

# Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society



Nineteenth Annual Report  
2021

# WENSUM VALLEY BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introducing the WVBS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Programme of Meetings and Events</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Diary of Events</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>WVBS Northeast England Tour 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> September* – Ashley Saunders</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Systematic List</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Earliest &amp; Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Latest &amp; Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Systematic List Contributors</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Principal sites &amp; their Grid References</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>A brief study of Swallows breeding in the WVBS area in 2021 – Emily Leonard &amp; Ray Gribble</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Nest-box project – Ray Gribble &amp; Emily Leonard</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>NOA Hempton Marsh Report* – Emma Buck</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Pensthorpe Wildlife Report* – David Roberts</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Pensthorpe Constant Effort Site* – Gary Elton</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve Report* – Victoria Chamberlin &amp; Jake Kenworthy</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Weather Summary* – Norman Brooks</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Map of Recording Area</b>	<b>136</b>

Compiled by David Laurie and David Gibbons

© Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society  
Illustrations, photographs and \*texts are copyright of the originator

*Front cover: Robin, by Emily Leonard*



Covering the Wensum Valley from Norwich to Fakenham and beyond

Founded in March 2003 our aims are to:-

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

Meeting venue – Great Witchingham Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month.

#### Acknowledgements

Printing of the Annual Report was kindly supported by financial contributions from **Pensthorpe Natural Park, Waterfall Farm Cottages, GJL Animal Feeds Ltd, Norfolk Birding and Oriole Birding.**

Please take a look at their advertisements on pages 137-141

## **Committee 2021**

President	Alwyn Jackson
Chair	Keith Walker
Minutes Secretary	Lin Pateman (resigned March) Cath Robinson (from April)
Treasurer	Martin Spriggs
Membership Secretary	Richard Norris
Publicity	Sue Gale
Newsletter Editor	Alan Hughes
Recorder	David Gibbons
Member	Nick Edwards Ray Gribble Emily Leonard David Laurie Mary Walker
Webpage: <a href="http://www.wvbs.co.uk">www.wvbs.co.uk</a>	
Website Managers	Emily Leonard & Keith Walker
Loan Library	Selwyn & Kathy Jones

## **Chair Report 2021**

I have pleasure in presenting the nineteenth Annual Report of the Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society.

2021 was a further demanding year for the Society, with our programme for members significantly curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite restrictions the committee worked very hard to organise and reschedule events.

We continued to hold Zoom evenings for the first half of the year and also joined in with similar events held by our friends at NarVOS. These were complemented with some trepidation by the return of formal Indoor Meetings in the later months of the year. We tentatively held a most enjoyable socially distanced Summer Social outdoors in July and then held distanced Indoor Meetings from August until the end of the year.

We were able to deliver a limited local Outdoor programme from April 2021. Huge thanks to those who organised and led the walks we were able to run.

We were delighted to welcome Cath Robinson on to the committee at the Zoom AGM in April. She kindly agreed to take over the mantle of Secretary replacing Lin Pateman who stood down after many years of dedicated, enthusiastic and welcoming service.

Our treasurer Martin Spriggs has continued to carefully and capably control our finances which remain sound. We pay for the ordinary running expenses of the Society from membership income. Existing members benefited from a subs holiday in 2021 given our expenditure was curtailed and we had Reserves from previous years to use.

Reported bird sightings in 2021 for the Wensum Valley grew substantially to 16800 and our Recorder David Gibbons continues to meticulously collate and report the information we all supply. Please continue to keep him busy.

Our Social Media team of Mary Walker, Nick Edwards and Steve Chapman continued their excellent efforts to raise our profile and keep us entertained.

Our Newsletter continues to inspire with Alan Hughes our Newsletter editor working tirelessly to keep members informed and entertained and our spirits high. We really appreciate the tremendous support from members who have produced so many excellent contributions.

We took the brave step of rebranding the WVBS website during 2021 and this looks more vibrant and has a number of extra features including an enhanced sightings section. You can now find locations of places to bird on the patch, historic information in respect of activity and report local sightings via your laptop and tablet. This includes a facility to show less common birds that have been seen on our patch in the previous 28 days. It will help us if more members will switch to the new system. We send huge thanks to Emily Leonard who did all of the work in terms of the building of the site and ongoing maintenance.

When the Covid chaos temporarily eased, the Society planned a trip to North-East England with Oriole Birding. I am delighted to say the five members had a brilliant time with excellent birding and great conviviality. Our thanks go to Ashley from Oriole who organised and orchestrated things to perfection.

I would like to thank the efforts and support of all of the unsung committee who have been so proactive throughout 2021 to keep the Society functioning in difficult times. Without their willingness to be involved and the selfless contributions of our friends above,

we wouldn't have such a wonderful club. So a big thank you to you all.

Many members supplement the work of the Committee and help the Society in so many different ways and while some actions have been curtailed in 2021, we remain very grateful and are confident that this will blossom.

In the background we continue to have the guidance and support of founders Alwyn and Ray who readily provide advice and support.

We continue to have a friendly and supportive membership and I know we are all looking forward to seeing and socialising with WVBS friends more regularly in the months ahead.

Keith Walker



*Swifts, by Gil Brooking*

## WVBS 2021 Programme of Meetings and Events

<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> Zoom presentation	<b>Saving the Spoon-billed Sandpiper</b> Speaker: <b>Dr James Robinson, WWT</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> Zoom presentation	<b>A sheepish story from the Spanish Steppes</b> Speaker: <b>Dr David Horsley</b>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b> NarVOS Zoom presentation	<b>Emma Turner – The Rediscovery of a Pioneering Bird Photographer</b> Speaker: <b>James Perry</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b> Zoom presentation	<b>Wild Landscapes of Norfolk</b> Speaker: <b>Nick Acheson, NWT</b>
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b> NarVOS Zoom presentation	<b>Wicken Fen</b> Speaker: <b>Ajay Tegala</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b> Zoom presentation	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> followed by <b>Chile from Top to Bottom</b> Speaker: <b>Allan Hale</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b> Outdoor Meeting	<b>Winterton Dunes</b> Leader/coordinator: <b>Sue Gale</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> Zoom presentation	<b>The Work of the BTO. Making your Birding Count</b> Speaker: <b>Paul Stancliffe</b>
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b> NarVOS Zoom Presentation	<b>An Introduction to the Rothschild and Ornithology Libraries of the Natural History Museum at Tring</b> Speaker: <b>Alison Harding</b>
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b> Outdoor Meeting	<b>A Walk in the Tiffey Valley</b> Leader/coordinator: <b>Chris Stone</b>



<p><b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b> Zoom presentation</p>	<p><b>Back from the Brink: The Rutland Osprey Project</b> Speaker: <b>Abi Mustard</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b> Outdoor Meeting</p>	<p><b>Haverlingland Hall Park</b> Leader/coordinator: <b>Steve Chapman</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b> NarVOS Zoom Presentation</p>	<p><b>Baytree Owl and Wildlife Centre</b> Speaker: <b>Mark Birdsall</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b> Outdoor Meeting</p>	<p><b>Marsham Heath</b> Leaders/coordinators: <b>Nick Edwards, Steve Chapman</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b> Indoor Meeting</p>	<p><b>WVBS Summer Social Evening at Great Witchingham Village Hall</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August</b> Indoor Meeting</p>	<p><b>Much Ado About Nothing</b> Speaker: <b>James Lowen</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August</b> Outdoor Meeting</p>	<p><b>RSPB Frampton Marsh</b> Leader/coordinator: <b>Alan Hughes</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b></p>	<p><b>WVBS Northeast England Tour</b> Led by <b>Ashley Saunders</b> of <b>Oriole Birding</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b> Indoor Meeting</p>	<p><b>Waderquest</b> Speakers: <b>Rick and Elis Simpson</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> Outdoor Meeting</p>	<p><b>RSPB Titchwell Marsh</b> Leaders/coordinators: <b>Chris Stone, Keith Walker</b></p>

<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b> Indoor Meeting at Pensthorpe Natural Park	<b>Giving Curlews a Boost</b> Speaker: <b>Kat McPherson</b>
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b> Outdoor Meeting	<b>Buttle Marsh and Ludham Bridge</b> Leader/coordinator: <b>Emily Leonard</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b> Indoor Meeting	<b>Holkham Through the Seasons</b> Speaker: <b>Paul Eele</b>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b> Zoom Presentation	<b>Mallorcan Birding</b> Speaker: <b>Jason Moss</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b> Indoor Meeting	<b>WVBS Christmas Social Evening</b> Coordinators: <b>Keith and Mary Walker</b>
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> Outdoor Meeting	<b>Holkham National Nature Reserve</b> Leader/coordinator: <b>Steve Chapman</b>

## Diary of Events in 2021

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Saving the Spoon-billed Sandpiper

Speaker: **James Robinson**, Wildlife and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge (Zoom Presentation)

This small wader is the flagship species for intertidal wetland conservation on the East-Asian/Australasian flyway used by over 50 million birds each year. Eight million are waders and all are threatened by human development. The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is critically endangered, with only around 350 pairs in 2005. Saving this bird will also help the prospects of 50 other species using the flyway. The Sandpipers nest in Arctic Russia and while nesting habitat remains there is loss and degradation of sites where the birds rest and feed on migration. Subsistence hunting is another problem.

The conservation programme has five phases. 1) A captive breeding population providing a 'survival ark'. This proved partly successful and is being re-evaluated. 2) A 'headstarting' project in Russia. This has been more successful and continues. 3) Reducing killing at non-breeding sites. 4) Reducing the impact of Yellow Sea reclamation. Here great strides have been made by working with governments on better management of intertidal wetlands. 5) Identifying and protecting unknown breeding, staging and wintering sites. Much is being learned from satellite tagging of adult birds.

James concluded that there were hopeful signs but more needs to be done. Immediate critical actions are; 1) protect the World Heritage Site process, 2) protect the newly discovered moulting site in North Korea which the entire global population may use, 3) continue headstarting, 4) continue advocacy and hunting mitigation, 5) review the role of captive breeding. James provided a fascinating account and you can read more at [www.saving-spoon-billed-sandpiper.com](http://www.saving-spoon-billed-sandpiper.com)

## **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February. A Sheepish Story from the Spanish Steppes**

Speaker: **Dr Dave Horsley** (Zoom presentation)

Close to the Portuguese border, the Steppes are 600-900 metres above sea level and home to mountain raptors and passerines like Rock Bunting. The Southern Steppes include the Monfrague National Park and the plains around Trujillo and Caceres while the Northern Steppes around Salamanca include the Arribes National Park along the River Duero (the border with Portugal) and the Villafafila wetlands (not so wet in summer). The Northern Steppes are no longer natural grassy plains but are irrigated for agriculture, particular vines which pose a threat to low-flying birds such as the declining Great Bustard.

Raptors were the main focus, with impressive photographs of Booted, Golden, Short-toed and Spanish Imperial Eagles plus Black and Griffon Vultures. A video of a sheep's carcass in front of a hide showed how it was first visited by Ravens and then by powerful Griffon Vultures. Eventually the carcass was completely covered in Black Vultures until it was stripped clean. Black Vultures with visible rings were four or five years old and from nests about 100km away. Another 2-year-old came from nearby mountains.

In addition to the raptors we enjoyed photographs of Bee-eaters, Rollers, Hoopoes, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Azure-winged Magpies and Gull-billed Terns. The latter catch fish in winter but eat voles in the dried out Villafafila wetlands in summer. Many thanks to Dave for giving us a great tutorial on raptor ID and fascinating footage of their lifestyles.

## **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Wild Landscapes of Norfolk**

Speaker: **Nick Acheson**, Norfolk Wildlife Trust Ambassador (Zoom presentation)

Nick took us through the seven main landscape types in Norfolk, telling us aspects of their history and evolution as well as types of flora and fauna associated with each.

1) *Woodland*. Plants such as Wild Anemone and Dog's Mercury indicate ancient sites like Foxley Wood. Many common birds are

woodland species and some, like Woodcock, depend entirely on woods to survive.

2) *Coastal habitat*. Very important nationally are the saltmarshes between the Wash and Cley. They support Brent and Pink-footed Geese over winter and are breeding grounds for Redshanks and other waders in summer. Beyond Cley we have vegetated shingle, home to Yellow Horned Poppy and Biting Stonecrop. This rare habitat is used by Snow Buntings in winter. Then there are the sand dunes of the North and East coasts. The Northern ones are alkaline and have become heaths, the others are more acid. As dunes develop the flora becomes more complex, housing species such as Heath Dog Violet which is the food plant of the Dark Green Fritillary. Dune slacks are home to Natterjack toads. Sandwich and Little Terns nest on the beaches alongside Common and Grey Seals.

3) *The Broads*. Man-made, they have suffered from nutrient pollution but several are now restored to their original state with clear water and good biodiversity. There are Fen Orchids, Swallowtail butterflies and reedbeds for Bitterns, Marsh Harriers, Bearded Tits and Cranes.

4) *The Fens*. Mostly in the West, they have largely been drained for agriculture. Overwintering Pink-footed Geese benefit from the crops and have increased from about 50,000 to around 530,000 each year. Species like Taiga Bean Geese and Bewick's Swans are declining, but this is likely to be climate related.

5) *Heathland*. The largest areas are around Roydon and Grimstone Warren, but Salthouse and Kelling heaths are also significant. These are typified by Bell Heather, Gorse and birds such as Stonechats, Dartford Warblers and Nightjars. Butterflies include Silver-studded Blue and Green Hairstreak while the North-West provides the only Norfolk home for Black Darter dragonflies.

6) *The Brecks*. These are an ancient habitat where Cretaceous chalk lies near the surface under a layer of sand. They are baked in the summer and very cold in winter. The poor, disturbed soil is good for rare species like the Stone-curlew which is doing well thanks to partnerships between farmers and conservationists. Ponies are used for conservation

grazing but close grazing by rabbits is vital for Stone-curlews. Around Thompson Common we find pingoes – small pools created in the ice age. These house rare species including the Scarce Emerald Damselfly and the recently reintroduced Pool Frog.

7) *Farmland*. This covers over 70% of the county. It is not as productive for wildlife as it was in more traditional times as chemicals, a reduction in 'weed' species and the loss of small ponds have impacted many species. We have almost lost Turtle Dove and Grey Partridge.

Nick's overview was much appreciated. Any one of the habitats would have more than enough interest for a talk and certainly encouraged us to visit a wider range of places.

#### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April. AGM and Chile, from Top to Bottom**

Speaker: **Allan Hale** (Zoom presentation)

Allan is our returning officer and was in charge during the business of the AGM at which the committee was re-elected with the addition of a new Minutes Secretary, Cath Robinson.

It is a tradition that the AGM is followed by a talk from Allan about one of his exotic adventures and this year's related a trip to Chile, 2600 miles long from top to bottom. As always his photos were a pleasure, starting with Rufous-collared Sparrow and its brood parasite the Shiny Cowbird. North, near the border with Peru, he encountered the desert-nesting Grey Gull and at the busy port of Arica a host of Sea Lions and Peruvian Pelicans. Nearby beaches had Black Skimmers, Elegant Terns and American Golden Plovers.

The Atacama Desert proved lifeless until the Hummingbird Garden which had Oasis Hummingbirds, White-crested Elania and Burrowing Owls. From there a climb of 4000m to Chungara in the Andes revealed Rheas, Vicunas and Andean Hare, all surviving in a very barren landscape. There were Hooded Siskins and a Sandpiper Plover while the high level soda lakes held Chilean and Andean Flamingos, Andean Coots and Andean Gulls. Exploring had to be conducted at a snail's pace because of the lack of oxygen.

