

**WENSUM VALLEY  
BIRDWATCHING  
SOCIETY**

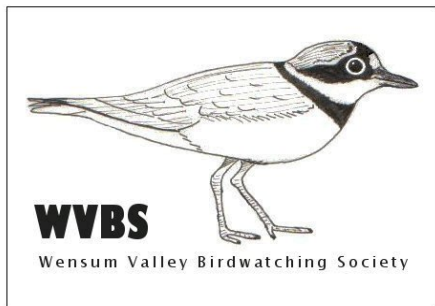


**SECOND ANNUAL REPORT  
2004**

## **Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society**

### **2004 Annual Report**

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Covering the Wensum Valley from Norwich to Fakenham and beyond.

Formed in March 2003, our aim is 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: Lenwade Village Hall, third Thursday of each month.

## **Committee 2004**

### **Officers:**

Chairman

Alwyn Jackson

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

David Pelling

Treasurer & Recorder

Ray Gribble

Membership Secretary

John Horsman

Publicity

Colin Wright

Committee:

Rosemary Harvey

Josh Leeder

Bill Shepherd

Web Page: [www.wvbs.co.uk](http://www.wvbs.co.uk)

## **Chairman's Report**

It gives me great pleasure to present the second Annual Report of the Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society.

2004 was once again a busy but rewarding year in the development of the Society.

We had a full programme of outdoor and indoor meetings. The indoor meetings covered a wide spectrum of topics and those attending appreciated all our speakers. The outdoor programme was also well supported and we visited a wide range of sites within East Anglia. Most important of all we enjoyed some good birdwatching together and I would like to thank all the leaders.

During the year we were fortunate enough with the help of Robin Goolden and Louisa Lloyd, Officers of the Wensum Valley Project to make a successful bid for lottery funding through the Awards for All scheme. The award of £1,150 enabled the Society to purchase a slide projector and stand, a projection screen and a PA system, all of which have been used extensively by our speakers to enhance their presentations. The grant also enabled the purchase a tabletop photocopier, which means the Society can now produce its own newsletters, bulletins and other publications like our first Annual Report. Four pairs of binoculars were also purchased for use by members or prospective members during outdoor meetings. It means we can now offer interested people the opportunity of birdwatching without the requirement of possessing optical equipment.

Several of our activities helped to heighten the Society's profile, both locally and further afield. In August the Society was also invited to join with the Hawk and Owl Trust Sculthorpe Reserve and Pensthorpe Conservation Trust at the Rutland Bird Fair. In October the Society was represented at the Wild About Norfolk Conservation Fair held at Hoveton and we were encouraged by the level of interest shown. 2004 also saw the introduction and development of the Society's website making our activities accessible to a wider audience.

As you may realise it requires a considerable number of people to make the Society “tick” and this is a good opportunity to thank all those who gave of their time so generously during 2004.

I hope you enjoy reading the 2004 Report. You may notice some changes, which I hope will make it easier to digest while not lessening its content.

I look forward to sharing our interest in birdwatching together in the future.

Alwyn Jackson  
Chairman

## Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society Programme 2004

<b>Saturday January 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Bird Race</b> within WVBS area
<b>Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Indoor Meeting.</b> "Papua New Guinea - A Naturalist's Paradise". Speaker: Dr Ian Burrows
<b>Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Joint Field Meeting with NarVOS</b> (half day). Sparham Pools NR. Leader: Alwyn Jackson
<b>Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Indoor Meeting.</b> "A Chris Knights Special". Speaker: Chris Knights, Wildlife Photographer of the Year
<b>Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Field Meeting:</b> Snettisham. Leaders: Charles & Fran Neale
<b>Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Brief AGM</b> plus "Bird Migration through Senegal" Speaker: Allan Hale
<b>Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Joint Field Meeting with NarVOS</b> Waxham, Horsey, Winterton. Leader: Ray Gribble
<b>Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Indoor Meeting.</b> "Birding in Exotic Places - a muggly of bad slides". Speaker: David Pelling
<b>Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Dawn Chorus</b> followed by bacon butties. Sparham Pools NR.

<b>Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Indoor meeting.</b> "Birds and other Wildlife of East Anglia". Speaker: Peter Ransom.
<b>Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Evening Field Meeting.</b> West Raynham. Leader: Alwyn Jackson
<b>Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Evening Field Meeting</b> in the Brecks. Leader: Ray Gribble
<b>Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Field meeting</b> Minsmere RSPB reserve. Leader: David Pelling
<b>Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Indoor meeting.</b> "Birds of south-east Africa". Speaker: Stephen Spawls.
<b>Fri/Sat July 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bird Ringing Demonstration</b> Leaders: Ray Gribble & Allan Hale
<b>Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Evening Field meeting</b> Sculthorpe Moor NR followed by pub grub. Leader: Alwyn Jackson
<b>Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Field meeting.</b> North Norfolk Coast in search of migrants. Leader: Ray Gribble
<b>Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Indoor meeting.</b> "Managing Change on the North Norfolk coast". Speaker: Peter Lambley (English Nature).
<b>Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wild About Norfolk Conservation Fair.</b> Broadland High School, Hoveton.
<b>Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Indoor meeting.</b> "China Re-visited". Speaker: Malcolm Rains



<b>Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Field meeting.</b> Breydon Water & the Yare valley. Leader: Charles Neale.
<b>Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Indoor meeting.</b> "Garden birds and bird gardens". Speaker: Mike Toms (BTO)
<b>Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Field meeting.</b> Lyndford Arboretum. Leader: David Pelling
<b>Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Social Evening.</b>

All indoor meetings were held in Lenwade Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

## 2004 Outdoor Meetings

Our programme of outdoor meetings started with a Bird Race on [Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January](#) with 5 teams taking part. We all met at the Bridge inn, Lenwade afterwards to share experiences and a total of 86 species were recorded in total. The highlights included a Bittern at Sculthorpe Moor (their first ever record) 3 Bewick's Swans over Hoe and a single at Lyng, Goldeneye at Swanton Morley and Sennowe, a Smew at Swanton Morley, a wintering Chiffchaff at Bylaugh Sewage Farm, Willow Tit at Sculthorpe Moor, 6 Brambling at Broom Hill and 4 Redpoll at Sculthorpe Mill.

Eighteen members from our Society and the Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NARVOS) met in the car park at the NWT Sparham Pools Reserve on [Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February](#) for our next field meeting. The day was bright and very windy as we set off around the southern edge of the reserve, along the river (by kind permission of Charles Sayer) and back along the northern edge. We soon caught up with Goosander, for which Sparham is well known, and eventually we had a maximum count of 12. The passerines were keeping their heads down in the gale force winds and the usual Marsh Tits and Treecreeper eluded us. A Grey Wagtail foraged around the edge of one of the new pits but the highlight was a female Scaup which is a rare winter visitor to the valley

On [March 8<sup>th</sup>](#) Charles and Fran Neale led a meeting of 19 members at Snettisham. The object of the day was to enjoy the spectacle of 10,000's of the waders that winter on the Wash wheeling around as they are forced off the mud by the incoming tide. Walking south alongside the pits we saw many of the more common water birds and at the end of the first pit we noticed a female Goldeneye followed by several more on the far pits including some spectacular drakes. On reaching the shore there were many waders within viewing distance of the bank so we were able to point out the salient features of Dunlin, Knot, Redshank, Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits, Ringed plover, Curlew, Golden and Grey Plover,

Oystercatcher and Avocets. From one of the hides a Mediterranean Gull was located amongst the hordes of noisy Black-headed Gulls. Whilst walking to the final hide a female Marsh Harrier flew over our heads and out over the Wash. This was followed shortly by a Little Egret presumably going to roost. As the light faded we were able to appreciate masses of waders wheeling around in their 10,000's as the tide was rapidly coming in. This surely must be one of Norfolk's wildlife spectacles.

We joined members of NarVOS again on [Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April](#) for a visit to Horsey, Waxham and Winterton led by Ray Gribble. As we walked along the dyke at Horsey we had superb views of Marsh Harriers rising above the reedbeds and a Buzzard as it drifted over the grazing marsh. To our delight Ray managed to locate several Common Cranes feeding on the levels. After lunch we moved to Winterton Dunes in search of a reported Ring Ouzel which we eventually found. Thanks to patience and guidance of some birders in the group we also saw Black Redstart, Stonechat, Firecrest and enjoyed brilliant views of a Long-eared Owl as it roosted in a garden bush.

For our Dawn Chorus visit we met in the car park of Sparham Pools Reserve on [Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May](#) at 4:15am. Although not quite light the birds were already in full song, especially the Garden Warbler and Chiffchaff. Overall we saw, or heard, 57 different species which included the Tawny Owl, Blackcap, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Barn Owl, Tree Creeper, Goldcrest, Osprey, Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler, Reed Bunting, Whitethroat, Sand Martin, Reed Warbler, Cetti's Warbler and Nuthatch. Well worth getting up for – especially the hot bacon butties for those who stayed the course.

Thirteen members attended the evening outdoor meeting at West Raynham on [Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June](#) despite the damp, dull weather conditions. A total of 42 species were noted including a Garden Warbler feeding its brood; distant views of a Sparrowhawk, Gadwall, Shoveler,

Tufted Duck and Great Crested Grebe on the parkland lake. Swallow, House Martin, Swift all flying around near the lake. Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Reed Warbler, Whitethroat and Mistle Thrush were in full song. The evening drew to a close with views of a Cuckoo in flight and 4 Woodcock roding.

The cool weather did not deter 17 members from enjoying an evening's birdwatching at Boughton Fen and in the Brecks around the Cockley Cley area on [Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>](#)

At the first site excellent views of Woodlark were had as the bird passed overhead in full song and a couple of Mistle Thrush were observed drinking at a nearby cattle trough. Other species present were Skylark, Pied Wagtail, Linnet, Lapwing, Red-legged Partridge and Oystercatcher. We moved on to another Breckland site and enjoyed excellent views of a Tree Pipit, a new species for some observers.

Boughton Fen was rather quiet and although it did not produce some of the species we had hoped to see we did have Sedge and Reed Warbler, a Turtle Dove, Barn Owl and Reed Bunting.

We finished the evening at a well-known site for Nightjar. Several males were heard but only two lucky members managed to get a fleeting view of one bird in flight. However a pair of Woodcock were seen as they appeared along the track about 50 meters away.

Sixteen members attended our day at the RSPB's Minsmere Reserve on [Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup>](#) led by Ray Gribble. The weather was kind to us. Slightly breezy at times in the more exposed places, but overall the weather was ideal. A total of 69 species were seen. Good views were had of Bittern in flight, excellent views of Hobbies catching and feeding on dragonflies. Bearded Tits carrying caterpillars (obviously feeding young). Ruddy Ducks and to cap off a really good day Dartford Warblers on Dunwich Heath.

In [July](#), Ray Gribble and Allan Hale demonstrated to members the practise of ringing (banding) birds. Those who attended the ringing session had the opportunity of observing birds in the hand at very close quarters. Our thanks to Ray and Allan for allowing members to attend their ringing session.

On [Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August](#) fifteen members visited the Community Reserve at Sculthorpe Moor on what was a fine evening. The reserve is managed by the Hawk and Owl Trust and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It consists of reed bed, valley fen, alder carr and woodland with a rich bio-diversity of flora and fauna. We started by walking round the extensive boardwalk through the woodland area and spent a short time in the hide where we managed to both hear and see a Marsh Tit. Upon returning to the main entrance to await the arrival of a volunteer warden, we observed a juvenile Marsh Harrier flying into the valley.

