBW 15<sup>th</sup> July and Worthing where 30 were gathering on a house roof.

Last record was Swanton Morley GP on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct (DK). (RG)

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Earliest report Sparham Hall Farm on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr (CS) followed by 3 at Pensthorpe on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr where numbers rose to 60 on 4<sup>th</sup> May and 80+ on 14<sup>th</sup> May (TS, EB-J). Numbers were low in Apr except for c.20 at Swanton Morley on 21<sup>st</sup> (DN).

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May there were 20 at Costessey/Ringland and 40 at Street Farm, N Tuddenham.

Other double figure counts during the summer were Sennowe Park 10+, Mileham 22 active nests on a farm house, Guist Common 100 on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 35 on 9<sup>th</sup> Aug and 45 on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug, HBW 12, Lenwade Common 10 and Worthing 20.

The last records were 4 at Pensthorpe on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct (TS) then with Swallows at Swanton Morley GP on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct (DK). (RG)

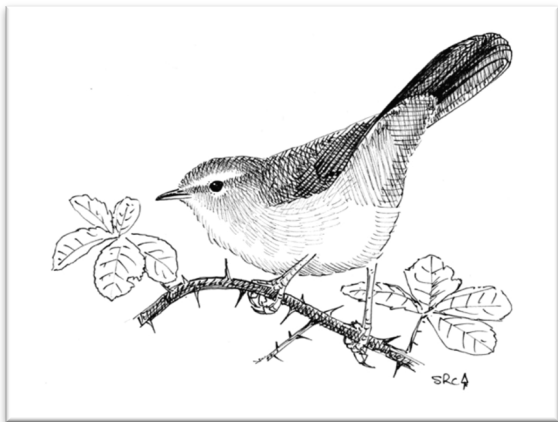
**Cetti's Warbler**

*Cettia cetti*

*Rare resident expanding its range through valley. Green listed.*

Single birds at Pensthorpe on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan and 19<sup>th</sup> May, at Hellesdon Mill and Costessey on 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Apr, at Gunton Lane, Costessey on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr and at Costessey Fish Farm Meadows on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr when male singing. (AJ)

*Cetti's Warbler,*  
*by Steve Cale*



**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

*Common resident. Green listed.*

Reports from 14 sites. Highest counts 11 Pensthorpe in Jan; 11 N Tuddenham in Feb; 15 during HBW in June; 20 Pensthorpe in Sept; 20+ Swanton Morley Church in Oct; 24 Pensthorpe, 18 during HBW and 20+ Drayton in Dec. No breeding records received although one adult with juv at Pensthorpe on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and family party at same site on 11<sup>th</sup> May. (AJ)

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

*Common summer resident, passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor. Green listed.*

There was a single first winter records from Lyng on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (PL/BB).

Spring arrivals started with one Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 15<sup>th</sup> March (PLi) then recorded from 30 locations across the WVBS recording area.

Last record 12<sup>th</sup> Oct Pensthorpe (TS). (RG)

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

*Common summer resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

The first bird was recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr at Sparham Pools (CS) with a steady influx from 6<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Recorded from 15 locations with mainly singles except 4 Costessey, c.10 singing males Foxley Wood, 3 Sparham Pools and Guist Common where 5 juveniles were trapped for ringing on 9<sup>th</sup> Aug which was also the last record of the year. (RG)

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

*Common summer resident, passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor. Green listed.*

The first 4 records of the year are from gardens so are likely to be overwintering birds. Mill Street Elsing a male on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan (A&CJ), Taverham on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb (LB), Mattishall a female on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb (EW) (NB this garden also had a female on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011. Could it be the same bird?), Scarning on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar “female on garden feeder” (IB).

Whether the bird at Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar (PLi) was an early immigrant or winter visitor is more difficult to determine. Other March records were Mill Street Elsing on 24<sup>th</sup> (A&CJ), Swanton Morley GP on 25<sup>th</sup> (DK) and Pensthorpe on 29<sup>th</sup> (TS).

Recorded from 23 locations. In total 24 were ringed at Guist Common with 17 of them on 9<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Last record was a male in a garden at Taverham on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec (LB). (RG)

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.*

The first of the year were 2 singing males on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr on the WVBS field trip to Foxley Wood. Also recorded from Costessey, HBW, Lenwade Common, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools (6m) and Swanton Morley GP (3 ad + 4 juv). The latter being the last record of the year as early as 19<sup>th</sup> June (LB). (RG)

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

*Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.*

A poor year with only 9 records from 6 locations with the first at Sparham Hall Farm on 14<sup>th</sup> May (CS). Then on 19<sup>th</sup> at Pensthorpe (RG) and Sparham Pools (DN), on 25<sup>th</sup> at Scarning (IB) and again at Pensthorpe.

In June at Sennowe Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> (NarVOS), on 13<sup>th</sup> 2 at Gunton Park, Costessey (PS) and finally 1 still singing at Pensthorpe on 14<sup>th</sup> (TS). (RG)

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

*Common summer resident. Amber listed.*

There were two April records both on 21<sup>st</sup> at Queen's Hill, Costessey (SC) and Costessey Pits (DN). Only recorded from 8 locations with a maximum of 8 on HBW in June. Last record 4<sup>th</sup> Sept Pensthorpe (TS).

Surely this species is greatly under-recorded. (RG)

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

*Very scarce summer resident and passage migrant. Red listed.*

First recorded from Old Costessey Marshes on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr (PS). On 21<sup>st</sup> Apr there were records from Costessey and East Costessey and it is not clear how many birds are being referred to – 1, 2 or 3? Also on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr one was recorded at Sparham (DN). The only other reports were Gunton Lane, New Costessey on 21<sup>st</sup> June (PS) and Scarning on 15<sup>th</sup> July (IB). (RG)

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.*

First and last records were from Pensthorpe 11<sup>th</sup> Apr (GE) and 6<sup>th</sup> Sept (TS) respectively. Twelve were recorded in Costessey in May (SC) but only 11 were ringed at Guist Common cf. 65 in 2011.

Only 28 records from 8 locations. (RG)

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

*Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.*

The first record was from Sparham Pools on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr (CS).

Recorded from only 4 locations Costessey, Guist Common, Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools. 37 were ringed at Guist Common.

The last record at Pensthorpe on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug (TS). (RG)

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulous*

*Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor. In some years very scarce; in others fairly common. Green listed.*

Highest counts in first winter period all in Jan at New Costessey 45 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 25 on 8<sup>th</sup> and c20 on 10<sup>th</sup>. Also c25 at Norwich Station/Morrison's on 10<sup>th</sup>. Latest record was single bird at Tattersett on 7<sup>th</sup> Mar.

In second winter period 2 at Pensthorpe on 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. In Dec 5 at Pensthorpe and 12 at Longwater on 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 at Shereford on 17<sup>th</sup> and 4 at New Costessey on 29<sup>th</sup>. Between 5<sup>th</sup> Nov and 10<sup>th</sup> Dec a total of 103 recorded migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey.

A good year to catch up with this attractive visitor. (AJ)

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

*Fairly common resident. Green listed.*

1-2 birds recorded at 20 scattered sites along the valley. Higher counts of 4 at Dereham on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar and 3 at Sculthorpe Moor on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Seen visiting garden feeders at Queen's hill, Norwich, Taverham, Worthing Village Pensthorpe, Lenwade and Hindolveston.

Breeding pair at nest hole in Ghost Hill Wood, Taverham on 16<sup>th</sup> Mar and most days throughout Apr and May (LW). A pair noted at Hoe Rough in Apr. (AJ)

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

*Fairly common resident. Green listed.*

1-2 birds recorded at 14 scattered sites at various times throughout the year. No evidence of breeding reported although at 5 sites single birds present during breeding period. (AJ)

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

*Common resident. Green listed.*

Under reported with records from just 8 sites with 1-3 birds. Higher counts of 4 at N Tuddenham Common in Mar, 6 at Costessey in Apr, 6 during HBW in May with 5 in Nov. (AJ)



**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris**Common resident. Red listed.*

In first winter period highest counts in **Jan** 5000 Lyng Easthaugh on 12<sup>th</sup>, 35 Ringland on 17<sup>th</sup>, 40 Worthing on 21<sup>st</sup>, 1000+ New Costessey on 22<sup>nd</sup>; **Feb** c25 Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup>, 30 N Tuddenham on 16<sup>th</sup>; **Mar** 50 during HBW on 18<sup>th</sup>. No breeding records received but 1-3 birds in New and East Costessey and Hindolveston up to beginning of May.