Back at sea level a 20 mile pelagic trip from the port of Quintero gave Sooty Shearwaters, Black-browed Albatrosses and Grey Phalaropes. Moving South there were Humbolt Penguins, Sea Otters, Black-faced Ibis and Southern Crested Caracara as well as the iconic Andean Condor. In the far south at Punta Arenas were Darwin's Rhea, Long-tailed Meadow Lark and charismatic Magellanic Penguins. A ferry trip to Tierra del Fuego gave more views of terns and albatrosses while the island itself had several types of plover and Guanacos (similar to Vicunas). Back on the mainland were lovely Rufous-chested Dotterel and two sorts of Steamer Duck, one of which is flightless. Finally, back at Santiago, there was one more day to see Chilean Mocking Bird and Black-chested Buzzard.

The above is just a sample of the wonderful wildlife Allan showed us in his excellent presentation.

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Outdoor Meeting at Winterton Dunes**

Leader: **Sue Gale**

With the ending of a Covid-19 induced lockdown we were able to gather for an outdoor meeting, our first of the year. It was not blessed with good weather and a very cold NE wind blew across a bleak and sunless landscape. Nonetheless, Common Scoters and Gannets flew past before the area around the 'totem pole' and the paddocks and shrubs on the landward edge of the dunes were explored. Skylarks were singing loudly, unperturbed by the weather, and Stonechats posed obligingly. There were Jackdaws and plenty of Linnets, many with the lovely pink breast of breeding plumage. Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps were singing in the scrubby areas and Red-legged Partridges were in the paddocks.

Across the road in the South Dunes the hoped for Wheatears were absent but there were three Ring Ouzels. Their white chest-plates and silvery wings were easily visible even in the air. There were more Stonechats and Linnets but otherwise only common garden birds.

The day was enlivened by the company of Liane and Alex, students of film who had travelled from London (luckily not only for this morning).

They will have a film of birdwatching at its most frustrating, with plenty of windswept birders, lovely views and very few birds. Hopefully it will not have put them off. After a cup of coffee from the pop-up that has replaced the much-loved café that fell into the sea, and a bit more sea-watching for some, we called it a day with a total of 36 species seen.

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May. The Work of the BTO. Making your Birding Count**

Speaker: **Paul Stancliffe**, British Trust for Ornithology (Zoom presentation)

BTO's funding is mainly from subscriptions, donations, legacies and individual fundraising, allowing BTO to work on whatever it sees as high priority. The BTO does not campaign but collects and reports data in an unbiased way. Regular projects include the Breeding Bird Survey, Wetland Bird Survey, Nest Record Scheme, Heronries Census (the world's longest running survey, since 1929) and Garden Birdwatch. The BTO runs training courses, so don't be put off schemes like Nest Recording by a fear of disturbance. BTO will provide best practice.

Surveys rely heavily on volunteers and some 60,000 submit records. This allows the BTO to spot trends like the crash in Chaffinch numbers over the last 5 years and the earlier decline in Greenfinches linked to Trichomonosis. Cleaning garden feeders is crucial in restricting this disease and Paul recommended only putting out as much food as will be eaten in one day and cleaning feeders weekly.

The Birdtrack reporting system feeds data direct to the BTO and the County Recorder. It handles complete lists or birds of special interest and can be used in the field or at home. It covers times outside the Breeding Bird Survey and has shown that many summer migrants remain in the UK longer than they used to. In the Euro Bird Portal ([www.eurobirdportal.com](http://www.eurobirdportal.com)) you can see animated maps of the distribution of any species at any time of year.

The most recent Bird Atlas covered 2007-11 and drew heavily on volunteer records as do the Special Surveys which are usually explorations of a particular problem such as the fall in the summer



breeding population of Woodcock, even though winter numbers are stable. Another is the recent slowdown in the population increase of Nightjars, in spite of the fact that there is still available heathland habitat.

Ringling has been practised for over 100 years but traditionally the recovery rate has been low. Constant Effort Site (CES) ringling studies sample individual locations in detail and give valuable trend information while the use of colour rings enables monitoring without re-trapping. Tracking devices, though expensive, enable new insights. For example, they show that Cuckoos winter in the Congo Basin and which routes they take there and back. This was a fascinating and informative talk that hopefully will have inspired more of us to volunteer for one or more of the BTO's surveys.

### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Outdoor Meeting for a Walk in the Tiffey Valley**

Leader: **Chris Stone**

Nine members gathered in the car park near Wymondham Abbey in bright sunshine and blue skies. There was a Buzzard overhead and a Grey Wagtail by the river before we even set out. The cemetery was first, a well-known birding spot where we hoped to see Spotted Flycatchers. On the way a Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen in a nearby tree and a Sparrowhawk flew overhead. Two pairs of Spotted Flycatchers have been seen at the cemetery this year and it wasn't long before one was found perched on a gravestone. Over the next 15 minutes we watched at least two of them flitting about and catching flies. They are perky, characterful little birds and it seems that gravestones make ideal perches. We also spotted a Goldcrest and a Treecreeper.

We then walked along the riverside path towards Kimberley with lovely views of slightly rolling countryside. We saw Reed Buntings and Whitethroats but not the Kingfisher that is often present on this stretch. Further along the rattling song of a Lesser Whitethroat was persistent, but it remained out of sight. In contrast, Large Red Damselflies and a single Banded Demoiselle could be admired. A Little Egret lifted off from a nearby ditch and later, after a refreshment stop near the Kimberley Estate, a Grey Heron flew over.

By the time we returned to the cars many of us were distinctly overheated – a rare and welcome occurrence after a chilly spring. We covered about 6.5 miles and saw 47 species in lovely countryside and in good company. Many thanks to Chris for his excellent guiding.

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Back from the Brink: The Rutland Osprey Project**

Speaker: **Abi Mustard** (Zoom presentation)

This project aims to firmly re-establish the Osprey as a breeding bird in central England. Ospreys became extinct as breeders in 1837 as a result of egg collection and shooting but returned to Loch Garten in Scotland in 1954 where a pair raised a chick. Subsequent increase and spread was very slow and by 1994 there were just 95 pairs and it was forecast it would take 100-150 years to colonise central England. A re-introduction scheme was devised and Rutland Water selected. Birds return to where they fledged and it was necessary to translocate chicks. Between 1996 and 2001 64 were brought to Rutland from Scotland. Initially the youngest chick from a brood of at least 3 was taken, but survival was very poor. From 1997 the oldest of 2 or 3 was moved and this was much more successful. In 2005 a further 11 chicks were moved to balance the gender distribution, but otherwise the population has been self-sustaining.

In the UK 2 or 3 eggs are typical but the current pair at Rutland are exceptionally in rearing 4 chicks each year. Ospreys winter mostly in West Africa and don't migrate as a family – the female leaves first, then the chicks and lastly the male. Juvenile birds find their own way and only about 30% return. Satellite trackers allow researchers to plot their routes and individuals will use the same stop-over sites each time they migrate. Generally Ospreys breed 2 years after fledging and the first pair returned in 1997. 2001 recorded the first successful breeding of a male from Rutland and a female originally from Scotland. This male has now raised 32 chicks. Birds fledged at Rutland have subsequently appeared in Wales.

There are 10 breeding pairs in the Rutland area with one nest on the reserve. So far 188 chicks have fledged and it is hoped to see the 200<sup>th</sup> this year. The success of reintroductions means there are now 300-400 breeding pairs in the UK. Excitingly, a new project will take place at the Blythe estuary in Suffolk. Meanwhile the Rutland Project continues to work with landowners to provide perches for nests and support for the self-sustaining Rutland Ospreys. Many thanks to Abi for an interesting and informative evening.

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Outdoor Meeting at Haveringland Hall Country Park**

Leader: **Steve Chapman**

We met at the Reception Centre and were immediately impressed by the quiet and calm. A small lake by the car park gave us Mallard and Moorhen while surrounding bird song included Nuthatch, Blackcaps and Cuckoo. In the wood a Song Thrush was singing as were Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs, Whitethroats and a Willow Warbler. At the lake were Harry and Megan, a pair of Mute Swans which Steve feeds on a regular basis. We had a lone Common Tern and Swifts circling high in the air while a Great Spotted Woodpecker was sighted in a tree and a Green Woodpecker heard.

Then on to the Great Wood, which is not part of the country park. Along the edges of the rides, with the right weather and time of year, butterflies such as White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary can be found, along with dragonflies and damselflies. Not so on our day which was damp and cold after more or less 24 hours of rain. We did, however, hear the song of a Garden Warbler. Back in the country park we wandered round the edge overlooking farm fields. A rookery can be seen on the far side and further on an uncultivated site had two Mistle Thrushes.

In total 44 species were seen and our thanks go to Steve for introducing us to this lovely area.

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Outdoor Meeting at Marsham Heath**

Leaders: **Nick Edwards** and **Steve Chapman**

After delays due to unsuitable weather we finally managed to hold the event. It was well worth waiting for, as the sun shone all day and the evening conditions were perfect, as were the rest of the arrangements from intrepid organiser Nick and learned local expert Steve.

We saw Stonechats feeding young, Yellowhammers and Whitethroat as we awaited dusk and the hoped for Nightjars. Our patience was rewarded with at least four males “churring” and three females present. We heard birds wing clapping and had excellent views. Our junior member Matteo recorded his first Nightjar sighting and took some excellent photographs. A magical evening came to a close as darkness surrounded us and mist eerily rose. A huge thank you to Nick and Steve for making the evening special.

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Summer Social Event at Great Witchingham Village Hall**

After waiting for clarification about Covid regulations we were able to hold our first Indoor Meeting for nearly 18 months. Perhaps Indoor is a misnomer as we had good weather and five appropriately socially-distanced tables were set up outside. Members each brought a picnic and enjoyed Pimms and deserts amid convivial chatter as friends caught up on the news. There were table quizzes to enjoy too! It was a hugely successful and enjoyable evening and thanks are due to members who helped set up and clear away and for some amazing Origami skills as the tables were set for the evening.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August. Much Ado About Mothing**

Speaker: **James Lowen**

In July 2012 James met a Poplar Hawk Moth and was seduced by mothing, a world he described with tremendous enthusiasm. There are around 2,500 UK moth species including migrants like the Silver Y. Many are important pollinators. We tend to think of butterflies and moths as distinct but butterflies are simply a section of the family tree and countries

like France and Germany have no separate word for moths and call them “night butterflies”.

Many moth-ers trap in their gardens and even the smallest can attract many species. Some moths are active in winter thanks to fur and their own antifreeze with numbers increasing as Spring advances. Moths have many tricks to aid survival including remarkable camouflage (from lichen covered bark to twigs and bird droppings) and an ability to produce sounds to jam the radar of predatory bats. Hawkmoths, large and colourful, are often the first to attract people. Others are enthusiasts for Clearwings which mimic various wasps or Hornet. Micro-moths (some as large as macros) are not as difficult as many fear and identification is aided by new books and online resources. In 2019 James was delighted to rediscover the *Hypercalla*, a micro-moth previously declared extinct, and as more people take up moth recording knowledge is bound to increase.

Wetlands are not something we usually associate with moths but they have their own specialized species, many of which are threatened by habitat loss. James was involved in a search for the Marsh Moth, rare even in Victorian times and only found as a male until recently. However, James managed to find and photograph a female Marsh Moth for the first time while another search identified Norwich as key site for the Marsh Carpet. Climate change has led to 14 new species colonising the UK, although at the same time at least 50 species have vanished. In fact four times as many moths are in decline as are increasing, which is a worryingly familiar story.

Many thanks to James for a very enjoyable evening and for more tales from the world of moths see his book, Much Ado About Nothing.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Outdoor Meeting at RSPB Frampton Marsh**  
Leader: **Alan Hughes**

The day was overcast, chilly at the start and with rain forecast, but this excellent reserve did not disappoint. Towards the sea bank there were masses of Black-tailed Godwits, ducks in profusion and the first of many Snipe together with Green and Common Sandpipers, Little Egrets

and an incoming flight of five Spoonbills. A Black Stork had been in the vicinity and was seen by early arrivals before disappearing into a grassland ditch. It then reappeared close to a Merlin sitting on a fence post, providing an unusual joint image. Nearer the sea bank a pool by the path gave us Little Stint, Dunlin and the first of many Yellow Wagtails.

On the sea bank we turned right to see a Pacific Golden Plover that had been resident for a few days. A Little Ringed Plover was on the landward side and on the saltmarsh there was a distant Short-eared Owl. Returning to the rest of the Wash Trail the pools added Greenshank, Redshank, Spotted Redshank and Whimbrel to our waders while the saltmarsh side revealed a Wheatear. A welcome increase in temperature brought out some butterflies including a Small Heath and a superb male Common Blue. The hides gave us Little and Great Crested Grebes, Pochard and plenty of other ducks, though the latter never look their smartest at this time of year. Light rain began to fall after lunch and the Grassland Trail held few passerines beyond Chiffchaff and Long-tailed Tit. A final look at the Reedbed Hide showed more Spoonbills, making at least 30 on site.

We saw 71 species in all, and a big thank you to Alan for organizing and leading this highly enjoyable excursion.

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. WVBS Northeast England Tour**

Leader: **Ashley Saunders** of **Oriole Birding**

A report of this trip is on page 30.

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Waderquest - Waders in Peril**

Speakers: **Rick and Elis Simpson**

Globally, 48% of known wader populations are in decline and 30% of wader species are extinct, endangered or threatened. Waderquest is a charity established by Rick and Elis to raise awareness of the threats waders face internationally and to raise funds to support wader conservation initiatives, especially locally led community projects.

The talk described a self-funded year-long trip to see as many wader species as possible and established the charity. Starting with a drive from Northampton to Titchwell they were shocked to see no Lapwings, which reinforced their motivation to act. Pak Thale in Thailand had wintering Spoon-billed Sandpiper among thousands of other similar looking (bar the bill) waders. The United Arab Emirates provided White-tailed Lapwing, well camouflaged except for the bright yellow legs. Sociable Lapwing is another highly endangered species threatened by loss of its steppe habitat while Crab Plovers risk losing the lagoon where they winter to a marina. On to the USA for Long-billed Curlew in California and Washington State for a trio of coastal birds usually found together - Black Turnstone, Surf Bird and Rock Sandpiper.

Next stop was New Zealand for Black Stilt. Bar-tailed Godwits in NZ are subspecies *baueri* and in 2007 a satellite tagged bird flew non-stop from NZ to the Yellow Sea, a distance of 10,000km. She then flew on to Alaska for the breeding season. In August she flew 8 days non-stop from Alaska to NZ, a distance of 11,700km. Rick then spoke about the vulnerability of waders to development on the East Asian-Australian Flyway. The Yellow Sea has lost 60-70% of its intertidal zone in the last 30 years.

There is also better news. In Australia, the Hooded Plover nests on soft sandy beaches and a community programme encouraging people to give them undisturbed space has led to an increase in breeding success from 5% to 50%. Similarly, the Piping Plover in the USA has benefited from a community programme. Local engagement is key.

The Waderquest web site ([www.waderquest.net](http://www.waderquest.net)) has a wealth of information about waders, conservation projects and news.

You can help by becoming a friend or purchasing something from their shop and all donations go to the Grant Fund which has raised over £35,000 so far. Many thanks to Rick and Elis for sharing their story.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Outdoor Meeting at RSPB Titchwell Marsh**  
Leader: **Chris Stone**

A dozen members met on a fine though cloudy day with a gentle southerly breeze. Chris is a volunteer at Titchwell and we were joined by long standing Titchwell volunteer Colin Fenn so we had two local experts as guides. We started with a flyover of Pink-footed Geese before ambling round to Patsy's Reedbed where we found Pintail, Gadwall and Pochard (in eclipse) plus Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff and a Great White Egret. The Autumn Trail took us to the South-East edge of Fresh Marsh where there were Brent Geese, Avocets, Mediterranean Gulls, three House Martins and over a hundred Golden Plover. A real bonus was a Bittern flying over.

Back on the main path we had excellent views of Bearded Tits and further along the Pectoral Sandpiper that had been in residence for a few days appeared just a feet away feeding at the bank edge beneath us. Other waders included Little Stint, Greenshank, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Grey Plover while at the saline lagoon a Water Rail drifted in and out of the vegetation. A look at the sea added Oystercatcher, Knot, Gannet, Guillemot and Red-throated Diver to our list while overhead we were surprised by a large flock of Swallows.