We were taken on a tour of the rest of the reserve which is not open to visitors at present. We were able to see at first hand what the extensive management work had already achieved in the restoration of the saw-sedge beds. Marsh Harriers have already returned to breed on the site and it is hoped that wintering Hen Harrier will also utilise the site in the coming years. Whilst making our way through the reed beds we heard and then saw a flock of up to 50 Long-tailed Tits accompanied by three Chiffchaffs emerge from a small elder bush. We moved on to view the newly dug scrape, situated near the river, which had already attracted several Green Sandpipers during August but sadly not during our visit. Whilst strolling back to the main entrance we had excellent views of a Barn Owl quartering the adjacent meadow.

On [Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September](#) Alwyn and Ray led a trip to the North Norfolk Coast, searching for migrants.

Eight members headed off to Titchwell on an extremely hot morning. Not everyone stayed the full day on this trip as they had other commitments or they were just exhausted by the heat. After Titchwell four members went on to Holme but perhaps the best bird came when

two members had views of an Osprey circling over “smelly hill”, Lenwade for four or five minutes before it drifted off to the north-east.

During the day seventy-six species were seen in total. Some of the better birds were Sparrowhawk, Marsh Harrier, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Tern, Great Skua, Little Egret, Greenshank, Black-winged Stilt, Yellow Wagtail, Bearded Tit, Black-tailed Godwit, Little Stint, Red-backed Shrike, Osprey.”

On [Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October](#) nine members enjoyed a full day’s field trip on the North Norfolk Coast. Visits were made to the NWT Cley Reserve, Little Eye on Salhouse Marshes, the NOA Walsey Hills Reserve and the woods at Holkham Gap. At least fifty-five species were seen, amongst which were Red-backed Shrike, Shore Lark, Brambling and some elusive Yellow-browed Warblers. A strong wind made conditions somewhat difficult.

On [Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November](#) the planned field meeting along the valley between Attlebridge and Sparham Pools had to be shortened to a tour of the Reserve and a short excursion along the river valley as a result of yet further poor weather conditions (a combination of wind and rain). Despite this, ten members and two visitors managed to find thirty-two species of bird including fine views of a Sparrowhawk overhead, a Little Grebe (the latter being an infrequent visitor to Sparham Pools) and ten Teal indulging in some short bouts of display behaviour. Four Roe Deer wandering through the newly planted woodland adjoining the Reserve were an added bonus.

On [Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>](#) twelve members braved a very cold and windy day. We travelled to Holkham but a walk into the park and alongside the lake produced very little indeed. The park was exceptionally quiet with no Tit flocks moving at all. Nuthatch was heard but not seen. One Kestrel was observed. The lake produced Tufted Duck, Shovelers, Mallard, Gadwall, Egyptian Goose, Greylag Goose, Moorhen and about 250 Coot. A bird flying very fast and close to the

water was possibly Kingfisher. There were hundreds of Pink-footed Geese flying over.

Leaving Holkham Park our party of cold, intrepid birdwatchers transferred their attention to the pines and path-side trees between Wells and Holkham. Apart from the usual Tits, Redwing, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Goldcrests were really the only birds of note. It was decided that we would have a look on the beach for Shorelark, Snow Bunting and Twite. We failed miserably on all counts. A disappointed band of birders made their way back to their cars and then home.

## WVBS Systematic List 2004

The systematic list was compiled by Alwyn Jackson, John Horsman, Josh Leeder and myself – Ray Gribble

For this report the British Ornithological Union's (BOU) revised systematic order has been adopted. Formerly the list started with Divers then Grebes but it now starts with Swans and Geese. This reclassification is, I assume, due to evidence from DNA analysis, etc. The BOU has also made many changes to the common names of birds, mainly to put them in a worldwide context. For example Wigeon has become Eurasian Wigeon to clearly differentiate it from American and Chiloe Wigeons. To ease the transition where changes have been made the following sequence has been followed:

New Name (Old Name) *Scientific name*

e.g. Eurasian Wigeon (Wigeon) *Anas penelope*

After the name is a general view of the species' status in the WVBS area. Where the species is of conservation concern it is noted i.e. **Red** or **Amber** listed. This means the species is of major or significant conservation concern respectively.

Breeding success is noted and I would urge all contributors to supply evidence of breeding where relevant. Such evidence is: Singing male, nest building, nest & eggs or young, adult carrying food, recently fledged young.

The Valley gets a relatively high number of escapes, mainly wildfowl, and these have been recorded in the main body of the report, and not as a separate section.

At the end is a report of birds recorded in the area during 2003 that were not included in the 2003 Report because the records were not sent to WVBS. These records have been extracted from the 2003 Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report.

Finally my apologies to anyone if a record has been missed from the report or not correctly acknowledged.



**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

*Fairly common breeding resident. Amber listed*

Seen in most areas throughout the valley. Highest count of the year was c.120 at Lyng on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. 11 seen at Ringland 20<sup>th</sup> July (2 adults with 9 cygnets, 2 cygnets were white instead of the usual grey. This is known as "polish morph").

**Tundra Swan (Bewick's Swan)** *Cygnus colombianus*

*Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed*

Coming to winter from their Siberian breeding grounds. 2 at Lyng village last seen 5<sup>th</sup> March (BB&JE). About 150 flew over Sparham Pools 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

*Escapee of Australian origin.*

One seen at Sparham Hall Farm 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. (RG)

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

*Uncommon winter visitor. Amber listed*

More chance of being seen to the west of the valley or flying over as at Ringland on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. when c.600 to NW (NM). 250 over New Costessey on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct (AG) and 400 at Gt. Ryburgh on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

*Uncommon winter visitor. Amber listed*

2 reported at Sparham Pools 12<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

*Common resident & passage migrant.*

Common throughout the valley with long established & increasing feral population. Maximum counts c.300 at Sparham Holes 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 17 at Gressenhall 4<sup>th</sup> Mar, c.50 at Swanton Morley GP 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 35 at Sparham Pools 30<sup>th</sup> Dec & c.230 at Beetley GP 28<sup>th</sup> July.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

*Common introduced resident.*

Seen at many sites within the valley. Maximum counts c.60 at Costessey Pits 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, 12 at Gressenhall 4<sup>th</sup> Mar, 28 at Drayton 13<sup>th</sup> Aug, 26 at Sparham Pools 27<sup>th</sup> Dec, 47 at Sparham Hall Farm 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec & 83 at Bylaugh 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

*Mainly feral but possibly a scarce winter visitor.*

Just a single bird reported 28<sup>th</sup> July at Beetley GP (RG)

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

*Introduced resident, locally common.*

The Wensum valley has a long established resident and increasing feral population and it is becoming quite a stronghold. Maximum counts 20 at Marriots Way, Lenwade 19<sup>th</sup> Sept & 21 at Lenwade 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

*A scarce visitor to the valley. Amber listed*

2 seen at Gt. Ryburgh 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. & 2 seen at Sparham Pools 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. One pair seen with 1 chick at Sparham Pools 7<sup>th</sup> June (BB&JE).

**Eurasian Wigeon (Wigeon)** *Anas penelope*

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

Better numbers seen this year, with 20 at Sculthorpe Mill 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, c.40 at Gt Ryburgh 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 23 flying over Lyng 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 80+ at Pensthorpe 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. (NarVOS), 15 at Billingford Common & Pits 13<sup>th</sup> Nov & 30 at Sparham Pools 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

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

Some quite high winter counts. Maximum counts 68 at Billingford Common & Pits 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, c60 at Sparham Pools Nov & Dec (BB&JE). 12 at Gt Ryburgh 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan & 6 at Swanton Morley GP 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

**Eurasian Teal (Teal) *Anas crecca***

*Common winter visitor, but rare breeder. Amber listed*

Seen around the valley in Jan at Gt Ryburgh with c30 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5 seen at Swanton Morley GP 2<sup>nd</sup>. Returning in Oct with a max. of 50 at Pensthorpe 4<sup>th</sup> & 11 seen at Sparham Pools 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1 in Nov at Sparham & 40 in Dec at Hoe Common.

**Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

*Common resident & winter visitor.*

So common that often numbers go unrecorded but we have some maximum winter counts with 80 on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. at Sparham Pools (JE&BB). A max 30 in Nov in 3 locations & a max 45 in Dec again at Sparham Pools.

**Northern Shoveler (Shoveler) *Anas clypeata***

*A winter visitor, but rare breeder. Amber listed*

Only recorded at Sparham Pools. In Jan 1 12<sup>th</sup> & 1 29<sup>th</sup>. In Feb 3 10<sup>th</sup> & 2 13<sup>th</sup>

**Common Pochard (Pochard) *Aythya farina***

*Common passage migrant & winter visitor, rarely breeds. Amber listed*

Seen in the valley during Jan, Feb & Mar and again in Oct, Nov & Dec. Maximum counts Sparham Pools of 40. At Gt Ryburgh 24, Swanton Morley GP 25 & Billingford Common & Pits 28.

**Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula***

*Summer breeder also Common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

Seen at several sites throughout the valley. Breeding at Sparham Pools with at least 3 broods in July. Maximum counts at Sparham Pools of 36 in Jan & 70 in Dec. Billingford Common & Pits had 45 in Oct & Swanton Morley GP had 120 in Dec. Three Bridges Farm at Elsing had 11 in Jan, with 9 seen at Lenwade also in Jan.

**Greater Scaup (Scaup)** *Aythya marila*

*Scarce passage migrant & winter visitor. Amber listed*

Not reported often in the valley. 1 Three Bridges Farm, Elsing 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE), 2 (m & f) 8<sup>th</sup> (B&JS) & 1 9<sup>th</sup> (BB/JE). 1f Sparham Pools 18<sup>th</sup> Jan & 1 at Billingford Common & Pits 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (NM).

**Common Goldeneye (Goldeneye)** *Bucephala clangula*

*Scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed*

2 at Swanton Morley GP 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 4 at Sparham Pools 8<sup>th</sup> Nov & 1 at Sparham Pools 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

*Winter visitor & passage migrant.*

Most abundant in more severe winters. Sparham Pools are its mid-Norfolk stronghold. Maximum counts at Sparham of 21 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 12 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 9 12<sup>th</sup> March. Last one seen 29<sup>th</sup> Mar, until their return 21<sup>st</sup> Nov with 3 - 4 seen all week & a max of up to 21 25<sup>th</sup> Dec (RG, BB&JE).

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

*An introduced resident.*

The only report throughout the valley is one male at Swanton Morley GP 20<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Apr (NM).

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

*Common introduced resident.*

Recorded in Jan, with 10 at Mill St. Elsing on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 5 at Sculthorpe Mill 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 1 at Bylaugh SW 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 6 at Sparham Hall Farm 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 8 at the same location were seen in Dec.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

*Resident breeder in small numbers, declining in recent years. Red listed.*

2 in West Raynham 2<sup>nd</sup> & 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. In Apr 2 seen at Lyng 11<sup>th</sup>, in Nov 7 were seen at North Tuddenham 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

*Scarce summer visitor and breeder. Red listed.*

Only two recorded calling. One Sparham Hall Farm 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> July and one Caddes Hill Lyng 7<sup>th</sup> Aug (All BB/JE). Possibly the same bird.

**Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

*Common introduced resident.*

Common throughout the valley. Hundreds, if not thousands, of pheasants are bred & released for the shooting fraternity with lots of game management in the county.

**Little Grebe** *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

*Mainly a winter visitor uncommon resident. Breeds in small numbers.*

A maximum of 6 on Swanton Morley GP in Jan. A pair seen with young at Beetley GP 28<sup>th</sup> July. 1 seen 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 23<sup>rd</sup> & 1 25<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sparham Pools. Oct saw a max. of 30 Billingford Common & Pits. In Nov Swanton Morley GP with a maximum of 20, Billingford 17 & 1 Sparham Pools. In Dec a max 20 Billingford Common & Pits & 7 Swanton Morley GP.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

*Breeding residents on most pits & lakes in the valley, often departing to the coast in winter months.*

Reports of nesting adults & adults with young from most lake & pit complexes during summer. A maximum of 14 Swanton Morley GP in Nov.

**Great Cormorant (Cormorant)** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

*Common non-breeding resident. Amber listed*

Present all year in increasing numbers & reported right through the valley. Maximum counts are: 9 Three Bridges Farm, Elsing, 7 Costessey Pits in Feb, 8 Lenwade, 12 Billingford Common & Pits in Oct, 65 Sparham Pools in Nov, 20 Sparham Pools & 25 Lyng in Dec.

**Great Bittern (Bittern)** *Botaurus stellaris*

*Rare winter visitor to the valley. Red listed*

One reported this year at Sculthorpe Moor. Seen during the Society's Bird Race Jan (BS/R&CG/JL & the warden of Sculthorpe). Also one reported Pensthorpe on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan (Plog).

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

*All records believed to be feral birds from a colony at Gt. Witchingham Wildlife Centre.*

One seen flying over Sparham Pools during the Society's Dawn Chorus field trip 1<sup>st</sup> May. One also seen at Sparham 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

*Scarce but increasing non-breeding resident.*

One reported at the Great Ryburgh WP 22<sup>nd</sup> June. One flew over Beetley GP 28<sup>th</sup> July (RG) & 5 have been seen near Pensthorpe (NarVOS).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

*Common resident throughout the valley, present all year.*

There is a colony with a minimum of 40 active nests (2003) Gt Witchingham Wildlife Centre. Others reported from Sparham Pools, Sculthorpe Moor, Lenwade, Billingford Common & Pits, Swanton Morley GP, Sparham Hall Farm & the river Wensum at Lyng.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

*Rare visitor.*

One reported flying over Lenwade on 14<sup>th</sup> August (NM).

**European Honey Buzzard (Honey Buzzard)** *Pernis apivorus*

*Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant. Amber listed*

Great Ryburgh Watchpoint is the best place to observe this species. Up to 3 seen at GRWP most days in July. Earliest record 25<sup>th</sup> May at Guist, latest 30<sup>th</sup> Aug at Kettlestone.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

*Increasing visitor mainly from reintroduction projects. Amber listed*

Singles reported Great Ryburgh 4<sup>th</sup> June, Lyng 5<sup>th</sup> June (NM), Great Ryburgh Watchpoint 9<sup>th</sup> June (RBA) & Pensthorpe 10<sup>th</sup> (Plog)

**Eurasian Marsh Harrier (Marsh Harrier)** *Circus aeruginosus*

*Passage migrant and summer visitor to valley breeding in small numbers.*

Earliest record single bird at Sparham Pools 17<sup>th</sup> Apr (BB/JE) which is some distance from the bird's traditional sites in the valley. 1-2 birds seen in Guist-Great Ryburgh area from 28<sup>th</sup> May to early Sept. Latest records 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at Guist (NM) & 2 Lyng 15<sup>th</sup> (JE/BB).

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Sparrowhawk)** *Accipiter nisus*

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

Recorded at 15 sites throughout the year in the valley area from Sculthorpe Moor in the west to Easton College in the east. No proof of breeding received.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

*Small but increasing breeding population in the valley.*

Recorded at 10 sites in the valley area from South Raynham in west to Ringland in east throughout the year. Highest numbers recorded at Sennowe Park near Guist 5 21<sup>st</sup> Apr and Pensthorpe near Fakenham 4 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. No evidence of breeding received although single birds recorded at Great Ryburgh Watchpoint during June, July and Aug.

**Osprey** *Pandion halaetus*

*Scarce passage migrant, increasing in frequency in recent years.*

Single spring passage birds recorded at Sparham Pools 28<sup>th</sup> Apr, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> May and Guist 26<sup>th</sup> May. Single autumn passage bird at Lenwade 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Common Kestrel (Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus***

*Resident breeder and passage. Amber listed*

Single birds recorded at 11 sites throughout the year in the valley area from Ringland in east to Sculthorpe Moor in west. No evidence of breeding received although single birds recorded at Lenwade, Sparham Pools, and Great Ryburgh WP between mid-March and late-June.

**Merlin *Falco columbarus***

*Rather scarce passage migrant and winter visitor in the valley. Amber listed*

Single birds (possibly the same bird) reported Elsing 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan (B&JS), Lyng 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar (B&JS) and Fustyweed, Elsing 9<sup>th</sup> Apr (B&JS) during first winter period. One record of single bird at Swanton Morley Gravel Pits in second winter period 27<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB).

**Eurasian Hobby (Hobby) *Falco subbuteo***

*Scarce but increasing migratory breeder and passage migrant throughout the valley.*

Earliest spring records Lenwade (2) and Sparham Pools (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Recorded at Great Ryburgh WP between late May – early Sept with max count of 5 9<sup>th</sup> June. During this period single birds also recorded Sparham Pools 7<sup>th</sup> June & 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug, Sparham Hall Farm 12<sup>th</sup> July, Lyng 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. Later records of single birds from Ringland 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, Lyng 14<sup>th</sup> Sept and Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. Latest record single bird New Costessey 17<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

*Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed*

Recorded at 2 sites, Lyng Easthaugh 24<sup>th</sup> Jan (NM) and Taverham 15<sup>th</sup> Sept (NS).



**Water Rail** *Rallus aquatus*

*Uncommon resident and winter visitor. Amber listed*

During first winter period single bird recorded at Sparham Pools 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. No breeding records received. Singles at Lenwade and Pensthorpe 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct during second winter period.

**Common Moorhen (Moorhen)** *Gallinula chloropus*

*Common resident. Widespread throughout valley supplemented by autumn immigrants.*

Recorded Sparham Pools 2 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, singles 1<sup>st</sup> Apr, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct & 28<sup>th</sup> Dec, Billingford Common & Pits 2 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, Swanton Morley GP 4 24<sup>th</sup> Oct and Lenwade Common 5 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. Certainly under recorded.

**Common Coot (Coot)** *Falica atra*

*Common resident and winter visitor.*

Winter flocks recorded at Lenwade Common 37 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, Pensthorpe 90 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, Billingford Pits and Common 70 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, 75 28<sup>th</sup> Dec, Swanton Morley GP 15 28<sup>th</sup> Dec and Sparham Pools 12 27<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Common Crane (Crane)** *Grus grus*

*Rare visitor.*

Recorded at Weston Longville 3 19<sup>th</sup> Sept (RBA) and Dunton 3 29<sup>th</sup> Sept (RBA). Possibly the same birds? These could be genuine vagrants or birds from the feral breeding population in the Broad.

**Eurasian Oystercatcher (Oystercatcher)** *Haematopus ostralegus*

*Mainly a breeding visitor to the valley, absent in mid-winter.*

Earliest recorded sighting single bird 26<sup>th</sup> Feb Lenwade. Subsequently recorded at Sparham Pools where max 4 birds seen 12<sup>th</sup> Mar, Mill Street, Elsing where max of 3 birds seen between 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April and possibly the same birds observed at Three Bridges Farm, Elsing 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. 2 birds at Lenwade Bridge 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. One breeding record of pair at Sparham Pools with young 7<sup>th</sup> June. Latest recorded sighting 4 birds 18<sup>th</sup> July at Sparham Pools.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadris dubius*

*Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor in small numbers.*

Earliest recorded sighting 2 27<sup>th</sup> Mar at Swanton Morley GP. Recorded at Sparham Pools between 7<sup>th</sup> Apr single and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2 but no evidence of breeding on site. A max of 4 seen at same site 20<sup>th</sup> May and 10 birds counted on Sparham Pools 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**European Golden Plover (Golden Plover)** *Pluvialis apricaria*

*Common passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.*

Recorded from the central valley area only so possibly under recorded. Only one record from first winter period of c300 at Lenwade. Earliest recorded sighting in second winter period 19<sup>th</sup> Oct c300/600 Lenwade/Hockering. Highest recorded count c2000 Hoe Common 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Also wintering flocks at North Tuddenham c200 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct & c350 12<sup>th</sup> Nov, Billingford Common and Pits c200 (flyovers) 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, Bawdeswell c500 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, Sparham Pools 21 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, Bawdeswell/Foxley c250 20<sup>th</sup> Nov and Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng Easthaugh c100 28<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Northern Lapwing (Lapwing)** *Vanellus vanellus*.

*Passage migrant and winter visitor, declining breeder. **Amber listed.***

Only one record from first winter period of 5 at Taverham 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. No breeding records received. Largest concentrations in autumn/second winter period were at Sparham Pools max 24 6<sup>th</sup> Aug, Lenwade 12 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 100 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, Hockering 200 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, Billingford & Billingford Common and Pits 260 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, Bawdeswell 200 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, Lyng 150 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec and Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng Easthaugh 100 28<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

*Scarce passage migrant.*

1 (possible) at Sparham Pools complex 6<sup>th</sup> Aug (BB/JE).

**Common Snipe (Snipe)** *Gallinago gallinago*.

*Passage migrant, particularly in autumn, and winter visitor. Amber listed*

Recorded during first and second winter periods at Old Costessey 20 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, Attlebridge 15 21<sup>st</sup> Nov, Sparham Pools c50 25<sup>th</sup> Nov and 4<sup>th</sup> Dec and Drayton 6 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. No breeding records received.

**Eurasian Woodcock (Woodcock)** *Scotopax rusticola*

*Uncommon breeder. passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed*

Recorded during first/second winter periods at Old Costessey single 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, North Tuddenham 3 20<sup>th</sup> Nov and Ringland 6 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. No evidence of breeding received e.g. of roding birds.

**Common Redshank (Redshank)** *Tringa totanus*.

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed*

1 recorded at Lenwade 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. No evidence of breeding in the valley.

**Common Greenshank (Greenshank)** *Tringa nebularia*

*Scarce passage migrant.*

1 recorded at Great Ryburgh Watchpoint 8<sup>th</sup> Aug (RBA).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

*Double passage migrant, regular but never numerous. Small numbers over winter.*

Over wintering birds (max 2) recorded at Sparham Pools between 18<sup>th</sup> Jan and 14<sup>th</sup> Apr. Latest recorded sighting in first winter period were all singles on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr. Alderford Common, Attlebridge & SE over Marriott's Way, Lenwade.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

*Passage migrant, widespread.*

Recorded at 2 sites in our area, Sparham Pools 1 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2 23<sup>rd</sup> June & 28<sup>th</sup> Aug and Attlebridge 1 15<sup>th</sup> Aug.