In second winter period highest counts in **Oct** c50 Hindolveston on 19<sup>th</sup> and c100 Pensthorpe on 25<sup>th</sup>. A total of 35,312 counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey between 9<sup>th</sup> Oct-16<sup>th</sup> Nov with peak counts of 18,656 on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10,846 on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1758 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov and 1241 on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG). (AJ)

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus**Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

Single bird at Pensthorpe on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar was the first there for at least 5 years (TS). (AJ)

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula**Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green listed.*

In first winter period highest counts from HBW with 20 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and 12 on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb with 9 at East Costessey on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Evidence of breeding at New Costessey where adult feeding young on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr and at Mattishall where the same pair had three nests predated losing two clutches of eggs and large fledgelings. In July at Hindolveston 2 fledged young in a garden on 4<sup>th</sup> and at least two broods at Mattishall on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Between 5<sup>th</sup> Oct-2<sup>nd</sup> Dec a total of 721 birds were counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey. This is the highest passage count since recording started. The peak counts were 178 on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, 104 on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 105 on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov and 78 on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG). Counts on the HBW recorded 14 on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov and 12 on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. There were up to 6 in a Hindolveston garden on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. (AJ)

**Redwing** *Turdus illiacus*

*Common passage migrant and fairly common winter visitor. Red listed.*

Recorded at 12 sites. Notable counts in the first winter period 30 Worthing on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, 25 New Costessey on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, c50 Pensthorpe on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb and 50 heading west along the R Tud valley on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar was latest reported sighting.

The earliest reported sighting of returning birds was 25 at Pensthorpe on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. Between 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept - 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 7,335 counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey with peak counts in Oct of 2,937 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 1,391 on 26<sup>th</sup> (AG). (AJ)

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

*Fairly common resident. Amber listed.*

1-2 birds recorded at 17 sites. Highest counts 10 Old Costessey on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 5 Pensthorpe on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and 32 Sparham on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Evidence of breeding noted at Pensthorpe where 2 adults and 2 juvs on 4<sup>th</sup> May then 2 juvs among 6 birds on 17<sup>th</sup>. Between 15<sup>th</sup> Sept-13<sup>th</sup> Nov a total of 18 counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey (AG). (AJ)

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

*Fairly common but declining summer visitor. Red listed.*

Proof of breeding came from Mattishall (EW), Sparham Hall Farmyard (CS), Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley where 3 young fledged (BM) and West Rudham where 4 young fledged (AH). Other evidence of breeding was 3 at Scarning Church in July (IB) and a juvenile ringed at Guist Common on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug (RG).

Other sightings were Sparham Pools NR on 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May (IB, MW), Whissonsett Church on 4<sup>th</sup> June (NarVOS), Lenwade, Dinosaur Park 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> June (GC, LT, LB), Hindolveston (JC), Honingham Telephone Exchange (PR) and Pensthorpe on 3<sup>rd</sup> July (TS).

Last record on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

(continues)

### **Spotted Flycatcher** (continued)

A disappointing continued decline in this charming species. Hopefully the work being done in Africa by BTO, Birdlife International and the RSPB will identify the cause(s) of the decline. (RG)

### **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

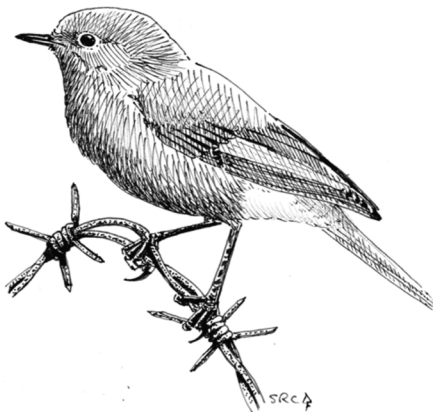
*Very common resident. Numbers may be augmented by passage migrants in autumn. **Green listed.***

Recorded at 13 sites. Highest counts 11 East Costessey on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar, 6 Drayton on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct and 6 during HBW on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Evidence of breeding at Hindolveston where 2 adults collecting food simultaneously, at Pensthorpe where juvs present in May/Aug and Mattishall where 2 adults with 1 juv on 27<sup>th</sup> July. (AJ)

### **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

*Very rare summer visitor and passage migrant. **Amber listed.***

Single bird at Norwich Cathedral on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct (PR). (AJ)



*Immature Black Redstart,  
by Steve Cale*

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Very scarce passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

An adult female at Drayton on 23<sup>rd</sup> May (NE). (AJ)

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

Rare winter visitor. **Green listed.**

An adult female at Hellesdon Mill Marsh on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (AB). (AJ)

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Scarce passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

First reported arrival of the year at Pensthorpe on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar followed by 3 birds at East Costessey on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, 1 at Sparham Hall Farm on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2 at Costessey Pits on 30<sup>th</sup> Apr.

First autumn record was single at Pensthorpe on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug followed by single bird at same site on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. (AJ)

**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded at 13 sites. Highest count of 8 at East Costessey on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr. Evidence of breeding in Worthing where 2 adults and 1 juv on 6<sup>th</sup> July and at Hindolveston where a juv seen in a garden on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Between 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept - 11<sup>th</sup> Nov a total of 8 birds counted migrating through R Tud valley at New Costessey (AG). (AJ)

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Common but declining resident. **Red listed.**

Recorded at 11 sites. A monthly count at Worthing shows noticeable decline in winter months – Jan 6, Feb 12, Mar 10, Apr 12, May 15, June 10, July 15, Aug 15, Sept 22, Oct 15, Nov 6, Dec 7. Highest counts elsewhere – at Lyng 20+ in Jan; at N Tuddenham 40 in Jan/Feb, 30 in May and 25 in Oct; at W Raynham 25 in Oct; at Hindolveston 19 in a garden in Dec. Just 2 noted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey on both 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. No breeding records received. (AJ)

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

*Fairly common but declining resident. Red listed.*

Single bird at Scarning on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 3 at Foulsham on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and a further 8 at Scarning on 29<sup>th</sup> July. (AJ)

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

*Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.*

3 records of singles - Sparham Hall Farm on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr (CS) "only the third since 1999", Pensthorpe on 19<sup>th</sup> May (AJ *et al*) and Costessey on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept (AG). (RG)

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

*Scarce resident. The valley is a stronghold in Norfolk for this species. Amber listed.*

Mostly single birds recorded at 11 sites. Two birds at Dereham SW during Mar-May. Evidence of breeding at Worthing where adults seen feeding 2 juvs on 29<sup>th</sup> May. (AJ)

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

*Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Green listed.*

During first winter period 60 at Dereham SW on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan with 40+ there on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. A nest site recorded at Scarning on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr, a pair at Pensthorpe 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Apr with a juv there on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug and a juv in a Hindolveston garden on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

During second winter period a roost of 26 birds at Dereham SW on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept and c120 at Guist Common on 27<sup>th</sup>. (AJ)

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

*Scarce resident and passage migrant. Fairly common winter visitor.*

**Amber listed.**

Single birds recorded at 2 sites with higher counts of 25 at Old Costessey on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, 7 at Dereham SW on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 5 calling when flying over a house in Scarning on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept and 10 at Ringland on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.

A total of 60 migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey between 13<sup>th</sup> Sept and 18<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG). (AJ)

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

*Common resident. Green listed.*

Highest counts of 35 at Pensthorpe on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, 60 at Old Costessey and 25 at Sculthorpe Moor on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, 70 at Sparham Hall Farm on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and 100 at N Tuddenham on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct.