In all 68 species were seen. A huge thanks to Chris for delivering such a brilliant day's birding.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Giving Curlews a Boost**  
Speaker: **Kat Macpherson**

Our October indoor meeting was a special treat, being held in the Education Room at Pensthorpe Natural Park and including excellent cakes. A 20 minute film on the Curlew conservation project was followed by questions and answers with a very engaged audience.

The Curlew is Europe's largest wader and is now red-listed, meaning it is of the highest conservation priority and needs urgent action. The UK is home to roughly a quarter of the global breeding population, some 58,500 pairs, but there have been very significant declines since the 1970s due to habitat loss and predation, with lowland England experiencing some of the most severe losses. Pensthorpe Conservation



Trust (PCT) is part of the East of England Project Partnership along with Natural England, BTO, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and the Royal Air Force for a project to collect eggs at eight military and civilian airfields across Eastern England where the birds risk collision with aircraft. The eggs were incubated, hatched and reared at a purpose built PCT facility before release at two Norfolk sites; Sandringham Estate and Wild Ken Hill. Of 106 eggs collected 87 hatched and 82 birds fledged, a much better ratio than in the wild. The released birds have coloured leg rings for identification and please tell Pensthorpe if you see a Curlew wearing a yellow flag with an orange ring on one leg and a yellow ring on the other. These are birds from the project and all information is useful. Several birds were fitted with radio or GPS tags to follow their movements. The project continues and the PCT facility will be doubled in size next year, boosting hopes the decline of Curlew numbers in the East of England can be halted.

Our thanks to Pensthorpe for generously providing the venue and to Kat for her informative and enthusiastic presentation.

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Outdoor meeting at Buttle Marsh and Ludham Bridge**

**Leader: Emily Leonard**

Nine of us met at the How Hill Trust car park on a mild overcast day. We began by heading south on the road and through a hedge into woodlands and fields with Skylarks and Egyptian Geese. Turning right at The Limes we went along Blind Lane and then looped north around Buttle Marsh (bottle is a Norfolk word for Bittern). The path here is elevated, giving a fine view of the marsh and River Ant. A forecast band of rain set in at this point, so apart from Long-tailed Tits smaller birds were not much in evidence. We then took the track that turns south to Ludham Bridge between the meandering River Ant and the How Hill Fen Nature Reserve. In improving weather we saw assorted ducks, Pied Wagtail and Meadow Pipit as well as hearing a Cetti's Warbler. As usual, the latter kept itself hidden. Sun brought Common Buzzard, Kestrel and a cream-headed

Marsh Harrier into the air while on the far side of the river a herd of cows on Horning Marshes were accompanied by four Cattle Egrets.

After a stop at Ludham Bridge we returned along the same route. Blue sky and sun brought a group of Bearded Tits to the seed heads of the reeds, giving us splendid views. The ornamental lake at How Hill House held two Little Grebes and after that we adjourned to the car park for lunch. A Nuthatch in the ornamental gardens made a round total of 50 species for the day and a bonus was the Common Darter dragonflies taking advantage of the sheltered corners to bask in afternoon sun.

Our thanks to Emily for leading the walk and sharing her extensive local knowledge.

#### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Holkham NNR – A Reserve for all Seasons**

Speaker: **Paul Eele**

After a career in the RSPB culminating in 15 years as Warden at Titchwell, Paul became Warden at the Holkham National Nature Reserve four years ago. This was a big step up in terms of area, as the Holkham reserve covers some 4000 hectares, many times larger than Titchwell, and stretches along the coast from East of Wells to Burnham Norton.

Paul described the highlights of each season using his own excellent photographs. Spring brings Brimstone butterflies, Wheatears and early warblers. The success of winter work for Lapwing, Redshank, Snipe, Oystercatcher and Avocet is assessed and the numbers of breeding pairs and nest productivity are monitored. Work to make the marshes wetter has resulted in the reappearance of Snipe as a breeder after a gap of 5 years.

Summer brings increased visitor numbers but roped-off areas help beach-nesting populations of Ringed Plover and Little Tern to creep up. The Decoy has a long-established heronry and now also has Little Egrets (30-40 pairs), Spoonbills (similar numbers), Great White Egrets (6 pairs this year) and most recently Cattle Egrets. There were 2-3 booming Bitterns this year and attempted breeding by Black-winged Stilts at Burnham Overy. The increase in all these species is due to a combination of conservation management and climate change. The pools at Burnham

Overy also host Natterjack Toads and the dunes are home to butterflies like Dark Green Fritillary. There were two new species of dragonfly on the reserve this year, the Southern Migrant Hawker and the Norfolk Hawker. Like the Crane, the latter is expanding from bases in the Broad. Otters are popular with the visitors but are a mixed blessing as they enjoy an egg or small chick for breakfast.

Autumn is the great migration season with waders such as Ruff and Common Sandpiper, while the dunes and pines are the place to find passerines including Fieldfares, Redwings, Goldcrests and Yellow-browed Warbler.

Winter is the season for wildfowl. Pink-footed Geese arrive in their thousands and spend the nights roosting on the marshes before flying inland to feed on arable fields in the day. However, because less sugar beet is being grown, and it is harvested more efficiently, numbers are declining. White-fronted Geese arrive later and are at their peak in December to January. Brent Geese are more coastal in habit. On the landward side big flocks of Wigeon feed on the grass either side of Lady Anne's Drive. But perhaps the most famous visitors in the winter, among birders anyway, are the Shore Larks and Snow Buntings which have benefitted from a roped off area East of Holkham Gap.

Barn Owls are doing well on the estate and large flocks of finches can be found in the arable areas. Lady Anne's Drive is a good place to look for Grey Partridge, and also Red Kites and Ravens, neither of which would have been seen 20 years ago. Many thanks to Paul for a fascinating talk on this diverse and ever changing area.

## **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Birding Mallorca – A Local Perspective**

Speaker: **Jason Moss** (Zoom presentation)

As a prelude to a proposed club trip in 2022 Jason, now resident on Mallorca, gave us a beautifully illustrated seasonal guide. The island hosts many wonderful birds including Mediterranean specialties such as Balearic Warbler, Balearic Shearwater, Balearic Woodchat Shrike, Moltoni's Warbler and Mediterranean Flycatcher. The limestone mountains feature Cinereous and Griffon Vultures and sea cliffs are

home to elegant Eleonora's Falcons. The island's wetlands are packed with species including Greater Flamingo, Little Bittern and Squacco and Purple Heron, Red-knobbed Coot, Marbled Duck and Western Swamphen while low intensity agricultural areas host Red-footed Falcons, Lesser Kestrels and an abundance of Turtle Doves, Wrynecks, Hoopoes, Quail and Short-toed Larks.

Rarities also featured, including his Bimaculated Lark and Arctic Warbler finds from 2020, both Balearic island firsts and the former a first for Spain. We thank Jason for his excellent presentation which left many hankering for Mediterranean birding, sunshine and warmth.

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Social**

Reporter: **Keith Walker**

The WVBS Christmas Social was held at Great Witchingham Village Hall and thirty five guests turned up armed with offerings of sweet and savoury delicacies for us to share, which were complemented by a Christmas Punch kindly supplied by Ray and Chris Gribble.

We were very fortunate to proceed as infections from the Omicron Covid variant were starting to threaten, which led to a more sedate and distanced event. As well as enjoying each other's company we were entertained by table quizzes provided by Ray Gribble, David Laurie, Cath Robinson, Steve Connor and myself. We were also shown the exceptional photographic entries for our 2021 WVBS photograph competition and I am delighted to report that the members voted as the winner the Robin taken by Emily Leonard.

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Outdoor meeting at Holkham NNR**

Leader: **Steve Chapman**

Originally scheduled to follow Paul Eele's talk, bad weather postponed our visit for two weeks. Conditions were far better and after a frosty start the day was one of light cloud and a mild southerly wind. At Holkham Village car park we were greeted by Mistle Thrush and the first of the day's many Buzzards. Lady Anne's drive gave good views of wildfowl and waders: Greylag Geese, Pink-footed Geese, Wigeon and

Teal were abundant along with Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwits, Ruff, Lapwings, Curlews, Snipe and a flock of Golden Plover passing overhead.

From the drive we took the track to Washington Hide and though small birds were scarce in the woods the marshes were full of life including two Great White Egrets and an unusually pale Buzzard. Then it was on to the Jordan Hide in search of White-fronted Geese. These proved elusive but we did see more wildfowl, Kestrel, Red Kite, Marsh Harrier and a swiftly passing Sparrowhawk.

The track through the woods to the shore gave us a Goldcrest and on reaching the dunes we paused to sea-watch a Red-throated Diver, Red-breasted Mergansers and Sanderlings at the water's edge. Returning along the shore a fine Short-eared Owl passed over the trees to the marshes and soon after a flock of 30 Snow Buntings appeared.

After lunch a long search of the roped off area finally located three Shore Larks feeding amongst the vegetation. The dunes made a suitable spot for a second sea watch which revealed more Red-breasted Mergansers and added Kittiwake, Guillemot, Great Crested Grebe, a female Eider, a Long-tailed Duck and a flying group of half a dozen Velvet Scoter to the day's list. A group of gulls and Sanderling on the shore also held a single Knot, boosting the day's total to an impressive 74 species.

A big thank you to Steve for leading this excellent outing.

*This diary was compiled from contributions to the Newsletter by Liz Bridge, Sue Gale, David Gibbons, David Laurie, Cath Robinson and Keith Walker.*

## **WVBS Northeast England Tour, 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Led and Reported by Ashley Saunders of Oriole Birding

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Heavy rain and light E winds, 15C**

It was back to the Northeast of England this week for a custom tour for Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society, and with east winds and rain for most of the day, we departed Norfolk rather wide-eyed at the prospect of a day's birding tomorrow at Spurn. But, we had birds to see on the way too as we made a bee-line for Blacktoft Sands again and it's long-staying White-tailed Plover. Little did we know that during our drive a Bluethroat had been found here too and this was very exciting and welcome news when we arrived at the Visitor Centre (via the Tree Sparrows on the feeders)!

Thinking the plover would be the easier of the two highlight birds to see, we opted to head straight to Xerox Hide where the Bluethroat had been seen twenty minutes previously, but arrived there to a hide full of people who'd not seen it nor knew exactly where it was. There were two shouts though of quick flight views of it over the reeds – this clearly wasn't going to be easy! A great show of other birds here though included four Water Rails on view at one time, and they were pretty much constantly on show during our whole visit. Common Snipe, at least three Green Sandpipers, twenty Ruff and a lovely juvenile Spotted Redshank which flew in calling, were other highlights here. With no further sign of the Bluethroat though, we decided to take a walk east towards Townend Hide to see if the plover was about.

We checked First Hide, where it had been seen earlier, but there was no sign. However, a Glossy Ibis was seen in flight, fairly distantly to the east of us and going away – clearly heading back to Alkborough where it has spent much of the late summer. A Sparrowhawk breezed in and landed in front of us, and a Weasel was also seen, but no plover. On to Townend and there were plenty of birds again here – Black-tailed Godwits, Little Egrets, plenty of duck and another Green Sandpiper. We were told the plover had been here half an hour previously, but had walked behind the small island and might still be there. *Deja vu* from our

last visit here when something similar had happened! We waited for a bit, and then decided instead to go back and try again for the Bluethroat, returning here to check later.

At Xerox Hide, the Bluethroat was showing, and we managed to get one telescope onto it as it sat motionless at the base of the reeds. It shot back into cover though before any of the group could see it, so a tense wait followed until it reappeared. This time it played ball, and we watched it for ten minutes running in and out of the reeds and often standing in the open on the mud cocking its tail. It was a male too, with plenty



of blue on the bib – though being an autumn bird we couldn't see if it was white or red-spotted. A superb bird to kick off our tour though, and we added some Bearded Tits to boot. The rain was coming down heavily, but we had half an hour to play with – back to Townsend Hide!

The visibility from the hide was grim and nothing on the scrape seemed to have moved an inch since we were last in the hide. We weren't hopeful, but just then the White-tailed Plover wandered out from behind the small island and stood on the mud among the Teal, facing away from us! Its long yellow legs were the best way to spot it, as otherwise it blended in surprisingly well. Everyone got a telescope view just before it took flight and headed back west over the reedbed and out of sight. We checked First Hide and Xerox Hide again, but there was no sign, so it must have gone down somewhere else in the reedbed. Still, a fantastic rarity to get on the tour lists again! From here we had just over an hour to run to our accommodation, where we arrived damp and weary about 18:45.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>** – *Sunny spells and light N-NW winds, 18C*

An excellent and varied day's birdwatching at Spurn today, on what would be described as a 'quiet day' for the peninsula, despite yesterday's excellent looking weather chart that seemingly failed to materialise any East coast grounded migrants of any quality or number. We kicked off

with a gentle amble from the Bluebell to Cliff Farm, to get a feel for the day. A Lesser Whitethroat in one of the hedges, and then a lovely Spotted Flycatcher in the garden of Cliff Farm showed a bit of promise but in truth it already felt like it would be very quiet for grounded migrants. Along the canal, a Hobby flew in and circled over the Triangle before continuing south, and six Pale-bellied Brent Geese were on the Humber. We also saw four Greenshanks here and several hundred Golden Plover, and the tide was rising fast and beginning to concentrate lots of waders towards The Warren.



*Grey Plover and Knot off The Warren*

We headed back to the van and drove down there to get into position and enjoy the spectacle of birds on the rising water. Grey Plovers were perhaps the stars of the show, with many hundreds present including lots in summer plumage – the light was just fantastic! Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin and Golden Plover made up the bulk of the numbers otherwise, but we picked two lovely juvenile Curlew Sandpipers out too, feeding on the closest mud. Our vantage point at the start of the breach was ideal with the sun behind us and more and more birds dropping in close to us all the time. At one point everything flushed into the air leaving one wader behind on its own – a juvenile Little Stint! Overhead passage was minimal but included a trickle of Meadow Pipits and Swallows, half a dozen Yellow Wagtails and two Grey Wagtails. There were a few raptors moving too, with 2-3 Sparrowhawks seen, plus a Marsh Harrier.



After checking the bushes around The Warren, we popped into Canal Scrape where we saw a couple of Water Rails and a Willow Warbler, with a Garden Warbler flashing past us near the Discovery Centre. We lunched here, before driving back out of the village to Kilnsea Wetlands to catch the end of the high tide roost. A Spoonbill was resting among the large numbers of birds present, and a lovely 1<sup>st</sup> calendar year Caspian Gull (German ringed) was at the back among numerous other large gulls.



*Caspian Gull, Kilnsea Wetlands*

Mediterranean Gulls were also very much in evidence here with scores of them resting on the edge of the scrape, mainly adults but with lots of first-winters too. Other species noted from the hide here included a crop of juvenile *islandica* Black-tailed Godwits, eight Ruff, a juvenile Spotted Redshank, two Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, juvenile Little Ringed Plover, six Avocets and several Pintail. Back near the car park, two juvenile Little Stints showed well with a scattering of Dunlin, Ruff and Ringed Plover.

#### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** – *Hot and sunny with light W winds, 20C*

A tough day today with some bad luck with the Albatross and pretty quiet on the migrant front in hot and calm weather. We planned to shape our day around Bempton and the Black-browed Albatross which has been in residence on and off for the last couple of months. The only problem is, its behaviour is totally random and while some days it spends the entire day on the cliffs, other days it goes out to sea for many hours. It had been missing for most of the previous day so normally that is a decent indicator that it will be around, and we were fairly relaxed! *En*

*route* to Flamborough we called at Hornsea Mere, a super site especially early in the morning with the sun behind. We soon notched up some nice groups of Little Gulls (surely this is the premier site for this species in Britain?) including a gorgeous adult sat on a buoy just off Kirkholme Point. Among the hordes of ducks we picked out two Goldeneye, and then found the juvenile Red-necked Grebe which had been present the last few days. This was a really smart bird, with striking black and white face pattern, and we saw it really well.

