

Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society



Eleventh Annual Report 2013

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Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

2013 Annual Report

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Covering the Wensum Valley from Norwich to Fakenham and beyond

Founded 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 Hall for All on the third Thursday of each month.

Committee 2013

President	Ray Gribble
Chairman	Liz Bridge
Secretary	Lin Pateman
Treasurer	Martin Spriggs
Membership Secretary	Richard Norris
Publicity	Sue Gale
Newsletter Editor	David Knight
Recorder	David Gibbons
Loan Library	Josh Leeder
Member	Mary Walker
Webpage	www.wvbs.co.uk
Website Manager	Richard Norris

*Front cover: Grey Partridge in the River Wensum valley 2013,
photographed by member Barry Pummell*

2013 Programme of meetings and events

Sun 6th Jan	Outdoor meeting – Winter Count Co-ordinator – Richard Norris
Thurs 17th Jan	Indoor meeting – Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve Speaker – Nigel Middleton, Warden. CANCELLED due to weather
Sun 27th Jan	Outdoor meeting – Strumpshaw Fen & Buckenham Marsh Leader – Lin Pateman
Thurs 21st Feb	Indoor meeting – Spitzbergen – Wildlife at the Top of the World Speaker – Dr Kevin Elsby
Sat 23rd Feb	Outdoor meeting – Sandringham & Roydon Common Leader – Richard Norris and Lin Pateman
Thurs 21st Mar	Indoor meeting – European Songbird Migration Speaker – David Sadler
Sun 31st Mar	Outdoor Meeting – The Brecks Leader – Glenn Collier
Thurs 18th Apr	Indoor meeting - AGM followed by a talk – Birding Arizona Speaker – Allan Hale

Sat 4th May	Outdoor meeting – Bayfield Walk & Glaven Valley Leader – Mary Walker
Thurs 16th May	Indoor meeting – Sutton Fen Speaker – Richard Mason, Warden
Sat 18th May	“Wild About the Wensum” Conservation Event at Pensthorpe, Fakenham.
Sun 26th May	Outdoor meeting – Dawn Chorus & Bacon Butties at Sparham Pools Leader – Glenn Collier
Wed 5th June	Scarning Water Meadow – Leader Trevor & Wendy Brown
Thurs 20th June	Outdoor meeting – Nightjar Evening Leader – Josh Leeder
Sat 29th June	Minsmere – Leader – Ray Gribble
Thurs 18th July	Indoor meeting – Summer Social Evening
Sun 28th July	Outdoor Meeting – Sparham Hall Farm for Moths & Farmland Birds Leader – Charles Sayer
Thurs 15th Aug	Indoor meeting – Working with Raptors Speaker - Nigel Middleton

Sat 24th Aug	Outdoor meeting – Snettisham for the High Tide Leader – Phil Borley and Lin Pateman
Thurs 19th Sept	Indoor meeting – Are Gardens good for Birds or Birdwatchers Speaker – Mike Toms (BTO)
Sun 22nd Sept	Outdoor meeting – North Norfolk Coast Leader – Colin Fenn
Sat 12th Oct	Wild About Norfolk Conservation Fair at Easton College
Thurs 17th Oct	Indoor meeting – Wildlife of South-western USA Speaker – Su Gough (BTO)
Sun 27th Oct	Outdoor meeting – Lackford Lakes Leader – Richard Norris
Thurs 21st Nov	Indoor meeting – A Year in the Wildlife of Minsmere Speaker – Alex Bass
Sun 24th Nov	Outdoor meeting – Ouse Washes & Fen Drayton Leader – Liz Bridge
Thurs 12th Dec	Xmas Social at Weston Longville Hall for All.

2013 Diary of Events

Sunday 6th January: 2013 Winter Count. Our annual bird count took place on 6th January and on what, at the time promised to be a fine bright day the six teams taking part began to search the valley. However later in the day the weather took a hand and mist rolled in making conditions slightly more testing and which resulted in lower than usual totals being recorded. The final winners were Paul Riley and Ian Britain with a total of 67. During the day an overall total of 82 species were seen. As darkness fell everyone assembled in Weston Longville Village Hall for a welcome cup of tea, some cakes and a chance to review the day's events.

Our January indoor meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

Sunday 27th January: Strumpshaw Fen and Buckenham Marshes. The snow had at last gone and with eager anticipation members gathered at Strumpshaw for a day's birding. It was a very quiet day on the Reserve, where much of the water was still frozen. So later a move was made to Buckenham Marshes where the sun was shining brightly however with a very cold wind blowing. The highlights were sightings of a male Hen Harrier and a Peregrine, which flew around for a while and then settled to rest on the ground. The day ended with 55 species seen in total.

Thursday 21st February: Spitzbergen - Wildlife at the Top of the World: Guest Speaker: Dr Kevin Elsby. Spitzbergen is the largest and only permanently populated island of the Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. Scenes of majestic scenery were interspersed with shots of the flora and fauna that survive in the few centimetres of unfrozen ground above the permafrost. An interesting feature of the presentation was seeing birds in breeding plumages that we in Britain only see in winter. Rarities such as Brunnich's Guillemot also featured and a picture of the beautiful Ivory Gull in flight was a memorable addition to the set.

Once again thanks to Kevin for another interesting talk and this time he gave us a great insight of life in the High Arctic together with stunning photography and amusing anecdotes.

Thursday 21st March: European Songbird Migration - Guest Speaker: David Sadler. Why do birds migrate? Food availability plays a central part and in the UK with the cooling of temperatures in autumn this means that active insect life decreases so warblers and other species need to move south to warmer and more insect rich environments. As spring approaches again here in Britain, food supplies regenerate with insects etc again becoming plentiful so birds can return to their traditional breeding grounds. Some species travel huge distances through great danger from all sorts of predation to achieve their objective but how do we know where birds travel? Ringing is helpful but dependent on a bird being re-captured or found more probably dead. David showed how geo-locaters are increasingly being used, that these are so light that they can be fitted to the smallest birds and send information via satellite, while there are others that need to be recovered for the information to be downloaded. So gradually more and more information is being collected which enables us to know more about where birds go and what routes they take, (which is not necessarily always the most obvious one to us).

Sunday 31st March: The Brecks - Leader Glen Collier. This was a very cold morning at Santon Downham where our day started in the hope of finding a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, and all the usual places were explored but to no avail. However, Woodlark were seen and heard, Stock Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh Tit, Moorhen, Siskin, Greylag Geese, Reed Bunting and Redpoll were all seen together with a Kingfisher and Grey Wagtail by the riverbank. We then travelled on to Lynford Arboretum where we were successful in finding a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Later in the day we were able to finish with Stone Curlew feeding in a maize strip. In all a total of 70 species were recorded for the day.

Thursday 18th April: AGM - Birding Arizona - Guest Speaker Allan Hale.

Our AGM was held at our April meeting and following that, Allan talked enthusiastically about his trip and the birds he and his wife had seen.

As always Allan's talk was accompanied by stunning photography that showed off the different plumages particularly the various Humming Birds; their colours magnificent and almost fluorescent. Among birds that he saw on the trip were: Condor, American Robin, Red-tailed Hawk, Buzzard and Red-winged Blackbird, Black-necked Stilt and a Blackhead Grosbeak.

A visit to the Grand Canyon produced more stunning panoramic photographs. Allan's humorous commentary and anecdotes, together with great pictures always produce a welcome and informative evening for all.

Saturday 4th May: The Bayfield Walk & Glaven Valley - Leader Mary Walker.

We met in the Cley Spy car park at 9.00 on a bright sunny morning with a cool northerly breeze. The walk was well attended with over 30 members turning up. The walk followed tracks around the estate which is carefully managed in order to help support the local wildlife. Highlights included Whitethroat, a Lesser Whitethroat and several Blackcap warblers. Chiffchaffs were seen in the hawthorn blossom and we had great views of a male Yellowhammer. An Oystercatcher was spotted in a ploughed field and this bird appeared to be sitting on eggs. We also heard Treecreepers and Nuthatches calling, as well as a distant Cuckoo. Several hares were enjoying the spring sunshine and a Holly Blue butterfly was found by one member. The woods were fairly quiet but there were plenty of birds on the lake in front of Bayfield Hall and walking back beside the Glaven provided more interest. Later we moved on to Cley for the afternoon.

Thursday 16th May: Sutton Fen.

Richard Mason, the Site Manager for RSPB Sutton Fen, joined us for our May meeting. Richard talked to us very enthusiastically, about the development of the site and the outlook for the future. Sutton Fen is in the River Ant valley and is the most important RSPB site for 'all nature'. 12% of all species found are rare or Red Book listed. The initial hours of study at the reserve to discover the detail of what species were present were very exciting. Some species were found in relative abundance and careful study of the habitat surrounding these enabled management plans to be developed to maintain this. Plant species – over 430 present, of which the Fen Orchid is the flagship, it is critically endangered and the site holds over half of the UK population. 1500 species of invertebrates have been recorded of which almost 300 are nationally rare or Red Book listed. The Fen Mason Wasp, a solitary wasp is notable resident. There are over 80 breeding species of birds using the site with over 1000 individual nests. Excitingly a dozen Grasshopper Warbler territories have been recorded and Cranes are a priority species.

Saturday 18th May: Wild about the Wensum.

As in previous years WVBS provided guides in the 2 hides situated on the scrape during the day. Our effort was well rewarded with both children (and adults) showing great interest and some being very knowledgeable and keen to learn more about the different species displaying in front of them.

We also maintained our usual display stand in the Marquee with items about the work of the Society and a colouring competition for children.

Sunday 26th May: Dawn Chorus & Bacon Butties at Sparham Pools - Leaders Glenn Palmer & Lucy Topsom.

It was a cool but fine morning and before many minutes had passed Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Mistle Thrush, Pheasant, Chiffchaff and a Firecrest had been heard. Around the lakes we saw the usual water birds and later a Barn Owl, Hobby and a Kingfisher were also seen but the

undoubted bird of the morning was a Red Kite which circled the farm buildings for several minutes before flying off. By breakfast time we had seen a total of 66 birds.

Wednesday 5th June: Scarning Water Meadows - Trevor and Wendy Brown.

Around 30 members assembled in the centre of Dereham on a sunny but cool evening for a stroll around Scarning Water Meadows. It was a surprise to most of us that there was a reserve so close to the centre of the town supporting such a diversity of wildlife. During our walk Turtle Doves, Whitethroat and Bulfinch were seen, while in one of the streams a family of Water Vole were enjoying themselves.

Thursday 20th June: Nightjars at Marsham Heath - Leader Josh Leeder.

Earlier rain had left low cloud which had descended to give a misty, if not foggy, atmosphere to the heath. Despite this we were rewarded with what were possibly our best views for several years of both male and female birds. An unusual omission for the evening was a complete lack of any Woodcock flying through.

Saturday 29th June: RSPB Minsmere - Leader Ray Gribble.

A very warm and successful day was spent by members on our bi-annual visit to Minsmere.

Among notable birds was a small flock of Spotted Redshank resting against a far bank. Bearded Tits were flying back and forth across the reeds and later fine views of two Bittern delicately feeding were seen from the Hide and from the Island hide another view of a fine male Bearded Tit basking on a reed head in full sunlight.

The day finished with a visit to Dunwich Heath to find the Dartford Warblers and also a Cuckoo. During the day a total of 77 species were recorded.

Thursday 18th July: Summer Social Evening & BBQ.

With a marked difference to previous years when we have not been blessed the best of weather, this year our Summer Social took place under cloudless skies and over fifty members enjoyed our annual barbecue in a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere while enjoying the late evening sunshine.

Sunday 28th July: Sparham Hall Farm for Moths & Farmland Birds - Leader Charles Sayer.

After examining the moth trap contents we were given a chance to see the ongoing environmental work undertaken on the farm by Charles Sayer. With wide field margins and specially planted bird food areas the whole area is geared to attract wildlife and the morning gave members a valuable insight into what can be done on a working farm to support the environment.

Thursday 15th August: Working with Raptors - Guest Speaker - Nigel Middleton.

Nigel is based at Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve and continues to manage and develop the reserve since it was founded ten years ago. Because of this anniversary, he devoted the second half of his talk to the history of the reserve and more importantly future plans to create new waterways with reed fringes, as these are the most diverse parts of any reedbed system.

We were horrified to hear about the numbers of barn owls killed on our roads each year. The Hawk and Owl Trust has launched Operation SWORD (Save Wild Owls from Road Deaths), and is keen to involve the public in reporting of these events. If you find a dead owl at the roadside, please notify <https://hawkandowltrust.org>

Thursday 19th September: Are Gardens good for Birds or Birdwatchers? - Guest Speaker - Mike Toms

Mike works for the BTO and gave us a real insight into the life of garden birds and how important our gardens are to the survival of the species we have all grown familiar with. Added together our gardens cover a larger area than all the nature reserves in the country. Data is collected from volunteers, who report weekly on the sightings in their garden. The BTO Garden Birdwatch scheme is run by Mike and his small team, who handle millions of reports each year. We learned that patterns of behaviour that can be picked up from such a large dataset contribute greatly to our understanding of bird welfare. We were all very enthused by this talk and were very grateful to Mike for a stimulating evening.

Saturday 24th August: Snettisham for the High Tide - Leaders: Lin Pateman & Phil Borley.

Snettisham is renowned for the stunning displays of myriad birds and our visit there lived up to all expectations despite less than perfect weather and good views of the spectacle were obtained by all present.

Later in the day with better weather the group moved along to Titchwell and a total of 66 species were recorded for the day.

Sunday 22nd September: The North Norfolk Coast - Leader Colin Fenn

We started our day at the Norfolk Ornithological Association (NOA) site at Holme. The Warden had just completed a round of the mist nets and some members were able to visit the ringing room to see various birds ringed and weighed. Later in the morning a chance was given to view the results of the moth trapping session of the previous night. Our thanks must go to the NOA for allowing us these privileges and looking after us so well.

Later in the day we moved to Titchwell where in the space of ten minutes there were three Red Kites, Marsh Harrier, Buzzard, a Hobby

and to cap it all a Peregrine flying in to cause mayhem on the scrape with everything erupting into the air before settling back down.

Saturday 12th October: Wild about Norfolk.

Once again we supported this annual event at Easton College. Owl cut outs and colouring facilities were provided for the Brownies and these as always proved very popular. It was felt that possibly this event was not as well supported as in other years although a steady stream of visitors kept our volunteers busy answering queries about the Society and its activities.

Thursday 17th October: The Wildlife of South-Western USA - Guest Speaker - Su Gough.

Su Gough of the BTO led us on a photographic wild life journey through the South Western states of America.

Highlights included sights of a Californian Condor and a Gambel's Quail. Later, in Bryce Canyon, among significant snowfall stood reputedly the oldest trees on earth, the Bristlecone pines. After descending back to desert regions they travelled through an uncharacteristically flower filled Death Valley due to unusually cool and wet conditions at the time. The trip included a visit to California's Sequoia National Park where the giant trees provided a jaw dropping spectacle. Next on the itinerary was a whale watching trip in Monterey Bay before finally travelling home from San Francisco.