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

Widespread and abundant resident. More common in winter. **Amber listed**

Present throughout the year. Max count of 183 21<sup>st</sup> Oct at New Costessey. Certainly under recorded.

**Mew Gull (Common Gull)** *Larus canus*

*Abundant and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor.*

One record of 2 birds at Sparham Pools during first winter period. In second winter period recorded at Swanton Morley Lakes single 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, Sparham Pools single 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, Sparham Pools singles 19<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Dec and Sparham Hall Farm 2 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. Again under recorded.

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

*Passage migrant with some birds remaining throughout the year. Amber listed.*

Records of winter flocks at Lyng max 74 17<sup>th</sup> Sept, Lenwade 2 to 40 throughout Sept; 6 in Oct and New Costessey max 694 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

*Present throughout the year with winter visitors widespread but in small numbers.*

Only recorded during second winter period at Sparham Pools single 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept & 3 27<sup>th</sup> Dec, Three Bridges Farm, Lyng 2 28<sup>th</sup> Dec and Marriot's Way, Lenwade single 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

*Migratory breeder and passage migrant in valley. Small breeding colony at Sparham Pools.*

First birds recorded during mid-late Apr at Sparham Pools single 12<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, Three Bridges Farm, Elsing single 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, Fustyweed, Elsing 3 25<sup>th</sup>, Lyng Easthaugh 8 25<sup>th</sup>, Lenwade Pike Pool 2 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> and Marriott's Way, Lenwade 2 26<sup>th</sup>. Numbers at small breeding colony at Sparham Pools built up during May with max of 9 birds recorded on 14<sup>th</sup>. Estimated 3 pairs bred with max of 5 juveniles with 4 adults recorded on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Latest recorded sighting in valley on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov when 2 at Lenwade (NS).

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

*Feral resident, associated with human habitation.*

Very few records, most on bird races! At Fakenham & Great Ryburgh

**Stock Pigeon (Stock Dove)** *Columba oenas*

*Fairly common resident throughout valley. **Amber listed***

Recorded from 5 sites – Bylaugh, Lenwade, New Costessey, Sparham Hall Farm, Sparham Pools. Maximum count 10 at Sparham Hall Farms 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.

**Common Wood Pigeon (Wood Pigeon)** *Columba palumbus*

*Abundant resident throughout valley.*

Certainly under recorded with maximum numbers recorded of 40 from both Costessey Pits 4<sup>th</sup> Jan and Lenwade Oct.

**Eurasian Collared Dove (Collared Dove)** *Streptopelia decaocto*

*Common resident, associated with human habitation.*

Reports from Lenwade, Lyng, Lyng Easthaugh, Sparham Hall Farm and Taverham. Maximum count 20 Lenwade Oct

**European Turtle Dove (Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur***

*Migratory breeder and passage migrant. Red listed*

First reported on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr (B&JS) at Sparham Pools where a pair present all summer and last report there 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. Also reported from Fakenham 30<sup>th</sup> Apr (NM) and Great Ryburgh WP 8<sup>th</sup> July. No confirmed breeding reports received.

**Common Cuckoo (Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus***

*Migratory breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed*

First reported at both Lyng and Sparham Pools on 26<sup>th</sup> Apr. Possibly the same bird. Also reported from Hempton Marsh 30<sup>th</sup> Apr, Fustyweed and Mill Street, Elsing from 20<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June and Lenwade Common.

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

*Resident breeder. Particularly well represented in the valley. Amber listed*

This exciting species received more records c. 40 than any other species.

Reported from – Attlebridge 2, Briston, Bylaugh, Gressenhall, Great Ryburgh, Guist 2, Lenwade 2, Lyng, Fustyweed & Mill Street Elsing, Ringland, Sparham Pools 2, Swanton Morley 2, Weston Longville, West Raynham, Worthing.

Only proof of breeding recorded was at Attlebridge where at least 1 young fledged (WO).

**Little Owl *Athene noctua***

*Introduced resident. Fairly common the length of the valley.*

Reported throughout the year from Attlebridge, Bylaugh, Fustyweed and Mill Street Elsing, Lyng, Lyng Easthaugh, Ringland, Sparham Pools.

No confirmed breeding records.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

*Widespread resident.*

One record from Pensthorpe in Jan, the rest from Lenwade where up to 3 males calling Aug – Oct. Surely under recorded!

**Common Swift (Swift)** *Apus apus*

*Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

First reported from Lyng 26<sup>th</sup> Apr (JE/BB) and then Sparham Pools 1<sup>st</sup> May. Last reports were from Costessey with 7 14<sup>th</sup> Sept and 1 the following day (AB).

In between these dates 60 at Lenwade 29<sup>th</sup> July while there were 7 at Taverham all that month. 24 at Lyng 17<sup>th</sup> Aug and singles at 6 other locations up until 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1 at Elsing Mill 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept.

**Common Kingfisher (Kingfisher)** *Alcedo atthis*

*Common resident in the valley.*

A well reported species. Mainly singles but up to 3 reported throughout the year from – Attlebridge, Billingford, Mill Street Elsing, Lenwade Bridge (3) & Common (2), Pensthorpe (2), Ringland, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley Lakes, Taverham, Worthing.

Breeding proved at Pensthorpe.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picis viridis*

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

Most records are of singles. Beetley GP, Billingford, Fustyweed and Mill Street Elsing, Lenwade Common and Heath (4), Lyng, Ringland, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools, Taverham. Breeding proved at Lenwade Heath.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

*Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders.*

Ones and twos recorded throughout the year from 8 locations.

Fledged young seen in Lenwade.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

*Scarce resident. Occasionally visiting garden feeders. Red listed*

One lucky person had one feeding on peanuts in their garden in Lyng 29<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&JS) and again 24<sup>th</sup> Apr. Also reported in Lyng 13<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Later in the year at Sparham Pools 12<sup>th</sup> Dec (JE/BB).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

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

Early year records of 6 Lenwade 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan and 20 Old Costessey 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb (AG). Later in year 25 to South 13<sup>th</sup> Oct New Costessey, 6 Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. Maximum counts in November were 21 Sparham Hall Farm and 20 on 28<sup>th</sup> New Costessey (AB) with others at Great Ryburgh.

No summer or breeding records.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

*Migratory breeder in sand quarries, preferring fresh faces. Also passage migrant. Amber listed*

First report was of 10 at Sparham Pools 9<sup>th</sup> Apr followed by 4 Lyng Easthaugh 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 Elsing 22<sup>nd</sup>. All other reports from Sparham Pools where a maximum of c.50 birds 17<sup>th</sup> Apr also last report was a few birds there on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Small numbers, c. 20 pairs, bred at Beetley GP where the nestholes were predated by foxes.



**Barn Swallow (Swallow)** *Hirundo rustica*

*Common migratory breeder and passage migrant. Decreasing. Amber listed*

A single bird at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing on 5<sup>th</sup> April was the first report of the year. This was followed by 2 at N Elmham 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 Elsing 10<sup>th</sup>, 1 Attlebridge 12<sup>th</sup> and 1 Lyng Easthaugh 14<sup>th</sup>.

6 pairs at Walnut Farm Lyng Easthaugh deserted for no apparent reason half way through the breeding season and never returned.

A roost of 200+ birds was on Guist Common 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept (RG).

Last records were 10 to South Sculthorpe Moor 7<sup>th</sup> Oct (LK) and 1 New Costessey 9<sup>th</sup> Oct (AG).

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

*Common migratory breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed*

First reported from Hempton Marsh on 30<sup>th</sup> Apr (JH) then reported from 10 other locations.

Autumn build up 200 Lenwade 13<sup>th</sup> Aug, 225 between Weston Longville and Lyng Easthaugh 1<sup>st</sup> Sept (AH/RG).

Last reports in Oct 15 New Costessey & 6 Pensthorpe 2<sup>nd</sup>, 21 Lenwade 5<sup>th</sup> (JL), 60 Sparham Pools 7<sup>th</sup> (JE/BB).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

*Scarce breeder and passage migrant with highest numbers in the winter. Amber listed*

In the early part of year recorded Bylaugh SW (30), Lenwade (30), both Jan; and Old Costessey (19), Sparham Pools (40) both in Feb. First autumn report was Swanton Morley Lakes (1) 24<sup>th</sup> Oct.

No breeding records received.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

*Vagrant to the valley*

One reported Swanton Morley Lakes 28<sup>th</sup> March (NM).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

*Rare summer migrant to the valley. Amber listed*

No records received. Surely under recorded, or has this species decreased to the extent that there are none in the whole valley?

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

*The valley is a stronghold in Norfolk for this lover of fast streams. Local breeder mainly at mills but more widespread outside the breeding season. Amber listed*

Ones and twos reported throughout the year from Bintree Mill, Bylaugh SW, 3 Bridges Farm & Mill St Elsing, Lenwade, Lyng Mill, West Raynham, Ringland, Sparham Pools and Taverham.

Only recorded breeding at Lyng Mill but undoubtedly bred elsewhere.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

*Common breeding resident and passage migrant*

Under recorded with single figure numbers at Bylaugh SW, Costessey, Mill Street Elsing, Lyng, Great Ryburgh, Ringland, Sparham Hall Farm & Pools, Taverham. Post breeding flocks reported from Beetley GP when 20+ roosting 20<sup>th</sup> July & 15 28<sup>th</sup> July, Lenwade 30+ 30<sup>th</sup> Sept (JL), 40 N Tuddenham 9<sup>th</sup> Oct (B&BP), 17 Sparham Holes 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**Bohemian Waxwing (Waxwing)** *Bombycilla garrulus*

*Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor. Rare in valley.*

A good set of records

5 Foxley 7<sup>th</sup> Nov (RBA), 1 Ringland 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov (NM), 3, 17, 12 New Costessey on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Dec respectively (AG).

**Winter Wren (Wren)** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

*Abundant, mainly sedentary resident.*

This bird must be too common for our members to report as 2 in Taverham in June / July and 1 at Swanton Morley in Dec were the only records.

**Hedge Accentor (Dunnock)** *Prunella modularis*

*Common sedentary resident. Amber listed*

Only significant record was 50 in wildbird food Sparham Hall Farm 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec when 31 birds were ringed at this site.

**European Robin (Robin)** *Erithacus rubecula*

*Common resident. Numbers may be augmented by passage migrants, especially in autumn,*

Only a handful of records were received for this ubiquitous species.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

*Scarce winter visitor to the valley. Amber listed*

Singles recorded Elsing Bridge 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&BP et al), Old Costessey 3wks in Jan & 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb (AB), and Gateley 28<sup>th</sup> Mar (NM) then 1 pair Sculthorpe Moor 25<sup>th</sup> Nov (LK). No breeding season records.