*Juvenile Red-necked Grebe, Hornsea Mere*



On to Bempton, and we arrived to hear that the Albatross had been on the cliffs earlier, but had now flown out to sea – not the news we wanted to be greeted with. We headed down to Staple Neuk anyway to enjoy the spectacle of the breeding Gannets which were now in the last throes of the breeding season – in fact one youngster fledged onto the sea while we were there. The views, sights and sounds were as fantastic as ever, but there was sadly no more sign of the Albatross which had been seen to fly way out and not return. With no way of knowing how long it would be before it came back, we put a time limit on it and then headed back. A Peregrine showed well in front of the viewpoint and our first Wheatear of the week bounced in off the sea too.

Flamborough Head was our next stop, and it was very busy here in the now baking hot afternoon. We did a circular walk of the outer head, which was devoid of migrants but the clifftop route allowed us to scan the sea which was busy with flocks of Razorbills, and lots of Red-throated Divers migrating south. Another Wheatear (a lovely male) was perched on the cliffs below us and a Rock Pipit flew in too. Back to Bempton then to eat our lunch, and give ourselves the chance to dash back down to the cliffs 'on news' – sadly though it wasn't to be and the Albatross had not returned. From here we had just over three hours of driving to reach our next destination for two nights at Amble in Northumberland, where we arrived around 18:30.

Heading down to The Warren, we headed up to the seawatch hide for a short session as the light was now excellent for looking out to sea. We had a decent watch, with a trickle of auks and Red-throated Divers passing, a couple of sightings of Arctic Skuas chasing Sandwich Terns, two Common Scoter, and a flock of sixteen Little Gulls. The best bird was a pale/intermediate type juvenile Pomarine Skua, which appeared on the horizon line shortly after a group of thirty Kittiwakes had moved north. Its chunky appearance was obvious from the off, and in the initial view we thought it might be a Bonxie. Better views revealed a massive silver underwing flash, but paler area on the belly and then as it turned and dropped to the water, an obvious pale barred upper tail. It then continued to power on south – distant, but clear-cut views. Heading back to The Warren bushes, the sun was shining on them beautifully and we wondered if something might pop out in the last warm rays of the day. Sure enough, a Pied Flycatcher obliged and gave us some lovely views in the scattering of small oaks and sycamores along the embankment. A Common Whitethroat joined the flycatcher briefly too. A super day!

#### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** – *Overcast with light SE winds, 18C*

Holy Island is always a special place to visit but it served us up a great day full of excitement! We headed straight there after breakfast this morning so we could cross the causeway and be in position for the rising tide and check the wader flocks. First checking the beach, we saw lots of Razorbills, a juvenile Kittiwake and several Red-throated Divers offshore. Then on the estuary an excellent number and variety of birds included at least 500 Pale-bellied Brent Geese, arriving here for the winter from their Svalbard breeding outpost – we were pleased to see some nice sized groups of goslings among them already too. Waders were not to disappoint, with hundreds of Dunlin bustling in and feeding just in front of us, peppered with a few Sanderling and Ringed Plover but not much else save for three Knot. Bar-tailed Godwits and Grey Plovers were mostly clustered up the east end of the bay, closest to the village, and passerines included Stonechat, Reed Bunting, our first Skylark of the week and a single migrant Siskin going south.

Up to the village car park next and we opted to head out along the Crooked Lonnen first as we could see hundreds of Golden Plover feeding in a short grass field north of the track. Arriving at a gate where we could easily view the birds, we were delighted to find that the light was superb and the birds were close and seemingly not bothered by our presence. On the first scan through, we picked a striking bird out that was well marked, small and pale. It showed a prominent white supercilium extending down along the flanks, black peppering on the undertail, a long, heavy bill and long tibia. It didn't, however, look especially grey. Clearly something interesting, we focussed in on it to see if we could check the underwing. It duly lifted with all the Golden Plover, and showed grey underwings. This was confirmed again a few minutes later when we were able to follow it in flight for a short while in the telescope – dusky grey axillaries.

So a 'Lesser' Golden Plover – but which one? The bird began to feed actively and scurried closer towards us with each burst. It was strikingly small when seen next to Golden Plover, and had very long legs. The upperparts were coarsely marked with lots of yellow notching to the feathers, and also a lot of white especially in the small coverts. The tertials looked new and fresh, with yellow notches, and there was a fair bit of retained black on the underparts. It looked a best fit for Pacific Golden Plover, given its structure (especially bill and legs) and the upperpart colour and pattern. The primaries, however, looked rather long and caused some concern that it was perhaps an American. This didn't fit with the rest of the ID though, and subsequently these fears were allayed by the fact that the new tertials were presumably growing and in fact it only had two on each wing, with the other feathers having been dropped. The length of primaries beyond the tail was well within the ballpark for Pacific too so we settled on this as the correct ID. A tremendously smart bird, which continued to show superbly for us and eventually became the closest bird in the flock only a few metres away from us. Time was against us though as we needed to get back into the village for lunch before the café closed, and so we left the bird hoping to return and come again afterwards.



*Pacific Golden Plover  
– an exciting find for  
us today on Holy  
Island*

After an excellent lunch we went down to the Vicar's garden to check the shore, noting three nice Goosander, a few Eider, a Common Sandpiper and Red-throated Diver. We then returned to Crooked Lonnen, but found the Golden Plovers had all left their field and were now down on the rocks on the beach bathing and sleeping. Clearly, we weren't going to get any further views of the 'PGP'. We returned to the car park, and departed the island around 16:30 on the ebb tide, heading back to base. A quick stop at the Coquet rivermouth produced some ridiculous views of Razorbills feeding by the weir, a Common Sandpiper and a close female Eider.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** – Warm and overcast, light SE breeze 20C

An excellent final morning in Northumberland to wrap up what had been a pretty exciting trip overall! We planned to bird our way around the Druridge Bay reserves, only a short drive from our base, and started off at the bird-filled East Chevington lagoon. There were lots of ducks here, mainly Teal but with plenty of Gadwall, Shoveler and Pintail too. Waders were fairly limited with Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff and Common Snipe noted. The light was great though and with so many birds it was quite hard to tear ourselves away. But Druridge Pools beckoned next, and as we parked up we noticed a mass of Swallows going into a panic over the dunes. We jumped out of the van to scan for an expected raptor but couldn't see one – a suspicious looking blob on a bush caught the eye

though and a telescope was quickly scrambled, confirming the culprit as a young Red-backed Shrike! A very nice surprise and we enjoyed some great views of the bird catching bees along the dune ridge, being quite active and mobile and showing really nicely. At one point it flew right across to the roadside and perched in a hawthorn – our good run of finding rare and scarce birds continues! There wasn't too much on the pools themselves other than a few Shelduck and a Ruff, plus a Sparrowhawk perched up and our first Chiffchaff of the trip in the copse.



*Juvenile Red-backed Shrike  
– a nice surprise at Druridge  
Pools this morning!*

Cresswell Pond next, and as usual an excellent spread of birds on view from the hide. This included the young Spoonbill which was present on our last visit but today was sleeping, then feeding, right in front of the hide. A small group of Dunlin was present, plus a great 'shank' comparison at close quarters with all three species lined up together. There were four Spotted Redshanks present, including a group of moulting adults right in front of the hide feeding voraciously at the reed edge in phalarope-fashion. Three Greenshanks were also present, plus Common Sandpiper, Snipe and Knot. A quick look on the beach to round off gave us some superb views of Red-throated Divers, including an adult just beyond the surf line. Hundreds of Common Scoter, Razorbills and three drake Eiders were also seen.

Back to Norfolk then, with a five hour trip home seeing us back around 18:30. A total of 177 species were seen on this trip.

## The Systematic List

The Systematic List summarises records from the Society's defined recording area astride the River Wensum valley. Most records are *ad hoc* observations and the Report is therefore unsystematic and inevitably incomplete, reflecting observer interests, distribution and their inclination to submit records. Thank you to all the members who have contributed.

As in 2020, this year's records have been affected by the ongoing Covid-19 epidemic, particularly in the first winter period. Reserves had periods of closure and sightings we would normally expect from sites such as Pensthorpe and Sculthorpe Moor Hawk & Owl Trust were reduced and our traditional January bird count was cancelled. Fortunately, the situation improved as the year progressed and the overall list should be closer to normal than in 2020.

The print version of the Report used 16,479 records for 2021 entered into the Society's spreadsheet and collated by David Gibbons. Species texts were drafted by David Gibbons and David Laurie and the Systematic List was then reviewed by Sue Gale and Cath Robinson.

**Species order, English vernacular name and current scientific name** follow the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *The British List: a checklist of the birds of Britain* update published by the British Ornithologists' Union in Nov 2021 (BOU\_British\_List\_9th\_post52\_v7-IOC11.2.pdf).

Species that are proven or near proven escapes are in the Appendix.

**Each entry describes the species' considered local status using the following descriptors:-**

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

**Each species header also shows whether the species is on the Red, Amber or Green List** of *Birds of Conservation Concern 5 – The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. British Birds 114: 723–747 (2021).*

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

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

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

If the BoCC5 (2021) classification differs from BoCC4 (2015) this is shown.

e.g. **Red listed** (previously **Amber**).

Line drawings are by Gil Brooking.

Please note:

The PDF version contains additional sightings by Steve Connor that were submitted online but inadvertently omitted from the print version. The species affected (marked by an asterisk) are Shelduck, Gadwall, Teal, Stock Dove, Turtle Dove, Woodcock, Green Sandpiper, Marsh Harrier, Tawny Owl, Green Woodpecker, Rook, Carrion Crow, Great Tit, House Martin, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Wren, Treecreeper, Starling, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Spotted Flycatcher, Robin, Wheatear, Pied Wagtail, Greenfinch, Linnet, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer.

Details of the changes are on pages 142-148



## Notes for Contributors

All observers are requested to **submit records on a monthly basis** as this helps considerably with managing the workload and speeding up production of the Report.

If it is not possible to submit records until the end of the year this should be done **by the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023 for the 2022 Report**. Late records cause considerable problems in drafting the Systematic List and their inclusion cannot be guaranteed if received after this deadline.

Where possible, observers are also asked to submit records either;

**by email to [wvbs.recorder@gmail.com](mailto:wvbs.recorder@gmail.com) using the Society's Records Spreadsheet**

or

**through the [www.wvbs.co.uk](http://www.wvbs.co.uk) website using the Submit your Bird Sightings page.**

This will enable records to be imported straight into the main spreadsheet thus reducing the workload.

If this is not possible then records can be submitted as hard copy. Society Record Sheets are available at indoor meetings or can be downloaded from the Society's website which also has submission details.

## National and County Rarities

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

Species and forms considered rare at county level are dealt with by the County Records Committee (CRC). A full list of species or forms requiring descriptions and the details of requirements and procedures are on the CRC website at [norfolkbirds.weebly.com](http://norfolkbirds.weebly.com)

All records of rarities should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting. National rarities accepted by the BBRC and county rarities accepted by the CRC will be published in the Report together with the initials of the finder / identifier.

## Abbreviations used in the Systematic List

GP	Gravel Pit
HBW	Hoe Bird Walk
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NDR	Northern Distributor Road (A1270)
S/W	Sewage Works
SMHOT	Sculthorpe Moor Hawk & Owl Trust

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Scarce winter visitor. **Amber listed.**

Two records, both of a single bird at Great Ryburgh on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan and 6<sup>th</sup> Feb (NP).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Common naturalised resident.

75 records from 22 locations throughout the year with 26 double figure counts and 2 of over 100: 115 at Great Ryburgh on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan (NP) and 113 at Sparham Pools on 4<sup>th</sup> Aug (DL).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe and Great Witchingham Common.



*Canada Geese, by Gil Brooking*

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

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

Recorded from 9 locations.

Pensthorpe provided most sightings (33 of the 52), the highest counts and the only proof of breeding, the latter noted on several WVBS surveys.

Maximum monthly counts at Pensthorpe were 253 in Feb, 73 in Apr, 55 in May, 61 in June, 150+ in July, 145 in Aug, 4 in Sept, 6 in Oct, 3 in Nov and 2 in Dec.

Between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Oct a single was seen feeding with Pink-footed Geese at Swaffham (SCr). This was possibly a winter visitor and the return of a bird seen in the same area in 2020.

**Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

*Very rare migrant or escape.*

Two birds were regularly seen at Great Ryburgh between 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and 30<sup>th</sup> Mar (NP, AB, JB).

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

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

145 records from over 30 locations and in all months with several counts over 300. At Pensthorpe 500 on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 377 on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug, 404 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug, 334 on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept and c350 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept; at Reed Lane GP 350 on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct and 340 on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov (BH). There were a further 16 three figure counts from various locations.

Proof of breeding was noted at Colton, Great Witchingham Common, Haveringland Hall Park, Pensthorpe, Sculthorpe Moor and Sparham Pools.

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

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

68 records (an increase from 30 in 2020) with 18 in the first winter period up to 8<sup>th</sup> Apr and 50 in the second from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Feeding flocks at Mileham were estimated to number 3000 in Nov (PR, SP) while at Swaffham there were 1500 in Oct and 600 in Nov (SCr). Otherwise, most records refer to birds flying over the WVBS area.

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

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

Eight records, 7 of which were at Great Ryburgh in the first winter period up to 25<sup>th</sup> Apr. Sightings were of 1 or 2 birds apart from 20 on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb (NP). Apr records refer to a "long staying immature bird".

The single second winter period sighting was of 1 adult at Guist Common on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec (SCr).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

*Fairly common breeding resident. **Green listed** (previously **Amber**).*

127 records from 29 locations and in all months. Highest counts were 16 at Pensthorpe on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct (ID, BP) and 20 at Ringland on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb (DG). There were 6 other double figure counts of adults.

Proof of breeding was reported from Creaky Gate Lake, East Lexham, Gorgate, North Elmham, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools and Worthing.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

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

Only two sightings, both flyovers, one in each winter period. Ten over Sparham Pools on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan (CS) and 11 over Neatherd Moor on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec (BH). Bewick's Swan (**Red listed**) was not recorded at all.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

*Naturalised resident, locally common.*

Recorded from 26 locations and in all months with 38 of the 92 records coming from Pensthorpe where the highest monthly counts were 15 in Apr, 10 in May, 8 in June, 13 in July, 33 in Aug, 60 in Sept, 109 in Oct, 12 in Nov and 9 in Dec.

Highest counts elsewhere were 39 at Bittering on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct (SCr) and 40 at Great Ryburgh on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov (BP).

Proof of breeding at Great Witchingham Common, Old Beetley, Pensthorpe, Ringland and Scarning.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* \*

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

47 records at 16 locations from Apr to July and in Dec.

There were 11 double figure records of which Pensthorpe provided 7 including the highest count of 32 on 16<sup>th</sup> June (KB, CR). The highest count elsewhere was 18 at Great Ryburgh on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar (NP).

Proof of breeding was reported from Colkirk, Old Beetley, Pensthorpe and School Lane GP.

**Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

*Very scarce naturalised resident.*

Most sightings were at Pensthorpe (16 of 21 records) with a maximum count of 10 on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct (DL, SCr). Elsewhere, 2 in Apr and 1 in May at Great Ryburgh (NP) and 1 in June and 4 in Feb at Sparham Pools (CS).

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

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

Two records, both in May. A drake at Haveringland Hall Park on 24<sup>th</sup> (SC, DN, MM) and another at Sparham Pools on 22<sup>nd</sup> (CS).

### **Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

*Winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.*

Seen in each month from a total of 13 sites with Pensthorpe providing most records (36 of 64) and where peak monthly counts were 13 in Apr, 3 in May, 4 in June, 11 in July, 17 in Aug, 10 in Sept, 24 in Oct, 45 on two dates in Nov and 18 in Dec. Highest counts elsewhere were 20 at Bintree Mill on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb (BP) and at Sparham Pools on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar (CS).