Sunday 27th October: Lackford Lakes - Leader - Richard Norris

Our visit to this fine Suffolk reserve got off to a good start with good views of three Jack Snipe feeding in front of a nearby hide. During visits to the other hides among the more usual birds we managed to see Goosander, Goldeneye, Kingfisher, Snipe and Cetti's Warbler. Later in the day we were lucky to see a fine male Crossbill together with a flock of Siskins busily feeding in a group of Alder trees. Our total for the day was 52

species seen and our thanks must go to the staff at Lackford Lakes for giving us the use of their Education Room for the day.

Thursday 21st November: A Year in the Wildlife of Minsmere - Guest Speaker Alex Bass.

Alex displayed an intimate knowledge of Minsmere and the surrounding area during his talk which was accompanied by an array of photographs and vocal impressions of various birdcalls and songs.

Sunday 24th November: RSPB Ouse Washes - Leader Liz Bridge.

The reserve has ten hides spread along the reserve and all of them afford fine views of the Washes and the varied bird populations that winter there. Large numbers of Pochard, Tufted Duck, Widgeon and Gadwall were present. Later we were afforded fine views of a flock of Whooper Swans flying in together with several sightings of Pintail and also a Goldeneye. Despite variable weather an enjoyable day was spent by all with a total of 61 species seen.

Thursday 12th December: An Evening with Mark Cocker.

2013 was our 10th Anniversary year and to help us celebrate we were given an enthralling and engaging talk by the celebrated naturalist and wildlife author Mark Cocker.

Mark started by giving us a brief history of the standing of corvids in popular culture showing how through the ages in Europe they have been persecuted as harbingers of contagion and bad luck. However in other countries a totally different story emerges with some species being revered as gods.

In the second part Mark spoke of corvid roosts in Norfolk and in particular the Wensum Valley. He told us of the habitual behaviour displayed by groups collecting at preliminary gatherings in ever increasing numbers to eventually fly to the final roosting site of the night. The evening ended enjoyably with canapés and wine.

This diary has been compiled from monthly contributions by David Knight, Liz Bridge, Glenn Collier, Lucy Topsom, Ray Gribble, Colin and Jackie Fenn, Mary Walker, Lin Pateman, Sue Gale, David and Heather Smith, Steve Chapman and Martin Spriggs and our thanks go to them for their contributions.

The Systematic List

This Systematic List contains records from the Society's defined recording area astride the River Wensum valley. 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 (Mute Swan-Red Kite), David Knight (Marsh Harrier-Black Tern), Alwyn Jackson (Common Tern-Swallow), Ray Gribble (House Martin-Yellow Wagtail) and Steve Chapman (Grey Wagtail-Reed Bunting & Escapes). The Systematic List has then been compiled by 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 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.

Reported over 12 sites in the valley in every month of the year. 6 in Feb on HBW, c20 in Mar at Bittering (DN), 7 pairs in Apr at Bylaugh (R&CG), 13 in June at Pensthorpe and 6 in Oct at Sparham Pools (SC).

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus colombianus*

Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed.

Records from 10 sites in the first winter period with significant records in Feb of 40 at Old Costessey (AB), 150+ at Queen's Hill, Norwich (AB), 30+ between Taverham & Costessey (LW). In Mar 80 at N Tuddenham (B&BP) and 56 on River Tud at New Costessey (AG).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed.

2 records only - 4 in Jan at Pensthorpe (MP) and 2 in Oct in the River Tud valley at Costessey (AG).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

Several sightings this year from 7 sites in both winter periods. In the first winter period 1,100 in Jan at Pensthorpe (TS), 300 in Feb at River Tud, Costessey (PS), and c100 at Elsing Mill Street (A&CJ).

In Nov 50 at Drayton (NE), c290 at Dunton (PB) and 370 at New Costessey (AG).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Very scarce winter visitor. Red listed.

One sighting in Mar of a single bird at Pensthorpe (TS).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common naturalised resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Seen in every month throughout the valley. Evidence of breeding at Lenwade Common. Notable counts – in Jan 130 at Pensthorpe (TS), 39+ at Taverham (LW) and 100 at Ringland (SC); in May 130 at Swanton Morley (RG); in July 220 at West Raynham (SS) and 63 on HBW (DK); in Dec 30 at Sparham Pools (SC).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common naturalised resident. Green listed.

Seen in most months over 8 sites. Highest counts - 24 on HBW in Feb & 28 in Aug; 80 at Lyng Easthaugh in Dec.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

Five records at 2 sites – single at Pensthorpe 7th & 8th Jan, 2 at Bittering on 15th Apr, 36 at Pensthorpe on 21st Apr and 2 on 18th May.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Very scarce visitor to recording area. Amber listed.

Single bird at Pensthorpe on 13th Mar (TS).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Naturalised resident, locally common.

Recorded in the valley in most months. Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe, Costessey Ski Pits and Sparham Hall Farm. Highest counts 8 at Pensthorpe in May and 9 at Sparham Pools in Oct.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Recorded at 5 sites in the valley. At Old Costessey 1 on 15th Mar; at Pensthorpe 3 in Jan, 6 in Feb, 11 in Mar, 6 in Apr, highest counts of 11 in May and 17 in June with just 2 in Nov; at Rawhall 2 in May & 4 in July; at Sparham 6 in Aug; at West Raynham 2 in Jan.

Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe where 3 pairs fledged 1 young.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Very scarce naturalised resident.

Two records – on 10th Mar 2 at Guist (IB) and on 7th Apr 2 at Rawhall GP (IB & DN).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Seen between Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec. Highest counts in first winter period 50+ at Pensthorpe (TS) and 20 at Gt. Ryburgh (A&CJ) in Jan; 129 at Pensthorpe (TS), 111 at Bittering (DN) and 56 at Guist in Mar (IB).

The highest counts in the second winter period were 45 & 75 at Pensthorpe in Dec (RG, MS, LB).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

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

Seen through the year with counts of 50 at Creaking Gate Lake, Bittering (RG&RN), 44 at Pensthorpe (TS), 40 at Bittering (AJ) and 20+ (RN *et al*) at Sparham Pools in Jan. Dec saw records of 58 at Sparham Pools (AJ) and 19 at Pensthorpe (RG, AH).

Teal *Anas crecca*

Fairly scarce winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.

Records of small numbers from twenty sites in the valley.

In the first winter period higher counts of 28 at Costessey Marshes (SC,AB) and 25 at Ringland (AG) in Mar with 20 at Bintree Mill (RG) in Apr.

The second period counts of 20 at Sparham Pools in Sept (SC), 180 at Pensthorpe in Nov (RG,RN) and 235 at the same site in Dec (RG,AH).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Recorded in most months through the valley. The highest counts of 50 at Sparham Pools in Jan, 40 at Costessey in Aug, 31 at Sparham Pools in Oct and 35 at Lenwade Common in Dec.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Records from 3 sites – in Mar 1 at Guist on 10th (IB), 2 at Pensthorpe on 21st & 22nd (TS), and 1 at Bittering/Old Beetley on 24th (DN). Also at Pensthorpe single birds on 21st Apr (TS) and 7th Dec (RG,LB).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

A winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.

Seen in all months except July and Aug. Most records from Pensthorpe with highest counts of 10 in Apr and 11 in Nov; 20 over the River Tud in Feb (AG).

Pochard *Aythya farina*

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

Records for the first winter period from 4 sites with highest counts of 30 at Pensthorpe (a record count in recent years) and 2 at Costessey GP in Feb, c20 at Bittering in Mar and 2 at Sparham Pools in Apr. In the second winter period 12 at Pensthorpe and 1 at Sparham Pools in Dec.

CS never saw more than 2 birds all year at Sparham Pools with “very few this year”.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

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

Present all year. Highest numbers in the first winter period 90 at Sparham GP in Jan 40 at Pensthorpe, 20 at Lenwade Common and 12 at Sparham Hall Farm in Apr. In June two nests at Sparham Pools with 7 and 10 eggs respectively. In the second winter period numbers were not so high with 26 at Bittering in Nov, 25 at Sparham Pools and 21 at Lenwade Common in Dec.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Very scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.

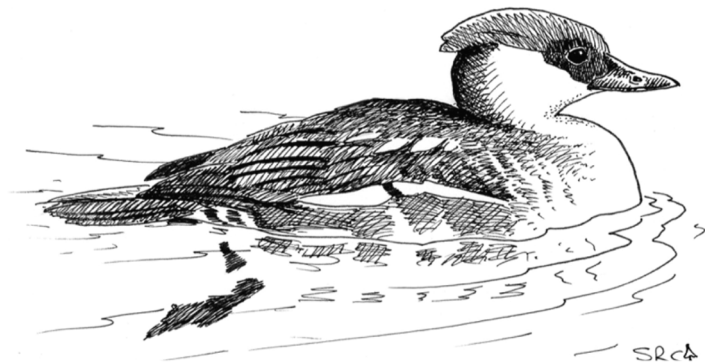
Records of up to 2 birds at Pensthorpe from Jan to Apr (TS). In the second winter period a single bird at Costessey Ski Pits in Nov (MMc).

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Very rare winter visitor. Amber listed.

Single “redheads” seen at Creaking Gate Lake on Jan 5th (RG,RN) and Pensthorpe on 5th Feb (TS) with 3 on 13th Mar (PJ). Single bird still present at Pensthorpe on 16th & 17th Mar (TS&GE).

Female Smew, by Steve Cale



Goosander *Mergus merganser*

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

Up to 4 seen regularly at Sparham Pools in Jan the latest being a single on 11th Apr. Also recorded at Lenwade single 1st Jan; 2 on 10th & 11th Mar, at Lyng 2 on 15th Jan), at Elsing 2 on 26th Feb and Costessey Ski Pits 2 on 21st Oct the earliest second winter period report and single on 25th Nov. Highest count of 12 birds at Sparham Pools during the year (CS).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

1 bird recorded at Bintree in July (AD).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Common naturalised resident.

Again this year large numbers recorded around North Tuddenham with 33 and 24 in Dec. The Hoe Bird Walk had records for most months with the highest count of 15 in Sept. At Worthing level crossing 14 in Feb, 10 in Oct and 8 in Nov recorded. Also records from Costessey Marsh and Pensthorpe. Two birds were regular visitors to Pightle Way, Reepham grazing on the edges of the road and in gardens.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

Two at Little Witchingham in Feb with 3 pairs there in Mar and 2 birds at two sites in North Tuddenham. In April 2 birds presumably pairs at Ringland/Costessey, Costessey Marsh and Pensthorpe. No subsequent reports of breeding received but 5 at Drayton in Aug and 6 at Daffy Green in Nov could have been family groups.

For the first time in living memory no birds recorded on Sparham Hall Farm.

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 with highest counts at Springfield Cottage, North Tuddenham of 6 in May, 8 in June and 8 in July. On Hoe Bird Walk 8 in Sept and 11 in Oct recorded.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

The highest count was 38 at the River Tud, New Costessey. Pensthorpe had records for most months with 10 in Mar and Nov. Seen at Sparham Pools in most months with highest counts of 7 in Sept and 9 in Oct. Hoe Bird Walk had records for most months with the highest count of 8 in Feb. Also seen at Costessey, East End with 4 in Apr.

Bittern *Botaurus Stellaris*

Very scarce winter visitor. Red listed.

Recorded at 5 sites in the valley. Between 1st Jan – 28th Mar a single bird seen regularly in the Sparham Pools area (CS). In addition records of a single bird at Pensthorpe between 7th Jan – 8th Feb (TS) with 3 birds recorded on the 11th Jan the highest number for 5 years at least (MP). Also in Jan singles at NWT Sparham Pools NR on 6th (RN et al) and 15th (PL) and at Sculthorpe Fen on 13th (LB). In Feb a single bird at Hellesdon Mill on 27th (AB) and again on 13th Mar (PS) when another recorded near the River Wensum at Gunton Lane, Costessey (PS).

In the second winter period single at Sparham Pools on 6th Oct (CS) and Pensthorpe Wader Scrape on 12th Dec (RG&AH).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Very scarce resident. Amber listed.

Recorded at Worthing, Pensthorpe, Costessey, Lenwade Common, Sparham Pools, Bylaugh, Scarning, Elsing, Ringland and on the HBW. Highest counts of 7 in Apr and 6 in Mar at Pensthorpe. HBW recorded 3 in June.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

A very rare vagrant.

Single bird 21st & 22nd Apr in the Hoe/Worthing area (DK, IB).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

Recorded on 17 sites throughout the valley in all months. Highest counts of 3 at Pensthorpe and 4 at Lakeside, Lyng in Jan, 3 on HBW in Mar, 4 at Costessey Marsh & East End in Apr, 3 at Pensthorpe in May, 3 at West Raynham in July, 4 at Sparham Pools in Oct with 3 in Dec. One or two birds also recorded at Bintree, Helhoughton, Hindolveston, HBW most months, Lenwade Mill, Moreton, Old Costessey, Ringland/ Costessey area, Rush Meadow (East Dereham), Sculthorpe Mill, Swanton Morley Pits and the Worthing area.

No breeding records received. Are there no heronries in our area?

Little Grebe *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Recorded at 8 sites in the valley, highest counts of 12 at Sparham Pools in Sept (CS) with 3 in Dec and 3 at Pensthorpe in Apr with single bird present Jan-June. Single birds also present at Costessey Mill in Mar, Bittering and HBW in Apr, Bylaugh and Worthing in Dec.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Recorded in most months with 4 at Swanton Morley Pits in Jan, 4 at Sparham Pools in May and Oct. Also recorded at Pensthorpe, Lakeside, Lyng, Costessey Ski Pits, Lenwade Common, and on the HBW. Evidence of breeding at Lyng GP and Sparham GP.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Two sightings of single birds at Swanton Novers on 20th May (SW) and at Gt. Ryburgh on 27th June (IB).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

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

Seen more frequently this year. Two birds seen at Honingham in Jan, Ringland in Feb & Apr, West Barsham in Apr, 6 at Taverham on 26th May, 2 at Briston and Reephham in June (single there in July) and 3 at Fustyweed (Elsing) in Sept. Single birds also seen at Bittering, Corpusty, Dunton, Elsing Mill Street, Fakenham, Heydon, Hockering, Marsham Heath, New Costessey, North Tuddenham, Pensthorpe, Rawhall, Scarning, Sculthorpe, Sparham GP, Toftrees and Worthing on various dates between Mar-Nov.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Single birds recorded from Apr to Dec but mainly through Apr, May and June and then mostly at Pensthorpe. Other singles at New Costessey (Apr), Rawhall and Swanton Novers (May), Costessey Pits and Sparham Hall Farm (June). A gap then until a couple of sightings in Aug – at Sculthorpe Moor on 1st and Guist Common on 18th. The last record after another gap was on 15th Dec at Sculthorpe Moor.