**Common Blackbird (Blackbird)** *Turdus merula*

*Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Only significant records were 12 in Taverham in mid-Mar, 16 ringed at Lenwade Jan – Mar, 50 at Sparham Hall Farm 13<sup>th</sup> Dec when 13 ringed.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

During Jan numbers were low with 15 Ringland 7<sup>th</sup>, 16 Fustyweed 9<sup>th</sup>. Numbers built in Feb to 70 Fustyweed 10<sup>th</sup>, 12 Lyng 28<sup>th</sup> & 14 Sparham Hole 29<sup>th</sup>. Then in Mar there were only records of 2 Sparham Pools 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 Fustyweed 17<sup>th</sup> until 50 Lyng 29<sup>th</sup>. Apr saw a significant build up prior to emigration 200 Elsing 8<sup>th</sup> and 100 Lyng 12<sup>th</sup>.

In the autumn 530 to SW over New Costessey 27<sup>th</sup> Oct was notable (AG). 100 Sparham Pools 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Nov (JE/BB).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

*Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Showing signs of recovery? **Red listed***

Casual observation would indicate that the Song Thrush maintained numbers in 2004 but there are inadequate records to justify this statement. Breeding records were from Fustyweed & Mill Street Elsing March, Lenwade Common 2 singing males May. Also reported from Lyng, New Costessey 18 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, Sparham Hall Farm, Sparham Pools and Taverham.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

*Common passage migrant with smaller numbers in winter.*

The only Jan record was 3 Lenwade Common on 29<sup>th</sup>. Feb saw 2 Gressenhall 9<sup>th</sup>, 30 Fustyweed, Elsing 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 Roosting Hills 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 Lyng 28<sup>th</sup>, In Mar 20 Sparham Pools 14<sup>th</sup> and 4 Fustyweed 17<sup>th</sup>. Then a major pre-emigration build up of 650 N Tuddenham 1<sup>st</sup> Apr was the last record of the spring.

Autumn passage started with 35 W over New Costessey on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. Peak migration reached 2274 W on 8<sup>th</sup>, 2489 W 9<sup>th</sup> & 933 W 10<sup>th</sup> at this site (AG). Other records were from Billingford 13, Lenwade 3, and Sparham Pools 20 in Oct and Sparham Pools max 100, Lenwade max 30 and Sculthorpe Moor 10 in Nov. The only Dec record was 50 Sparham Hall Farm 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

*Fairly common resident and partial migrant.*

2 in Fustyweed 20<sup>th</sup> Apr was the only breeding season record. Post breeding parties were 7 Lenwade 2<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Oct (JL) and 10 Sparham Pools 29<sup>th</sup> Oct (JE/BB).

Also recorded from Drayton, Mill Street Elsing and Swanton Morley GP

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

*Rare resident expanding its range through valley.*

Records from 3 locations all within the same area of the valley. Earliest record 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr; latest record 14<sup>th</sup> June. No evidence of breeding or records during second winter period.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*Common summer resident and passage migrant.*

Earliest records 13<sup>th</sup> April at Sparham Pools and 18<sup>th</sup> April Marriott's Way, Lenwade (BB/JE). A week later the same observers noted several on Marriott's Way, Lenwade. No breeding records or late dates received.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler (Reed Warbler)** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

*Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant.*

Earliest record 25<sup>th</sup> April single bird at Sparham Pools then 2 in June. Last date recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug at Sparham Pools. No breeding records received.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

*Common summer resident and passage migrant; winters in very small numbers.*

Wintering bird recorded on peanut feeder at Mill Street, Elsing on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan (CN) and single at West Raynham 18<sup>th</sup> (NarVOS). Earliest spring records 4<sup>th</sup> April when 2 at Sparham Pools NR and 3 at Lyng Easthaugh (BB/JE). During early part of the breeding season single birds recorded at Lenwade and Marriott's Way, Lenwade. No evidence of breeding success received. Latest record single bird at Sparham Pools NR 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. A possible wintering bird recorded at the same site on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov (BB/JE).

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant. Less common than Blackcap.*

Recorded at 5 sites. Earliest record single bird Swanton Morley GP (BB/JE) and 2 birds at Lenwade Bridge 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. A few days later (25<sup>th</sup>) 2 birds at Lyng Easthaugh and during May "several birds" on Marriott's Way, Lenwade and at Sparham Pools 1<sup>st</sup> June. No evidence of breeding success or late sightings received.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

*Uncommon summer resident*

Only one record received, single bird in Sparham Pools area 2<sup>nd</sup> May (BB/JE).

**Common Whitethroat (Whitethroat)** *Sylvia communis*

*Common summer resident*

Under-recorded, just three records received, 6 at Lyng Easthaugh 25<sup>th</sup> Apr and single bird at Sparham Pools 27<sup>th</sup> Apr and 1<sup>st</sup> June. No evidence of breeding success or late birds received.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

Earliest records 2 birds Lyng Easthaugh and single bird Swanton Morley GP 4<sup>th</sup> Apr. Other early records of single birds during Apr Sparham Pools 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 Lenwade 12<sup>th</sup> and single bird Mill Street, Elsing and 7 singing males Marriott's Way, Lenwade 17<sup>th</sup>. No records received of breeding success.

Latest record 2 at Sculthorpe Moor 21<sup>st</sup> Nov (BB/JE).

**Common Chiffchaff (Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita***

*Common summer resident, passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.*

Single bird present at Bylaugh Sewage Works between 14<sup>th</sup> Jan and 5<sup>th</sup> Mar. Earliest spring record, a single bird at New Costessey 15<sup>th</sup> Mar followed by birds at Gressenhall 1, North Tuddenham 2, Sparham Pools 1 and Lenwade 4 17<sup>th</sup>, Mill Street 18<sup>th</sup>, Twyford and Marriott's Way, Lenwade 3 21<sup>st</sup> then Bylaugh, Costessey 4 and Lenwade 22<sup>nd</sup>. No evidence of breeding success received although one observer reported several birds singing at Sparham Pools during June. In the autumn single birds recorded Lenwade and Lenwade Common during Sept, Pensthorpe 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 2 birds Costessey 8<sup>th</sup> and a single bird Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup>. No evidence of over wintering birds received during second winter period.

**Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***

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

Records from Lenwade 2, Ringland 5 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, Sparham Pools 1 and Fustyweed, Elsing 1 during first winter period. No breeding records received. Records from Taverham 1, Sparham Pools max 4, Marriott's Way, Lenwade 2, Bylaugh 2 and Bridge Lake, Lenwade 2 in second winter period.

**Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

*Uncommon and declining summer resident. **Red listed***

Under recorded as only 3 records received of 2 birds Mill Street, Elsing observed between 6<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. A pair probably bred nearby.

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

*Common resident.*

Records of possible wintering family parties. In first winter period at Sculthorpe Moor 5 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan and Lenwade 8 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.

In second winter period at Lenwade 12 all Sept, Taverham 37 20<sup>th</sup> Oct, Bridge Lake, Lenwade 18 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, Marriott's Way, Lenwade 12 8<sup>th</sup> Nov, Ringland Lakes 7 10<sup>th</sup> Nov, Swanton Morley GP 12 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, Drayton 9 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, Sparham Pools 7 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, Swanton Morley GP 8 28<sup>th</sup> Dec and Marriott's Way, Lenwade 6 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.

No breeding records received but 3 pairs noted at Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1 pair Marriott's Way, Lenwade 12<sup>th</sup> Mar and 1 pair Lenwade Common 17<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*

*Uncommon resident. Red listed*

During Jan recorded at Sculthorpe Moor 2, Mill Street, Elsing 1 and Lenwade 2. Breeding season records of a single bird at Lenwade Station 18<sup>th</sup> Apr, 2 birds at Sparham Pools 20<sup>th</sup> June and then a single bird 9<sup>th</sup> July. A single bird visited a bird feeder between 8<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Aug at Mill Street, Elsing.

Second winter period noted at Sparham Pools 1, Pensthorpe 1, Swanton Morley GP 1, Lenwade 2, Lenwade Common 2 and Hoe 1.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

*Uncommon declining resident. Red listed.*

Three birds recorded at Sculthorpe Moor 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan and a single bird Lenwade 17<sup>th</sup> (RG). A single bird noted at Sculthorpe 17<sup>th</sup> April (NM) but no subsequent evidence of breeding received. Recorded at Lenwade Common 2 during Sept/Oct (RG) and at Sculthorpe Moor 2 during Nov (BB/JE & LK).



**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

*Common resident.*

Single birds recorded at Mill Street, Elsing 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar and Taverham 11<sup>th</sup> May. No breeding records received. In second winter period single bird at Billingford Common & Pits 24<sup>th</sup> Oct and 2 at Sculthorpe Moor 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. Under recorded.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

*Common resident*

Common throughout the area. Proof of breeding from Taverham & Union Farm, Gressenhall.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

*Common resident*

Common throughout the area. Proof of breeding from Taverham.

**Wood Nuthatch (Nuthatch)** *Sitta europaea*

*Uncommon resident*

Recorded at Sculthorpe Moor, Lenwade Common, Sparham Pools NR and Lenwade during first and second winter period. No breeding records received although single bird at Lenwade 27<sup>th</sup> July could have bred there as this species is very sedentary.

**Eurasian Treecreeper (Treecreeper)** *Certhia familiaris*

*Uncommon resident*

Single birds recorded at Sparham Pools, Lenwade and Sculthorpe during first winter period. A total of 5 birds seen at Sparham Pools 1<sup>st</sup> March (BB/JE). No breeding records received although single bird observed at Sparham Pools NR 15<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1-2 birds recorded at Pensthorpe, Sculthorpe Moor, Ringland, Lenwade and Sparham Pools during second winter period.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Larius collurio*

*Rare visitor. Formerly bred.*

1 female at Sculthorpe Fen reported in reserve record book.

**Eurasian Jay (Jay)** *Garrulus monedula*

*Common resident and winter visitor*

1-2 birds at Sculthorpe Moor, Taverham and Sparham Pools in first winter period. Possible breeding pair recorded at Lenwade in Apr otherwise no breeding records received. Seen in small numbers in second winter period at Sparham Pools 1, Billingford Common & Pits 1, Lenwade Common 1, Swanton Morley GP 1 and Taverham 3. Highest number recorded during Oct when 5 birds at Sparham Pools 31<sup>st</sup> (BB/JE).

**Black-billed Magpie (Magpie)** *Pica pica*

*Common resident*

Under recorded as only one record received for first winter period, a single bird at Sparham Pools NR 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. A few records received of birds in second winter period, in Nov recorded at 6 locations with a max 5 at Taverham, a flock of 3 at Costessey in Dec and a single bird at Swanton Morley GP 28<sup>th</sup>. No breeding records received.

**Eurasian Jackdaw (Jackdaw)** *Corvus monedula*

*Common resident*

Records of wintering concentrations in both winter periods. 37 at Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Feb: a max of 150 at Lenwade 28<sup>th</sup> Aug: max of 100+ at Lenwade in Sept and max 200 at same location in Oct.

No breeding records received although 3 birds recorded at NOA Hempton Marsh in Apr and 6 in May.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

*Common resident*

Rookery at Great Witchingham Wildlife Park. Evidence of winter gatherings at Lenwade (max 850 birds 25<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1000+ in Sept and max 1000 12<sup>th</sup> Oct), Taverham (c400 flying S 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, 70 12<sup>th</sup> Nov and c500 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov) Attlebridge/Taverham/Sparham Pools (max 1000 12<sup>th</sup> Nov), Lenwade-Whitwell (100+ 17<sup>th</sup> Nov) and at New Costessey (225 4<sup>th</sup> Dec).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

*Common resident*

Under recorded. 2 birds at Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, max 4 Sparham Pools 5<sup>th</sup> Nov and 6 Swanton Morley GP 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. No breeding records received.