A total of 1727 recorded migrating through the R Tud valley at Old Costessey between 9<sup>th</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec with peak counts of 182 on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct and 112 on 28<sup>th</sup> (AG). High count of 100 at N Tuddenham on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. (AJ)

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

*Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.*

**Green listed.**

In first winter period single birds in gardens at New Costessey, Hindolveston and Lenwade. High count of 23 at Pensthorpe on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Latest sighting was a male bird in a Lenwade garden on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Earliest record in second winter period was a single bird at Scarning on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. Single birds at Pensthorpe, N Tuddenham, Hindolveston and Worthing during this period with 3 at Sculthorpe Moor on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Higher counts of 25 at Costessey on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct and 100+ at Sparham during Nov/Dec.

A total of 44 counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey between 13<sup>th</sup> Oct and 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. (AJ)

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris**Common resident. Green listed.*

Highest counts of 25 at Old Costessey on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan and 10 at Sculthorpe Moor on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. Seven on garden feeder at Hindolveston during Feb otherwise 1-5 birds recorded at 9 other sites. Only one breeding record received of a pair with 2 juvs at Mattishall on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

A total of 258 counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey between 9<sup>th</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. (AJ)

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis**Common resident. Green listed.*

Highest counts in the first winter period were 15-22 at Pensthorpe, 8 at N Tuddenham and 70 gathering to roost in New Costessey. Otherwise 1-4 birds recorded at a further 6 sites.

No evidence of breeding recorded at the 10 sites where birds were present during the summer although 1+ young were seen in a Hindolveston garden in July.

Highest counts in the second winter period were 25 at the level crossing near Worthing and at Pensthorpe. Between 13<sup>th</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 289 birds counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey. (AJ)

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus**Common or fairly common winter visitor. Green listed.*

Reported at 8 sites in first winter period with highest counts of 30 at Pensthorpe, 40 at Sweet Briar Marshes, and 30+ at Sculthorpe Moor. 40 at Sparham Hall Farm lakes on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar was the latest winter record.

The earliest birds in the autumn were recorded at Pensthorpe on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept with reports from 4 other sites during the second winter period. The highest counts were c30 at Pensthorpe in Oct and 60 at Lenwade Common in Dec. (AJ)

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina**Fairly common resident. Red listed.*

Recorded at 17 sites. Highest counts **Jan** 30 at Sparham on 7<sup>th</sup>, 55 at Worthing on 8<sup>th</sup>, 50 during HBW on 15<sup>th</sup>, 80 at Worthing on 21<sup>st</sup>, 240 at Old Costessey on 21<sup>st</sup>; **Feb** 50 at Scarning on 5<sup>th</sup>, 50 at N Tuddenham on 16<sup>th</sup>, 40 at Swanton Morley on 17<sup>th</sup>, 70 at Old Costessey on 19<sup>th</sup>, 60 at Sparham Hall Farm on 28<sup>th</sup>.

A high count of c30 at Pensthorpe on 2<sup>nd</sup> May could have been a flock reforming during bad weather after the males have split away at the start of the breeding season or males forming a flock during the incubation period as this species is known to do.

During second winter period high counts of 25 at Ringland on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov and c70 at Pensthorpe on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. Between 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec a total of 29 counted migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey. (AJ)

**Lesser Redpoll (Redpoll)** *Carduelis cabaret**Scarce and declining resident and fairly common winter visitor. Red listed.*

Highest counts in first winter period c20 at Costessey on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10 at Sweet Briar Marshes on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan, 5 at Mannington Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 12 at Sculthorpe on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb and 6 at Sparham Hall Farm during Feb/Mar. The last reported sighting was of 10 at Hevingham on 24<sup>th</sup> Apr.

The earliest autumn record was a minimum of 1 at Pensthorpe on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept and thereafter 6 at Swanton Morley GP on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, max 6 at Worthing on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec and 8 at Pensthorpe on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Elsewhere recorded in small numbers in 10 localities. (AJ)

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra**Very scarce resident and irruptive winter visitor. Green listed.*

Single bird at Marsham Heath on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (LB) and at Pensthorpe single bird flying west on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov (TP) with 3 flying over on 23<sup>rd</sup> (MP). (AJ)



**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Highest counts of 8 at Pensthorpe on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, groups of 4 at Dereham SW on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 8 at Sculthorpe on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4 at Costessey on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr, 5 at Pensthorpe on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Highest count of 6 on Sparham Hall Farm during the year. 1- 4 birds recorded at 22 other sites. (AJ)

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Very rare resident. **Red listed.**

At New Costessey single bird heading west early morning 5<sup>th</sup> May, single rested in sallows then flew south-west on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct and single heading west early morning 31<sup>st</sup> Oct (AG). (AJ)

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Very rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

At New Costessey single bird heading south calling on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct (AG). (AJ)



*Lapland Bunting, by Steve Cale*

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

*Common but declining resident. Red listed.*

Highest counts of 50 near Longham on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10 at Worthing on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 20 at Scarning on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, 40 at two Ringland sites on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Dec and 20 at Sparham Hall Farm during second winter period. At a further 17 sites no records of 10 or more. (AJ)

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

*Fairly common resident. Amber listed.*

Highest counts of 35 at Sparham Hall Farm during Feb and 20 at Ringland on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Recorded in small numbers at a further 10 sites.

Seven pairs at Sparham Hall Farm lakes in May and presumably breeding. Two singing males at Pensthorpe on 8<sup>th</sup> May but subsequently one singing during rest of the month and through June and July. (AJ)

## Escape

This is a species that has been recorded in the area but is clearly not native and it is assumed that it has not reached Britain by its own efforts.

**Chinese Goose**

*Breed of domesticated Swan Goose (Anser cygnoides) which is found in N-central Asia.*

Single birds at Sparham Pools and Coxford Abbey on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. (AJ)

## Contributors to the Systematic List

Keith Baker	Geoff Jones
Chris Barber	Bill Jordan
Chris Bensley (CBe)	Deb Jordan
Brian Bosley	David Knight
Bob Bradley (BBr)	Peter Lambley
Ed Bramham-Jones	Julian Lawson
Liz Bridge	Phil Littler (PLi)
Ian Brittain	Bernie Marsham
Andrew Brown	Kate McPherson
Steve Chapman	Nigel Middleton
John Clifton	Chris Mills
Glenn Collier	NarVOS
Dawn Dowsett	David Norgate
Nick Edwards	Richard Norris
Gary Elton	David Pelling
Colin Fenn	Mike Powells
Jacquie Fenn	Barry Pummell
John Flowers	Bridget Pummell
Tony Forster	Paul Riley
Adrian Gardiner	Jim Rivett
Anne Gardiner	Dominique Rudd
Beattie Gay	Charles Sayer
David Gibbons	Paul Scott
Sue Gibney	Peter Sewell (PSe)
William Gibney	Bill Shepherd
A Gordon	Stewart South
R Gordon	Thomas Spencer
Chris Gribble	Lucy Topsom
Ray Gribble	Jane Wales
Allan Hale	Mary Walker
David Hubbard	Liz Waller
Alwyn Jackson	Alec Waller
Carole Jackson	Darren Williams
Eric Jarvis	Jack Woodley
Paul Jay	Anthony Wyatt (AWy)
Paul Jeffery (PJe)	Eileen Wyatt
Ann Jones	

## Principal Sites and their Grid References

The grid references refer to the co-ordinates of the south-west corner of the 2km tetrad the site is located in.