At Pensthorpe 2 birds on 18th & 29th Apr with a max 3 on 13th May.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

A single male bird on 2nd Mar over fields at Great Ryburgh (IB).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Three records of single birds at Queens Hill Norwich 7th Apr (AB), Ringland 5th Apr (SC) and Rawhall Wood 13th Apr (DN).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

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

Over 108 reports from 31 different sites throughout the valley and in every month of the year. Many single bird sightings heavily associated with members gardens as well as other locations. Up to 3 birds seen at Costessey Marsh 13th Mar and 13th Apr, Lyng 9th Jan and Ringland Raptor Area 15th and 18th Feb. Despite all the records there was no positive proof of breeding.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

*Scarce resident and passage migrant. **Green listed.***

Increasingly common sight in Norfolk. Recorded every single month of the year throughout the valley in over 40 locations. 1 to 4 birds being quite a common sighting. Higher numbers – Jan 7 Ringland on 28th; in Feb 10 Ringland RWP on 15th & 8 on 28th; in Mar 6 Pensthorpe on 3rd, 6 Bittering on 10th, 7 Costessey RWP on 13th; in Apr 8 Ringland RWP on 2nd, 12 Rawhall on 7th; in July 8 Sennowe Park on 4th, 7 Rawhall on 14th; in Nov 6 Dereham SW on 2nd.

Osprey *Pandion halaetus*

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

First sightings of single birds passing through the valley in May were at Sparham on 5th, at Lyng on 25th May (BB) and Swanton Morley on 28th (IB).

Wandering or returning birds reported from 16th July through to 10th Oct from Bittering, Costessey, Elsing, Fakenham, Lyng and Sparham. Two birds were seen on 17th Sept at Sparham (CS).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Another raptor seen every single month of the year with over 100 records in 34 locations. However not seen at every location every month and some concern was expressed on their wellbeing by RSPB and asked for sightings to be sent to them. On the HBW for instance it was recorded on only 7 months of the year and Pensthorpe only between the months of Jan and May. The records confirm that throughout the recording area there is a fairly healthy population. There were many single birds recorded and pairs on 18 occasions with 2 pairs breeding at Sparham.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

A single bird at Sculthorpe Moor on 15th Dec (NE).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.

Seen throughout the valley with a very early sighting at Marsham Heath on 23rd Mar (LB). This is just a little later than last year's earliest ever record of 3rd March.

Then seen at various times between April & Oct at Costessey, Gt Ryburgh, Guist, Pensthorpe, North Tuddenham, Scarning, Sparham, Swanton Morley and West Raynham. The majority were single birds but a number of pairs were seen and max 3 recorded in May at Sparham on 5th (CS) and at Pensthorpe on 7th (TS).

The latest record was 12th Oct over River Tud Valley, New Costessey (AG)

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Again the pair of adult Peregrines nested at Norwich Cathedral and produced 4 chicks but sadly only 2 finally survived.

Single birds were reported at several other sites during the year with the first 3rd Jan at Pensthorpe and last 22nd Dec at Thorpe Marriott. Very difficult to say how many of these were the cathedral birds.

Water Rail *Rallus aquatus*

Very scarce resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Single birds recorded during the first and last winter periods. Most records in January with Pensthorpe and Sculthorpe Moor the main two sites. Other reports from Costessey Fish Farm on 20th Jan, Costessey on 23rd & 26th Jan, between Old and New Costessey along River Wensum on 12th Apr and Dereham SW on 2nd Nov.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

Common resident supplemented by autumn immigrants. Green listed.

Recorded in only 9 locations but through every month of the year. Generally seen in 1's and 2's but several sightings of 3's and 4's. Significant numbers of 8 during HBW on 17th Mar, Pensthorpe on 5th Mar and 3rd Apr, 9 at Pensthorpe on 19th Dec and 10 River Wensum New Costessey on 20th Jan. The highest count recorded however was 13 on 17th Feb during HBW. The records do show the species is far more numerous in the first and second winter periods than the rest of the year.

Coot *Falica atra*.

Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Records from only 5 locations and by far the most significant numbers in the two winter periods with max 40 at Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools on 17th Jan. Numbers then decrease to single figures between Mar and Oct building up again to max 40 in November and December mainly at Pensthorpe.

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.

Twenty-two records with Pensthorpe being the main site with sightings of max 4 between 3rd Jan and 12th Dec. Other records were 2 at Bittering on 11th Apr, 2 at New Costessey on 14th Oct. The highest counts were 5 at Sparham on 7th May (CS) and Lyng on 7th June (BB).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare summer visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded from 17th Mar to 4th July and apart from two other locations - Rawhall 8th May and 4th July and School Road, Beetley 28th May - all sightings came from Pensthorpe with up to 7 on 26th Apr and 4th June. There was however several records with proof of breeding at Pensthorpe with up to 9 birds (4 adults and 5 young) on the wader scrape on 6th June (TS).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Scarce summer visitor. Amber listed.

Seen at various times from late Jan to mid-July in 10 locations. By far the most sightings were from Pensthorpe with mainly 1's and 2's but 12 on 15th Mar, 10 on 22nd Mar and 9 on 27th May were the highest recorded. Other locations include Fustyweed, HBW, Salle, Rawhall, Scarning, Sennowe Park and Sparham Hall Farm.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

The first winter period of the year from Jan to Apr saw flocks of 100 N.Tuddenham 14th Jan (B&BP), c120 Bittering/Old Beetley on 1st Mar and c250 School Rd, Beetley on 3rd Apr (DN).

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Golden Plover (continued)

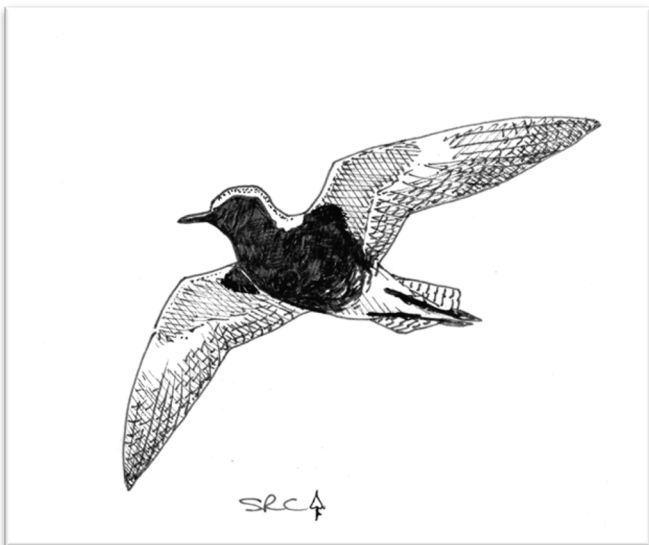
There were smaller numbers at Bittering GP (22), Little Witchingham (6), Marsham Heath (20+) and Rawhall (30). A single bird was found at Costessey Marsh on 31st July (JN).

Smaller flocks were recorded in the second winter period. There was a max of 120 at Dunton on 11th Sept (PB) & 150 at Mill Farm, N.Tuddenham on 20th Dec (B&BP) with up to 85 at other locations – Costessey Pits (38), Little Witchingham (11), New Costessey (8) Swanton Morley (c80) and Thorpe Marriott (85).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Two sightings - single birds at Bittering/Old Beetley on 9th Mar (DN) and at Scarning on 29th Sept (IB).



Grey Plover, by Steve Cale

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

Recorded regularly from early Jan to end of May with significant flocks of up to 100 at Bawdeswell, Bintree Mill, Costessey, Guist, Hindolveston, Lenwade Mill, Marsham, Little Witchingham, Pensthorpe, Ringland R.P, Rawhall, Scarning and Taverham. Larger flocks of 150 at Little Witchingham on 27th Feb, 200 at Elsing 2nd Mar, 196 at Bittering 25th Mar and 500 at Pensthorpe on 4th Mar the biggest number for some years. There were counts of 4 at Rawhall on 4th and 14th July then nothing more until November with up to 50 at Dunton on 19th and 21st and several sightings in December with 500 during HBW on 15th. The only indication of breeding was the sighting of 2 juveniles on 28th May at Pensthorpe (TS).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadris dubius*

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

By far the most sightings were at Pensthorpe between 24th Apr and 7th June with 1s' and 2's. Up to 4 on 18th and 25th May. Other locations were Beetley - where 5 adults were recorded (DN) - Queen's Hill Costessey, and Rawhall. One sighting on 28th May recorded a nest being found but no other evidence of breeding (DN).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

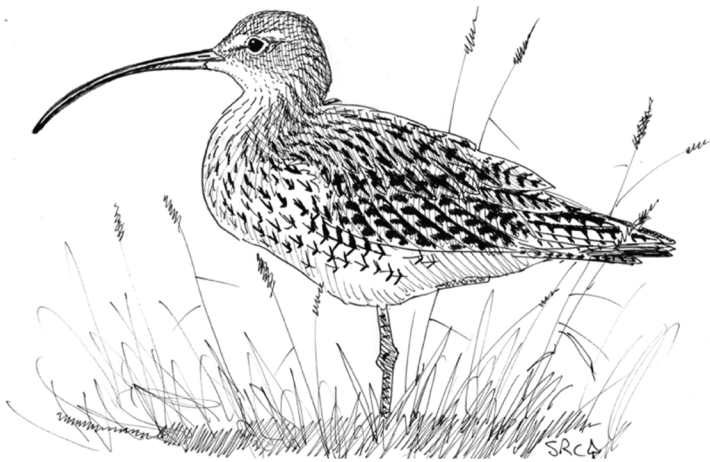
*Very rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.***

Three sightings around the same area of Beetley/Rawhall, all single birds on 15th Mar (DN), 27th (DN&IB) and 30th May (DN).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Not many seen in the valley with a total of 12 birds in the year. There were 2 at Bittering/Old Beetley on 21st Mar, 2 at Rawhall on 2nd Apr and 2 in R Tud valley, New Costessey on 8th Sept. The rest were singles at Thorpe Marriott on 21st Apr, at Pensthorpe on 25th Apr, at Sparham Pools on 26th Sept, at Costessey on 27th Sept and a later sighting at Sparham on 17th Nov.



Curlew, by Steve Cale

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

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

At Bittering/Old Beetley a single bird on 5th Mar (DN), at Pensthorpe 4 on 29th & 30th Apr (TS) and 1 on 16th May (GE).



Black-tailed Godwit (spring), by Steve Cale

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

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

A single record of one bird at Bittering/Old Beetley on 7th Mar (DN).

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

A single bird recorded on 27th Mar at Bittering/Old Beetley (DN).

Temmink's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Very scarce passage migrant. Red listed.

A single bird on 15th May at School Road, Bittering (DN) (IB).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.

Two at Bittering/Old Beetley on 9th Mar (DN), 3 at Pensthorpe Wader Scrape on 26th Apr (TS) with 1 on 10th May (RL).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Seen at seven locations. Single birds at Sparham 18th Apr, Rawhall 18th Apr and 9th May, Beetley 7th and 15th May and Pensthorpe 9th May with 2 the next day and 18th July. The largest number was 10 at Sparham GP on 24th Aug (CS).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Mainly single birds with the first sighting 1st Jan at Worthing (A&CJ). Then seen regularly until 20th Apr at Bittering, Dereham SW, New Costessey, Pensthorpe, Rawhall and Scarning.

Mainly singles late summer to autumn at Costessey Pits, Old Costessey, Rawhall and Taverham. With 3 on 24th Aug at Sparham GP and 4 on 21st Sept at Beetley. The latest sighting was a single bird on 4th Nov in the R. Tud valley at New Costessey (AG).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very rare passage migrant. Green listed.

A single bird at Rawhall Pit, Gressenhall on 12th Apr and 2 on 7th May (DN) and at Pensthorpe wader scrape on 19th & 30th Apr then 9th, 10th & 16th May (TS, RL, GE).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Single bird at Pensthorpe wader scrape on 10th & 13th May (RB, TS) and 2 at Sparham GP on 23rd & 24th July (CS).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded from 18th Mar to 9th May at 3 locations. A single bird at Bittering/Old Beetley on 18th Mar and Rawhall Pit, Gressenhall on 12th Apr (DN). Mainly one or two birds at Pensthorpe wader scrape from 21st Apr with 4 on 23rd Apr, max 5 on 25th Apr and 3 on 1st & 3rd May (TS).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Nine sightings of single birds during March and Apr – at Bittering/Old Beetley on 17th Mar (DN), Costessey Marsh/Marriott's Way on 28th Mar (SC) & 9th Apr (Visitor), at Rawhall Pit, Gressenhall on 2nd, 6th & 7th Apr (IB) and at Bittering on 15th Apr (AB).

Woodcock *Scotopax rusticola*

Scarce resident, fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

A surprising number of some 51 sightings with the majority seen in the first winter period and only very few in the second winter period. Singles at Bittering, Costessey, Hellesdon Mill area, Marsham Heath, Mill Farm Gt Witchingham and Pensthorpe at various times in Jan – Apr period. (continues)

Woodcock (continued)

Higher counts of 3 at Dereham SW on 26th Jan with 6 at Costessey Fish Farm Meadows on 27th and 12 at Pensthorpe on 31st; 4 at Pensthorpe on 28th Mar and 3 at Ringland & Costessey Marsh on 1st Apr and Pensthorpe on 10th & Drayton on 14th.

In the period Nov-Dec single birds at Costessey 9th Nov, Costessey Ski Pits 22nd Nov and Sparham Hall Farm 20th Dec.

Higher count of 3 at Queen's Hill, Costessey on 31st Dec.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Very scarce resident and scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber listed.

Seen through the valley over the first winter period with some significant numbers – 5 at Dereham SW on 26th Jan, 11 Costessey Marsh 27th Feb, 10+ Bittering/Old Beetley 17th Mar, 31 Drayton Meadows 5th Apr, 22 Rawhall Pits 7th Apr, 8 at Drayton Meadows & Dereham SW 8th Apr and 14 at Costessey East End & Costessey Marsh/Mill area on 9th Apr.

Elsewhere up to 4 at Guist Common, Hellesdon Mill area, Lyng, Pensthorpe, Ringland, Scarning Rush Meadows and Sparham.

In the second winter period 1+ at Costessey on 9th Nov, 2 Dereham SW 10th Nov, 1 Guist Common 12th Dec and up to 15 recorded between 1st Oct and 31st Dec at Sparham Marshes.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Very scarce passage migrant. Amber listed.

One record of a single bird at Sparham Gravel Pits on 8th June (CS).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Records of 1-7 birds from 8 sites. Earliest reported sighting 13th Mar at Costessey Pits (AB) with main arrivals from 14th Apr until end of month.

(continues)

Common Tern (continued)

Breeding at Sparham Hall Farm Fishing Lakes with 18 nests and a total of 29 juvs were ringed. Also 2 nests on NWT Sparham Pools NR (RG, *et al*).

Highest counts were of 20 at Sparham Hall Farm Fishing Lakes on 20th May and 30 at Sparham Pools on 24th (RG,RN & CS).

Latest reported sighting was of 2 birds during HBW on 18th Aug (DK).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Two at Lyng GP on 14th Apr with 7 at Sparham GP on 18th (CS).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Single bird at Pensthorpe on 7th Feb observed over staff car park. A first record for the site.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

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

Highest counts were of 500 at Ringland on 25th Jan (SC); 2000 on flooded river at Wensum Valley Golf Club on 15th Feb (EJ); 1000 on flooded fields between Old Costessey and Ringland on 15th Mar (AG); 152 flying W along R Tud Valley at New Costessey during early morning of 27th Sept and 175 on 6th Oct (AG); 62 at NWT Sparham Pools NR on 20th Oct (SC); 200 on scrape at Pensthorpe on 12th Dec (RG,AH).