**Common Starling (Starling)** *Sternus vulgaris*

*Common resident. Red listed.*

In first winter period just one record of a winter gathering of c200 at Taverham 10<sup>th</sup> Mar. No evidence of breeding received. During Oct one observer at Old Costessey noted 50 moving NW 5<sup>th</sup>, 70 NW 8<sup>th</sup>, 440 NW 10<sup>th</sup>, 120 SW 12<sup>th</sup>, 25 N 14<sup>th</sup>, 47 W 21<sup>st</sup> and 896 W 28<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 100 Bawdeswell 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 165 Sparham Pools and 21 Taverham 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

*Common but declining resident. Red listed.*

Wintering concentrations recorded in second winter period, 12 Taverham in Oct and max 20 Lyng and 35 Taverham in Nov. No breeding records received although small numbers seen on most days in July at Taverham.

Male bird in a garden at Fustyweed, Elsing believed to be first record of this species for many years for this particular site.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus***

*Uncommon declining resident. Red listed.*

One record in first winter period of 3 birds at Great Ryburgh 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. During the second winter period up to 80 birds between 28<sup>th</sup> Nov and 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Sparham Hall Farm (BB/JE). The birds were feeding in a conservation headland developed as part of a Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

**Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

*Common widespread resident*

Under recorded. Small flocks in first winter period of c13 at Lenwade 30<sup>th</sup> Jan, c10 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and 5 at Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. No breeding records received although 10 birds at NOA Hempton Marsh during Apr/May and 3 birds at Taverham 18<sup>th</sup> June. A flock of 34 moving W at Old Costessey 9<sup>th</sup> Oct and 10 W 22<sup>nd</sup> were the only records received during 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period.

**Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

*Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.*

1-2 birds recorded at Broom Green, Mill Street, Lenwade, Fustyweed, Sparham Pools and a larger flock of 7 at Twyford 11<sup>th</sup> Feb during first winter period. Latest sighting in first winter period was single bird at Sparham Pools 17<sup>th</sup> Apr.

1-4 birds recorded at New Costessey, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools and Fustyweed (Elsing) during second winter period from 12<sup>th</sup> Oct onwards. Highest gathering of 20 birds at Kettlestone 7<sup>th</sup> Oct (RBA).

**European Greenfinch (Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris***

*Common resident*

During first winter period only one record of 3 birds at Lenwade 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. Evidence of breeding at Taverham where a pair was recorded 29<sup>th</sup> Apr/13<sup>th</sup> May, an adult with a juvenile 24<sup>th</sup> June and adult male feeding one juvenile 14<sup>th</sup> July. Two records of wintering concentrations during second winter period, 25 at North Tuddenham 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and 11 at Lyng 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. Under recorded.

**European Goldfinch (Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis***

*Common resident*

1-2 birds recorded at Taverham, Fustyweed (Elsing), Lenwade, Lenwade Common and Mill Street (Elsing) during first winter period. During breeding period recorded at Sparham Pools (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr, Fustyweed (2) 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Apr, Taverham (1 pair & 4) 7<sup>th</sup> June, and at Drayton (1 pair) 7<sup>th</sup> June. Possible post breeding flock of 15 birds at Beetley 28<sup>th</sup> July. In second winter period concentrations of up to 25 birds at North Tuddenham 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, 13 moving W 5<sup>th</sup> Oct at Old Costessey with 35 W 13<sup>th</sup>, 50 in New Costessey during Oct, 21 in Lyng Nov and 20 near Sparham Pools in Dec.

**Eurasian Siskin (Siskin) *Carduelis spinus***

*Winter visitor in varying numbers.*

Several large flocks observed during first winter period. Largest counts were c60 at Lenwade 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, c40 at Sculthorpe Mill 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, c45 at Sparham Pools 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 75 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, c40 18<sup>th</sup> Feb and c26 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. As can be expected count totals decreased in Mar-Apr with records of 1-6 at 4 sites in the Lenwade-Elsing area. Latest record in first winter period was single bird at Lenwade 11<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Only three records received during second winter period. Earliest record was single bird at New Costessey 9<sup>th</sup> Oct followed by a single bird at Sparham Pools Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. A flock of 20 at Attlebridge 28<sup>th</sup> Dec was largest count during this period.

**Common Linnet (Linnet)** *Carduelis cannabina*

*Declining resident. Red listed.*

No records received during first winter period. Possible post breeding flock of 6 recorded at Beetley GP 28<sup>th</sup> July. 1-2 birds noted at Old Costessey between 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Oct with larger wintering concentrations recorded at North Tuddenham 120 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, Lenwade 20 16<sup>th</sup> Nov and Drayton 20 26<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Lesser Redpoll (Redpoll)** *Carduelis cabaret*

*Scarce and declining resident. Winter visitor.*

Present in small numbers at 4 sites in first winter period. 5 at Sculthorpe Mill 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 1 at Lenwade 29<sup>th</sup> Jan then 2 13<sup>th</sup> Feb, c7 at Lenwade Common 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb then 4 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. Latest record was 4 birds at Billingford 27<sup>th</sup> Mar. All records for second winter period were during Oct at New Costessey (AG). Earliest was 2 birds 16<sup>th</sup> followed by 1 27<sup>th</sup>, 4 28<sup>th</sup>, 3 30<sup>th</sup> and 1 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Common Bullfinch (Bullfinch)** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

*Declining resident. Red listed.*

Recorded most months in small numbers. In Jan at Sparham Pools (1-2), Sculthorpe Mill (2), Lenwade (1-3) and near Elsing Hall (1). In Feb-Mar a male and female recorded at Sparham Pools and again in June but no juveniles reported. In May single bird Mill Street, Elsing, in Aug single bird Sparham Pools, and in Oct single bird at Swanton Morley GP. Between 13<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Nov 1-2 birds at Swanton Morley GP and Sparham Pools, and at the end of the year a pair recorded again at Lenwade on 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec.

Highest count was a single record of 8 birds at Sparham Pools on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

*Declining common resident. Red listed.*

In first winter period gatherings of 10 at Broom Green 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan and 16 at Gressenhall 4<sup>th</sup> Apr. No breeding records received but single bird at Lenwade 12<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2 at Sparham Pools 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr could have been in breeding territories.

In second winter period singles at Old Costessey between 13<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Oct with larger gatherings of 10 at Sparham 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 11 at Sparham Hall Farm 28<sup>th</sup> Nov which increased to a max of 75 by 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec (RG,AJ,AH).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

*Uncommon resident. Red listed.*

Single birds recorded at Lenwade, Sparham Pools and Lyng in Jan. Wintering flocks recorded during first winter period. Highest total of 14 near Sparham Pools 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and several at same location 1<sup>st</sup> Mar.

In second winter period 50 at Sparham 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 25 at Sparham Hall Farm 28<sup>th</sup> Nov which built up to a max of 100 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec (RG,AJ,AH).

No breeding records received but up to 2 birds at Sparham Pools and a single bird nearby at Pockthorpe during June.

### **Contributors to the Systematic List**

B Bradley	A&C Jackson	Pensthorpe Log Book
I Brittain	L Kindleysides	B&B Pummell
J Evans	J Leeder	Rare Bird Alert
A Gardiner	L Lloyd	C Sayer
R&C Gribble	N Mears	B&J Shepherd
A Hale	Nar Valley Ornithological	N Street
R&D Harvey	Society	
J Horsman	C&F Neale	
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**Thanks to all the above for submitting their records.**



## **Addenda to Annual Report 2003**

Alwyn Jackson

Additional records obtained from the Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report 2003

### **Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Breeding pairs – 1 Great Witchingham, 2 Lyng Easthaugh GP, 1 Sparham.

### **Great Bittern (Bittern)** (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Lyng Easthaugh GP Jan 1<sup>st</sup>; Swanton Morley GP Jan 18<sup>th</sup>; Sparham Pools and Lyng Easthaugh GP Dec 20-22.

### **Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinera*)

Breeding records – Great Witchingham Wildlife Park 75 nests; North Elmham 9 nests.

### **Tundra Swan (Bewick Swan)** (*Cygnus columbianus*)

85 Lyng Easthaugh Gravel Pits; 120 Sparham Pools (3 flocks) and 50 Kettlestone all between mid-Feb and early Mar. Probably part of the spring departure eastwards.

### **Greylag Goose** (*Anser anser*)

3 breeding pairs at Lyng Easthaugh Gravel Pits.

### **“Vagrant” Canada Goose**

Potential vagrant from North America at Great Witchingham Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. Bird thought to be a Todd's but race “*parvipes*” not eliminated.

### **Egyptian Goose** (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

55 Lenwade Nov. Breeding records from Sennowe Park, Swanton Morley Gravel Pits and West Raynham.

**Mandarin Duck** (*Aix galericulata*)

2 Kettlestone Apr 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*)

50 Sennowe Park Jan and 40 Swanton Morley Gravel Pits Dec.

**Eurasian Teal (Teal)** (*Anas crecca*)

250 Sennowe Park Jan.

**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

100 Sparham Pools Dec.

**Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*)

1-2 Pensthorpe Aug/Sept.

**Red-crested Pochard** (*Netta rufina*)

No records of free flying group at Pensthorpe but at Great Ryburgh a drake Apr 17<sup>th</sup>-May 17<sup>th</sup> and a pair June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*)

100 Sennowe Park Jan; 50 Swanton Morley Gravel Pits Mar; 75 Swanton Morley GP Sept; 160 Sparham Pools Dec.

Breeding records – 1 pair Swanton Morley GP and present during breeding season at Sparham Pools NR.

**Greater Scaup (Scaup)** (*Aythya marila*)

5 Swanton Morley GP Jan 28<sup>th</sup>; 3 Sparham Pools NR Dec 5/6<sup>th</sup>.

**Goosander** (*Mergus merganser*)

Maximum counts – Sparham Pools NR 10 Jan/Feb; 14 Mar; 12 Dec. In second winter period 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing and 1 at Swanton Morley GP.

**European Honey-buzzard (Honey Buzzard) (*Pernis apivorus*)**

First recorded at usual breeding locality May 9<sup>th</sup> – pair present by 15<sup>th</sup> when 2 (possibly same birds) also over another nearby site. At least 4 birds (2 females) present during breeding season with one pair successfully fledging 2 young. As in previous years movement between breeding site and another area noted, with birds at latter site on at least 3 dates May – July. Recorded at Lyng 17<sup>th</sup> July presumably failed or non-breeding bird.

**Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)**

Sparham Mar 31<sup>st</sup> evidence of spring movement through the valley.

May 23/24<sup>th</sup> wandering bird reported between Little Snoring and several Wensum valley sites including the Raptor Watchpoint.

June 7-10<sup>th</sup> 1-2 around Little Snoring and nearby Wensum valley localities including the Raptor Watchpoint.

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> single bird Great Ryburgh.

**Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)**

Great Ryburgh single bird 14<sup>th</sup> June

**Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)**

Kettlestone/Little Snoring area Mar 25-30<sup>th</sup>, possibly roosting nearby.

**Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)**

Great Ryburgh single bird June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**

Sparham Apr 21<sup>st</sup>; Sennowe Park May 10<sup>th</sup>; Sparham Pools May 12<sup>th</sup>; Great Ryburgh 22<sup>nd</sup> May; Dunston 6<sup>th</sup> June; Lyng Easthaugh GP 26<sup>th</sup> July

**Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)**

Hempton 28<sup>th</sup> Aug; Gateley 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Eurasian Hobby (Hobby) (*Falco subbuteo*)**

A feeding flock of 7 at Sennowe Park 9<sup>th</sup> June; up to 3 present at Mill Street, Elsing 25-27<sup>th</sup> June with Kestrels feeding on Summer Chafers, 1 present up to 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)**

Single birds present at Great Ryburgh and Bittering 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Common Quail (Quail) (*Coturnix coturnix*)**

In August at Sculthorpe a single bird calling one day only.

**Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*)**

Sculthorpe one sighting but no date given.

**Common Crane (*Grus grus*)**

One bird moving east at Wensum Valley Watchpoint on 5<sup>th</sup> June; 5 autumn wanderers seen at Sculthorpe on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Eurasian Oystercatcher (Oystercatcher) (*Haematopus ostralegus*)**

Breeding recorded at Great Ryburgh (brood), Sculthorpe, Sparham Pools (2 pair successful) and Swanton Morley GP 2 pairs. At Sculthorpe nesting on flat roof of air base hangar occurred again.

**European Golden Plover (Golden Plover) (*Pluvialis apricaria*)**

Sculthorpe Airfield 2000 in Oct.

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**

6 at Billingford on flooded meadow in Mar.

**Common Snipe (Snipe) (*Gallinago gallinago*)**

1 breeding pair recorded at Great Ryburgh.

**Eurasian Woodcock (Woodcock) (*Scolopax rusticola*)**

Roding birds recorded at Hempton and Sculthorpe Moor.

**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Good overhead passage noted at Sculthorpe during Aug.

**Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*)

3 Swanton Morley GP during the first winter period.

**Common Sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Lenwade Apr 11<sup>th</sup> first spring record in county; single bird Swanton Morley GP Apr 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** (*Larus melanocephalus*)

2 (1 adult 1 3<sup>rd</sup> calendar year) Sparham Pools 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar; 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> calendar year) Lyng Easthaugh GP 30<sup>th</sup> Mar; 1 Lenwade 31<sup>st</sup> Mar.

**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*)

16 Lyng Easthaugh GP 16<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*)

400 Sparham Pools 1<sup>st</sup> Mar.

**Glaucous Gull** (*Larus hyperboreus*)

Lyng Easthaugh GP 1 immature 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*)

Sennewe Park 7 breeding pairs, unknown number fledged.

**Little Auk** (*Alle alle*)

1 dead Fakenham 30<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Common Wood Pigeon (Wood Pigeon)** (*Columba palumbus*)

2000 Sparham/Bawdeswell Oct.

**Common Cuckoo (Cuckoo) (*Cuculus canorus*)**

Single birds Bintree and Swanton Morley GP 1<sup>st</sup> Apr, first annual records for county.

**Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)**

Reported at Great Ryburgh, Kettlestone, Sculthorpe Airfield and Sennowe Park during March-Apr/May. Present during breeding season at Sculthorpe Airfield; Pudding Norton single bird 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Short-eared Owl. (*Asio flammeus*)**

Single bird New Costessey 20<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Common Swift (Swift) (*Apus apus*)**

2 Lyng Easthaugh GP 24<sup>th</sup> Apr, first annual record in valley.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)**

Recorded at Bintree, Hempton Marsh, Hoe Rough, North Elmham (2), Sculthorpe Moor and Sparham Pools (2). No confirmed breeding but probably occurred at or near all sites.

**Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)**

Sparham breeding count at least 25 of which 12 on Countryside Stewardship land. 80 Billingford 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)**

4 Swanton Morley GP 9<sup>th</sup> Mar first annual record for valley; 75 pairs/active nests Beetley GP; Great Ryburgh 8<sup>th</sup> Oct last annual record for valley.

**House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)**

200 Guist 31<sup>st</sup> July, post breeding flock.

**Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)**

Breeding pairs at Bintree Mill, Elsing Mill, Fakenham Mill, Great Ryburgh Mill, Hoe Rough, Lenwade Mill, Lyng Mill, Morton-on-the-Hill, Sparham Pools (possibly the Lyng Bridge pair – editor) Taverham Mill and Worthing GP.

**White/Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)**

100 at Fakenham roost 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Bohemian Waxwing (Waxwing) (*Bombycilla garrulus*)**

17 Fakenham 28<sup>th</sup> Feb; birds also noted in first part of year at Beetley, Kettlestone and Taverham.

**Common Nightingale (Nightingale) (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)**

Kettlestone 15<sup>th</sup> Apr, first annual record for valley; Alderford Common 2 singing males May-June.

**Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)**

40 Costessey Showground July; 30 Sennowe Park Aug; 51 East Raynham 12<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Common Grasshopper Warbler (Grasshopper Warbler) (*Locustella naevia*)**

Hoe Common and Sculthorpe Moor occasional singing males.

**Common Whitethroat (Whitethroat) (*Sylvia communis*)**

Sparham 10 breeding pairs/territories.

**Common Chiffchaff (Chiffchaff) (*Phylloscopus collybita*)**

3 Sparham Pools 10<sup>th</sup> Mar, first annual record for valley; 12 Kettlestone 26<sup>th</sup> Mar; 8 Gressenhall 29<sup>th</sup> Mar; 8 Sparham 30<sup>th</sup> Mar. 10 breeding pairs/singing males counted at Kettlestone.

**Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

2 Lenwade 31<sup>st</sup> Mar; 10 breeding pairs/singing males counted Sparham Pools.

**Marsh Tit** (*Parus palustris*)

4 in group Hempton Marsh 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

**Willow Tit** (*Parus montanus*)

Reorded at Fakenham, Hempton (2), Kettlestone Common, Lenwade, Pensthorpe and Sculthorpe Fen.

**Rook** (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Rookery count recorded 270 Great Witchingham Wildlife Park.

**Rose-coloured Starling** (*Sternus roseus*)

Single bird Fakenham 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Tree Sparrow)** (*Passer montanus*)

Breeding season records; Sculthorpe 1 pair fledged 2 young; 2 Sennowe Park.

**Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

100 Fakenham during first winter period; 73 Bintree Dec.

**Common Linnet (Linnet)** (*Carduelis cannabina*)

120 Sparham 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**Lesser Redpoll** (*Carduelis cabaret*)

12 North Elmham and 15 Sparham Pools during second winter period.

**Common (Mealy) Redpoll** (*Carduelis flammea*)

2 Sparham Pools 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar; 16 Sculthorpe Moor Mar; 25 Sennowe Park June.



**Yellowhammer** (*Emberiza citrinella*)

20 Gressenhall first winter period; 15 breeding pairs Sparham; 5 breeding pairs Kettlestone.

**Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

20 Sparham second winter period.

## Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs'ver	Latest	Location	Obs'ver
Turtle Dove	27-Apr	Sparham Pools	B&JS	6-Aug	Sparham Pools	
Cuckoo	26-Apr	Lyng, Sparham Pools		NR		
Swift	26-Apr	Lyng	JE/BB	15-Sep	Costessey	AB
Sand Martin	9-Apr	Sparham Pools		7-Oct	Sparham Pools	
Barn Swallow	5-Apr	3 Bridges Farm, Elsing	J&BS	9-Oct	New Costessey	AG
House Martin	30-Apr	Hempton Marsh	JH	7-Oct	Sparham Pools	JE/BB
Sedge Warbler	13-Apr	Sparham Pools	JE/BB	NR		
Reed Warbler	25-Apr	Sparham Pools		NR		
Blackcap	10-Jan 4-Apr	Mill Street, Elsing Sparham Pools, Lyng Easthaugh	CN  JE/BB JE/BB	8-Nov	Sparham Pools	JE/BB
Garden Warbler	20-Apr	Swanton Morley Lakes, Lenwade Bridge	JE/BB	NR		
Lesser Whitethroat	2-May	Sparham Pools	JE/BB	NR		
Whitethroat	25-Apr	Lyng Easthaugh		NR		
Chiffchaff	14 Jan-5 Mar 15-Mar	Bylaugh SF  New Costessey		24-Oct	Swanton Morley GP	
Willow Warbler	04-Apr	Lyng Easthaugh		21-Nov	Sculthorpe Moor	JE/BB
Spotted Flycatcher	06-Jun	Mill Street, Elsing	AJ/CJ	02-Sep	Mill Street, Elsing	

NR = No relevant record

### Latest and Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors

<b>Species</b>	<b>Earliest</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Obs'ver</b>	<b>Latest</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Obs'ver</b>
Fieldfare	12-Apr	Lyng		27-Oct	New Costessey	AG
Redwing	01-Apr	North Tuddenham		29-Sep	New Costessey	AG
Brambling	17-Apr	Sparham Pools		7-Oct	Kettlestone	RBA
Siskin	11-Apr	Lenwade		09-Oct	New Costessey	

## Locations and Grid References

The grid references refer to the co-ordinates of the bottom left hand corner of the 2km tetrad the site is located in.

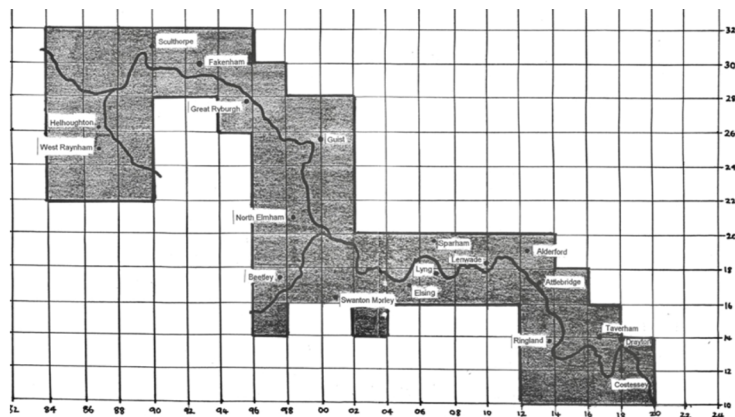
N.B. The provision of the grid reference does not give you the right to visit the site. Some of the sites listed are private, please respect landowners' wishes & follow the Birdwatchers' Code.