No proof of breeding.

### **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* \*

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

Seen in each month with 103 records from a total of 23 locations. Peak monthly counts at Pensthorpe were 26 in Apr, 12 in May, 38 in June, 46 in July, 45 in Aug, 73 in Sept, 47 in Oct, 138 in Nov and 88 in Dec. Highest counts elsewhere were 80 in Feb and 70 in Dec at Sparham Pools (CS), 80 in Dec at Gorgate (SCr) with 16 further counts in double figures at other locations.

Proof of breeding at Gorgate and Pensthorpe.

### **Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

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

Recorded from 10 locations in the first winter period up to 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr with a maximum count of 220 at Great Ryburgh on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (NP). 140 were at Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (NP). Other counts of over 50 came from Bintree Mill on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb (BP) and North Tuddenham on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar (BP). The only summer birds were 1 and 3 at Pensthorpe on 16<sup>th</sup> June (KB, CR) and 7<sup>th</sup> Aug (LK, SCr) respectively, and 3 at Sparham Pools on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug (DL).

The first record in the second winter period was 6 at Pensthorpe on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept (PA, EL) with numbers there reaching 30 by 28<sup>th</sup> Sept (SC) and peaking at 72 on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct (CR, DL). The highest second winter count was 119 on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov at Creaky Gate Lake (BH). Counts of over 50 also came from Creaky Gate Lake on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct (BH), North Tuddenham on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec (BP) and West Raynham on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec (SCr). 53 records in all for the year.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Over 250 records throughout the year from a total of 39 sites. Highest monthly counts at Pensthorpe were 19 in Apr, 52 in May, 88 in June, 102 in July, 126 in Aug, c.150 in Sept, 111 in Oct, 44 in Nov and 140 in Dec. Highest counts elsewhere were from Sparham Pools with 100 on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb and 150 on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb (CS), at Haveringland Hall Park with c.50 on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug (SC) and at Rawhall Lane GP with 53 on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct (BH).

Proof of breeding was reported from Brisley, Gorgate, Honingham, North Elmham, Pensthorpe, Rawhall Lane GP and Sparham Pools.



*Mallard, by Gil Brooking*

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

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

17 records, all in single figures and most of 2 or 3 birds. There were 2 sightings at Sparham Pools, both of 3 birds in Feb (CS) and the remainder were from Pensthorpe with the majority of records in Nov and Dec and a peak count of 6 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec (PA, RG).



**Teal** *Anas crecca* \*

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

90 records from 20 sites and in all months except May.

Highest monthly counts at Pensthorpe were 32 in Apr, 3 in June, 8 in July, 21 in Aug, 60+ in Sept, 160 in Oct, 262 in Nov and c.350 in Dec.

The highest count of all was 400 at Rawhall Lane GP on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (SCr). Other counts of 150 or more were 250 in Jan and Feb and 150 in Jan at Sparham Pools (CS), 210 at Gorgate in Dec (SCr) and 180 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar at Ringland (AG).

Proof of breeding was reported from Pensthorpe (BP, ID).

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

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

Reported from 6 locations with the majority of sightings at Pensthorpe (17 of 24). Single records came from Costessey Pits, Gorgate and Sennowe Park while 2 records came from Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley GP.

Records were sporadic through the year but predominantly in winter and were generally of 1 or 2 birds. The highest counts were from Pensthorpe with 5 on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb (NP) and 6 on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct (PA, RG).

No evidence of breeding.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

*Scarce breeder, fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Green listed.*

84 records across all months and from a total of 16 sites. Highest counts were 100 at Costessey Pits on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb (AB), 112 at Pensthorpe on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr (KB, RG) and 150 at Sparham Pools in Jan and Feb (CS).

Other monthly maxima at Pensthorpe were 40 in Jan, 20 in Mar, 39 in May, 34 in June, 40 in July, 56 in Aug, 20 in Sept, 58 in Oct, 83 in Nov and 95 in Dec.

Proof of breeding was reported only from Pensthorpe.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

*Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Red listed (previously Amber).*

Records of 1 at Sennowe Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan (PJ), 3 at Reed Lane GP on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov (BH) and 3 at Bittering on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov (BP).

The remaining 15 records were from Pensthorpe where the highest monthly counts were 5 in Jan, 10 in Feb, 3 in Mar, 2 in Apr, 3 in May, 1 in July, Sept and Oct, 2 in Nov and 11 in Dec. Higher numbers in winter reflect the addition of wild birds to resident escapes from the wildfowl collection.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

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

Nine records from 6 locations. There were up to 3 at Great Ryburgh from the end of Jan to late Mar (NP) and singles at Costessey Pits on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb (AB), Lenwade on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb (SBe) and Sparham Pools during Feb (CS).

An unusual May record was a female at Old Beetley on 12<sup>th</sup> (DN).

The sole second winter period record was 1 at Pensthorpe on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov (KB, SC).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

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

57 records from 28 sites (10 more locations than in 2020) and in all months with 17 counts of 3 or more adults but only two in double figures: 13 on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at Bintree and 11 on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft, the latter including at least 3 juveniles (SCr).

In addition to Horningtoft, proof of breeding was reported from North Tuddenham and Castle Acre.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

*Very common naturalised resident. Thousands are released annually.*

Recorded in all months and from 32 locations. Highest count was 39 at Honingham on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct (DL).

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

*Scarce summer visitor. Amber listed.*

Five records. Heard calling at Gateley on 26<sup>th</sup> May (SCr).

The remaining reports were from Beetley on 5<sup>th</sup> (GB, IB) and 6<sup>th</sup> June (IB, PR) and might refer to a single bird.

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

*Common naturalised resident. Thousands are released annually.*

Recorded in all months and from 28 locations with 14 counts in double figures and highest counts of 25 at East Tuddenham on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec and 35 at Honingham on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov (DL).

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

*Scarce summer visitor. Amber listed.*

Three records from 2 sites. 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 16<sup>th</sup> June at Buxton Heath (KB, CR) and 7 on 17<sup>th</sup> July at Marsham Heath (MW).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed (previously Amber).*

144 records from throughout the valley. Highest counts: 40 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 90 on 27<sup>th</sup> May at Pensthorpe (KB, NE, BP, ID), 100+ on 20<sup>th</sup> July at Sparham (CS), 40 on 21<sup>st</sup> and c40 on 31<sup>st</sup> July at Reepham (DG), 36 on 28<sup>th</sup> July and 30 on 9<sup>th</sup> Aug at Potters Fen (PA), 42 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug at Neatherd Moor (BH), 100+ on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug at SMHOT (SC). The first sighting was on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr at Horsford (SC) and last recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at Drayton (NE). Proof of breeding at Gressenhall (SCr), Reepham (DG) and Worthing (DK).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

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

55 records, (70 in 2020) of 1 to 3 birds from 27 sites.

First sighting on 1<sup>st</sup> Apr at Old Costessey (AB). Last record on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sparham Pools (DL).

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

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Only 34 records as not recorded much by members. Potters Fen and Neatherd Moor had counts of between 8 and 20 in most months. Highest count of 130 in Mar in the Swaffham area (SCr).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas* \*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

261 records in all months throughout the valley. Highest counts: 53 on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb and 75 on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct at Great Ryburgh (NP, SCr), 29 on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr at Brandiston (SB), 27 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at North Elmham (SCr), 55 on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 20 on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, SC), 40 on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct at Bittering (SCr), 20+ on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct at Longham (SP) and 40 on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov at Stanfield (BP). Recorded on garden feeders in Jan at Lenwade (R&CG).

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident. **Amber listed** (previously **Green**).

Not surprisingly, 477 records. Highest counts: 239 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar at Honingham (DL), 83 on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan at HBW (DK), 62 on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept near Colton (DL), 120+ on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (EL, DL).

Neatherd Moor saw counts of 85 in Jan, 71 in Feb, 69 in Mar, 131 in Apr, 55 in June, 42 in Aug, 88 in Sept, 128 in Oct and 123 in Nov (BH).

Proof of breeding at Potters Fen (PA).

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* \*

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

Ten records of 1 to 5 birds from 8 sites.

Highest count was of 2 adults and 3 juveniles showing breeding at an undisclosed location (SCr).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

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

341 records from 28 sites. Highest counts: 39 on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at Bintree and 32 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Great Ryburgh (SCr), 50 on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at Great Ryburgh (BP).

Proof of breeding at Potters Fen (PA), Brisley and Horningtoft (SCr).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

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

19 records from 7 locations, 3 in Feb to Mar and 16 in the second winter period between Sept and Dec.

Generally 1 bird but 2 were reported at Guist/Guist Common on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov and 1<sup>st</sup> Dec (SCr), at Pensthorpe on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov (EL, NE) and 14<sup>th</sup> Dec (BP, ID) and at Sparham Pools between Oct and Dec (CS). 3 at Pensthorpe on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCr, DL).

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

*Rare summer visitor. Red listed.*

Three records, all in June. 4 "calling only" at Drayton on 13<sup>th</sup> (IB), 1 calling at Hellesdon Meadow on 13<sup>th</sup> (PR) and 1 at Marriott's Way on 16<sup>th</sup> (BHo).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

*Common resident supplemented by autumn immigrants. Amber listed (previously Green).*

264 records throughout the year and from 38 locations. There were 17 double figure counts with the highest coming from Pensthorpe with 25 on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct (DL, SCr), 6<sup>th</sup> Nov (EL, DL) and 20<sup>th</sup> Dec (PA, RG). Highest counts elsewhere were 16 at Gorgate on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr (Scr) and 15 at Sparham Pools on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct (DL).

Proof of breeding was reported from Brisley, East Tuddenham, Gressenhall, Guist Common, Honingham, Horningtoft, Neatherd Moor, North Elmham, Pensthorpe, Potter's Fen and Sparham Pools.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

*Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.*

Recorded from 15 locations and in all months.

Highest counts were from Pensthorpe where peak monthly numbers were 24 in Apr, 24 in May, 19 in June, 55 in July, 75 in Aug, 106 in Sept, 168 in Oct, 152 in Nov and 148 in Dec.

Highest counts elsewhere were at Sparham Pools with 33 on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov (DL) and 36 on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec (BH). Bintree Mill, Creaky Gate Lake, Haveringland Hall Park and Lenwade also had double figure counts. 87 records in all.

Proof of breeding at Gorgate, Great Witchingham Common, North Elmham, Pensthorpe, Rawhall GP and Sparham Pools.

**Crane** *Grus grus*

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

Eleven sightings. There were 2 birds at Great Ryburgh on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Feb (NP), 1 at Guist/Guist Common on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr (SCr), 1 at Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July (SC, DL, PA, RG, BH), on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug (ID, BP) and 8<sup>th</sup> Sept (SC, SCr).

There were 4 at Thorpe Marriott on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept and 16<sup>th</sup> Oct (BHo). 6 flew west over Costessey on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar (AG).

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

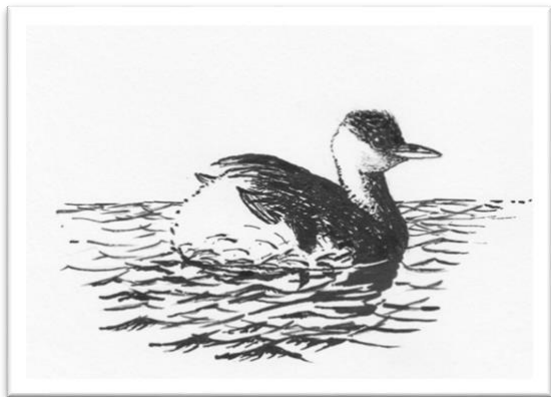
Recorded from 21 locations and in all months except Mar. Most records (47 of 70) were of 1 or 2 birds. Winter records predominated and gave the highest count of 14 at Gorgate on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCr).

(continues)

### **Little Grebe** (continued)

Other high counts were 5 at Pensthorpe on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept (SC) and 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov (KB, SC), 5 at Reed Lane GP on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug (BH) and 7 at Sparham Pools on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov (CS).

Proof of breeding came from Bittering GP, Reed Lane GP and Sparham Pools.



*Little Grebe,  
by Gil Brooking*

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Recorded throughout the year and from 13 sites.

Most records (57 of 71) were of 1 to 4 birds. Highest count was 8 at Swanton Morley GP on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (SCr).

Eight, including 4 juveniles, were seen on 9<sup>th</sup> June at Sparham Pools (BP) and 8, including a juvenile, were seen at Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Aug (LK, SCr, ID, BP).

Proof of breeding was also recorded at Great Witchingham.

**Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*

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

A single record of 2 "viewed from perimeter fence" at Sculthorpe Airfield on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr (SBe).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

*Scarce summer visitor. Amber listed.*

81 records from Jan to Aug from a total of 26 locations though several of these had only flyovers.

Most records were in single figures but 7, all at Pensthorpe, were in double figures. There were 10 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr and 27<sup>th</sup> May (BP, ID), 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> July (SC, DL), 12 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr and 23<sup>rd</sup> June (KB, RG, DL, EL), 13 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr (LK, CR) and 17 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr (PA, RG).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

*Rare summer visitor. Amber listed.*

17 reports from 6 locations between the 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr and 9<sup>th</sup> July, the earliest and latest sightings both at Pensthorpe.

Highest counts were in Apr at Pensthorpe with 12 on 2<sup>nd</sup> (KB, RG), 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> (BP, ID, LK, CR) and 15 on 25<sup>th</sup> (EL, NE).

Elsewhere only recorded in ones and twos.

Proof of breeding only at Pensthorpe where 1 small chick was seen at the Wader Scrape on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.



**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

101 records from 31 sites. In the first winter period highest counts were c70 on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan at Honingham (DL), 50+ on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan at Bintree Mill (SP), 150 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb and c80 on 23<sup>rd</sup> at Haveringland Hall Park (SC), 300 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb at Great Ryburgh (NP), 228 on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at Bittering GP (PJ), 65 on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb at Rushmeadows (PR) and 140 at Ringland on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar (AG).

During the summer months highest numbers were at Pensthorpe with 35 in June and 90 on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug (LK, SCr).

In the second winter period notable counts were 150 on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept and c150 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (SCr, SC, KB, SC), 128 on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec near Colton (DL), 300 on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horsford (NE) and 113 on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec at Longham (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe during Apr and May (EL, NE, AH, SCr) and 2 chicks recorded at this site in June (PA, RG).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

15 records, 4 in Jan to Apr and 11 in late Aug to Nov. Records came from 14 sites and the only location with 2 was Cawston with 120+ on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug and 200 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept (SCr). Highest counts elsewhere were of 50 flying over Dereham on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept (BP) and 50 at the HBW on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct (BH).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

*Scarce passage migrant. **Red listed.***

Only 2 sightings, both of single birds. One was at Sculthorpe Moor on 18<sup>th</sup> May (LB) and the other flew over Angel Road, Norwich on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug (SB).

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

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

18 records from 8 sites.  
The earliest sightings were 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar at Ringland (AG) followed by 2 on 25<sup>th</sup> of Mar at an NDR Storm Pond near Horsford (SB) where there was proof of breeding in June.

The latest sighting was 1 at Beetley on 18<sup>th</sup> July (PR). The highest count was at Old Beetley where there were 14, including 5 juveniles, on 9<sup>th</sup> July (SCr).



*Little Ringed Plover, by Gil Brooking*

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

*Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

Recorded for the first time in the WVBS area. A single juvenile bird was found with a flock of c200 Golden Plover at Cawston on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept by Mike McCarthy. Also seen by SCr and PR.

See the Oct 2021 WVBS Newsletter for a full account.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

*Rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

Four records only, 1 on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr at Costessey (AG), 2 on 14<sup>th</sup> May at Scarning (IB), 1 on 7<sup>th</sup> June at Brandiston (SB) and 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> June at Reepham (JH). In all 4 cases they were heard flying over between 21:00 and 03:00.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

*Rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

Seven records from 7 sites. Highest counts: 7 on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr at Castle Acre (SCr), 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> July at Foulsham (JCa), 2 on 21<sup>st</sup> Aug at Brandiston (SB) and 3 on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept at NDR Storm Drain, Thorpe Marriott/Horsford (BHo).