Breeding at Sparham Hall Farm Fishing Lakes where 3 nests on the Society's tern raft and one on adjoining island on 12th June with 7 juvs ringed. Also 40 nests on NWT Sparham Pools NR on 25th June, an increase of 60% from 2012.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Single bird at Sparham GP on 5th & 17th May (CS).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare winter visitor. Amber listed.

Majority of records of adult birds from Pensthorpe where 1 on 28th Feb; 2 on 2nd Apr increasing to 6 on 16th & 20th including 1 sub-adult & a 1st summer bird; 2 adults on 22nd Apr & 7 on 1st May including a 1st summer bird; 2 on 5th May and single bird on 6th/7th June (TS).

A single bird was also in Lyng-Sparham area between 14th Apr & 5th May (CS).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

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

Groups of 1-14 birds recorded at 9 sites. Highest counts were 500 at Ringland on 28th Jan; 1800 on flooded fields between Old Costessey & Ringland on 1st Feb with 1500 on 15th Mar; 60 at Sparham Hall Farm Fishing Lakes on 14th Apr and 25 during HBW on 14th Sept.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

Occasional records of small groups at 8 sites in Costessey, Pensthorpe, Sennowe Park and Sparham area.

Evidence of breeding on the roof top of Curry's store, Sweet Briar Industrial Estate where 4+ birds including chicks were recorded on 2nd Aug (NE).

In Sept early morning counts of birds moving W along R Tud Valley at Old Costessey revealed 314 on 8th, 330 on 18th and 554 on 27th (AG).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

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

Highest counts 20 at Sparham Hall Farm Fishing Lake and at Sparham Hall Farm on 14th Apr, 14 at Costessey on 19th Apr and 10 at Pensthorpe on 2nd May. Single records of 1 – 3 birds at four other sites.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Single bird at Pensthorpe in Jan & Feb, on HBW in July & Aug and 2 at Pensthorpe in Dec.

Six counted heading W along R Tud Valley at New Costessey in 1.5 hours early morning on 27th Sept.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*

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

Very few records received. Highest count 10 at Costessey Marsh on 2nd Apr.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

*Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.***

Occasional reports of 1-7 birds at 16 sites through the year. Highest count was of c250 at Little Witchingham on 12th Apr. Single birds feeding in gardens at Worthing, Hindolveston and Lenwade.

Breeding in nest boxes at Hockering, Attlebridge, Elsing, Bylaugh, Swanton Morley, Costessey (3 sites with 3 pairs at one site), Wood Norton (2 pairs) & Taverham (2 pairs) (RG *et al*). One pair bred in Tawny Owl box at Pensthorpe (TS).

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident. Green listed.

Notable counts were 60 during HBW on 17th Feb; max 40 at Worthing on 28th Feb; 4-500 at Pensthorpe on 13th Mar; 50 at NWT Sparham Pools NR on 30th Oct; 50 during HBW on 17th Nov. Smaller counts of up to 12 birds from 8 further sites. Between 22nd – 24th Nov a total of 9233 counted migrating through the R Tud Valley at New Cosstessey, the highest annual total recorded so far. This included peak counts in Nov of 1237 on 7th, 2002 on 8th, 1965 on 9th & 1038 on 10th (AG).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Fairly common resident associated with human habitation. Green listed.

Occasional reports of 1-5 birds at 9 sites. Highest count c12 in a Hindolveston garden on 29th Nov. Bred at Pensthorpe where 2 juvs fledged.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur turtur*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.

Earliest report a single bird at Lenwade on 28th Apr (WG).

In May 2 in N Tuddenham, singles at Beetley, Fakenham, Lyng Easthaugh & Pensthorpe. In June singles again at N Tuddenham & Pensthorpe with a possible pair at Lyng Easthaugh.

Latest recorded sighting on 12th July at Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham (B&BP). Not recorded on Sparham Hall Farm for the first time since CS commenced his records.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.

Earliest record a single bird at Sparham Hall Farm on 19th Apr (CS). Reported at a further 17 sites with two birds present during May at Sparham Pools on the 3rd, at Worthing on the 20th/21st and at Pensthorpe on 27th.

Latest report a single bird at Costessey Marsh on 25th July (JN).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Occasional records through the year of largely single birds from 37 sites with 2 birds at Great Ryburgh and Pensthorpe in Jan, at Worthing in Feb, on HBW and at Pensthorpe, & Rawhall in Apr.

Probable breeding at Helhoughton where single bird at nest site on 13th May (RG).

Little Owl *Athene noctue*

Fairly common naturalised resident.

Occasional records from 22 sites of largely single birds in the recording area. Two birds at Scarning in Jan, 2+ at Costessey Marsh in July, 3 at Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham in Sept and 2 at Sparham in Nov.

Breeding confirmed at Worthing and Elsing churchyards (RG *et al*).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Largely single birds reported from 21 sites with 3 or 4 at Costessey in Jan, 2 at Dereham SW in Apr, 2 at Pensthorpe in May, 2 birds “duetting” at Lenwade Common in Sept & 2 at Taverham in Dec.

At least 2 pairs present all year at Sparham Hall Farm. Birds heard calling late morning/early afternoon at Worthing & Elsing during Dec.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor. **Red listed.**

Three males & one female at Marsham Heath on 20th June.

Swift *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Earliest sighting reported was a single bird at Pensthorpe on 25th Apr.

Highest counts in May 100 at Pensthorpe on 9th, 100+ at Sparham Hall Farm on 20th, 40 at Sparham Pools on 24th, 70 at Sparham GP on 27th; in June 200 at New Costessey & 100 during HBW on 16th; 100 at Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham on 27th July and again on 6th Aug.

Latest reported sighting was of 6+ at Bintree on 12th Sept (RD).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident. Amber listed.

Occasional reports of largely single birds from 26 sites. Two sites at Pensthorpe with 2 birds at each on 16th Apr, 2 at Scarning on 9th May and 2 at Costessey on 12th Aug.

1 pair bred at Sparham.

Green Woodpecker *Picis viridis*

Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Occasional widespread records from 26 sites of largely single birds. A male and a female in Taverham in Jan, 2 at Rush Meadow, Dereham in Mar & 3 in Costessey East End & at ski pits in Apr.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders. Amber listed.

Occasional records of 1-2 birds at 19 sites. 1-2 birds recorded present during HBW in Feb-July/Sept-Nov. Highest counts were of 4 at Costessey on 24th Jan, 3 at Rush Meadow, Dereham on 6th Mar & 3 at Ghost Hill Wood, Taverham on 19th.

Evidence of breeding at Mill Street, Elsing where 1 ad & 1 juv on garden feeder on 29th June.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Common resident. Green listed.

Records of 1-3 birds from 15 sites at varying times in the year.

Highest counts of 7 at Worthing Level Crossing on 26th Feb, 30+ at Ringland/Costessey & 30 at Costessey Marsh on 1st Apr, 5 Costessey East End on 5th & 19th Apr, 6 at Bintree on 1st July.

Probable evidence of breeding at Bintree where 2 ad & 4 juvs on 1st June (RD).

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.

Records of 1-4 birds from 15 sites. Highest count was 7 at Costessey East End on 28th Apr. Probable evidence of breeding at Bintree on 31st July/1st Aug when 2 ad & 1 juv reported (RD).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Common resident. Green listed.

Higher counts in Jan: 80 at Old Costessey & 66 at Red Bridge Lane, New Costessey on 3rd; in Apr 200+ at Ringland/Costessey, 200 at Costessey Marsh on 1st, 18 at Costessey East End on 19th; in June 15 at Worthing on 18th; in July 160 at West Raynham on 4th, 60 at Worthing on 19th; in Sept 13 during HBW on 15th, 80 at Worthing on 16th; in Oct 36 at NWT Sparham Pools NR on 9th with 40 on 12th Nov.

Probable evidence of breeding at Bintree where 2 ad & 6 juvs on 1st July (RD).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus**Common resident. Green listed.*

Highest counts of 150 at Old Costessey on 3rd Jan, 400+ at Hindolveston on 4th Feb, 50 at Worthing Level Crossing on 26th Feb, 34 at NWT Sparham Pools NR on 9th Oct, 20+ at Bintree on 9th Nov & 100 during HBW on 15th Dec.

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society Norfolk Rook Nest Survey 2013 revealed the following number of nests counted in rookeries situated in the WVBS recording area compared to 2011 & 2012:-

Location	2011	2012	2013	
Aylsham	25	30	28	
Bawdeswell (Reephams Rd 2 groups)	22	59	156	
Brisley	20	21	23	
Beeston	-	12	30	
Bilney	25	30	55	
Cawston (Bird Lane)	-	-	74	New
Dereham (Watering Farm)	-	-	10	New
Dereham (2 sites)	-	50	40	
Dereham (Crown Rd)	-	7	6	
Dereham (Golf Club)	-	50	15	
Easton (Vicarage, Dereham Rd)	130	155	149	
Easton (nr St Peter's Church)	77	85	87	
Elmham Park	-	-	39	New
Elmham Park (behind Doctors)	-	-	36	New
Fakenham	6	6	6	
Fransham (A47)	82	137	108	
Foxley (2 sites)	-	31	42	
Guist	35	40	38	
Hockering	14	22	21	
Honingham (2 sites)	-	33	30	
Hoe (Manor Farm)	-	-	144	New
Hoe (near Church)	-	-	7	New

Location	2011	2012	2013	
Hoe (Cross roads)	-	-	11	New
Lenwade	-	40	38	
Mattishall (Church)	-	-	26	New
Mattishall (South Green)	-	-	67	New
Mileham	14	16	14	
North Tuddenham	18	38	27	
Reepham	-	20	12	
Stibbard	116	142	137	
Swannington	-	-	8	New
Swanton Morley	-	80	53	
Taverham (Hall grounds)	50	180	140	
Taverham (Beech Ave)	-	-	64	New
Taverham (behind school)	-	16	12	
Wood Dalling	110	128	122	
Wendling	60	62	58	
Weston Longville	60	56	50	

(Data reproduced by kind permission of Malcolm Metcalf, N&NNS).

Carion Crow *Corvus corone*

*Common resident. **Green listed.***

Reports of 1-6 birds from 13 sites at various times through the year.

Highest counts all in Apr of 36 at Costessey Marsh on 13th (22 on 23rd) & 43 at Costessey East End on 19th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

Occasional reports of 1-3 birds from 17 sites. Higher counts in Dec of 4 birds in Haveringham Great Wood & 5 at Scarning.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Occasional reports of 1-8 birds from 12 sites. Highest count was of 78 in a mixed feeding flock including 19 Long-tailed Tits & 8 Great Tits at Sparham GP on 9th Aug (CS). Elsewhere counts of 10-12 birds during HBW in Feb, Mar, June, Sept, Nov and 12 at NWT Sparham Pools NR in Nov.

Probable evidence of breeding at Taverham where ad observed in nestbox containing camera in Mar but no subsequent reports received. Two ad & 2 juvs at Bintree in July & Aug and 2 fledged young in Hindolveston garden in June with 6 juvs together there on 1st Aug.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Occasional records of 1-5 birds from 13 sites with higher counts of 7 at Costessey East End in Apr 7 Bintree in July; 8 at HBW in Mar/Apr/July, Old Costessey in Apr and Sparham GP in Aug; 9 at Costessey Marsh 14 at Costessey East End in Apr.

Probable evidence of breeding at Bintree where 6 ad with 4 juvs in June and Hindolveston where 2 juvs on a garden feeder in Aug.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Records of 1-2 birds at 13 sites with 3+ at Pensthorpe on 7th Dec.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

1-2 birds recorded at 23 sites at various times through the year. Max 4 at Pensthorpe and during HBW. One pair recorded at Foxley Wood in May but no proof of breeding.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

1-10 birds reported at 12 scattered sites. In first winter period higher counts of 50+ at Old Costessey & c20 at Little Witchingham in Feb & c150 in Mar; 10-13 at Costessey Marsh/Mill in Apr.

In second winter period 55 in R Tud Valley, New Costessey in Oct & c50 at Costessey in Nov. Between 3rd Oct–16th Nov 166 counted migrating through the R Tud Valley at New Costessey, the highest annual total ever recorded by AG.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

Earliest record was of singles at Rawhall (IB) & Bittering (DN) on 7th Apr. Recorded at a further 9 sites through the summer with the latest sighting at Guist Common on 18th Aug (RG, *et al*). At Pensthorpe 2-4 during Apr-June. Higher counts in Apr of c20 at Costessey Pits & c15 at Costessey Ski Pit; in May, 50+ at Sparham Hall Farm, 130 at Lyng Easthaugh & 30 at Sparham Pools. At Lyng Easthaugh there were 150 active breeding holes (RN,RG).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

Earliest reported sightings were of 3 at Costessey Marsh & 2 seen from Costessey Raptor Point on 13th Mar (SC). Breeding recorded at Attlebridge Old Hall Farm (3 nests with eggs), Hindolveston (1 pair, 4 fledged young), Kettlestone (4 fledged young) & at Swanton Morley (7 nests). Highest counts c100 at Sparham Hall Farm on 20th May, 80 at Sparham Pools on 24th May, c50 at Guist Common on 18th Aug, c50 at Old Costessey on 6th Sept, c40 at Swanton Morley on 17th Sept & 60 at Sparham Pools on 23rd Sept. Latest reported sighting was of a single bird at Costessey on 11th Oct (AB).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

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

First noted 13th Apr at Bittering (DN), then at Sparham on 14th (CS) and 2 at Pensthorpe on 16th (TS).

Recorded at only 16 sites with proof of breeding coming from Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge c.10 nests; Hindolveston where double brooded (G&AJ); Lenwade and Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham where a max count of 15 on 5th Aug (B&BP).

Last record 2 on HBW 20th Oct (DK).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

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

A single record from Costessey 5th Apr (SCh)



Cetti's Warbler, by Steve Cale

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

All double figure counts reported are as follows: max 10 Mill St, Elsing Jan; 14 Pensthorpe 2nd Feb; 13 HBW 21st July; 19 Sparham Pools 9th Aug in flock with 78 Blue Tits & 8 Great Tits; max 10 at Dunton 19th Nov; 14 Marriots Way, Lenwade 1st Dec; 20 in three flocks Sparham Pools 9th Dec; 13 HBW 15th Dec; 15 Pensthorpe 19th Dec.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant.

A single record 14th Oct Gunton Lane, Costessey (AG).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor, passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor.

Green listed.

Two winter records both from Bylaugh SW on 1st Jan and 26th Dec (A&CJ).

Spring passage with singles on 13th Mar at Hellesdon Mill (AB) and Costessey Marsh (SCh). There were no further records until early Apr when the main influx began. In total records from 27 sites were received. Last autumn record 30th Oct Sparham Pools (SCh).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

Reported from 15 sites.