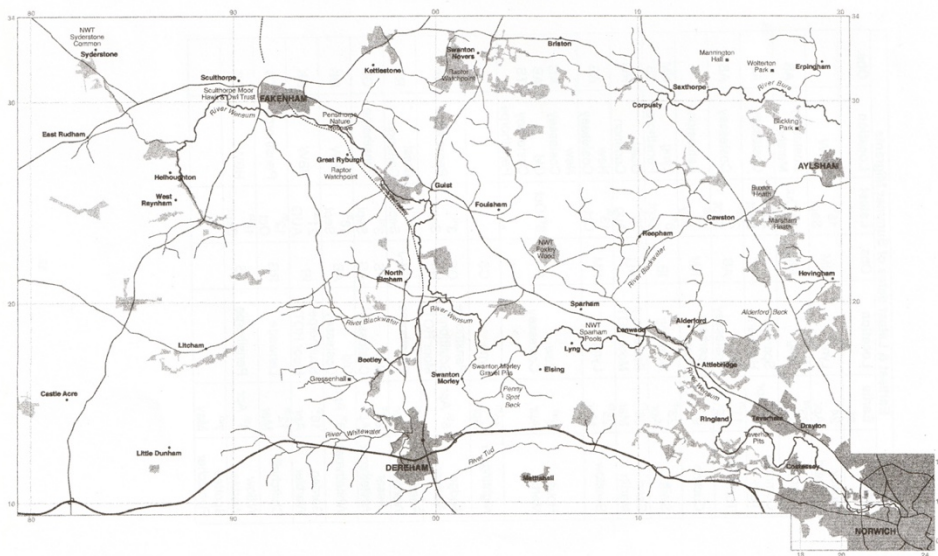
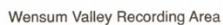
N.B. The provision of the grid reference does not give you the right to visit the site. Some of the sites listed are private, please respect landowners' wishes & follow the Birdwatchers' Code.

Site	Grid ref.	Site	Grid ref.
Alderford/Alderford Common	TG1218	Bylaugh Hall	TG0218
Attlebridge	TG1216	Bylaugh Marshes	TG0218
Badley Moor, Dereham	TG0212	Bylaugh Sewage Works	TG0218
Bawdeswell	TG0402	Cadders Hill, Lyng	TG0616
Beetley GP	TG9818	Clippings Green, Mattishall	TG0412
Billingford	TG0020	Colkirk	TF9026
Billingford Common	TG0018	Collin Green, Lyng	TG0816
Billingford Pits	TG0018	Costessey	TG1610
Bintree Mill	TF9824	Costessey Mill	TG1612
Bintree Wood	TG0020	Costessey Pits	TG1612
Bittering	TF9216	Coxford/Coxford Abbey	TF8428
Bittering GP	TF9218	Coxford Heath	TF8230
Broom Green	TF9824	Dereham SW	TF9612
Bridge Lake, Lenwade	TG1018	Daffy Green	TF9610
Brisley Common	TG9420	Drayton	TG1812
Briston	TG0632	Dunton	TF8830
Bylaugh	TG0218	Eade's Mill, Great Witchingham	TG0820

East Barsham	TF3234	Guist/Guist Common	TF9824
Eastgate, Cawston	TG1422	Gunton Lane, Costessey	TG1810
Easton College	TG1210	Hall Farm, Attlebridge	TG1214
East Raynham	TF8824	Harnser Wood, Elsing	TG0416
East Rudham	TF8226	Heathfield, East Dereham	TF9814
Elsing	TG0416	Helhoughton	TF8626
Elsing Mill/Mill Street/Bridge	TG0416	Hellesdon Mill	TG1810
Elsing Hall	TG0216	Hindolveston	TG0228
Elsing Lane, N Tuddenham	TG0214	Hempton Marsh	TF9028
Etling Green	TG0012	Hockering	TG0612
Fakenham	TF9228	Hockering Wood	TG0614
Felthorpe	TG1618	Hoe	TF9816
Foulsham	TG0222	Hoe Bird Walk	TF9816 TF9818
Foxley	TG0220	Hoe Rough/Common	TF9816
Frans Green	TG0812	Honingham	TG0810
Fulmodeston	TF9830	Horningtoft	TF9222
Fustyweed, Elsing	TG0418	Kettlestone	TF9630
Gateley	TF9624	Lenwade	TG0818
Ghost Hill Wood, Taverham	TG1612	Lenwade Bridge	TG1018
Great Ryburgh	TF9426	Lenwade Common	TG0818
Great Ryburgh Raptor Watchpoint	TF9624	Litcham	TF8816
Great Witchingham Wildlife Centre	TG0818	Little Ryburgh	TF9628
Gressenhall	TF9616	Little Snoring	TF3294

Longham	TF9414	Pudding Norton	TF2692
Lyng	TG0616	Reepham	TG1022
Lyng Easthaugh	TG0818	Ringland	TG1412
Mannington Hall	TG1432	Ringland Common	TG1212
Manor Farm, Great Witchingham	TG1020	Roosting Hills, Beetley	TF9816
Marsham Heath	TG1622	Sennowe Park, Guist	TF9824
Marriot's Way, Lenwade	TG1018	Scarning	TF9614
Mattishall Burgh	TG0410	Sculthorpe Airfield	TF8630
Mileham	TF9018	Sculthorpe Moor	TF9828/30
Mill Street, Elsing	TG0416	Sculthorpe Mill	TF8830
Mill Farm, Great Witchingham	TG0820	Sennowe Park	TF9624 TF9824
Mill Farm, North Tuddenham	TG0412	Shereford	TF8828
Morton-on-the Hill	TG1612	South Raynham	TF8624
New Costessey	TG1810	Sparham Hall Farm	TG0618
North Elmham	TF9820	Sparham Holes	TG0418
North Tuddenham/ Common	TG0214	Sparham Pools NR	TG0616
Old Costessey	TG1610	Springfield Farm/ Cottage, North Tuddenham	TG0414
Park Farm, Swanton Morley	TG0216	Swanton Morley	TG0016
Pensthorpe	TF9428	Swanton Morley GP	TG0018
Pockthorpe	TG0618	Swanton Novers Raptor Watchpoint	TG0030
Primrose Green, Lyng	TG0616	Swanton Road, Worthing	TG0018

Taverham	TG1614	Wensum Valley Golf Club	TG1412
Taverham Fishery	TG1412	West Raynham	TF8624
Themelthorpe	TG0422	Weston Green	TG1014
Thorpe Marriot	TG1614	Weston Longville	TG1016
Three Bridges Farm, Elsing	TG0418	Whissonsett	TF9422
Toftrees	TF8826	Whitwell	TG0820
Tud valley, Costessey	TG1410 TG1610	Whitwell Common	TG0820
Twyford	TG0024	Wood Norton	TG0028
Union Farm, Gressenhall	TF9616	Worthing	TF9818
Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng Easthaugh	TG0816	Worthing Church	TF9818
Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley	TG0218	Worthing GP	TF9818
Wendling	TF9212	Worthing, level crossing	TF9818





## Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Honey Buzzard				6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Swanton Morley GP	DN & IB
Hobby	8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Sculthorpe Moor NR	NMi	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Pensthorpe	DW
Common Tern	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Pensthorpe	TS
Turtle Dove	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Lenwade	SG	13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Primrose Green, Lyng	
Cuckoo	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham	CS	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Pensthorpe	TS
Swift	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham GP	CS	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Pensthorpe	TS
Sand Martin	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham	CS	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Dereham SW	PJ
Swallow	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Sparham	CS	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Swanton Morley GP	DK
House Martin	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham	CS	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Swanton Morley	DK
Nightingale		No records				
Sedge Warbler	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Pensthorpe	GE	6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Pensthorpe	TS
Reed Warbler	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Sparham GP	CS	24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Pensthorpe	TS
Lesser Whitethroat	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Sparham	CS	14 <sup>th</sup> June	Pensthorpe	TS
Whitethroat	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Costessey Pits	DN	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Pensthorpe	TS

(continues)

### Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants (continued)

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Garden Warbler	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Foxley Wood	RG	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Swanton Morley GP	LB
Willow Warbler	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools	CS	9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Guist Common	RG, AH & RN
Spotted Flycatcher	16 <sup>th</sup> May	Mattishall	EW	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Guist Common	AH & RG

### Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors

Species	Latest	Location	Obs.	Earliest	Location	Obs.
Goosander	18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Sparham Hall Farm & Sparham Pools NR	RG	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Pensthorpe	TS
Golden Plover	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	North Tuddenham	B&BP	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	North Tuddenham	B&BP
Fieldfare	4 <sup>th</sup> May	Pensthorpe	TS	29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Worthing	DK
Redwing	18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	HBW	DK	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Pensthorpe	TS
Brambling	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Lenwade	RG	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Scarning	IB
Siskin	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes	RG <i>et al</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Pensthorpe	TS

## WVBS 2012 Ringing Report

Ringers were busy in the Wensum Valley during 2012, and this report documents the results of their efforts. Outstanding amongst the recoveries was a wing-tagged nestling Marsh Harrier from Sculthorpe Moor which was re-sighted in Lisbon, Portugal. This was the first recovery of a Norfolk-ringed Marsh Harrier in Portugal and only the fifth from anywhere abroad. Also notable was a Black-headed Gull to the Republic of Ireland, a Sand Martin from France and a Blackbird from Sweden.