Other records of single birds at Pensthorpe, Thorpe Marriott and Worthing. As with the Whimbrel some of these records were of birds heard flying overhead in the early hours.

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

*Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

Eight records from 5 sites. 4 on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and 3 on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 5 on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and 20 on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at Costessey Mill (AG, AB), 9 on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at Great Ryburgh (NP), 6 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr and 1 on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (KB, RG, SCr, DL), and 1 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at Reed Lane GP (BH).

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Reports of single birds on 1<sup>st</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor in valley. Red listed.*

Three records, all of single birds on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (KB, RG, BP, ID, PA, DL).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

A single record of 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> July at Old Beetley (SCr).

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

*Scarce passage migrant. Red listed (previously Amber).*

Five records from 4 sites. 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 1 on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb at Great Ryburgh (NP), 1 on 14<sup>th</sup> July at Old Beetley (SCr) and 1 flying over Costessey on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept (AG).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* \*

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

21 records from 16 locations, all of 1 or 2 birds except for 5 at Saffham North in Mar and 4 at Gorgate on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec (SCr). Thirteen records were in the first winter period (Jan to mid-Mar) and 8 in the second from 15<sup>th</sup> Oct (CS).

There were no reports of roding birds.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

13 records from 8 sites. 3 on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan at Thorpe Marriott (NE), 3 on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at NDR Storm Drain (BHo), 4 on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan and 5 on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb at Horsford\* (SBe), 4 on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr at Guist/Guist Common (SCr), 3 on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar and 2 on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct at Sparham (CS).

3 more records were from the NDR Storm Drain, Castle Acre and Great Ryburgh.

\* No public access to this site.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

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

44 records from 21 sites. Highest counts: 75 on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb at Great Ryburgh (NP), 19 on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at Elsing Bridge (SBe), 35 on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at Bittering GP (PJ), 45 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 70 on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb and 80 on 1<sup>st</sup> Mar at Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 26 on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr at Guist/Guist Common (SCr). Other sites recorded numbers between 1 and 12.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

*Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Nine records from 7 sites. 1 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr, 2 on 10<sup>th</sup> May and 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug at Sparham Pools (CS), 2 on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug at Horsford (BHo) and 2 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug at NDR Storm Drain, Thorpe Marriott/Horsford (BHo, NE).

Other sites included Haveringland Hall Park, Pensthorpe, School Road GP and SMHOT.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* \*

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

47 records from 21 sites.

In the winter months usually single birds at Bintree, Great Ryburgh, Guist, Haveringland Hall Park, NDR at Horsford and Weasenham but 3 reported from Swaffham North on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar (SCr).

Higher counts during the summer months of 4 on 21<sup>st</sup> June at Old Beetley, 10 on 29<sup>th</sup> July at Castle Acre (SCr), 8 on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug, 5 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Sept at Castle Acre (SCr), 3 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug at Pensthorpe (KB, CR), 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 3 on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug at Haveringland Hall Park (SC).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

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

Five records from 2 sites.

5 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 5 on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS). Single birds on 15<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Old Beetley (DN, SCr).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Five records from 2 sites.

3 on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> July at Beetley/Old Beetley (IB, SCr, PR). 4 on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug at Sparham (CS).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Eight records from 2 sites. 1 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug at Castle Acre (SCr). 4 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 4 on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug at NDR Storm Drain, Horsford/Thorpe Marriott (BHo, NE). The remaining records were of single birds at the NDR Storm Drain, the last sighting on the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

*Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

A single bird on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr at Swanton Morley GP (IB, SBe, PR).



*Kittiwake, by Gil Brooking*

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

275 records from sites throughout the valley. Highest counts at Pensthorpe with between 330 and 640 in Apr, 100 to 140 in June, 80 to 120 in Aug, 200+ in Sept, 300 to 450 in Oct, 60+ in Nov and Dec.

Other notable records: c200 on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar at Worthing (DK), c400 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr near Colton (DL), 143 on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Rawhall Lane GP (BH) and 450 on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct at Weasenham (SCr). Neatherd Moor also recorded high numbers in most months.

Proof of breeding: Nesting and juveniles at Pensthorpe between Apr and July (EL, NE, AH, SCr, DL, BH) and possible breeding at Old Beetley (SCr).

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

*Scarce passage migrant. **Green listed.***

A single record of 1 at Sparham Pools on 20<sup>th</sup> Apr (CS).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

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

18 records from 8 sites. Highest counts: 4 on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar, 6 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr and 4 on 4<sup>th</sup> May at Great Ryburgh (NP), 3 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 7 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, PA, DL).

Other sites include Castle Acre, Foulsham, North Elmham, Sparham and Swanton Novers. The last record was on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct at Weasenham (SCr).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

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

149 sightings from 24 sites in all months throughout the valley. Highest counts: 100 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan at Sennowe Park (PJ), 100 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at North Tuddenham (BP), 250 on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct at Weasenham including one with a Norwegian colour ring (SCr), 100 on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct at Fakenham (SCr) and 115 on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec at Lenwade (RG).

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

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

Ten records from 5 sites. Highest count of 3 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept at Pensthorpe (BP, ID).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

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

139 records from 17 sites. Highest counts: 20 on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb and 30 on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar at Great Ryburgh (NP), c30 on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr at East Tuddenham and c30 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr near Colton (DL), 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> May at Mill Farm, North Tuddenham (BP), 130 on 14<sup>th</sup> May at Gateley, mostly immatures (SCr).

Pensthorpe returned counts of 22 in May, 20 in Aug, 24 in Sept, 25 in Nov and 36 in Dec with single figures in all other months.

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

*Scarce visitor. **Amber listed.***

A single long-staying bird at Wensum Park, Norwich, seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan and 29<sup>th</sup> Mar (SBe, BHo).

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

*Fairly common passage migrant, winter and summer visitor. **Amber listed** (*graellsii*).*

215 records from 24 sites. Recorded in all months throughout the valley. Highest counts: c30 on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr at East Tuddenham and c30 on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr at Honingham (DL), 110 on 16<sup>th</sup> July at West Lexham (SCr), 28 on 28<sup>th</sup> July and 26 on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug at Potters Fen (PA), 94 on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct near Colton (DL).

Proof of breeding: 12 nests in May and 13 juveniles in July at Potters Fen (PA), and juveniles in Aug at Neatherd Moor (BH).



**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

*Scarce passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Only 1 record of a single bird on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr at Lyng GP (CS).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

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

48 records from many sites throughout the valley. First records on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham/Sparham Pools (CS, SBe). Last record on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (DL, SCr). Highest counts were 31 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 10 on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> July at Pensthorpe (LK, CR, PA, RG, DL, EL, SCr), 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> June at Sparham Pools (DL, BH).

Proof of breeding: displaying during May at Pensthorpe and nesting on island at Sparham Pools in June.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

*Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Two records only, 23 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 10 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr at Lyng GP (CS).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

96 records across all months and from 22 locations though at least 5 of these were only noted as flyovers.

There were 5 double figure counts, four from Pensthorpe with 12 on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept (ID, BP), 15 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov (KB, SC), 10 on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCr, DL) and 10 on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec (BP, ID). The fifth was 19 flying west at Honingham on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug (DL).

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

*Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Only 1 record this year of 2 birds at Pensthorpe on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr (BP, ID).

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Very scarce winter visitor. **Amber listed.**

Two records of single birds. 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham (CS) and 30<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (SCr, DL).

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Rare but increasing visitor. **Amber listed.**

Nine records from 3 sites this year, only recorded in the valley previously in 2005 and 2018.

The first sighting in the valley this year was on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham (CS). No more records until Oct with 6 birds on 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Gateley (AB, JW, PA, PR). Highest counts of 7 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec and 5 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, SCr, PA, RG).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

151 records from 40 sites of 1 to 6 birds. Highest counts: Pensthorpe with 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug (KB, CR), 4 on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov (LK, NE), 5 on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov and 5 on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec (SCr, DL, BP, ID), 5 on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar at Old Costessey (SC), 3 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Aug at Castle Acre (SCr), 4 on 18<sup>th</sup> Aug at North Elmham (BH), 4 on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sparham Pools (DL), 6 flying west on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at Costessey (AG), 3 on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct at HBW (BH).

Other regular sites included Bintree Mill, Bittering, Lyng Easthaugh, Neatherd Moor, Potters Fen and Great Ryburgh.

Proof of breeding at Old Costessey with evidence of nest occupancy.

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

Scarce and increasing visitor. **Amber listed.**

Only 8 records in 2020, all of single birds. This year 59 records from 18 sites in all months except July. Highest counts: 5 birds on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (BP, ID), 3 on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr at Great Ryburgh (NP), 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and 30<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham (CS), 2 on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar at Lyng (SBe).

Other sites included Bintree Mill, Elsing Bridge, Guist Common and Sparham Pools.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

*Fairly common and widespread non-breeding resident. **Green listed.***

Over 150 records from 41 sites usually of 1 to 2 birds. Highest counts: 5 birds on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar at Sparham (CS), 4 on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar at Great Ryburgh (NP), 4 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, 4 on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov, 5 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, LK, NE, KB, SC), 7 on 11<sup>th</sup> June at Gorgate (SCr), 5 on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec at Billingford Lakes (SCr).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

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

**Amber listed.**

Three records this year from 2 sites. 1 on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar and 1 on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr at Great Ryburgh (NP). 1 on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept at Lenwade (SGi, RG).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

*Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. **Amber listed** (previously **Green**).*

174 records from 44 sites usually of single birds.

Highest counts: 2 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Feb at Haveringland Hall Park (SC), 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb at Marriott's Way Reepham/Cawston (DG), 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb and 1<sup>st</sup> Apr and 3 on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct at Potters Fen (PA), 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> Mar at Honingham (DL), 2 on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar at Thorpe Marriott (NE), 2 on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr at Bintree Wood and 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr at Gorgate (SCr), 2 on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> Aug at Scarning (IB), 3 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (EL, NE), 2 on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at HBW (BH) and 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov at Longham (SP).

Reports of lots of failed garden feeder attacks but accounts of birds caught included Collared Dove, Starling, House Sparrow, Redpoll and Blackbird.

No records of breeding but birds were seen displaying at Haveringland Hall Park in Feb (SC).



*Sparrowhawk,  
by Rosie Dickens*

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

*Uncommon resident, passage migrant and winter visitor to valley. **Green listed.***

13 sightings from 9 sites usually of single birds. 3 records from Swanton Novers Raptor Watchpoint of 1 on 30<sup>th</sup> Apr, 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept and 2 on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct (LCa, PA). The other sites were Alderford Common, Foulsham, Gateley, Haveringland Hall Park, Reephams and Sparham.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* \*

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

56 records from 17 sites. Main sites were Guist/Guist Common, Pensthorpe, Great Ryburgh and SMHOT. Highest counts of 5 on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr (SCr), 4 on 31<sup>st</sup> May (NE) and 10 on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov and 1<sup>st</sup> Dec at Guist/Guist Common (SCr). 2 to 3 in most months, from Apr to Dec, at Pensthorpe (WVBS Recording Team).

Nesting and juveniles seen at Guist/Guist Common (SCr) and juveniles recorded at Pensthorpe (KB, SC).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

*Uncommon winter visitor. Red listed.*

Two records of single birds. 1 on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan at Worthing (DK) and 1 on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov at Harpley Common (SCr).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

*Resident established from reintroductions elsewhere in England. Green listed.*

Over 210 records from 80+ sites. Highest counts always at Honingham with a maximum of 30 to 49 birds in Jan (NC, IB, PR), between 5 and 14 in most other months in this area. Other higher counts were 6 on 9<sup>th</sup> July at Pensthorpe (SC, DL) and 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Lyng (SBe).

Proof of breeding: carrying nesting material at SMHOT in Apr (SC, DN) and 2 juveniles seen over Lyng in July (SBe).



*Red Kite, by Jerry Bart*

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

*Common resident and scarce passage migrant. Green listed.*

418 records from over 75 sites usually of 1 to 2 birds.

Highest counts: 10 on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and 30 on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sennowe (NP), 10 on 5<sup>th</sup> May at North Tuddenham (BP), 10 on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Reepham (DG), 10 on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept and 7 on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Pensthorpe (PA, EL, DL), 7 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr at Scarning (IB), 7 on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar at Beetley Common (BP), 9 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar, 6 on 16<sup>th</sup> May and 6 on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov at HBW (BH), 6 on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan at Honingham and 7 on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb at Hockering (PR), 5 on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar at Bintree Wood (RD). 3 to 4 pairs recorded at Sparham (CS) and 2 pairs at Haveringland Hall Park (SC).

A very pale single bird possible “Rough-legged” in Jan at Worthing (DK).

Proof of breeding: daily displaying during May at Potters Fen (PA) and carrying of nesting material in Apr at Cathedral Meadows, North Elmham (BH).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

*Fairly common resident.*

*Green listed.*

31 records from 18 sites of 1 to 2 birds. Seen in most months Jan to May at Worthing village (DK).

Proof of breeding at Fakenham in June (SCr) and 3 pairs using nest boxes at Sparham (CS).



*Barn Owl, by Hilary Gostling*

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

*Fairly common naturalised resident.*

58 records from 25 sites of 1 to 2 birds. The Worthing area accounted for most records with proof of breeding also (DK). Proof of breeding elsewhere at Melton Constable with the sight of 2 fledglings on 7<sup>th</sup> July (JCa) and at Sparham (CS).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* \*

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

59 records from 25 sites of 1 to 6 birds. Regularly heard calling, seen on occasions, at Ollands Road, Reepham (DG).

Proof of breeding at Bintree Wood (RD), 3 juveniles at Riverside Walk, Mile Cross, Norwich on 24<sup>th</sup> Mar (SE) and 2 juveniles also at this site on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (PR).



*Tawny Owllets, by Cath Robinson*

*and Hilary Gostling*

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident. **Green listed** (previously **Amber**).

49 sightings from 20 sites usually of single birds. 2 birds seen regularly at Pensthorpe (LK, CR, EL, DL, SCr), 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan at Potters Fen (PA), 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb at New Mills, Norwich (SBe) and 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr at Hellesdon Low Road (NE).

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dryobates minor*

Very scarce resident. **Red listed**.

One record this year on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb at Old Costessey Woods, drumming and calling (AB).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

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



269 records from 54 sites of usually 1 to 3 birds. 5 birds were recorded on 4 occasions: 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at HBW (BH), 9<sup>th</sup> July at Gressenhall (SCr), 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug at SMHOT (SC) and 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at Pensthorpe (BP, ID).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe (BP, ID), East Tuddenham and Honingham (DL) and SMHOT (SC).

*Great Spotted Woodpecker,  
by Colin Smith*



**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* \*

*Fairly common resident.*

**Green listed.**

220 records from 33 sites of 1 to 6 birds. Highest counts: 4 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr, 6 on 11<sup>th</sup> June at Gorgate (SCr), 4 on 9<sup>th</sup> July at Gressenhall (SCr) and on 14<sup>th</sup> July at Honingham (DL), 6 on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH).

Proof of breeding at Beetley Common (SCr), Foulsham (JCa), Honingham (DL) and Worthing (DK).

*Green Woodpecker,  
by Steve Connor*



**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

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

249 records from throughout the valley usually of 1 to 2 birds.

3 birds recorded on 3 occasions, probably of family groups, on 29<sup>th</sup> June at Fakenham (SCr), 21<sup>st</sup> July at East Tuddenham and 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at Honingham (DL).