First recorded at Hell Pit, Bittering 12th Apr (DN). 1 to 3 singing males recorded except for 6 East End, Costessey 19th Apr and 6 Costessey Marsh 23rd Apr.

Last record at Sparham Pools 23rd Sept (SCh).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor, passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor.

Green listed.

Records of wintering birds at feeders came from: Taverham 17th Jan (LB) and a female Hindolveston 18th Jan into Feb (G&AJ). Whether the Blackcap near Hellesdon Mill on 13th Mar (AB) was a wintering bird or an early return is difficult to decide. The bird at New Costessey 28th Mar (AG) was late enough to be an early return. Birds were then recorded at 21 sites from 9th Apr.

Sept birds were recorded on 2nd at Reepham (DG) and on 4th Mill St, Elsing (AJ). The last record was from R. Tud valley, New Costessey 17th Oct (AG).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.

First recorded 26th Apr at Costessey Ski Pit (MMcC), then 2 on 27th Apr at Ringland (BS) and from 29th at Creaking Gate Lake, Bittering (DN). Five at Costessey Ski Pit and 3 at Ringland Common on 13th May then subsequently recorded at HBW, Old Costessey, Pensthorpe, and Sparham Pools. The last record, but surely not the last Garden Warbler, on 21st July on HBW (DK).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.

All records singles. Earliest at Creaking Gate Lake, Bittering 22nd Apr (DN); then 24th Apr East End, Costessey (SCh); 27th Apr & 1st May Pensthorpe (TS); 29th Apr Costessey Ski Pit (MMcC & SCh), Old Costessey (SCh) and R. Tud Valley, New Costessey (AG); 13th May at Ringland Common (SCh); during June Sparham (CS); 20th June Gt. Ryburgh (SW) and 22nd June Mill St, Elsing when also Whitethroat and Chiffchaff in same garden (A&CJ).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Earliest record 16th Apr at Rawhall Pit, Gressenhall (DN). Reported from 14 sites. Last record 27th Sept at R. Tud Valley, New Costessey (AG).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

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

One recorded Costessey Marshes 21st & 24th Apr (SCh) and possibly the same bird at Costessey Fish Farm Meadows on 26th Apr (AG).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

First record 17th Apr at Sparham Pools where 3 pair bred (CS). Reported from 8 sites in single figures except Guist Common.

Last recorded on 18th Aug at Guist Common where 7 adults and 8 juvs were ringed (RG *et al*).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceous*

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

First reports were from Costessey Ski Pit (MMcC) and Pensthorpe (TS) on 26th Apr. Only reported from 7 sites. Of note 3 pairs bred at Sparham Pools (CS) and at Guist Common where 11 adults and 16 juvs were caught and ringed (RG *et al*). The last record was from Guist Common on 21st Aug when 4 juvs were caught.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous*

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

Recorded between 16th Jan and 25th Apr.

In **Jan** 3 at Taverham on 16th (EJ) and an unknown number at New Costessey on 23rd (AW); in **Mar** 9 at Pensthorpe on 5th (TS), 1 at Hellesdon Mill on 12th (AW), 3 moving S through R Tud valley, New Costessey on 17th and 16 moving E on 20th (AG); in **Apr** 12 moving NE & 11 to W through Tud valley, New Costessey on 3rd with 29 moving SE on 17th (AG), 38+ at Taverham on 18th (MMcC), 3 at Thorpe Marriott on 20th (EW), 14 in Tud Valley, New Costessey feeding on poplar buds/leaves on 21st, with 18 on 24th and 9 in poplars on 25th (AG).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

One or two birds reported from 19 sites with breeding proved at Mill Street, Elsing; Lenwade Common; Pensthorpe (8 chicks in a nestbox); Ghost Hill Wood, Taverham.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

One to three birds reported from 16 sites.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common resident. Green listed.

This ubiquitous species was reported from only 17 sites. Max count 7 at Costessey on 19th Apr.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Decreasing common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were few reports of numbers of 50 or more in the early part of the year. 2nd Feb c.50 Hindolveston, 22nd Feb c.50 N Tuddenham, 4th March 180 Dunton and on 7th Apr 155 heading NE over New Costessey.

Proof of breeding of this decreasing species came from Hindolveston & Little Snoring (G&AJ) and Bintree where 2nd brood (RD). There must be many other sites where Starlings still breed in the WVBS area!!

The autumn influx started 14th Oct New Costessey where 14,000 passed over by 24th Nov. Peak days 6th Nov 1640, 8th Nov 5,900, 9th Nov 2,500 (AG). Also in Nov a murmuration of c.1000 was recorded at Manor Farm, Hoe on 3rd (A&CJ), between 2-300 were going to roost in the Guist Common area 11th to 16th reducing to c.100 on 2nd Dec (RG). 3-400 were present at Mill Farm, N.Tuddenham 20th – 22nd Dec (B&BP).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.

A single record. One heading N high over New Costessey on 13th Apr (AG).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green listed.

Surprisingly mainly single figure counts. 18 at Hindolveston on 17th Jan (GA) and 9 the next day in “a very small garden” in Taverham.

Successful breeding was only reported from Hindolveston and Pensthorpe.

AG recorded 350 migrating over New Costessey between 10th and 24th Nov with a peak of 100 on 12th Nov.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

Double figure counts in the first winter period: Jan 33+ on 1st at Pudding Norton; 25 on 4th at Worthing Church; 100 on 14th at Mill Farm, N Tuddenham when c.50 at Pensthorpe; 21 on 16th and 26 on 22nd flew W up R. Tud, New Costessey while 75 were eating crab apples in New Costessey during hard weather: Feb 35+ on 13th at Marriott's Way, Attlebridge; 100 on 17th on HBW; c.100 on 22nd at N Tuddenham; 21 on 27th at Pensthorpe and c.40 all month at Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley: Mar 30 at Dunton and 225 at Worthing on 4th; c.50 on 5th at Sculthorpe Moor; 60 on 18th was max at Pensthorpe; 20 on 13th at Little Witchingham; 15 on 17th on HBW and 15 feeding on flooded fields near Worthing River Bridge: Apr 30+ on 1st at Costessey Marsh; 25 on 7th Sparham Pools to Lenwade and 12 on 14th heading W over New Costessey was the last Spring record (AG).

Autumn records were fewer with the first Oct 10th when 6 at Queen's Hill, Costessey (AB) and a single in Taverham on 23rd: Nov c.10 on 9th at Costessey; 80 on 17th on HBW; 120 on 19th at Dunton dropped to 55 by 25th; Dec 50 on 4th at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge; 10 on 6th at Little Witchingham/ Reephham; 15+ on 9th at Sparham Pools; c.40 on 19th / 20th at Sparham Hall Farm; 30 on 28th near Gt. Witchingham Church.

Autumn passage over R. Tud in New Costessey started on 6th Oct and finished on 30th Nov with a total of 4,600 birds migrating. Peak counts were 850 on 9th Nov and 2030 on 11th Nov (AG).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident and passage migrant. Red listed.

Reported from 27 sites mainly in ones and twos but 3 at Costessey Marsh & Costessey-East End in Apr; 4 Rushmeadow, East Dereham in Mar and 6 in Costessey on 11th Oct.

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Song Thrush (continued)

Evidence of breeding was reported from: Mill St, Elsing; Lenwade Common; Mattishall Golf Club; Pensthorpe; Taverham.

Autumn passage through R Tud Valley at New Costessey was observed between 25th Sept and 30th Nov with a total of 431 birds migrating. Peak counts were in Nov with 69 on 11th, 103 on 12th and 61 on 14th (AG).

Redwing *Turdus illiacus*

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

Reported from 31 sites.

The only double figure counts in **Jan** were 11 Pensthorpe on 7th & 14th. Then in **Feb** 50 on HBW on 17th and 10 Marriott's Way Drayton on 24th. Evidence in **Mar** of the start of the return passage was c.70 at Hellesdon Mill and c.50 at Queen's Hill, Costessey on 13th and 50 at Pensthorpe on 18th where there were 30 the next day.

The main passage was in mid-**Apr** when 30+ on 7th; 60 to SW on 8th and flocks of 10+, 10 & 25 on 9th all in the Costessey area; 60 at Worthing River Bridge on 10th; 40+ Upgate Common, Swannington and 40 Taverham/Costessey area on 11th; 50 Drayton, 12 Gressenhall and 76 New Costessey heading W and SW between 5.30a.m. and 6.45a.m. on 14th; 10 were at New Costessey on 17th and the last spring record was 1 at Costessey Pits on 18th Apr (MMcM).

The autumn influx started on 3rd **Oct** with a single at Costessey Pits (MMcM). Next day there were 10+ over Horsford then over 6000 were recorded heading SW over the Costessey area by the 14th. Other records at this time were 50 Worthing Church and 60 Sparham Pools on 13th, 50 HBW on 20th and 20+ Sparham Pools 20th/21st. There were very few records then until 17th **Nov** when 50 HBW, 20 Dunton on 18th and 20 Sculthorpe on 19th.

(continues)

Redwing (continued)

Between 25th Sept and 24th Nov c.9,500 passed over R. Tud in New Costessey with peaks of 2450 on 11th Oct and 1600 on 11th Nov.

During **Dec** 16 Worthing Church on 1st; c.30 Booton Common on 6th; 20+ Sparham Pools on 9th; 28 HBW on 15th; 25 Sparham Hall Farm on 20th; 350 Queen's Hill, Costessey and 10 Taverham on 21st.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Mainly 1-2 birds reported from 22 sites with a few groups of 3 to 4. Gatherings & family parties at Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley with 5 on 21st Feb; at Bintree Mill 17 on 21st July; at Dunton 7 on 27th Aug, 10 on 29th and 17 on 4th Sept; on HBW 6 on 15th Sept and at Dunton 10 on 21st Nov. Only 5 were recorded passing over R. Tud, New Costessey between 1st Oct and 15th Nov giving a good indication of the sedentary nature of this species.

One was seen pursuing a Barn Owl at Pensthorpe on 1st Apr (TS).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor. Red listed.

First record was a single at SMHOT on 7th June (BB).

Successful nesting came from: Worthing where 1 young fledged from 3 eggs (RT,DK,RG); Swallow Falls, Swanton Morley where 5 young hatched and an unknown number fledged (BM,DK,RG); Sparham Hall Farm (CS) and Gressenhall where 5 adults and 1 juvenile on 14th July (IB). A juvenile in a Hindolveston garden on 9th Aug may have moved some distance from its natal home by this date (G&AJ).

Elsewhere 2 at Massingham on 4th July (SS) and 1 at Costessey on 12th Aug (JN).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

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

This ubiquitous species was recorded in single figure numbers throughout the area.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Rare decreasing summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Recorded only from Ringland where first noted on 22nd Apr (SCh), then on 27th (BS) and 2 singing males on 13th May (AG).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

A male was at Bittering on 15th Apr (ABan,DN).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

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

A spring migrant at Bittering on 24th Apr (IB,DN) and 4 autumn migrants in a field N of Thorpe Marriott, Taverham (MMcM).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Scarce passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

First recorded on 15th Apr at Poplar Lake, Bittering then "Wheatears seen around the area 'til 25th" (DN).

The last of the spring passage was nearby at South Works, Bittering on 4th May (DN).

Elsewhere singles at Pensthorpe on 18th, 19th & 23rd Apr; Folgate Lane, Old Costessey on 19th; Swanton Morley on 20th Apr; Sparham on 21st & 27th with 2 on 23rd. A pair was at Kingswood Ave, Taverham on 19th Apr.

There were only two autumn sightings: Sparham on 26th Aug and N Tuddenham on 9th Sept.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. **Amber listed.**

Reports from 16 sites do not represent this ubiquitous species.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

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

It is pleasing to note better recording of this declining and difficult to count species. Max counts by site: Bintree 9; East End, Costessey 2; Hindolveston 20; Lyng 20+; Lyng Easthaugh 50; Norwich Rd, New Costessey a pre roost gathering of 38; Old Costessey 6; Pensthorpe 21; N Tuddenham 30; Swanton Morley 20; Taverham 10+ and Worthing 15.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Uncommon declining resident. **Red listed.**

The only records of this rapidly declining species are from a garden at Mill St, Elsing where max 5 coming to feeders in Feb and Mar with max 3 in Apr until 13th. Will we soon lose this species from the WVBS area?

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

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

First record Rawhall Pit, Gressenhall on 15th Apr where 4 on 20th Apr (DN). Singles then in Apr from Swanton Morley on 20th (IB), Taverham on 21st (MMcC), Costessey Ski Pit on 26th (MMcC); Sparham on 27th Apr (CS) and Bittering on 4th May (perDN).

Single birds flew over R. Tud, New Costessey on 24th July and on 26th Aug (AG).

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

Rare passage migrant

A bird of this sub-species was recorded at School Rd, Beetley on 18th Apr (DN).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

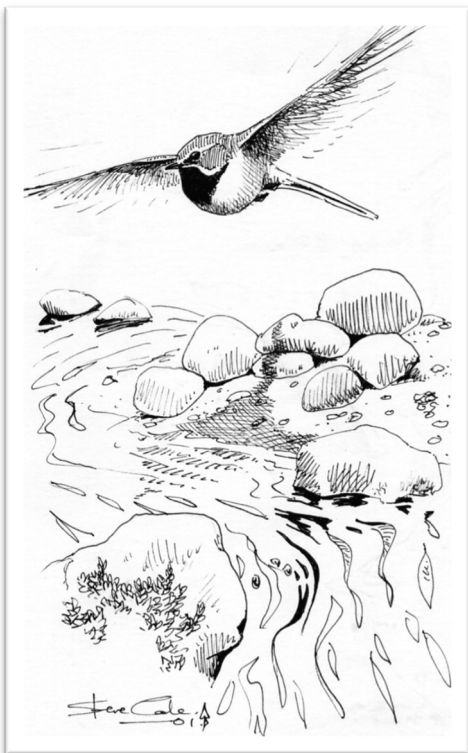
Amber listed.

Mainly singles recorded at 14 locations, with 2 Sculthorpe Mill Jan 5th, 2 Dereham SW Feb 20th and Nov 2nd, 2 Hellesdon Mill March 13th, 2 Worthing River Bridge March 30th and June 29th, 2 Beetley April 8th, 2 Queens Hills April 15th-22nd.

Breeding confirmed at Lyng Mill on June 6th with 2 adults and fledglings and probable breeding at Costessey Pits on June 6th.

Autumn migration was observed along the Tud valley, with 19 birds recorded between Sep 23rd and Nov 9th.

Grey Wagtail, by Steve Cale



Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail) *Motecilla alba yarrellii*

British form yarrelli (Pied Wagtail) fairly common resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Nominate continental form (White Wagtail) a scarce passage migrant. Green listed.

Records throughout the year from 27 sites, with high counts in the first winter period of 52 Old Costessey Jan 3rd, 20+ Fakenham STW Jan 12th, 40+ Dereham Jan 26th, 40+ Dereham Jan 26th.

Second winter period gave high counts of 20+ Dereham SW Sept 11th, 25 Sparham Pools Oct 25th and 200 Guist Common Nov 16th. Autumn migration observation along the R Tud gave a count of 127 between Sep 27th and Nov 24th.