My thanks to all the ringers that operated in the WVBS study area during 2012 for access to their records.

### Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2012

Ringing details are shown on the first line whilst recovery information is on the second. M = male, F = female.

#### Tufted Duck

First-year M	24-02-1997	Pensthorpe, near Fakenham
Re-caught	13-01-2012	Blunham, Bedfordshire (110km SW)

First-year M	27-12-1994	Pensthorpe, near Fakenham
Alive	06-11-2012	Pensthorpe, near Fakenham

Note that although the elapsed time between the captures of these two birds were nearly 15 years and nearly 18 years respectively, neither come close to the British longevity record which stands at 24 years and 3 months.

**Red Kite**

Nestling	21-06-2011	near Bulwick, Northamptonshire
Field sighting	10-06-2012	Colkirk, Fakenham (104km ENE)

This is the first time that Red Kite has featured in this report. The bird was ringed as a nestling and was identified in Colkirk from the wing-tags that were applied at the time of ringing.

**Marsh Harrier**

Nestling M	10-06-2011	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Field sighting	31-10-2011	Little Bells Farm, Isle of Sheppey, Kent (163km S)
Field sighting	11-09-2012	Newport, Gwent (294km WSW)
Field sighting	17-11-2012	Chew Valley Lake, Avon (289km SW)

Nestling F	10-07-2011	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Field sighting	25-12-2012	Lisbon, <b>Portugal</b> (1,720km SSW)

A fine set of results from the wing-tagging scheme sponsored by the Hawk and Owl Trust. The second shown represents the first recovery of a Norfolk-ringed Marsh Harrier in Portugal and only the fifth from anywhere abroad. Note the date of the sighting in Lisbon – what a find on Christmas Day!

**Black-headed Gull**

Nestling	12-06-2012	Sparham Hall Farm, Lyng
Field sighting	31-08-2012	Dublin, <b>Republic of Ireland</b> (500km W)
Field sighting	06-11-2012	Dublin, <b>Republic of Ireland</b> (500km W)

This bird was ringed as a nestling on the WVBS tern raft. There are few movements of Norfolk-ringed birds to the Republic of Ireland. However, the ringing of nestling Black-headed Gulls at Cantley back in the 1990s yielded a couple of recoveries to the Dublin area.

**Barn Owl**

Nestling	14-07-2004	Kettlestone, Fakenham
Found dead	01-01-2012	Walsingham (9km NNW)

This bird was in its eighth year when it was involved in a road traffic accident. The national longevity record for this species is a little over 15 years.

**Tawny Owl**

Nestling	09-05-2010	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Found injured	16-01-2012	near Fakenham (2km)

There are not many Tawny Owls ringed in the WVBS study area, so a recovery is welcome, though sadly this bird was another victim of a road traffic accident.

**Sand Martin**

First-year	13-08-2010	Massereau, Loire-Atlantique, <b>France</b>
Re-caught	02-07-2011	Easthaugh, Lyng (647km NNE)

Most of our Sand Martins migrate along the west coast of France. This is amply demonstrated by this bird, the 14<sup>th</sup> from France to be found in Norfolk. There have been no less than 30 movements in the opposite direction.

**Swallow**

Juvenile	09-08-2012	Guist Common, East Dereham
Re-caught	14-09-2012	Shotley, Suffolk (92km SSE)

Originally ringed at the reed-bed roost at Guist, this bird had started its journey southward when trapped at another reed-bed roost in Suffolk just over a month later.

**Willow Warbler**

First-year M	18-06-2010	Shereford, Fakenham
Re-caught	25-03-2012	High Bridge, Williton, Somerset (336km WSW)

Ringed as a young bird, this Willow Warbler was doubtless on return migration when trapped during the following March in Somerset.

### **Blackcap**

First-year M	16-09-2012	Icklesham, Sussex
Re-caught	21-09-2012	West Lexham (202km N)

Juvenile	31-07-2011	Guist Common, East Dereham
Re-caught	22-09-2011	Icklesham, Sussex (211km S)

The first shown was re-caught at West Lexham only five days after being ringed in Sussex. It was clearly unsure of which direction it should be traveling during September! The second shown was far more traditional in its choice of route.

### **Sedge Warbler**

Juvenile	09-08-2012	Guist Common, East Dereham
Re-caught	20-08-2012	Walberswick, Suffolk (71km SE)

Note that there were only 11 days between the two capture dates.

### **Reed Warbler**

Juvenile	12-08-2011	Guist Common, East Dereham
Re-caught	01-09-2011	Icklesham, Sussex (211km S)

Icklesham is a major bird-ringing station in Sussex where many Norfolk-ringed birds are re-caught.

### **Blackbird**

Adult F	22-03-2009	Tangesbro, Ostervala, <b>Sweden</b>
Freshly dead	10-02-2012	Fakenham, (1,288km SW)

Many Swedish-bred Blackbirds winter in Norfolk, this being the 87<sup>th</sup> such interchange. This particular bird was taken by a cat in Fakenham.

## A Brief Encounter with a Kestrel

On a rare sunny Sunday in February 2012, the 26<sup>th</sup> to be precise, we were sitting on the shingle bank at Salthouse, in the sunshine, eating our lunch and watching the large flock of Snow Buntings enjoying the seed which some wily birders had put down to attract them to feed in this area. There were very few other watchers around (it was lunchtime) and we appeared to be the only birders enjoying the sight of these special winter finches filling up on seed.

Suddenly, from our left, across the car park, a bolt of lightning struck the flock, which immediately scattered. The “bolt” continued on to the shingle bank, slightly higher up and to our right, where this “bolt of lightning” proceeded to dismember its catch. At first we thought it must have been a Sparrowhawk, but, as we sat gazing incredulously at this predator, we concluded that it was, in fact, a Kestrel. It only stayed put for a minute or two and flew off immediately some people came along the bank in our direction. However, it did not leave its prize behind, but took off with the Snow Bunting in its talons.

Brenda and John Palmer

*(Editor's note: Kestrels are adaptable and opportunistic in their choice of prey which consists chiefly of small mammals with birds constituting secondary items. We are all familiar with the species' characteristic hovering flight and swoop to the ground to seize its prey but the Kestrel also hunts by direct attack, seizing its prey in trees, bushes or in full flight. I could not find any mention of seizing prey on the ground as in this case. Its prey is almost always eaten on the ground or on a perch and it can sometimes steal food from other predators.*

*The bird prey items are usually open country passerines such as larks, pipits, buntings, finches, sparrows, thrushes or starlings. In the summer newly fledged birds may often be fed exclusively to their young. It may also prey on smaller waders and juveniles of larger ducks, gulls, godwits, partridges and is capable of killing species up to the size of adult Lapwing, Turtle Dove and Coot).*

## **Common Terns at NWT Sparham Pools NR and Sparham Hall Farm Fishing Lakes 2012**

During 2012 the Common Terns breeding success was monitored on both the island on NWT Sparham Pools NR and on the tern raft at Sparham Lakes.

Visits were made on 2 dates – 25<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> June.

### **NWT Sparham Pools NR**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May there were no Common Terns visiting the island, possibly due to Black-headed Gulls taking up residence. It would appear that all the endeavours we made in the winter to put sandbags around the island to reduce further erosion of the island was benefitting the Black-headed Gulls.