Alderford Common (1218)	Fakenham (9228)
Attlebridge (1216)	Foxley (0220)
Bawdeswell (0420)	Fustyweed, Elsing (0418)
Beetley GP (9818)	Lenwade (0818)
Billingford (0020)	Lenwade Bridge (1018)
Billingford Common (0018)	Little Ryburgh (9628)
Billingford Pits (0018)	Lyng (0616)
Bintree Mill (9824)	Lyng Easthaugh (0818)
Broom Green (9824)	Gateley (9624)
Bridge Lake, Lenwade (1018)	Great Ryburgh (9426)
Briston (0632)	Great Ryburgh Watchpoint (9624)
Bylaugh (0218)	Great Witchingham Wildlife Centre (0818)
Bylaugh Sewage Works (0218)	Gressenhall (9616)
Cadders Hill, Lyng (0616)	Guist (9824)
Costessey (1610)	Guist Common (9824)
Costessey Pits (1612)	Hempton Marsh (9028)
Drayton (1812)	Hockering (0612)
Dunton (8830)	Hoe (9816)
Easton College (1210)	Hoe Common (9816)
Elsing (0416)	Kettlestone (9630)
Elsing Mill (0416)	Lenwade Common (0818)
	Lenwade Heath (0818)
	Lenwade Station (1018)

Marriott's Way, Lenwade (1018) Mill Street, Elsing (0416) Morton-on-the-Hill (1612) New Costessey (1810) North Elmham (9820) North Tuddenham (0214) Old Costessey (1610) Pensthorpe (9428) Pockthorpe (0618) Pudding Norton (2692) Ringland (1412) Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) Sennowe Park near Guist (9824) Sculthorpe Airfield (8630) Sculthorpe Fen (9828 & 9830) Sculthorpe Mill (8830) Sculthorpe Moor (9030) South Raynham (8624)	Sparham Hall Farm (0618) Sparham Holes (0418) Sparham Pools (0616) Swanton Morley (0016) Swanton Morley GP (0018) Taverham (1614) Three Bridges Farm, Elsing (0418) Twyford (0024) Union Farm, Gressenhall (9616) Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng Easthaugh (0816) West Raynham (8624) Weston Longville (1016) Whitwell (0820) Worthing (9818) Worthing GP (9818)
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## Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society Recording Area (shaded)

Refer to Landranger OS Sheets 132/133 North West/East Norfolk for more detail.



## 2004 Monthly Weather Summary

Josh Leeder

### JANUARY

A mild month across the U.K. Rainfall was above average across most areas, with East Anglia receiving well above the average. The south and east got the best of the sunshine, while north-western areas had less than average sunshine.

*28cm of snow was recorded at Glenlivet (Moray) on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Scampton (lincs) reported -8.0 °C on the 28<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	7.1 °C	1.8 °C	4.4 °C	42.6 hrs	151.8 mm
E. Anglia	7.8 °C	2.0 °C	4.9 °C	54.1 hrs	83.9 mm
E. Anglia Average 1961-1990	6.2 °C	0.7 °C	3.4 °C	52.5 hrs	51.3 mm

### FEBRUARY

Continuing January's weather with a very mild and wet start to the month, but ending cold with widespread frosts and snow in most areas. At times some very sunny periods across a lot of the UK, but the northern isles and parts of south-east England only managed around average sunshine.

*Capel Curig (Conwy) had 26cm in 48hrs on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. Gravesend (Kent) recorded a high of 17.9 °C on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Sennybridge (Powys) recorded a low of -10.9 °C on 27<sup>th</sup>. Durrus (Aberdeenshire) reported 25 cm and Glenlivet (Moray) had 18 cm of lying snow on the 28<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	7.4 °C	1.4 °C	4.4 °C	86.9 hrs	74.3 mm
E. Anglia	8.1 °C	3.0 °C	5.5 °C	70.0 hrs	37.6 mm
1961-90	6.5 °C	0.6 °C	3.5 °C	67.9 hrs	37.2 mm

### MARCH

Another month with above average mean temperatures across the whole of the U.K. The majority of places having experienced rainfall below average levels as well as it being much sunnier than average across northern and western areas.

*Northolt (London) recorded a temperature of 20.1 °C on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) recorded a temperature of -12 °C on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

March	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	9.3 °C	2.2 °C	5.7 °C	109.6 hrs	70.2 mm
E. Anglia	10.3 °C	3.1 °C	6.7 °C	105.4 hrs	33.1 mm
1961-90	9.3 °C	1.9 °C	5.6 °C	107.0 hrs	45.9 mm

## APRIL

The majority of the U.K. had a wet month, with the exception of parts of NW England and N Wales, who experienced below average rainfall. The average temperatures across the whole of the U.K. were well above normal, however, many western and northern areas experienced well below average sunshine.

*Sennybridge recorded a low of 4.0°C on the 9<sup>th</sup>, whilst central London reached 23.4 °C on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Sheffield recorded 33mm rainfall in an hour on 26<sup>th</sup> and near to Worster had 43mm fall in 2hrs overnight on 26/27<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	12.3 °C	4.8 °C	8.5 °C	124.3 hrs	92.8 mm
E. Anglia	14.2 °C	5.2 °C	9.7 °C	151.6 hrs	58.6 mm
1961-90	12.0 °C	3.7 °C	7.8 °C	143.6 hrs	45.7 mm

## MAY

Most parts of the U.K. had a dry month, with the main exception being the far south-east, which experienced above average rainfall. Sunshine was almost if not slightly above normal for most areas. Mean temperatures were again above average across the whole of the U.K, with the highest difference being over E.Scotland.

*Temperature ranged from -3 °C to 20 °C at Altnaharra on 27<sup>th</sup>. A temperature of 25.3 °C was recorded at the London weather centre on the 19<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	15.7 °C	6.5 °C	11.1 °C	196.7 hrs	51.0 mm
E. Anglia	17.0 °C	7.5 °C	12.2 °C	188.5 hrs	44.7 mm
1961-90	15.9 °C	6.6 °C	11.2 °C	194.5 hrs	47.0 mm



## JUNE

Rainfall was above average across most northern parts of the U.K, with the south and south-east being below average. Mean temperatures were above average, even after a cool second half of the month. Above average sunshine over the south and south-west areas of the country.

*A temperature of 31.5 °C was recorded at Cambridge on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The maximum temperature was only 9°C on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Aviemore. The central pressure at 0600 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was 982 hPa, making it one of the deepest depressions over England and Wales ever recorded in June. Kinloss had its wettest June since records began in 1951.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	18.2 °C	9.9 °C	14.0 °C	168.9 hrs	84.8 mm
E. Anglia	21.0 °C	11.0 °C	16.0 °C	199.5 hrs	39.4 mm
1961-90	19.1 °C	9.4 °C	14.2 °C	195.2 hrs	51.2 mm

## JULY

Most of the U.K. had close to average mean temperatures, rainfall and sunshine. However there were some large variations in rainfall, with some eastern areas of England receiving well over double their average rainfall, whilst some areas of Scotland had less than half their average rainfall.

*Wittering recorded 108mm in the 24 hrs to 5 pm on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with 51mm recorded in just 2 hrs. Central London recorded a temperature of 30.1 °C on the 29<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	18.6 °C	10.4 °C	14.5 °C	153.2 hrs	70.5 mm
E. Anglia	21.5 °C	11.7 °C	16.6 °C	185.8 hrs	70.6 mm
1961-90	21.5 °C	11.4 °C	16.4 °C	189.2 hrs	50.6 mm

## AUGUST

Many areas received double their normal august rainfall, giving a very wet month. Sunshine totals were close to average in most parts, Scotland and north-east England though had amounts much lower than average. Shetlands sunshine total was much higher than average. Mean temperatures were generally one or two degrees Celsius above average.

*At Boscastle in north Devon there was devastation on the 16<sup>th</sup> due to severe flooding, and at Otterham nearby 200.4 mm of rain fell in 24 hrs. Also 64.8 mm of rain fell in one hour at nearby Lesnewth. Eskdalemuir recorded over 300 mm during the month.*

August	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	20.0 °C	12.3 °C	16.1 °C	163.0 hrs	159.5 mm
E. Anglia	22.9 °C	13.9 °C	18.4 °C	181.7 hrs	116.4 mm
1961-90	21.1 °C	11.4 °C	16.2 °C	183.4 hrs	53.0 mm

## SEPTEMBER

In western areas of the U.K. sunshine was close to average, whilst in most eastern areas it was well above average. Rainfall in the west was generally above average; however south-west England along with most southern and eastern areas received below normal rainfall. Mean temperatures generally one or two degrees above average.

*Dyce (Aberdeen airport) experienced its sunniest September since records began in 1946. Wisley (Surrey) recorded a temperature of 29.2 °C on the 5<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	17.2 °C	9.7 °C	13.5 °C	141.5 hrs	103.5 mm
E. Anglia	19.9 °C	10.9 °C	15.4 °C	169.2 hrs	29.7 mm
1961-90	18.5 °C	9.6 °C	14.1 °C	144.0 hrs	51.2 mm

## OCTOBER

A very wet month throughout most of the U.K, although not as wet as 2000 for most areas. Mean temperatures generally close to average, with Northern Ireland around one degree below average.

*Leuchers had its wettest October since records began in 1921. Many coastal areas of Cornwall, Devon and Dorset saw flooding between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, due to heavy rain, spring tides and gale force south to south-easterly winds.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	12.5 °C	6.3 °C	9.4 °C	83.8 hrs	165.4 mm
E. Anglia	14.7 °C	7.8 °C	11.2 °C	103.8 hrs	88.8 mm
1961-90	14.6 °C	7.7 °C	11.2 °C	107.8 hrs	52.8 mm

## NOVEMBER

A very dry month, with some areas only recording a third of their average rainfall. Also a very dull month, particularly over western areas, although slightly above average sunshine in east Scotland. Mean temperatures were around 1°-2 °C above average, with Northern Ireland getting night time temperatures about 3 °C above average.

*A temperature of -13.2 °C was recorded at Kinbrace (highlands) on the 21<sup>st</sup>. At Cottesmore (Rutland) and Wittering (Cambridgeshire) 5cm of lying snow was reported on the 18<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	9.7 °C	4.4 °C	7.1 °C	45.5 hrs	75.1 mm
E. Anglia	10.4 °C	5.0 °C	7.7 °C	52.9 hrs	45.4 mm
1961-90	9.5 °C	3.4 °C	6.5 °C	66.8 hrs	59.4 mm

## DECEMBER

Another dry month across most southern and eastern areas of the U.K. the majority of north-west Scotland had above or well above average rainfall. Mean temperatures were above average, with the highest difference over Scotland, and the lowest over south-east England. Sunshine levels generally above average, with the best of the sunshine over northern England.

*Kinbrace (highlands) recorded a temperature of -15.2°C on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Colwyn bay (Conwy) recorded a temperature of 16°C on the 30<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	8.1 °C	2.0 °C	5.0 °C	45.3 hrs	111.2 mm
E. Anglia	8.2 °C	1.8 °C	5.0 °C	56.1 hrs	29.6 mm
1961-90	7.1 °C	1.6 °C	4.4 °C	47.4 hrs	55.8 mm

**2021 PDF of the WVBS Second Annual Report\_2004**1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Text changes

Format changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
<b>Programme</b>	NARVOS	NarVOS
<b>2004 Outdoor Meetings</b>		
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	passerines	passerines
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	NARVOS	NarVOS
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	for a visit Horsey, Pink Feet Geese	for a visit to Horsey, Pink-footed Geese
<b>Systematic list</b>		
Introduction	(Wigeon) <i>Anus Penelope</i>	(Wigeon) <i>Anas penelope</i>
Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anus Penelope</i>	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Gadwall, Teal, Mallard & Shoveler	<i>Anus</i>	<i>Anas</i>
Woodcock	fist/second	first/second
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto Alba</i>	<i>Tyto alba</i>
House Martin	fom Hempton	from Hempton
Waxwing	resp.	respectively
Whitethroat & Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvis</i>	<i>Sylvia</i>
<b>Addenda</b>		
Oystercatcher	occured	occurred
<b>WVBS Recording Area</b>		Originally a centrefold, the map now follows the Gazetteer