There were also 7 records for White Wagtail with 5 Beetley Apr 1st and 3 Rawhall Apr 7th and 20th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Fairly common winter visitor. Amber listed.

Records from 9 sites mainly in the first and second winter periods, with significant numbers at East Raynham c.30 on Jan 1st (A&CJ), 30 Sparham on Oct 31st and 12 Pensthorpe on Dec 7th (RG, LB).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Nominate British and Irish form Amber listed. Scandinavian form littoralis Green listed.

A single record at New Costessey Jan 20th feeding along a ditch adjacent to the River Wensum during a very cold weather period (AG).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

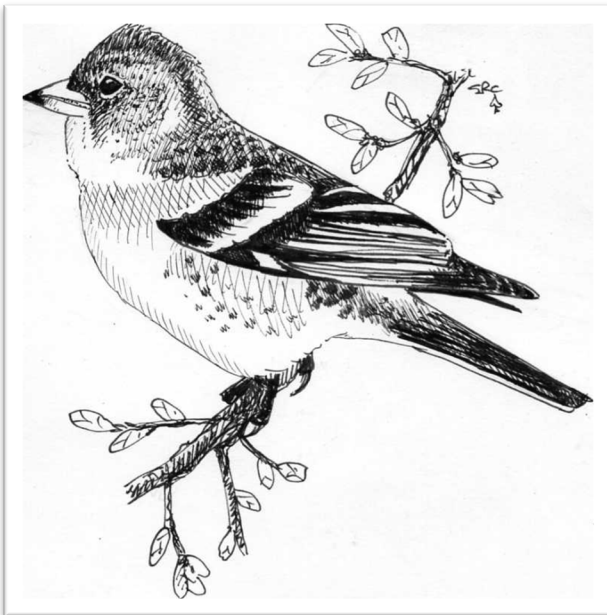
Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Green listed.

Records from over 15 sites during both winter periods with 100 Lyng Jan 31st, 60+ Sculthorpe Moor Feb 20th, 24 Hindolveston Mar 9th, 12+ Bintree Apr 1st, 50 N Tuddenham Nov 7th, 30+ Sculthorpe Moor Dec 15th and 20th. Last record of the first winter period was 2 birds at Lenwade Apr 12th (SG) and for the second winter period a first single record at Costessey Pits on Sep 26th (MMcC).

Autumn migration observation along the Tud valley gave a total of 156 recorded between Oct 10th and Nov 25th (AG).

Brambling, by Steve Cale



Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green listed.

Records throughout the year from 15 sites, with peaks of 14+ Hindolveston Jan 1st, 100+ West Raynham Lake Jan 6th, 25+ Hindolveston Feb 1st, 25 N Tuddenham Nov 7th. Thirteen juveniles were recorded at Hindolveston on Aug 1st (G&AJ).

Autumn migration observation along the Tud valley gave a total of 1520 recorded between Sept 15th and Nov 30th with peak counts of 116 on Oct 20th and 195 on Nov 9th (AG).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Mostly singles or pairs recorded at 20 sites throughout the year, but also 4 HBW Feb 17th, 5+ Hellesdon Mill area March 13th, 5 HBW July 21st, 4 Dereham SW Nov 11th.

Autumn migration observation along the Tud valley gave a total of 7 recorded between Oct 19th and Nov 9th (AG).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common declining resident. Green listed.

Good numbers recorded at 13 sites throughout the year, with peaks of 12 Bintree Aug 1st, 20 N Tuddenham Nov 7th, 30 Dunton Dec 3rd, 10+ Bintree Dec 15th.

Autumn migration observation along the Tud valley at Costessey gave a total of 179 recorded between Sept 28th and Nov 30th (AG).

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Fairly common resident. Red listed.

Recorded in winter and early spring at 16 sites. Highest counts 40 Taverham on Jan 3rd, 25 Pensthorpe on Jan 27th, 40 Swanton Morley on Feb 14th, c.250 Little Witchingham on Mar 13th, 30 Costessey on Apr 16th, 50 Sparham on Oct 25th, 30 N Tuddenham on Nov 7th, 50+ Costessey on Nov 9th, 35 Dunton on Nov 21st and c.60 Lenwade on Dec 28th.

Lesser Redpoll (*Redpoll*) *Carduelis cabaret*

*Scarce and declining resident and fairly common winter visitor. **Red listed.***

In the first winter period mainly 1-4 birds recorded at 16 sites, but higher counts of 10 Costessey Pits on Jan 9th, 10 Sculthorpe Moor on Jan 12th, 10 Costessey Fish Farm on Jan 27th. The last reported sighting was of 4 at Sparham Pools on Apr 27th.

In the second winter period records were obtained from only 5 sites, with a peak of 7 at Sparham Pools on Oct 20th. The earliest record was on Oct 14th during the migration watch along the River Tud, with a total of 57 seen up to Nov 13th.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

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

Two at Hindoveston on Jan 19th and 20th feeding on seed heads (G&AG) and 2 at Costessey Fish Farm Marsh on Jan 27th feeding in Alders (AG).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

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

A single record at Bittering on Apr 12th and a number of records of mainly 1-5 in the Costessey – Drayton – Taverham area throughout the year, with a peak of c.20 at Drewton Drewery on Nov 19th (MM).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

*Common resident. **Green listed.***

Good numbers recorded throughout the year from 16 sites, with high counts of 200 at Crown Road, Costessey and 350 at Easton on Jan 25th, 100 at Springfield Cottage on Sept 28th, 40+ at Drayton on Nov 24th, 30+ Sculthorpe Moor on Dec 15th. A total of 274 birds were recorded migrating along the Tud Valley between Sept 15th and Nov 30th (AG).

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common or fairly common winter visitor. **Green listed.**

Records from 16 sites throughout the year. Highest counts during the first winter period were 50 Costessey Pits on Jan 9th, 70 Tud Valley, Costessey on Jan 9th, 80 Costessey Fish Farm Marshes on Jan 27th, 100 West Raynham on Jan 5th, 50+ Sculthorpe Moor on Jan 12th, c.80 Pensthorpe on Jan 23rd, 60+ Taverham on Mar 1st and 100+ Drayton on Mar 10th.

Highest counts during the second winter period were 20+ Sculthorpe Moor on Dec 15th and 100+ Lenwade Common on Dec 21st. Fourteen birds were recorded migrating along the Tud valley at New Costessey between Sept 21st and Nov 1st (AG).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

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

Counts of 1 to 10 birds throughout the year from 17 sites in the recording area with higher counts of 15 at Old Costessey on Jan 3rd and up to 50 on wild bird food strips at Sparham Hall Farm during Oct and Dec. Three birds were recorded migrating through the Tud Valley at New Costessey between Nov 1st and 3rd.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Records throughout the year from 17 sites of 1-5 birds, with higher counts of 10 at Costessey Marsh on Apr 24th and up to 20 on the wild bird strips at Sparham Hall Farm between Oct and Dec. Evidence of breeding at Gateley on July 4th with 4+ birds including fledged young.

Escapes

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Eastern Europe, Asia and North Africa

Seven records of single birds from 6 sites and 2 birds at Rawhall Pits on Apr 5th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Europe and Asia

Sightings of single birds at Bintree Apr 8th, Apr 25th, May 8th, May 23rd, Pensthorpe Apr 25th, May 2nd, and Costessey Pits Nov 22nd.

Rosella Parrot *Platycercus sp.*

Australia

A single bird seen at Bintree between Nov 9th and 30th on feeders (RD).

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 Peter Walton
 Catherine Waughby
 Darren Williams
 Steve West
 Jack Woodley

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	Briston Common	TG0631
Attlebridge	TG1216	Broom Green	TF9823
Attlebridge, Hall Farm	TG1315	Bylaugh	TG0318
Bawdeswell Heath	TG0319	Bylaugh Hall	TG0418
Beetley, Roosting Hills GP	TF9818	Bylaugh Marshes	TG0318
Billingford	TG0120	Bylaugh Sewage Works	TG0318
Billingford Common	TG0119	Cawston, Eastgate	TG1423
Billingford Pits	TG0119	Colkirk	TF9226
Bintree Mill	TF9924	Costessey Marshes (tetrad)	TG1811
Bintree Wood	TG0021	Costessey Mill	TG1712
Bittering	TF9317	Costessey Pits	TG1610
Bittering GP	TF9217	Costessey, Gunton Lane,	TG1910
Brisley Common	TF9521	Costessey, Tud valley	TG1910

Coxford Heath	TF8330	Foulsham	TG0324
Coxford/Coxford Abbey	TF8429	Foxley Wood NR	TG0522
Daffy Green	TF9610	Frans Green	TG0913
Dereham SW	TF9713	Fulmodeston	TF9930
Dereham, Badley Moor	TG0111	Gateley	TF9624
Drayton	TG1813	Great Ryburgh	TF9527
Dunton	TF8830	Great Witchingham Common	TG0917
East Barsham	TF9133	Great Witchingham, Eade's Mill	TG0921
East Dereham, Heathfield	TF9714	Great Witchingham, Manor Farm	TG1021
East Raynham	TF8825	Great Witchingham, Mill Farm	TG0921
East Rudham	TF8228	Gressenhall	TF9616
Easton College	TG1310	Gressenhall, Union Farm	TF9716
Elsing	TG0516	Guist/Guist Common	TF9925
Elsing Hall	TG0315	Guist, Sennowe Park	TF9825
Elsing Mill/Mill Street/Bridge	TG0517	Helhoughton	TF8726
Elsing, Fustyweed	TG0518	Hellesdon Mill	TG1910
Elsing, Harnser Wood	TG0416	Hempton Marsh NR	TF9130
Elsing, Three Bridges Farm	TG0518	Hindolveston	TG0329
Etling Green	TG0113	Hockering	TG0713
Fakenham Common	TF9329	Hockering Wood	TG0714
Felthorpe	TG1618	Hoe	TF9916

Hoe Bird Walk	TF9917	Marsham Heath	TG1723
Hoe Rough/Common	TF9817	Mattishall Burgh	TG0511
Honingham	TG1011	Mattishall, Clippings Green	TG0412
Horningtoft	TF9323	Mileham	TF9119
Kettlestone	TF9631	Morton-on-the Hill	TG1216
Lenwade	TG0918	New Costessey	TG1710
Lenwade Bridge	TG1018	North Elmham	TF9820
Lenwade, Bridge Lake	TG1018	North Tuddenham Common	TG0314
Lenwade, Marriot's Way	TG1018	North Tuddenham, Elsing Lane	TG0214
Litcham	TF8817	North Tuddenham, Mill Farm	TG0413
Little Ryburgh	TF9628	North Tuddenham, Springfield Farm/Cottage	TG0414
Little Snoring	TF9532	Old Costessey	TG1611
Longham	TF9415	Pensthorpe	TF9428
Lyng	TG0617	Pockthorpe	TG0718
Lyng Easthaugh	TG0817	Pudding Norton	TF9128
Lyng Easthaugh, Walnut Tree Farm	TG0917	Reepham	TG1023
Lyng, Cadder's Hill	TG0617	Ringland	TG1314
Lyng, Collin Green	TG0816	Ringland Common	TG1314
Lyng, Kingfisher Lakes	TG0618	Scarning	TF9512
Lyng, Primrose Green	TG0616	Sculthorpe Airfield	TF8631
Mannington Hall	TG1432	Sculthorpe Mill	TF8930

Sculthorpe Moor NR	TF9030	Toftrees	TF8927
Shereford	TF8829	Twyford	TG0124
South Raynham	TF8723	Wendling	TF9313
Sparham Hall Farm/Fishing Lakes	TG0718	Wensum Valley Golf Club, Taverham.	TG1414
Sparham Hole	TG0519	West Raynham	TF8725
Sparham Pools NR	TG0717	Weston Green	TG1014
Swanton Morley	TG0116	Weston Longville	TG1115
Swanton Morley GP	TG0119	Whissonsett	TF9123
Swanton Morley, Park Farm	TG0216	Whitwell	TG0821
Swanton Morley, Waterfall Farm	TG0118	Whitwell Common	TG0820
Swanton Novers Raptor Watchpoint	TG0030	Wood Norton	TG0127
Taverham	TG1614	Worthing	TF9919
Taverham Fishery	TG1513	Worthing Church	TF9919
Taverham, Ghost Hill Wood	TG1713	Worthing, level crossing	TF9919
Themelthorpe	TG0524	Worthing, Swanton Road	TG0019
Thorpe Marriot	TG1614		

Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Hobby	23 rd Mar	Marsham Heath	LB	12 th Oct	New Costessey	AG
Common Tern	13 th Mar	Costessey Pits	AB	18 th Aug	HBW	DK
Turtle Dove	28 th Apr	Lenwade	WG	25 th June	Lyng Easthaugh	RG RN, LB
Cuckoo	19 th Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	25 th July	Costessey Marsh	JN
Swift	25 th Apr	Pensthorpe	TS	12 th Sept	Bintree	RD
Sand Martin	7 th Apr	Rawhall & Bittering	IB DN	18 th Aug	Guist Common	RG et al
Swallow	13 th Mar	Costessey Marsh	SC	11 th Oct	Costessey	AB
House Martin	13 th Apr	Bittering	DN	20 th Oct	HBW	DK
Nightingale	22 nd Apr	Ringland	SC			
Sedge Warbler	17 th Apr	Sparham Pools	CS	18 th Aug	Guist Common	RG et al
Reed Warbler	26 th Apr	Costessey Ski Pit & Pensthorpe	MM & TS	21 st Aug	Guist Common	RG et al
Lesser Whitethroat	22 nd Apr	Bittering GP	DN			
Whitethroat	16 th Apr	Rawhall GP, Gressenhall	DN	27 th Sept	New Costessey	AG

(continues)

Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants (continued)

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Whitethroat	16 th Apr	Rawhall GP, Gressenhall	DN	27 th Sept	New Costessey	AG
Garden Warbler	26 th Apr	Costessey Ski Pit	MM	21 st July	HBW	DK
Willow Warbler	12 th Apr	Bittering	DN	23 rd Sept	Sparham Pools	SC
Spotted Flycatcher	7 th June	Sculthorpe Moor H&OT NR	BBr	12 th Aug	Costessey	JN

Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors

Species	Latest	Location	Obs	Earliest	Location	Obs
Goosander	11 th Apr	Sparham Pools	CH	21 st Oct	Costessey Ski Pit	AB
Golden Plover	7 th Apr	Rawhall	IB	31 st July	Costessey Marsh	JN
Fieldfare	14 th Apr	New Costessey	AG	10 th Oct	Costessey	AB
Redwing	18 th Apr	Costessey Pits	MM	3 rd Oct	Costessey Pits	MM
Brambling	27 th Apr	Pensthorpe	TS	26 th Sep	Costessey Pits	MM

WVBS 2013 Ringing Report

Ringers were busy in the Wensum Valley during 2013, and this report documents the results of their efforts. There was a remarkable nine movements to and from foreign parts including a Teal to Finland, Black-headed Gull to Ireland, Marsh Harrier to Portugal and a Sand Martin to France. Incoming movements included a Woodcock, a Chiffchaff and two Reed Warblers from France and a Sand Martin from Italy. Further details of all these plus comments on their relevance are set out below.