On the first visit to the island it was estimated that at least 6 pair of Common Tern were nest building, however, 25 pair of Black-headed Gulls were more advanced with their breeding. Nest cards for the BTO Nest Record Scheme were completed for the Black-headed Gull nests.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June it was not possible to visit the island due to the large number of Black-headed Gull chicks which, although still dependent on their parents, would have dispersed all over the lake. It is not known whether the Common Tern chicks fledged successfully as those from the raft visit the nature reserve once fledged.

### **Sparham Hall Farm Fishing Lakes Tern Raft**

It is always interesting to compare the breeding success of the island and the raft.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 30+ Common Terns were in the vicinity of the tern raft lake.

By 25<sup>th</sup> May when a visit was made to the raft there were 12 nests each with 2 or 3 eggs. There was also 1 pair of Black-headed Gulls with 3 eggs.



On the second visit on 12<sup>th</sup> June 13 young Common Tern and 3 Black-headed Gull chicks were ringed. This visit was possible due to netting erected around the perimeter of the raft to prevent predation from Otters and keep geese off. The netting also prevents the Common Tern and Black-headed Gull chicks “exploding” prematurely.

BTO Nest Record Cards were completed for all the Common Tern and the Black-headed Gull nests.

All 13 young are believed to have fledged successfully from the raft.

## **Conclusions**

It is disappointing that all the hard work done on the reserve during the winter to ensure the island was suitable for the nesting of the Common Terns on their return from Africa did not produce the expected result. I know that discussions are in hand between Alwyn Jackson and John Milton to see if more satisfactory outcome can be achieved in 2013.

Fortunately the combination of the raft and the island in the Sparham Pools Complex gives the Common Terns alternative breeding sites if one site is less suitable than the other in any given year.

Incidentally one of the Black-headed Gull chicks ringed on the raft was recorded in Dublin on both 31<sup>st</sup> Aug and 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012. There are very few records of Black-headed Gull chicks moving from Norfolk to Ireland especially so soon after fledging.

## **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to both Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Charles Sayer for allowing and supporting the monitoring and ringing of the Common Terns.

Ray Gribble

## Hempton Marsh Reserve Report 2012

Once again thanks and credit must go to the volunteers and visitors to the reserve this year, who again enabled a comprehensive collection of records of the birds, insects and mammals seen during 2012. The total number of bird records collected was 7,547, slightly down on the previous year. This does not reflect a reduction in man hours at the reserve, as all types of wildlife were badly affected by the cold and wet conditions which prevailed in the first half of 2012.

The Marsh and Willow Tit survey continues to be well supported, although Willow Tit as a species in the Wensum Valley almost certainly seems to have become extinct, with none recorded this year. Marsh Tits on the contrary seem to be doing well, with birds recorded in every month and virtually on every visit made to the reserve. Several interesting local movements have come to light with the colour ringing of these birds. Marsh Tits seem, largely as suspected, to be using the valley as a corridor to move between sites. Several examples include a bird ringed at Hempton and fitted with two yellow rings on the left leg in December 2010 which was seen on no less than eleven occasions at Sculthorpe Moor during 2012, with another bird ringed with blue over white on the left leg at Pensthorpe in October 2010 seen on three occasions at Sculthorpe between July and October 2012. On a more local note a bird ringed at Hempton in 2010 with blue over red left leg, reappeared at Hempton in January 2012, though with the longevity record for Marsh Tit at just over 10 years our birds still have some way to go! The above shows the value of colour ringing birds, and with a sightings history giving far more information back than just ringing a bird and relying on it being recaptured or found dead.

### Birds

The year at the reserve got off to an exciting start with a noisy flock of nine Common Cranes seen on [New Year](#) day flying west over the marsh, with varying numbers of this group seen up and down the valley over the

next few days. A Mealy (or Common) Redpoll was also present, accompanying three Lesser Redpolls on the same date noted high in the woodland canopy with Goldfinches and Siskins. Other birds of note during the month included a Little Egret on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Water Rail on the 6<sup>th</sup>, a flock of Pink-footed Geese on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Bullfinches on three dates and Woodcock on two dates during the month.

During February the first, and only one of three, Stock Doves of the year was noted, a count of 500 Woodpigeons was made, and Woodcock sightings increased with birds noted on four dates with a maximum of three on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A Barn Owl was seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> with another Little Egret present on 27<sup>th</sup>. The local Kestrels became more active and recorded on four dates during the month and a Little Grebe was again seen on the river. A bird that is always a pleasure to see at this time of year is Goosander, with birds occasionally seen along the River Wensum. This year a maximum of six were seen from the reserve on the 12<sup>th</sup>, with birds also seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (2).

Another Little Egret was noted on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, with a Bittern flushed from the meander the same day. Other records of note included the first Chiffchaff on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Tawny Owl on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Kingfisher (17<sup>th</sup>), single Oystercatchers (22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>) and Woodpigeon counts made of 140 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 88 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The last Siskins seen were on the 6<sup>th</sup> (20) and Redpolls were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> (2) and 21<sup>st</sup> (6).

During April a pair of Tufted Ducks were recorded on six dates, and Marsh Harrier and Oystercatcher sightings increased with both recorded on four dates. Summer visitors had also started to arrive and first records of these on the reserve included Blackcap (5<sup>th</sup>), Willow Warbler (11<sup>th</sup>), Sedge warbler (14<sup>th</sup>), Swift (30<sup>th</sup>) and Cuckoo (30<sup>th</sup>). Other species of note during the month included two Snipe (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>) and a Kingfisher on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Greylag Goose was a species that was seen regularly during March and April, numbers and sightings gradually increased during May, with birds recorded during the month on 15 dates with a maximum of 8 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several other species saw an increase in records during May; these

included Grey Heron (13), Oystercatcher (7), Cuckoo (6) and Barn Owl (3). Tawny Owls bred successfully again on the reserve with two chicks ringed, and other sightings of note included a Kingfisher (10<sup>th</sup>) and Whitethroat (30<sup>th</sup>).

**June** saw Greylag Geese numbers peaking with fifteen on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and a nice find was a Red Kite on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Single Bullfinch (12<sup>th</sup>) and Whitethroat (23<sup>rd</sup>) were also recorded.

**July** was expectedly quiet with the only real birds of note being three Crossbills over on 28<sup>th</sup> and a Kingfisher present on the same date.

During **August** the local Buzzards became more active with nine records during the month which were all singles, other than two on the 6<sup>th</sup>. A far from regular visitor to the site is Nuthatch, so sightings of a single bird on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> were a welcome addition to the year's species list.

During **September** another irregular visitor, Little Grebe, was seen again on the river, there were two more Kingfisher sightings during the month, on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, another Stock Dove on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and an increase in Woodpigeon numbers with 215 counted on 29<sup>th</sup>.

During **October** more unusual sightings included a Green Woodpecker on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Goldcrest (18<sup>th</sup>) and Pied Wagtails (9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>). A Common Crane, the second record this year, was noted on the 11<sup>th</sup> - though with free flying birds at nearby Pensthorpe single Cranes like this are always going to have a question mark over their origins - but a very nice bird to find all the same.

During **November** a single Little Grebe and Little Egret were both present on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and both Goldcrest and Pied Wagtail were seen again during the month. A Kingfisher was seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and the returning Goldfinch flock peaked at 40 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, with several Siskins noted with them on the same date, with these and three Redpoll sp on the 24<sup>th</sup> giving rise to the feeling the year was coming to an end.

The Goldfinch flock was again present during **December** with Redpolls and Siskins observed with them on several dates. A Goldcrest was again noted, with a Kingfisher on the 6<sup>th</sup> and ten Redwings on the

1<sup>st</sup>. Rising water levels on the marsh due to heavy rainfall meant large areas became totally flooded which attracted larger numbers of gulls and at times wildfowl. This meant that species not usually recorded appeared, with Gadwall and Wigeon both present on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Mammals

A total of 71 mammal records were collected this year, a substantial decrease on 2011. The main reason for this drop in records is primarily due to the seeming absence of Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) at the site, and the drop in Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) sightings, with the latter still recorded during nine months of the year though with only 16 records compared to 74 in 2011. The majority of records this year related to Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) (44), which were recorded throughout the year, though absent during the months of March and April. Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) continued to be seen in small numbers. Sightings were restricted to the first four months of the year, with records on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 21<sup>st</sup> of March (2) and 5<sup>th</sup> April. Other species recorded during the year were of Stoat (*Mustela erminea*) on seven dates, Bank Vole (*Myodes glareolus*) on the 14<sup>th</sup> February and a Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) seen on the 31<sup>st</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> October.