Proof of breeding at Castle Acre and Fakenham (SCr), East Tuddenham (DL), Scarning (IB) and SMHOT (SC).

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

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

Only 1 record on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar at School Road, Drayton (BHo).

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

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

46 sightings from 22 sites. Highest counts: 5 birds on 2 occasions, at Sparham on 11<sup>th</sup> May (CS) and at Lyng Easthaugh on 5<sup>th</sup> June (BHo).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe (SC, DL).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

*Very scarce passage migrant, winter visitor and rare breeder. Green listed.*

22 sightings from 15 sites usually of single birds. Highest count was of 2 birds on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb at Norwich Cathedral (PR).

**Ring-necked Parakeet (Rose-ringed Parakeet)** *Psittacula krameri*

*Rare naturalised resident or escape.*

Eight records this year of 1 to 4 birds.

Highest count of 4 birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan at Costessey (SBe). The other sites were all in the Hellesdon, Mile Cross and Horsford areas.

**Jay**

*Garrulus glandarius*

*Fairly common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.*

298 records throughout the valley mostly of 1 to 3 birds. Highest counts: c10 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb at Hellesdon Mill (LB), 12 on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 14 on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, DL, SCr).

Pairs noted at Buxton Heath and Potters Fen.

*Jay, by Gil Brooking*



**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

389 records from throughout the valley.

Highest counts: 18 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb at Neatherd Moor (BH), 20 on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar and 22 on 17<sup>th</sup> Mar at Haveringland Hall Park (SC) and 19 on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at Bintree (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Neatherd Moor (BH) and Potters Fen (PA).

**Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

338 records throughout the valley. Highest counts: c100 on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at Heydon (DG), 90 on 4<sup>th</sup> Aug at Sparham Pools (DL), 100+ on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept and 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (SC, KB) and 500+ at Sparham (CS).

Proof of breeding at Brisley, Gressenhall, Guist Common, North Elmham and Sparham Pools.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* \*

Common resident. **Amber listed** (previously **Green**).

237 records in total from throughout the valley.

Highest counts: 300 on 7<sup>th</sup> July at Swanton Morley (SCr), c200 most days during Sept at Worthing (DK), 200+ on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept and 120 on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at Pensthorpe (SC, BP, ID), 125 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Sparham Pools (DL), 1000+ during Nov – Dec at Sparham (CS).

Proof of breeding at Brisley with 19+ active nests, Gateley with 51 nests, North Elmham with 98 nests (SCr), and at Neatherd Moor (BH).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* \*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

406 records from sites throughout the valley of mainly 1 to 6 birds. Highest counts: 63 on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at Dereham SW (BH), 44 on 31<sup>st</sup> May at Potters Fen and 25 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Dereham S/W (PA).

Proof of breeding at East Tuddenham (DL), Gressenhall (SCr), Neatherd Moor (BH), Potters Fen (PA) and Worthing village (DK).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

*A vagrant to WVBS but increasing elsewhere in Norfolk where it has bred for the first time. **Green listed.***

One sighting this year of a single bird being pursued over the A1067 South of Fakenham by 2 Carrion Crows (SBe).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

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

86 records from 15 sites of 1 to 5 birds. Highest count: 5 on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb at Haveringland Hall Park (SC).

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

*Fairly common resident. **Red listed.***

66 records from 26 sites of 1 to 3 birds. Highest counts: 3 in Apr and Nov at Pensthorpe and in Aug at SMHOT.

Proof of breeding, with adult feeding, in June at Sparham Pools (DL).

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

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

457 records from sites throughout the valley. Highest counts: 28 on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at Pensthorpe (BP, ID), 25+ on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug at SMHOT (SC), 23 on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr at Dillington (SCr), 20 on 16<sup>th</sup> May at North Tuddenham (BP) and 20 on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at HBW (BH).

Proof of breeding at Bintree Mill, Honingham, Horningtoft, Pensthorpe, Potters Fen and SMHOT.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* \*

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

Over 400 records this year. Highest counts: 10 on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan and 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at Neatherd Moor (BH), 10 on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar at HBW (BH), 9+ on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug at SMHOT (SC), 9 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr and 18<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (PA, DL, RG).

Proof of breeding at Bintree Mill, Brisley, Honingham, Pensthorpe and SMHOT.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

Scarce summer visitor. **Green listed.**

14 records from 5 sites. Highest counts: 4 (2 pairs) on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar at Buxton Heath (SC). Other sites include Attlebridge to Upgate area, Deighton Hills/NDR roundabout (BHo), Cawston Heath and Marsham Heath.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

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

214 records from 42 sites usually of 1 to 10 birds. Highest counts: 100 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr), 50+ on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan at Horsford (SBe), 50 on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan and 40 on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov at Sparham (CS), 41 on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct at Great Ryburgh (SCr), c35 on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at East Tuddenham (DL), 32 on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec at Neatherd Moor (BH) and 30 on 28<sup>th</sup> Mar at Pettywell (DG).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

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

22 records from 13 sites of usually 1 to 8 birds. Highest counts: 50 on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr at Lyng GP (CS), 30 on 6<sup>th</sup> May at Lyng Easthaugh (BP), 20 on 30<sup>th</sup> June at School Road GP, Beetley (BH).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

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

118 records usually of 1 to 10 birds. Highest counts: 100+ on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept at Pensthorpe (SC, SCr), 100 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept at Reepham (DG), 56 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug at Guist Common (EL, AHa, RN, RG), 50 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept at North Tuddenham (BP) and c40 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct at East Tuddenham (DL).

First records, 1<sup>st</sup> Apr at Bittering (BH) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (KB, RG). Last record on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct at Neatherd Moor (BH).

Proof of breeding at Beetley Common and Old Beetley (BP, SCr), near Colton (DL), Horningtoft and Gressenhall (SCr), Pensthorpe (LK, SCr) and SMHOT (SC).

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* \*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed (previously Amber).*

163 records from 28 sites mostly of 1 to 10 birds. Highest counts: 32 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept at Neatherd Moor (BH), 30 on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept at Springfield Cottage (BP), 25 at Scarning on 30<sup>th</sup> June (SCr), 20 on 15<sup>th</sup> July at Heydon (DG). First record on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr at Great Ryburgh (NP). Last record on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct at Springfield Cottage (BP).

Proof of breeding at Bintree Mill (BP, SCr), near Colton (DL), Heydon (DG), and Potters Fen (PA).

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

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

134 records from 18 sites usually of 1 to 3 birds. Highest counts: 7 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr, 6 on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, 5 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr and 11<sup>th</sup> May at Pensthorpe (EL, NE, BP, ID, LK, CR, AH, SCr).

Other sites with regular records were Great Witchingham Common and Scarning.

**Long-tailed Tit**

*Aegithalos caudatus*

*Common resident.*

*Green listed.*

232 records from 39 sites.

(continues)

*Long-tailed Tit,  
by Paul Riley*



**Long-Tailed Tit** (continued)

Highest counts: c20 on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan at Lenwade (R&CG), 12 on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb at Reepham (DG), 14 on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb and 20 on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at HBW (BH), 15 on 12<sup>th</sup> June and 16 on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (LK, NE, SCr, DL), 16 on 18<sup>th</sup> July near Beetley Common and 14 on 18<sup>th</sup> Aug at North Elmham (BH), 16 on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept at East Tuddenham (DL), 15 on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at West Raynham and 15 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at Gateley (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Gorgate (SCr), Eades Mill (DG), HBW (BH), Neatherd Moor (BH) and Potters Fen (PA).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

40 records from 26 sites. Highest counts: 5 on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr at SMHOT (SC), 7 on 4<sup>th</sup> June at Great Ryburgh (SCr), 4 on 9<sup>th</sup> July at Pensthorpe (SC, DL). First record on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham (CS). Last record on 4<sup>th</sup> Aug at Sparham Pools (BH).

Proof of breeding at Great Ryburgh (SCr) and Pensthorpe (SC, DL).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita collybita* \*

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

306 records from 78 sites. Highest counts: 11 on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar at Worthing (A&JH), 17 on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar at Marsham Heath (SC), 14 on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar at Lenwade, Marriott's Way (DG), 9 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr and 6 on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at HBW (BH), 6 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr and 7 on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sparham Pools (DL), 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, 15 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 12 on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 11 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, LK, CR, KB, SC, SCr) and 14 on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Bintree Mill (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Haveringland Hall Park (SC).

**Siberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

*Regular winter visitor.*

Two records of a single bird from the same site along Marriott's Way, Norwich, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (PA, EM).

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. **Amber listed** (previously **Green**).*

36 records from 15 sites of 1 to 8 birds.

Highest counts: 4 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 8 on 27<sup>th</sup> May at Pensthorpe (AH, SCr, KB, NE, BP, ID).

Nocturnal singing recorded between the hours of 1:00am and 3:00am at Hoe, Great Ryburgh, Guist/Guist Common and West Raynham (SCr).

First record on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr at Great Ryburgh (NP). Last record on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH).

Proof of breeding at SMHOT, a juvenile in Aug (SC).

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

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

36 records from 10 sites of usually 2 to 4 birds.

Highest counts: 11 on 11<sup>th</sup> May and 7 on 9<sup>th</sup> July at Pensthorpe (AH, SCr, SC, DL), 8 on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Bintree Mill (SCr), 4 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 4 on 11<sup>th</sup> July at Sparham Pools (DL), 4 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug at Guist Common (EL, AHa, RN, RG).

First record on 24<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham (CS) and the last on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept at Pensthorpe (ID, BP).

Proof of breeding at Sparham Pools in July, with 2 young birds (DL). 3 juveniles ringed along with 1 adult at Guist Common in Aug (EL, AHa, RN, RG).

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

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

A single record of 1 bird on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr at SMHOT (SC, DN).



**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* \*

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

200 records. Records in Jan and Feb of 1 or 2 birds at Costessey, Lenwade, Reephram and Swanton Drive, Dereham.

There was a singing male at Costessey on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar (AG) but the main influx commenced on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar at Foulsham, Haveringland Hall Park, Honingham, Lexham Hall and Great Ryburgh.

Highest counts: 8 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr, 9 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 11 on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 8 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Pensthorpe (EL, NE, LK, CR, AH, SCr), 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> May at Sparham Pools (DL), 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall (SCr).

Last record on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Great Ryburgh (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe in July (KB, DL).

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

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

38 records from 24 sites of 1 to 3 birds. Highest counts: 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Pensthorpe (PA, RG), 3 on 16<sup>th</sup> May and 3 on 20<sup>th</sup> June at HBW (BH).

First record on 1<sup>st</sup> May at Haveringland Hall Park (SC), last record on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug at Honingham (DL).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

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

19 records from 14 sites of single birds, the exception being 2 birds on 27<sup>th</sup> May at Pensthorpe (BP, ID).

First records on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham (CS) and 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at Elsing (AJ). Last record on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at Neatherd Moor (BH).

Proof of breeding in May at Pensthorpe (BP, ID).

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

Common summer resident. **Amber listed** (previously **Green**).



*Whitethroat, by Bryony Pearson*

152 records from 41 sites of between 1 and 8 birds.

Highest counts: 7 on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Pensthorpe (AH, SCr), 7 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall, 8 on 4<sup>th</sup> June at Great Ryburgh and 7 on 7<sup>th</sup> June at Swanton Morley (SCr), 6 on 20<sup>th</sup> June at HBW (BH), 6 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July and 6 on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug at Neatherd Moor (BH).

First record on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr at Lyng (SBe). Last record on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at Neatherd Moor (BH).

Proof of breeding at Brisley, Gressenhall, Neatherd Moor, Sparham Pools and Honingham.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. **Green listed**.

Two records this year. 1 on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar at Haveringland Hall Park (SC) and 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> May at Whitwell Common (DN).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

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

84 records from 19 sites usually of 1 to 5 birds. Highest counts: 7 on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec and 4 on 16<sup>th</sup> July at Pensthorpe (EL, NE, LK), 5 on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan and 4 on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at HBW (BH), 4 on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr at Scarning, IB.

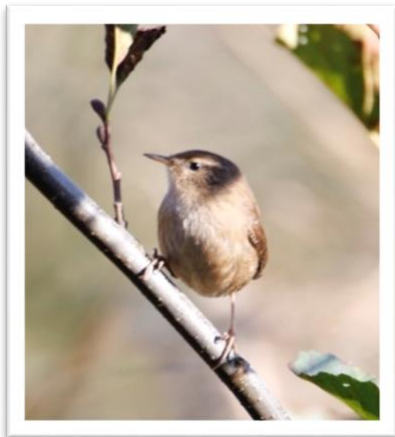
Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe with a juvenile in July.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* \*

Common resident. **Amber listed** (previously **Green**).

388 records from 40 sites.  
Highest counts: 7 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 9 on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb and 9 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr at Neatherd Moor (BH), 8 on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar and 6 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr at HBW (BH), 13 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10 on 16<sup>th</sup> June at Pensthorpe (LK, CR, AH, SCr, KB), 17 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at North Elmham, 24 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall, 14 on 4<sup>th</sup> June at Great Ryburgh and 13 on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Bintree Mill (SCr).

Proof of breeding: juveniles ringed at Guist Common in Aug (EL, AHa, RN, RG) and a fledgling at Gorgate (SCr).



*Wren, by Colin Smith*

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed**.

189 records from 25 sites usually of 1 to 2 birds.

Highest records: 11 on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Pensthorpe (AH, SCr), 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5 on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug at SMHOT (SC).

Proof of breeding at Honingham and Pensthorpe.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* \*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed**.

42 records from 18 sites of 1 to 5 birds.

Highest counts: 5 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (PA, DL, EL, NE), 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH), 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec in garden at Waterfall Farm (BM). Also 2 at Horningtoft, Potter's Fen, and Swaffham North (PA, SCr).

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Pastor roseus*  
*Rare vagrant.*



Three records of a single bird on 5<sup>th</sup> June at Lyng Easthaugh/Lyng (IB, NE, SBe, DN, Steve Loades and Drew Lyness).

*Rose-coloured Starling,*  
*by Paul Riley*

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

287 records from 37 sites.

Highest count of 3000 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct in the Swaffham area (SCr), 850 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan at Neatherd Moor (BH), 430 on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct at Great Ryburgh and 300 on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec at Longham (SCr), 500 on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (SCr, DL). 4332 were noted migrating through the River Tud valley at Costessey between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

Proof of breeding at Gressenhall (SCr), Honingham, under roof tiles (DL), Potters Fen (PA) and Worthing Village (DK).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* \*

*Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Amber listed (previously Red).*

177 records from 42 sites of 1 to 6 birds. Highest counts: 4 on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar at HBW and 4 on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr at Neatherd Moor (BH), 5 on 24<sup>th</sup> May at Hoe (SCr), 6 on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr at Scarning (IB), 4 on 7<sup>th</sup> May at Foxley Wood (DL).

Proof of breeding at Foulsham (JCa) and Honingham (DL).

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* \*

*Fairly common resident. Red listed.*

91 records from 40 sites, usually of 1 to 5 birds.

Highest counts: 5 on 9<sup>th</sup> June at Foulsham (JCa), 6 on 30<sup>th</sup> June at Mill Lane, Dereham and 4 on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov at Rawhall Lane GP (BH), 12 on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug at Sparham (CS), 28 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept at Gorgate (SCr), 5 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (KB, SC), 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft and 5 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at Gateley (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Foulsham (JCa).

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

*Common passage migrant and fairly common winter visitor. Amber listed (previously Red).*

133 records from throughout the valley. In the first winter period highest counts of: c50 on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at Guist (MSn), c50 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at Haverlingland Hall Park (SC), 34 on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar at Neatherd Moor and 25 on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar at HBW (BH).

Far higher numbers in the second winter period: c40 on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct at Worthing (DK), 150+ on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct at Longham (SP), 365 on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (BP, ID), c550 on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct and c150 on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov at Honingham (DL), 50 to 70 between 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Oct at Neatherd Moor (BH), 110 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov and 140 on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft and 100 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at West Raynham (SCr).