My thanks to all the ringers that operated in the WVBS study area during 2013 for access to their records.

Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2013

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

Teal

Adult Male	22-09-1991	Pensthorpe, Fakenham
Freshly dead	25-08-1992	Sarakyla, Pudasjarvi, Oulu, Finland (2,074km NE)

This gives an indication of where some of our wintering Teal originate. The fact that it was shot suggests the question of whether Teal shooting is legal in Finland during August. Note how long it took to receive the finding details.

Mallard

First-year Male 13-09-2013 West Lexham, Fakenham
 Freshly dead 24-10-2013 West Lexham, Fakenham (2km)

Again a recovery from a shot bird, showing the perils faced by a first-year Mallard.

Tufted Duck

First-year Male 24-02-1997 Pensthorpe, Fakenham
 Re-trapped 13-01-2012 Blunham, Bedfordshire (110km SW)
 Re-trapped 11-02-2013 Blunham, Bedfordshire
 Re-trapped 06-03-2013 Blunham, Bedfordshire

First-year 27-02-1997 Pensthorpe, Fakenham
 Re-trapped 28-01-2013 Blunham, Bedfordshire (110km SW)

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

First-year 27-02-1997 Pensthorpe, Fakenham
 Re-trapped 28-01-2013 Blunham, Bedfordshire (110km SW)

First-year Male 24-02-1997 Pensthorpe, Fakenham
 Re-trapped 11-02-2013 Blunham, Bedfordshire (110km SW)
 Re-trapped 06-03-2013 Blunham, Bedfordshire (110km SW)

Since all the dates here were during the winter period, it suggests that these birds were just wintering in a different part of Britain and most probably originated from much further afield. Even at 16 years of age, none of these birds come close to the Tufted Duck longevity record which is in excess of 24 years.

Marsh Harrier

The following recoveries demonstrate what a valuable tool the application of wing tags is in maximizing the sightings of marked birds. Although several Norfolk ringers are involved with this project, it is co-ordinated by the Hawk and Owl Trust and the North-west Norfolk Ringing Group.

Nestling Male	10-06-2011	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Field record	24-08-2011	Holme-next-the-Sea, Hunstanton (24km NW)
Field record	31-10-2011	Little Bells Farm, Isle of Sheppey, Kent (163km S)
Field record	11-09-2012	near Newport, Gwent, Wales (294km WSW)
Field record	16-09-2012	Goldcliff, Newport, Gwent, Wales (292 km WSW)
Field record	17-11-2012	Chew Valley Lake, Avon (289km SW)
Field record	07-02-2013	near Blakeney (19km E)
Field record	01-04-2013	near Dale, Dyfed, Wales (428km WSW)

Although this bird was seen twice in Wales (with a sighting in Norfolk between them) there is still the lack of an established pattern to its movements.

Nestling Male	10-06-2011	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Field record	18-10-2011	Lakenheath Fen, Suffolk (48km SSW)
Field record	28-03-2012	Welney, Norfolk (52km SW)
Field record	03-04-2012	Boughton Fen, Stoke Ferry (35km SW)
Field record	06-04-2012	Welney, Norfolk (52km SW)

Much less of a wanderer than the previous bird, but nonetheless interesting.

Nestling F	10-07-2011	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Field record	25-12-2012	Leziria, Lisbon, Portugal (1,720km SSW)
Field record	13-04-2013	Spurn Point, Kilnsea, Yorkshire (97km NNW)
Field record	16-04-2013	Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire (58km NW)

This represents the first recovery of a Norfolk-ringed Marsh Harrier in Portugal and only the fifth from anywhere abroad. The sighting in Portugal was at a small airfield used for aerial crop spraying of the extensive rice fields in the area. Subsequently the bird survived its return migration when it was photographed coming in off the North Sea at Spurn Point, Humberside before being seen again a few days later in Lincolnshire.

Nestling F	21-06-2012	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Field record	27-09-2012	Holme-next-the-Sea, Hunstanton (24km NW)
Field record	31-10-2012	Titchwell, Hunstanton (20km NW)
Field record	26-11-2012	Titchwell, Hunstanton (20km NW)
Field record	30-12-2012	Minsmere, Suffolk (85km SE)
Field record	03-02-2013	Minsmere, Suffolk (85km SE)
Field record	28-02-2013	Minsmere, Suffolk (85km SE)
Field record	26-03-2013	near Reydon, Suffolk (78km SE)
Field record	04-04-2013	Boyton, Woodbridge, Suffolk (96km SSE)
Field record	16/06/2013	Minsmere, Suffolk (85km SE)
Field record	01-12-2013	Minsmere, Suffolk (85km SE)

A much more structured approach to this bird's movements. This female was paired and bred successfully at Minsmere in her second calendar year.

Woodcock

Adult 13-02-2012 Neufchatel-Hardelot, Pas-de-Calais,
France

Freshly dead 29-01-2013 Coxford, Fakenham (253km NNW)

Only the second French-ringed Woodcock to be found in Norfolk. Shot at Coxford, it might have been wiser to winter in France as it had the previous year.

Black-headed Gull

Nestling 12-06-2012 Sparham Pools

Field record 31-08-2012 Dublin, **Republic of Ireland** (500km W)

Field record 06-11-2012 Dublin, **Republic of Ireland** (500km W)

Field record 28-02-2013 Dublin, **Republic of Ireland** (500km W)

Field record 11-09-2013 Dublin, **Republic of Ireland** (500km W)

A gull that has featured in this report before, but has since returned to spend a further winter in Ireland. When the nestlings at the breeding colony at Cantley used to be ringed, it was found that they regularly wintered in Ireland.

Kingfisher

First-year F 19-07-2011 Pensthorpe

Re-trapped 12-05-2012 near Kettlestone, Fakenham (3km)

Re-trapped 10-04-2013 near Kettlestone, Fakenham (3km)

Only a movement of 3km, but still alive - and a species that only appears rarely in this report.

Sand Martin

First-year 14-07-2013 near Easthaugh

Re-trapped 07-08-2013 Pett Level, Icklesham, Sussex
 (205km S)

First-year	08-08-2013	near Easthaugh
Re-trapped	22-08-2013	Pett Level, Icklesham, Sussex (205km S)
Adult	25-06-2013	near Easthaugh
Re-trapped	22-08-2013	Pett Level, Icklesham, Sussex (205km S)
Juvenile	23-06-2009	near Easthaugh
Re-trapped	07-09-2011	San Juan, Madrid, Spain (1,439km SSW)
Full-grown	14-04-2013	Canton Magistris, Novara & Vercelli, Italy
Re-trapped	18-06-2013	near Easthaugh (925km NW)

Every year there are examples of Norfolk Sand Martins migrating through Icklesham. The 12th to Spain but only the 2nd from Italy.

Chiffchaff

Full-grown M	20-03-2012	Landguard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk
Re-trapped	07-04-2013	near Kettlestone, Fakenham (104km NNW)
First-year M	18-10-2009	Marais de Paluden, Hoedic, Morbihan, France
Re-trapped	06-07-2010	near Kettlestone, Fakenham (669km NNE)

The first shown was doubtless still moving north when trapped at Landguard Point. The second shown represents the first French-ringed Chiffchaff to be found in Norfolk.

Reed Warbler

Adult	20-06-2009	Saint-Quentin-En-Tourmont, Somme, France
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Re-trapped	19-07-2010	Guist, East Dereham (284km N)
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Re-trapped	29-07-2010	Guist, East Dereham (284km N)
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Adult Male	14-08-2011	Mont Manet, Genets, Manche, France
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Re-trapped	08-08-2013	Pensthorpe, Fakenham (489km NNE)
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This shows two of the five French-ringed Reed Warblers to be found in Norfolk during 2013, making a grand total of 13.

Common Terns at NWT Sparham Pools NR and Sparham Hall Farm Lakes 2013

During 2013 the Common Terns breeding success was monitored on the island in NWT Sparham Pools NR, on the WVBS's tern raft and on an island, cleared by Charles Sayer, at Sparham Hall Farm Lakes.

Visits were made on these dates – 28th May, 12th & 25th June 2013.

NWT Sparham Pools NR

The first record of returning birds was 16th April when a single bird was present. Again Black-headed Gulls had a major impact on the number of Common Terns breeding on the island. Because of this only one visit was made, on 25th June to the island when it was estimated that at least 40 pairs of Black-headed Gull and only 2 pairs of Common Tern were breeding. No birds were ringed and due to the high vegetation it was impossible to monitor the outcome of the Common Terns.

WVBS's Tern Raft, Sparham Hall Farm Lakes.

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

On 20th May 20 Common Terns were in the vicinity of the tern raft and by the 24th there were more than 30 in the general area.

The first visit was made to the raft on 28th May when there were 10 Common Tern nests with eggs. At the same time there were 3 Black-headed Gull nests each in a corner of the raft. Visits were also made on 12th and 25th June. In total 21 young Common Tern and 7 young Black-headed Gull were ringed on the raft. British Trust for Ornithology nest record cards were submitted for all 3 Black-headed Gull and most of the Common Tern.

Island at Sparham Hall Farm Lakes.

Early in the spring of 2013 I assisted Charles Sayer to clear the island in one of his trout lakes in the hope that the Common Tern would then breed.

The result was most pleasing with 9 Common Tern nests, 1 Black-headed Gull, 1 Canada Goose and 1 Greylag Goose. Also a Mallard unsuccessfully attempted to nest in a pipe provided for the Common Tern chicks to shelter in.

On 12th June 7 of the Common Tern nests had 3 eggs in each and the other 2 had 2 eggs in each.

On the same visit the Black-headed Gull had only 1 egg.

Both Geese nests were predated. BTO Nest Record Cards were submitted for these.

Conclusions

It is disappointing that for the second year running the Common Terns have had a relatively unsuccessful breeding season at NWT Sparham Pools NR due to Black-headed Gulls taking over the island. It is, however, gratifying that they have found suitably nesting sites elsewhere on the complex of old gravel pits. The Black-headed Gulls are also spreading to these other sites and the plan for 2014 is to leave the sites covered with brushwood until the Common Terns arrive thus hoping that the Black-headed Gulls, which start nesting earlier, will find nesting sites elsewhere.

As mentioned in the 2012 report one of the Black-headed Gull chicks ringed on the raft on 12th June 2012 was recorded in Dublin on several occasions from 31st Aug 2012 to 21st Sept 2013. As stated before there are very few records of Black-headed Gull chicks moving from Norfolk to Ireland, and none with such a good series of sightings as this bird.

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 2013

As with past years credit must go to the volunteers and visitors to the reserve who, once again, enabled a comprehensive record to be collected of the birds, insects and mammals seen there during the year. A total of 7,260 bird records were amassed, slightly down on previous years, with the highest counts being made during February (1,492). This drop in records could simply be a reflection on the weather during the year, with the spring of 2013 being the coldest in the UK since 1962. A combination of northerly winds and rain would not have helped our local species. The summer, by contrast, was warm and dry, but many felt this was too little too late to help boost the numbers of breeding birds.

Birds

The year started with regular counts of mixed finches visiting the feeders during **January**, which included small numbers of Bramblings in amongst the Chaffinches, and Siskins plus the occasional Redpoll which could be found feeding high in the woodland canopy. More unusual species recorded this month included a single Pink-footed Goose on the 10th and a Little Egret and Green Sandpiper (17th). High water levels on the marsh towards the end of the month saw the arrival of species such as Wigeon, Teal and Gadwall, with a maximum of 20 Wigeon present on the 31st.

February's highlights included two Woodcock on the 5th, two Egyptian Geese on the 6th, Water Rail on the 14th and a Marsh Harrier on the 24th. Finch numbers remained high with 20 Chaffinches, 25 Bramblings and 30 Goldfinches recorded on the 14th, with Redpolls and Siskins noted on various dates with a maximum of 8 Siskins on the 6th and 7 Redpoll sp. on the 22nd.

During **March** Greylag Goose numbers increased with 27 present on the 9th, Red-legged Partridges were recorded on four dates, as were single Little Egrets. A pair of Oystercatchers were noted on the 23rd and the 27th, with a single Green Woodpecker on the 14th and a Woodcock on the 23rd plus Barn Owls on three dates.

During April once again a pair of Kestrels took up residence on the marsh, and Oystercatcher numbers increased with 6 on the 5th and 4 on the 12th. Two Tufted Ducks were present on the 12th and the 17th. A count of 5 Woodcocks was made on the 6th, with a single and the last of the winter period noted on the 10th. The first Chiffchaff surprisingly wasn't recorded on the reserve until the 11th of the month, but was quickly followed by the first Blackcap and Willow Warbler both appearing on the 18th, with the first swallows on the 25th.

May saw an increase in local Common Buzzard sightings with 4 recorded on the 2nd and 3 on the 5th, and summer visitors continued to appear with the first Hobby and Cuckoo recorded on the 2nd. Cuckoos were also recorded on a further 8 dates during the month, along with Swifts, Sedge and Reed Warblers on various dates.

June saw Oystercatchers continuing to visit the marsh with a maximum of 5 present on the 25th. Single Marsh Harriers were present on 3 dates and the first Kingfisher of the year was seen on the 1st. Single Red Kites were present on two dates, a species we shall undoubtedly see more of over the coming years, and the first House Martin and Common Whitethroat were noted.

July and August were somewhat quieter bird wise but both months saw an increase in Sparrowhawk sightings, possibly locally breeding birds. Unsurprisingly there were no records of Willow Tits from the site or even confirmed sightings in the Wensum Valley – the NOA's colour ringing project on Marsh and Willow Tits has sadly witnessed the disappearance of Willow Tits from what was once a stronghold for the species. However, it is encouraging to see Marsh Tits appearing to do well with an increase in sightings during these two months.

During July once again Kingfishers were recorded on the 6th and the 27th, and a Nuthatch put in an appearance also on the 27th, as did both a Barn Owl and a single Marsh Harrier which was seen on the 3rd. August saw little of note other than single Buzzards on the 13th and 20th.

September continued to see Buzzards recorded along with Treecreepers on three dates and surprisingly Great Spotted Woodpecker on just one date.

During October Kingfishers again put in an appearance with single birds on the 15th and the 17th, and an increase in woodland species was evident with both Treecreeper and Nuthatch recorded on four dates and Great Spotted Woodpecker recorded on two. A Little Egret was on the marsh during November and again Barn Owl and Kingfisher were recorded. Finch numbers started to increase at the woodland feeding site and the first Siskins and Redpolls were recorded on the 18th. Single Woodcocks were recorded on the 7th and the 28th of December, and other winter visitors included 4 Fieldfare on December the 3rd and 4 Brambling on the 16th.