## Insects

A total of 128 casual insect records were collected during the year, which is almost 50% down on last year's numbers, unsurprising in view of the weather. 2012 produced the wettest April for a century and dampest June on record. The effects of this prolonged wet weather would have prevented caterpillars from thriving, stopping adults from finding mates and therefore stopping them laying eggs for the next generation. In total there were only 46 Butterflies and 82 Dragonflies/damselflies recorded. The first butterfly record was a Peacock (*Inachis io*) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, with surprisingly no more recorded until May, with the first Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May and a further six dates through the month. A Small White (*Artogeia napi*) on the 26<sup>th</sup> of

May was the only other butterfly recorded during the month, with the first Damselfly, Large Red (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*), noted on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of May. The trough month for butterfly numbers at Holme, things did not improve at Hempton in June, with a single Speckled Wood (*Parage aegeria*) on 26<sup>th</sup> being the only butterfly recorded during the whole month! Dragonflies and Damselflies fared better, with the first Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*) recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> plus five other dates during the month. Other species recorded were Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) on three dates and Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) and Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

July finally saw an increase in butterfly records with Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) and Small White, Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) recorded. Dragonflies and Damselflies also increased with the appearance of the first Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*), Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*), and Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*).

August was the best month by far with nineteen butterfly records which included Comma (*Polygonia c-album*), Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) and a Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*). There were also 33 Dragonfly and Damselfly records which included the first Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*), Emperor (*Anax imperator*), Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*) and an increase in Ruddy Darters with individuals recorded on six dates.

September saw evidence of second generation emergence, with an Orange Tip on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and Red Admirals seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The month also saw single records of Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*), Emperor and Brown Hawker, with Common and Ruddy Darters more numerous with seven records in total.

October's last butterfly records were Comma and Red Admiral both on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the last dragonfly was a Ruddy Darter on 13<sup>th</sup>

Gary Elton, Assistant Warden

## **Birds at the Hawk and Owl Trust's Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve in 2012**

The season got off to a good start with three successful broods of Tawny Owls. Two broods were in nest boxes and visitors were able to watch their progress via CCTV cameras. Three chicks fledged from one nest box and delighted visitors for several days by sitting on branches in plain sight, two chicks fledged from the other nest box and at least two chicks fledged from a natural site.

A pair of Barn Owls also bred in a nest box, two chicks were ringed but the wet summer made for difficult hunting conditions and they appeared to be struggling to get enough food.

The female Marsh Harrier who regularly nests on the reserve did so again and successfully fledged 5 chicks. These were ringed and wing tagged joining a total of 32 young Marsh Harriers hatched from other Norfolk sites in the same season and 14 from the 2011 generation, making a total to date of 46 birds carrying distinctive lime green wing tags. Hawk and Owl Trust volunteer and North West Ringing Group member Phil Littler is carrying out the study with help from other Norfolk bird ringers. The project is being funded through generous donations made by the visitors who attended the 2007 'Wild About the Wensum Event' hosted by the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust. Sightings of the birds away from Norfolk have included places in East Anglia, Kent and the Somerset levels, the furthest reported sighting so far has come from near Lisbon, Portugal. Please report any sightings of the tagged birds via the Trusts website <https://hawkandowltrust.org> to help with this important research.

Small bird breeding was also affected by the wet weather but several pairs of Bullfinch with young were observed regularly. Marsh Tit and Willow Tit were both heard on the reserve as well as Great Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers drumming. As well as Marsh Harrier and Hobby, a range of other migrants including Cuckoo, Chiffchaff, Willow,

Garden, Grasshopper, Sedge and Reed Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Blackcap were also present in the summer.

Woodcock were observed roding in the spring and also occasionally seen later in the year. Snipe were also present on the wet meadows.

Kingfishers were seen regularly including on one occasion a group of four, leading to the conclusion that the birds had bred successfully.

As the season progressed an influx of Nuthatch appeared in the autumn followed by large numbers of Brambling then Redpoll and Siskin. Once the cold weather arrived Water Rails were seen daily under the bird feeders on the edge of the reedbed and over Christmas one or two Hen Harriers were coming in to roost as well as a small flock of Starlings. Bittern have been present in the reedbed over the winter.

Buzzard and Red Kite are other raptors seen over the reserve, Buzzard regularly and Red Kite more occasionally.



## Weather Report 2012

### January

A rather mild month with wintry conditions delayed until the 29<sup>th</sup> when a cold easterly airstream spread over East Anglia with snow flurries on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. It was the driest January in Norfolk since 2006.

Total Rainfall: 41.0mm (79% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 5.5°C (+1.5°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 13

Air Frosts: 9

#### *Wind Direction Summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	1	0	0	0	5	13	4	7

### February

This was a month of two halves with the period 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> having a mean temperature of only 0.1° and in great contrast the period 16<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> registering a mean temperature of 8.3°. The air temperature fell to -10.1° on the 11<sup>th</sup> and snow lay from the 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> inclusive with a maximum depth of 9 cms. There was a marked rainfall deficit which made it the driest February in Norfolk for 10 years. The maximum temperature of 18.6° on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was very close to the national record for the date.

Total Rainfall: 14.5mm (34% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 4.3°C (+0.5°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 17

Air Frosts: 14

#### *Wind Direction Summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	3	3	2	1	5	7	5	1

## March

With a marked excess of sunshine it was the warmest March since 1997. The temperature attained levels more appropriate to early summer from 20<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> with the maximum of exactly 22° on the 28<sup>th</sup> only just below the March record of 22.3°. The rainfall average over Norfolk was 52.4 mms with much of this figure attained during a sustained downpour on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The total on these days exceeded any two day amount recorded in the Norwich area in March since at least the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Total Rainfall: 62.5mm (134% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 8.2°C (+2.3°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 14

Air Frosts: 6

### *Wind Direction Summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	4	0	5	4	2	2	6	3	5

## April

With rain recorded on 26 days it was an extremely wet month with a rainfall total of 119.8 mms which exceeded that of the three preceding months combined.

Unusually the mean temperature was lower than that of March.

A further item of interest was a funnel cloud being observed over Norwich on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Total Rainfall: 119.8mm (244% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 7.9°C (+0.3°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 13

Air Frosts: 4

### *Wind Direction Summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	4	4	0	3	1	4	6	7	1

## May

After three weeks of dull and cheerless weather some redemption arrived on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with a sudden heat wave that peaked on the 28<sup>th</sup> with a maximum of 27.3°.

It was the driest May in Norfolk for over ten years.

Total Rainfall: 39.8m (88% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 12.5°C (+1.2°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 1

Air Frosts: 0

### *Wind Direction Summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	3	3	5	1	4	3	9	1

## June

This was an unseasonably dull and wet month with a rainfall total approaching double the average but still not as wet as June 2007. The maximum on the 3<sup>rd</sup> was only 10.1° and it was not until the 26<sup>th</sup> that a single day achieved a maximum that exceeded the warmest day in March. Slight thunder was noted on four days.

Total Rainfall: 97.4mm (182% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 14.3°C (0.0°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 0

Air Frosts: 0

### *Wind direction summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	0	1	6	2	8	8	4	0

## July

With over double the average rainfall July was a sodden month and the wettest since 1988. Much of the month was dull and dismal but some relief arrived in the last few days when a brief heat wave lifted the monthly mean temperature to exactly normal

Thunder was heard on four days with funnel clouds observed between Hindringham and Langham on the 10<sup>th</sup> and at West Runton on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Total Rainfall: 124.2mm (220% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 16.5°C (0.0°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 0

Air Frosts: 0

### *Wind direction summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	0	3	2	4	9	6	3	3

## August

Unlike many other areas of the United Kingdom Norfolk enjoyed a good summer month with maximum temperatures exceeding 21° on 27 days and 25° on seven. On the 18<sup>th</sup> the temperature soared to 32.8°, the hottest day locally since 21<sup>st</sup> July 2006.