Insects

A total of 341 casual insect observations were made during the year, a slight increase on the previous year, with the majority of these related to butterflies, with fifteen species recorded. There were unsurprisingly no March Butterfly records, with the first Peacock (*Aglais io*) and Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*), noted on the 4th April, followed by both Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) and Small white (*Pieris rapae*) on the 25th. May saw an expected increase in sightings with Orange Tips (*Anthocharis cardamines*) seen on nine dates and Peacock on six being the most numerous, with the first Large Whites (*Pieris brassicae*) noted on the 1st, Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) on the 7th and a Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegaria*) on the 9th. May also saw the appearance of the first Damselflies, with Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrosoma nymphula*) noted on three dates, and the first Dragonfly, probably a Hairy Hawker, noted on the 7th. Numbers of butterflies recorded in June were low, with only a total of nine records during the month, which included the first Comma (*Polygonia c-album*), on the 6th, and Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*) on the 29th. Dragonflies and Damselflies fared better, with the first appearances of Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*), Four-

spot Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*), Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*), Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) and Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*). July was a much better month, with a total of 37 butterfly, and 55 dragon and damselfly records received. Butterflies included the first Ringlets (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) and Meadow Browns (*Maniola jurtina*), and an Essex Skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*) on the 13th, the only record for the year. There was only one dragonfly record; a Broad-bodied Chaser (*Libellula depressa*) on the 3rd, but damselflies featured strongly with Banded Demoiselle recorded on nine dates and Azure and Common Blue damselfly both recorded on three dates. August was a bumper month for butterflies with 155 records received. Large counts of Peacock butterflies, with 50 on the 3rd and 34 on the 13th, boosted numbers, with the commoner species such as Speckled Wood, Comma, Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) and Meadow Brown all recorded regularly along with the three Whites which included the first Green-veined Whites (*Pieris napi*) of the year. Slightly more unusual were records of Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) on the 8th, 13th (3) and 15th. Dragonfly records saw the expected appearance of the first Brown (*Aeshna grandis*) and Southern (*Aeshna cyanea*) Hawkers and Ruddy Darters (*Sympetrum sanguineum*). September saw the last records of Large White (2) on the 4th, a Small Tortoiseshell on the 7th, a Ringlet on the 20th, a Peacock on the 28th and a Four-spotted Chaser on the 2nd. Final butterflies of the year were a Speckled Wood on the 2nd of October, Small White and Red Admiral on the 24th of October and a Comma on the 11th of November, with the last dragonflies being during October with Ruddy Darter on the 3rd, Southern Hawker on the 17th and Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) on the 30th.

Mammals

A total of 89 Mammal records were collected this year, a sizable decrease on 2012. The majority of these records were accounted for by three species, Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) - 32 records, Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) - 26 records, and Muntjac deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*) -

15 records. The reduction in Muntjac records accounted largely for the majority of the decrease and there were surprisingly no records received this year of Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). Bank Vole (*Myodes glareolus*) records increased though, with singles seen on the 6th of February, April the 12th, November the 29th and the 13th and 19th December, though unfortunately Water Vole records decreased with only one recorded, on July the 9th. Stoats were recorded on five dates, with sightings of two on both April the 9th and June the 28th.

Gary Elton

Assistant Warden

Report from Sculthorpe Moor for 2013

Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve celebrated its official 10th anniversary in 2013. The Hawk and Owl Trust took over management of the reserve at the end of 2001 and the reserve was officially opened to the public in 2003. Over those 10 years great strides have been made in improving habitats on the site for wildlife and in making the site accessible to visitors.

A notable result of the management work carried out on the reed bed by reserve warden Nigel Middleton, his assistant Tim and a fantastic group of volunteers is the successful annual nesting of a female Marsh Harrier affectionately known as 'Mrs. H'. In the years that she has been breeding on the reserve Mrs 'H' has raised an impressive number of chicks, 4 to 6 chicks every year. Three chicks were ringed at the nest in 2013, a further chick was too mobile and escaped capture. For the past 4 years the chicks have also been tagged with green wing tags as part of a research programme being carried out by WVBS, the North West Norfolk ringing group and the Hawk and Owl Trust tagging young Marsh Harriers in the Wensum Valley. 40 chicks have now been tagged and reports of sightings are starting to come in from as far afield as Spain and Portugal giving invaluable data about the movements of these young birds. For the first time a young Harrier tagged in the Wensum valley in 2011 was seen nesting at Minsmere in 2013. Further work to improve the reed bed habitat on the reserve is planned for 2014 including plans for a new tower hide which will give views over the reed bed and woodland.

There were Tawny Owlets in two of the nest boxes on the reserve and three young were ringed, sadly the Barn Owls failed to breed.

Nuthatches bred well on the reserve and 5 young were ringed. Bullfinches also bred well this year and several young were seen with adults at the Whitley hide feeding station. 4 Kingfishers were seen together one morning on one of the large drains, a clear indication that the birds had bred successfully somewhere close by. Woodcock are present on the reserve all year round and breed on the reserve, 5 adults

were ringed this year. It is hoped to ring more Woodcock and also Water Rail in the future. Water Rails, it is assumed, breed on the reserve as their characteristic squeals can be heard over the reedbed; likewise successful Woodcock Walks for visitors on spring evenings show that Woodcock must also breed by their roding flights. Numbers of resident Woodcock are swelled in the winter months by migrants from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, but where exactly? By trapping or dazzling these enigmatic birds, then ringing them, it is hoped that they will be re-caught on their breeding grounds, thus building up data on their movements and life expectancy

Other birds ringed on the reserve this year included Buzzard, Robin, Wren, Song Thrush, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Treecreeper, Brambling, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Lesser Redpoll and Reed Bunting. Siskin and Redpoll ringing started more or less by accident in 2012. Nyjer seed feeders were put up to attract Goldfinches, with the outside chance of Siskin and Redpoll. In 2012 8 Goldfinches were trapped and ringed, but alongside of that an incredible 21 Lesser Redpolls. 2013 was curtailed a bit by the weather, with only 6 Lesser Redpolls and 3 Goldfinches. A new site has been identified on the reserve where more intensive ringing can take place, to try and find out where these three species of finches come from. There are many Goldfinches breeding in gardens now, and Siskins breed quite extensively in Thetford Forest, but the status of Lesser Redpolls remains a bit uncertain.

The celebrations of the biodiversity on the reserve culminated in a BioBlitz weekend in September when visitors of all ages were encouraged to go out with experts to find as many species as possible on the reserve in 48hrs. The results were fantastic. The weather was exceptional, the visitors all enjoyed themselves and a grand total of 722 species was recorded, a very fitting celebration of 10 years of stewardship by staff and volunteers.

Weather Report 2013

January

It was very cold from the 14th - 25th inclusive, with the screen minimum of -13.2°C at Buxton, Norfolk on the 16th. This was the coldest reading recorded in the British Isles throughout the month.

Snow fell on 11 days and lay on 13 with a maximum level depth of 20 cms on the 21st. A sudden thaw at the end of the month peaked on the 29th when the maximum of 14.0°C was very close to the East Anglian record.

Total Rainfall: 63.6mm (110% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 2.9°C (-1.1°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 20

Air Frosts: 17

Wind Direction Summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	1	2	1	1	10	2	2	12

February

This was a bleak month with snow falling on 12 days, but never managing to accumulate to any significant depth with only a single day achieved a maximum in excess of 10°C.

Very dry air in the middle of the month caused static electricity to produce a tingling sensation when touching metal door handles and blue sparks to dance over one's clothes!

Total Rainfall: 43.8mm (101% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 3.1°C (-0.7°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 21

Air Frosts: 11

Wind Direction Summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	8	5	2	2	1	2	5	3

March

This was the coldest March since 1962 with a nearly continuous feed of frigid air from Scandinavia and Western Russia.

Snow fell on 13 days and lay on 5 mornings with the average temperature being identical to that of February. On the 5th there was a single day of spring like weather when the maximum recorded temperature rose to 14.7°C.

Total Rainfall: 79.8mm (171% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 3.1°C (-2.8°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 24

Air Frosts: 16

Wind Direction Summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	12	9	2	0	1	1	1	3

April

April was a very dry month with the rainfall total of 23.4mm being barely 50% of average.

Frost was a feature with 10 air frosts and 17 ground frosts recorded. But two spells of warmth namely 14th - 17th and 23rd - 25th caused the mean temperature of the month to be slightly above normal.

Any spring growth was very retarded with bluebells delaying flowering until the 29th.

Total Rainfall: 23.4mm (48% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 8.3°C (+0.7°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 17

Air Frosts: 10

Wind Direction Summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	3	8	2	0	0	11	1	5	0

May

It was a cool and wet month whose rainfall total of 63.5 mm was 140% of average dispelling any fears of an impending drought.

A preponderance of cold nights caused the average temperature of the month to be significantly below normal with northerly winds being more frequent than normal.

Total Rainfall: 63.5mm (140% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 10.7°C (-0.6°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 9

Air Frosts: 3

Wind Direction Summary

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

June

This was the driest June since 2000 with rainfall total of 20.01mm being only 38% of the average for the month.

Only 6 days had maxima above 21°C with many days reminiscent of early autumn. The temperature on the 8th and 9th only just exceeded 13°C and there was even a ground frost on the 4th.

Total Rainfall: 20.1mm (38% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 14.2°C (-0.1°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 1

Air Frosts: 0

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	3	4	0	4	1	9	1	8	0

July

With the rainfall total of 10.2mm being only 18% of the July average this was another very dry month and the period from 3rd - 22nd inclusive being totally devoid of rainfall.

(By contrast rainfall for July 2012 was recorded at 124.2mm which was 220% of average).

High summer came at last and the maxima exceeded 25°C on 19 days with 31.9°C attained on the 22nd.

Total Rainfall: 10.2mm (18% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 18.9°C (+2.4°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 0

Air Frosts: 0

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	9	0	4	5	8	3	0	2

August

The August rainfall total of 42mm was barely 80% of normal with the aggregate total rainfall for the three month summer season showing a deficit of nearly 50% and there were signs of drought apparent in the countryside.

Maximum temperatures exceeded 25°C on 7 days in the month and 31.9°C was recorded on the 1st.

Total Rainfall: 42.0mm (82% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 18.3°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	1	3	1	1	5	12	7	1	0

September

There was some uneven distribution of rainfall during the month with 63.2mm measured to the west of Norwich and only 49.8mm to the east.

There was also some recovery to the parched landscape but with recorded maxima in excess of 21°C on 6 days. The temperature of 29.4°C attained on the 5th was accompanied by thunder and torrential rain. (It is worth noting that a feature of recent years has been the distinct lack of thunderstorms).

Total Rainfall: 63.2mm (116% 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	0	1	4	2	2	5	5	4	7

October

A notably warm and wet month with rain falling on 19 days yielding a total of 97.1mm which was 167% of average for the month but unusually the month was virtually frost free and there was a complete absence of crisp calm autumn weather.

On the 28th the St Jude storm caused wind speeds of 67mph at Caistor St Edmund, 60mph at Norwich Airport and 53mph at Weybourne.

Total Rainfall: 97.1mm (167% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 12.7°C (+1.7°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 0

Air Frosts: 0

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	1	0	6	4	10	3	2	4

November

Although rain fell on 24 days the monthly total in the Norwich area of between 60 - 63 mm was less than 90% of the average.

Only 2 air frosts were recorded but ground frost occurred on 14 nights. There was a total absence of sleet or snow during the month.

A fire rainbow or to give its proper name a Circumhorizontal Arc was observed mid-afternoon on the 26th.

Total Rainfall: 60.2mm (86% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 6.3°C (-0.4°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 14

Air Frosts: 2

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	2	0	1	2	2	6	7	9

December

There were frequent mild days and this caused the mean temperature to be 1°C above normal for the time of year.

With a preponderance of rain bearing south westerly winds the rain shadow effect allowed Norfolk to be drier than average. Indeed rainfall totals of between 34 - 42mm in the Norwich area were little over half the December average.

The wind reached gale force on the 5th, 24th and 27th and there was a total absence of sleet or snow during the month.

Total Rainfall: 41.8mm (69% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 5.8°C (+1.0°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 14

Air Frosts: 4

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	0	1	6	11	5	3	5

Annual Summary 2013

Total Rainfall	608.8 mms (94% of average)	Wettest Day	3 rd March (23.2 mm)
Days with rain recorded	168	Days with thunder	8
Lowest maximum	-0.5°C (16 th January)	Lowest minimum	-11.5°C (16 th January)
Lowest grass minimum	-15.5°C (16 th January)		
Air frosts	63	Ground frosts	120
Days with sleet or snow	37	Days with snow lying	19
Days with hail	4	Mean cloud cover at 0900hrs:	68%
Highest Maximum:	31.9°C (22 nd July)	Highest minimum:	18.6°C (2 nd August)
Days with gales:	4	Days with fog (0900hrs):	

Longest period without any measurable rainfall: 20 days from 3rd - 22nd July inclusive

Annual mean maximum: 14.0°C

Annual mean minimum: 5.9°C

Annual mean: 9.9°C

Wind direction at 0900hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	19	49	24	28	30	86	40	44	45

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 1st April to 31st 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 **1st 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

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

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

Submission of Records for 2014 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 31st January 2015**. 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 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.

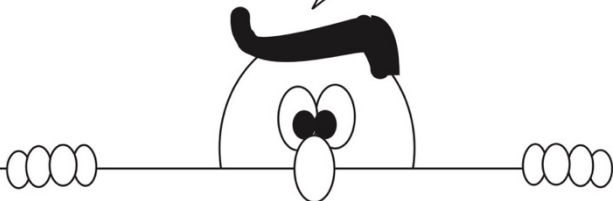
Species and forms considered rare at county level are dealt with by the County Records Committee. A full list of species or forms requiring descriptions and the details of requirements and procedures can be found on the CBC website <http://norfolkbirds.weebly.com>

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.

Too much information?

eye relief apo-chrom
pupil F:480mm Swarovisi
chromatic aberration SHR
objective lens ZWCF 16-48x65
HDF nitrogen filled IPD
polycarbonate roof-prism ED
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2021 PDF of the WVBS Eleventh Annual Report_20137th October 2021

Text changes

Format changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
2013 Diary of Events 16 th May 18 th May 15 th August	half of of the Dawn Chorus & Bacon Butties www.hawkandowl.org	half of the Dawn Chorus & Bacon Butties at Sparham Pools https://hawkandowltrust.org
Systematic List Brent Goose Wigeon Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler Great White Egret Coot Greenshank Black-headed Gull Mediterranean Gull Herring Gull Garden Warbler, Whitethroat Waxwing Ring Ouzel Nightingale	<i>Anus Penelope</i> <i>Anus</i> <i>Ardea alba alba</i> by far the significant A single birds <i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>Larus melancephalus</i> <i>Larus argentus</i> <i>Sylvia</i> feeding feeding <i>Turdus torquatus torquatus</i> <i>Lusciniamegarhynchos</i> <i>megarhynchos</i>	<i>Branta bernicla</i> <i>Anas penelope</i> <i>Anas</i> <i>Ardea alba</i> by far the most significant A single bird <i>Larus ridibundus</i> <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> <i>Larus argentatus</i> <i>Sylvia</i> feeding <i>Turdus torquatus</i> <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Earliest and Latest Summer Migrants	dates	Reported Dates
Common Terns at Sparham	running that the	running the
HOT Sculthorpe Moor Report	Numbers or resident niger	Numbers of resident nyjer
2013 Weather Summary		Month summaries moved to respective month. Annual Summary changed to a table.