Thunder was heard on 5 days with a downpour measuring 23.6 mm during a storm on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Following a brief shower on the 19<sup>th</sup> a deposit of grey dust was revealed whose origin was certainly North Africa.

Total Rainfall: 57.3mm (112% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 18.1°C (+1.9°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 0

Air Frosts: 0

### *Wind direction summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	1	1	9	3	8	5	1	1

## September

A drier than average month with near normal temperatures and featuring the summer of 2012 ending in dramatic style on the 9<sup>th</sup> with the very high maximum temperature of 28.5°. The first hint of autumn was the ground frost that whitened lawns and fields on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thin high cloud on many days caused mock suns, or sun dogs to be visible on four days.

Total Rainfall: 50.1mm (92% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 13.9°C (-0.4°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 1

Air Frosts: 0

### *Wind direction summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	0	2	0	5	7	10	2	2

## October

With rain recorded on twenty two days it was the wettest October in Norfolk since 2004 and in the Norwich area it was the wettest since 1993.

The month was notably autumnal with a deficiency in sunshine and a short lived covering of snow in the early morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> making it the coldest October in Norfolk since 2008.

Total Rainfall: 83.7mm (144% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 9.9°C (-1.1°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 8

Air Frosts: 2

### *Wind direction summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	2	1	2	1	8	7	1	8

## November

A nondescript month, the wettest overall in Norfolk since 2009, however the distribution of the rainfall was uneven with the north of the county averaging around 100 mms and the south between 55-65 mms.

Sleet fell on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the first dense fog of autumn shrouded the countryside on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Total Rainfall: 87.2mm (137% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 6.7°C (0.0°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 12

Air Frosts: 5

### *Wind direction summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	3	0	1	0	7	10	2	1	6

## December

The month was generally cold until the 13<sup>th</sup> and mild thereafter. Snow fell on five days but was insufficient to provide a cover. The period from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> recorded only a single slight ground frost with the consequence that soil temperatures recovered to early spring levels.

Excessive rains recorded during this period caused minor flooding of the River Wensum.

Total Rainfall: 94.9mm (156% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 4.7°C (-0.1°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 15

Air Frosts: 9

### *Wind direction summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	0	0	5	4	8	5	2	6

## Annual Summary 2012

Total Rainfall	872.4 mms (134% of average)	Wettest Day	3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug (27.8 mm)
Days with rain recorded	206	Days with thunder	19
Lowest maximum	0.5°C (12 <sup>th</sup> Dec)	Lowest minimum	- 10.1°C (11 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
Lowest grass minimum	-12.1°C (11 <sup>th</sup> Feb)		
Air frosts	49	Ground frosts	94
Days with sleet or snow	18	Days with snow lying	8
Days with hail	8	Mean cloud cover at 0900hrs:	67%
Highest Maximum:	32.8°C (18 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	Highest minimum:	19.3°C (18 <sup>th</sup> Aug)
Days with gales:	4	Days with fog (0900hrs):	

Longest period without measurable rainfall: 15 days from 19<sup>th</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Annual mean maximum: 14.3°C

Annual mean minimum: 6.1°C

Annual mean: 10.2°C

### *Wind direction summary*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	22	14	22	38	31	78	78	42	41

Observations made with approved Meteorological Office instrumentation and in accordance with standard Met Office practice at Old Costessey, Norwich.

**Norman Brooks** (Fellow Royal Meteorological Society)

## **Membership subscriptions**

The WVBS membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. During this time members will be able to participate in a programme of indoor and outdoor meetings, receive copies of the Society's monthly newsletter and a copy of the Society's Annual Report.

**Membership renewals** are due on **1<sup>st</sup> April each year** and should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

**New memberships** should also be sent to the Membership Secretary. For details see the Join Us page at [www.wvbs.co.uk](http://www.wvbs.co.uk)

**Current rates are £11.50 for individual and £17.50 for a couple.**

*Cheques payable to: **Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society.***



## Notes for Contributors

### Submission of Records for 2013 Report.

All observers are requested to **submit records on a monthly basis** as this helps considerably with managing the workload and speeding up production of the Report. If it is not possible to submit records until the end of the year, this should be done **by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014**. Late records cause considerable problems in drafting the Systematic List and their inclusion cannot be guaranteed if received after this deadline.

Where possible, observers are also asked to **submit records by email using the Society's records sheet**. This will enable records to be imported straight into the main spreadsheet thus reducing the work load.

If this is not possible then records should be submitted by hard copy using the Society's Record Sheets which are available at indoor meetings or can be downloaded from the Society's website [www.wvbs.co.uk](http://www.wvbs.co.uk) which also has submission details.

### National and County Rarities

National rarities are dealt with by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC). A full list of species and forms considered by BBRC as well as full details of requirements, procedures and a downloadable reporting form are available on the BBRC website [www.bbrc.org.uk](http://www.bbrc.org.uk)

Species and forms considered rare at county level are dealt with by the County Records Committee. A full list of species or forms requiring descriptions and the details of requirements and procedures can be found on the CBC website <https://norfolkbirds.weebly.com>

All records of rarities should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting.

National rarities accepted by the BBRC and county rarities accepted by the CRC will be published in the Report together with the initials of the finder/identifier.

\*Records marked with an asterix require ratification by the County Records Committee

\*\*Records marked with a double asterix require ratification by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

**2021 PDF of the WVBS Tenth Annual Report\_2012**6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## Text changes

## Format changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
<b>2012 Diary of Events</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> January 8 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> November	for it's diversity indentified	for its diversity identified
<b>Systematic List</b> Introduction Wigeon Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Pintail & Shoveler Great White Egret Black-headed Gull Mediterranean Gull  Common Gull Herring Gull Turtle Dove Long-eared Owl Great Spotted Woodpecker Garden Warbler & Whitethroat Ring Ouzel	twenty-five period <i>Anus Penelope</i>  <i>Anus</i> <i>Ardea alba alba</i> <i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>Larus melancephalus</i> on 2 adults declined off over <i>Larus argentus</i> <i>Streptopelia turtur turtur</i> <i>Asio otus otus</i> from nest hole and. A juvenile  <i>Sylvia</i> <i>Turdus torquatus torquatus</i>	twenty-five year period <i>Anas penelope</i>  <i>Anas</i> <i>Ardea alba</i> <i>Larus ridibundus</i> <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> of 2 adults declined over <i>Larus argentatus</i> <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> <i>Asio otus</i> from nest hole. A juvenile  <i>Sylvia</i> <i>Turdus torquatus</i>
<b>Earliest &amp; Latest Summer Migrants</b>	dates	Reported Dates
<b>Common Terns at NWT Sparham Pools</b>	possible due netting	possible due to netting
<b>Hempton Marsh Report</b>	Pink-feet	Pink-footed Geese
<b>HOT Sculthorpe Moor Report</b>	<a href="http://www.hawkandowl.org">www.hawkandowl.org</a>	<a href="https://hawkandowltrust.org">https://hawkandowltrust.org</a> Duplicated section of text deleted (1)
<b>2012 Weather Summary</b>		Month summaries were moved to individual months and the Annual Summary tabulated.

(1) This section of text "Kingfisher were seen regularly including on one occasion a group of four, leading to the conclusion that the birds had bred successfully.

As the season progressed an influx of nuthatch appeared in the autumn followed by large numbers of brambling then redpoll and siskin. Once the cold weather arrived water rails were seen daily under the bird feeders on the edge of the reedbed and over Christmas one or two hen harriers

were coming in to roost as well as a small flock of starlings. Bittern have been present in the reedbed over the winter.

Buzzard and red kite are other raptors seen over the reserve, buzzard regularly and red kite more occasionally" appeared twice.