3476 were counted migrating through the River Tud valley at Costessey between 12<sup>th</sup> Oct and 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula* \*

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

471 records from throughout the valley.

Highest counts: 20 on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb at Hackford Vale, Reepham (AJ), 25 Gateley 14<sup>th</sup> May (SCr), 84 on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 76 on 29<sup>th</sup> June at Potters Fen (PA), 20 on 15<sup>th</sup> June and 21 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr), 30 on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct at Sparham (CS), 30 on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at Bintree (SCr), 27 on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at Pensthorpe (BP, ID).

56 were counted migrating through the River Tud valley at Costessey on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

Proof of breeding at Bintree Mill, Swanton Drive, Dereham, East Tuddenham, Haveringland Hall Park, Honingham, Potters Fen and Reepham.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* \*

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

118 records from throughout the valley.

Highest counts in the first winter period: 100 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan at Great Fransham (PJ), 150 on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at Sparham (CS), 100 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan at Hackford Vale, Reepham (AJ), 155 on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar at Neatherd Moor (BH), 150 on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr at Haveringland Hall Park (SC), 145 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr at Gorgate (SCr), 100 between 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Apr at North Tuddenham (BP), 250 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at Ringland (SBe).

In the second winter period highest counts were: c150 on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov at Honingham (DL), 120 on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov at Weasenham (SCr), 250 on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec at North Tuddenham (BP).

1010 migrated through the River Tud valley at Costessey on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

*Very rare passage migrant.*

**Red listed.**

Seven records of 1 to 7 birds from 6 sites.

5 on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr at Buxton Heath (SBe), 1 on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr at Brandiston (SB), 7 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr at Hindolveston and 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Brisley (PR), 4 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr at Nethergate (SC), 3 on 27<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr at SMHOT (SO'D, SC).

*Ring Ouzel,  
by Gil Brooking*



**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* \*

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

Seven records from 5 sites. 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> May at Sparham (CS), 2 on 29<sup>th</sup> May at Great Ryburgh (NP), 1 on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 3 on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> Aug at Honingham (DL), 3 on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH) and 1 on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at Gorgate (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Honingham (with 2 juveniles, DL), HBW (again with 2 young, BH) and and Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* \*

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

430 records from throughout the valley, usually of 1 to 7 birds. Highest counts: 13 on 14<sup>th</sup> May at Gateley, 20 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall (SCr), 14 on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept, 22 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (SC, DL, SCr, BP, ID).

Proof of breeding at Swanton Drive, Dereham, East Tuddenham, Foulsham, Gressenhall, Honingham, Horningtoft and Potters Fen.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

*Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. **Amber listed** (previously **Red**).*

Only 1 record on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr at Marsham (SC).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

One record on 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Cawston Heath (SBe).



**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

*Very scarce passage migrant. **Red listed**.*

Records from 2 sites. A single juvenile on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug, 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Sept at Castle Acre (SCr).

Again, a single juvenile on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug at NDR Storm Drain, Horsford (SBe, BHo, MSt).

*Whinchat,  
by Stewart Betts*



**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

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



24 records from 16 sites. Highest counts: 9 on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar at Cawston and Marsham Heaths (SC), 4 on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar at Buxton Heath (SC), 7 on 5<sup>th</sup> May at Buxton Heath (DG, SC), 5 on 17<sup>th</sup> July at Marsham Heath (MW), 4 on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept at Castle Acre (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Buxton, Cawston and Marsham Heaths and Castle Acre (MW, SC, SCr).

*Stonechat,*  
*by Paul Riley*

**Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)** *Oenanthe oenanthe* \*

Scarce passage migrant. **Amber listed** (previously **Green**).

14 records of 1 to 9 birds.

Highest counts: 2 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at Mattishall Burgh (PA), 5 on 5<sup>th</sup> May at Sparham (CS), 9 on 5<sup>th</sup> May at Cawston Heath (DG, SC), 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> May at Oxwick (SCr).

Single birds recorded at Castle Acre (SCr), Foulsham (JCa), Horsford (SBe), NDR Storm Drain, Horsford (BHo), Old Beetley (BP) and Shipdham Road (IB).

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

*Very scarce resident. Red listed.*

One record this year and only the 2<sup>nd</sup> sighting in the last 5 years. 2 birds on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at Gateley (A&JB).

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

*Common but declining resident. Red listed.*

253 records from throughout the valley in all months. Highest counts: 30+ on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan at Lyng (PL), c30 on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at Reepham (DG), 30+ on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan at Longham (SP), 28 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Neatherd Moor (BH), 23 on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at Honingham (DL), 35 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Great Ryburgh (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Honingham (DL), Neatherd Moor and Potters Fen (PA).

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

*Common sedentary resident. Amber listed.*

148 records from throughout the valley in all months. Highest counts: 6 on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, 8 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb and 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar at Neatherd Moor (BH), 4 on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at HBW (BH), 6 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (EL, NE), 8 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug at SMHOT (SC). Potters Fen recorded between 4 and 6 birds most months (PA).

Proof of breeding at Gressenhall (SCr), Honingham (DL), Pensthorpe (EL, LK) and Potters Fen (PA).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

*Rare passage migrant in valley. Red listed.*

12 records from 5 sites of 1 to 4 birds. 8 records from the NDR Storm Drain, Horsford/Thorpe Marriott, the first of a single bird on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr (BHo, SBe). Highest count here was 4 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug (NE, MSt).

Other sightings: 1 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at School Lane GP (BH), 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> May at Beetley (IB), 1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Earlham Marshes (PR), 2 on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept at Castle Acre (SCr).

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

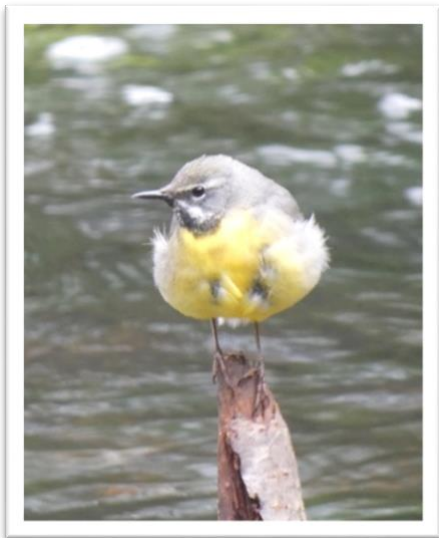
*Scarce resident. The valley is a stronghold in Norfolk for this species.*

**Amber listed** (previously **Red**).

77 records from 27 sites of 1 to 4 birds. Highest counts: 4 on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan at Waterfall Farm (BM), 3 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Mar and 3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept at Bylaugh S/W (BP), 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec on back lawn at Worthing (DK).

Proof of breeding: pairs recorded at Haveringland Hall Park (SC) and Lyng Bridge (DL).

*Grey Wagtail,  
by Bryony Pearson*



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

*British form "yarrellii" (Pied Wagtail) common resident and passage migrant. Nominate continental form (White Wagtail "alba") very scarce passage migrant. Both forms **Green listed**.*

175 records from throughout the valley. Highest counts: 25+ on 1<sup>st</sup> and 40 on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 40 on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at Costessey Mill (AB), 112 on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb at Great Ryburgh (NP), 25 on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar in the Saffham area (SCr), 29 on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov at Worthing (DK), c30 on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec at Honingham (DL). A White Wagtail (M. a. alba) was recorded at Saffham North on 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar and at Guist Common on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Bintree Mill, Colkirk, Horningtoft and Old Beetley (SCr), near Colton and at Sparham Pools (DL) and at Worthing (DK).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

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

**Amber listed.**

40 records from 23 sites. Highest counts: 25+ on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 50 on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb at Great Ryburgh (NP), 35 on 1<sup>st</sup> Mar in Swaffham area (SCr), c40 on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at East Tuddenham (DL).

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

*Scarce winter visitor. Amber listed.*

A single record of 1 bird on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar at NDR Storm Drain, Horsford/Thorpe Marriott (BHo).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

*Common but declining resident. Green listed.*

308 records from throughout the valley.

Highest counts: 30 on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan at Worthing level crossing (DK), 29 on 24<sup>th</sup> May at Potters Fen (PA), 32 on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct and 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Great Ryburgh and 60 on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct near Swaffham (SCr), 25 on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (SCr, DL), 40 on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov at Gorgate and 40 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pockthorpe (SCr), 23 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at Gateley (SP).



*Chaffinch,  
by Colin Smith*

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

**Green listed.**

44 records from 22 sites. Highest counts: 20 on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at Bittering GP (PJ), 50 on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr at SMHOT (SC), 30 on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov at Harpley Common, 25 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pockthorpe and 40 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr), 40 on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov at Marriott's Way, Drayton (BHo, SBe). 46 were counted migrating through the River Tud valley at Costessey between 13<sup>th</sup> Oct and 6<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

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

Nine records from 5 sites of 1 to 4 birds. Highest counts: 4 birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at Gateley (NP, A&JB), 2 on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar at Foulsham (JCa).

Single birds at Neatherd Moor in Feb (BH), Horsford in Nov (BHo, SBe, MMc, Rene Baptiste) and Lyng Easthaugh in Dec (SBe).



*Hawfinch, by Gil Brooking*

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

201 records from throughout the valley of 1 to 9 birds.

Highest counts: 6 on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan and 5 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at Neatherd Moor (BH), 6 on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan at Worthing level crossing (SP), 5 on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb and 5 on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at Honingham (DL), 8 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug at SMHOT (SC), 5 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr).

Proof of breeding at Foulsham (JCa), Horsford (NE), Neatherd Moor (BH) and SMHOT (SC). Pairs recorded at Sparham Pools (DL).

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* \*

Resident, greatly declined in recent years. **Red listed** (previously **Green**).

217 records from throughout the valley usually of 1 to 8 birds.

Highest counts: 33 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan at East Tuddenham (DL), c15 on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan at Reepham Primary School (DG), 15 on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at Longham (SP), 20+ on 18<sup>th</sup> and 30+ on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug at SMHOT (SC).

Proof of breeding at Horningtoft (SCr), SMHOT (SC), Springfield Cottage (BP) and Worthing Church area (DK).

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina* \*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

187 records from 49 sites.

Highest counts: 155 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, 68 on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar, 60 on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, 110 on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov and 124 on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov at Neatherd Moor (BH), 90 on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr at Brisley, 120 on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr at Dillington, 130 on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct at Castle Acre, 120 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft and 200 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Great Ryburgh (SCr).

Numbers of 40 to 100+ also from Bintree, Brisley, Castle Acre, Cawston Heath, Dereham (Neatherd Moor), Fakenham, Gorgate, Great Ryburgh, Horningtoft, Longham, North Elmham, Sparham, Swaffham North, Wendling, Worthing level crossing.

**Common Redpoll (*Mealy Redpoll*)** *Acanthis flammea*

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

Only 1 record of 3 birds on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb at Haveringland Hall Park (SC).

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

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

17 records from 12 sites usually of 1 to 6 birds.

Highest counts: c40 on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb at Buxton Heath (SBe), c20 on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb at Haveringland Hall Park (SC). The next highest was 10+ on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan at Sparham Pools (SBe). 3 records were from Thorpe Marriott, where birds were recorded in gardens, as was one in Foulsham.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

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

16 records from 8 sites.

9 records were from the Thorpe Marriott/Drayton pine belt area. Highest count at this site was 25 on 20<sup>th</sup> Mar (BHo).

Other records: 8 on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 23 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb at Haveringland (SBe), 10 on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at Sennowe (NP), 10 on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar at Buxton Heath (SC).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* \*

*Common resident. Green listed.*

345 records from 44 sites usually of 1 to 10 birds.

Highest counts: c40 on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan at Reepham (DG), 48 on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan and 34 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug at Neatherd Moor (BH), 29 on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan at Norwich (CR), 29 on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr at Gressenhall (SCr), 30 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept and 85 on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (SC, SCr, DL).

Proof of breeding at Swanton Drive Dereham, Honingham, Neatherd Moor, Reepham and Sparham Pools.

**Serin** *Serinus serinus*

*Very rare vagrant. Former breeder.*

A single record of 2 birds on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov at Horsford (BHo).



*Serins, by Stewart Betts*

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

*Common or fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. **Green listed.***

56 records from 27 sites usually of 1 to 25 birds.

Highest counts: 30+ at Sparham Pools and 60+ at Bintree Mill on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (SCr), c35 on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb at Marriott's Way, Lenwade and c100 on 6<sup>th</sup> Mar at Felthorpe/Horsford Woods (LB), 160 on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct at West Raynham and 70 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at Tatterford Common (SCr). Haveringland Hall Park recorded numbers of 20 to 30 in Feb and Mar (SC).



**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*

Rare visitor to valley. **Red listed.**

One record of 1 bird on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov at Lyng Easthaugh (SBe).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* \*

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

221 records from throughout the valley usually of 1 to 10 birds.

Highest counts: 70 on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar in the Swaffham area and 38 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr), 35 on 7<sup>th</sup> Mar at North Tuddenham (BP), 22 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at North Elmham (SCr), 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 9<sup>th</sup> May at Cawston Heath (SC, DG).

Only 1 proof of breeding, at Springfield Cottage in June (BP).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

69 records from 25 sites of 1 to 7 birds.

Highest counts: 13 on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at Bittering (PJ), 11 on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Pensthorpe (AH, SCr), 50+ on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct at Sparham (CS).

Proof of breeding at East Tuddenham (DL) and SMHOT (SC).

## Escapes

These species have been recorded in the area but are clearly not native and it is assumed that they have not reached Britain by their own effort.

### **Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

*Australia.*

Five records of two birds, all in Jan and probably referring to the same individuals. Three sightings were at Guist/Guist Common between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> (PR, SBe, PJ), then at Bintree Mill on 6<sup>th</sup> (MSn) and Great Ryburgh on 18<sup>th</sup> (NP).

### **Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

*Australia.*

One on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept at Costessey (AG).

### **Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

*Mexico and Central South America.*

A single record of 2 at Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> July (SC, DL).

**Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants 2021**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Earliest</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Latest</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Obs.</b>
Chiffchaff *	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Ringland	AG	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Neatherd Moor	BH
Blackcap *	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Great Ryburgh	NP	21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Neatherd Moor	BH
Sand Martin	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Sparham	CS	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Horsford	MMc
Cuckoo	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Old Costessey	AB	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sparham Pools	DL
Swallow	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Bittering & Salter's Lane	BH	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Neatherd Moor	BH
Sedge Warbler	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Great Ryburgh	NP	22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	Pensthorpe	LK, NE
Willow Warbler	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Scarning	IB	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Sparham Pools	BH
Common Tern	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools	SBe	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Pensthorpe	DL, SCr
Hobby	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Scarning	IB	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Pensthorpe	SC
House Martin	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham	CS	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	near Colton	DL
Whitethroat	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Lyng, Collen's Green	SBe	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Neatherd Moor	BH
Turtle Dove	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Undisclosed site	SC	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Daffy Green	IB
Reed Warbler	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham	CS	14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Pensthorpe	ID, BP
Swift	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Horsford	SC	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Drayton	NE
(continues)						

<b>Earliest &amp; Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants 2021</b> (continued)						
Lesser Whitethroat	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham	CS	13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Neatherd Moor	BH
Grasshopper Warbler †	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	SMHOT	SC, DN			
Garden Warbler	1 <sup>st</sup> May	Haveringland	SC	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Honingham	DL
Spotted Flycatcher ‡	16 <sup>th</sup> May	Sparham	CS	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Gorgate	SCr

\* Very difficult to give exact dates due to over-wintering/resident birds.

† Only one record

‡ Latest date amended

### **Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors 2021**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Latest</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Earliest</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Obs.</b>
Redwing	7 <sup>th</sup> May	Hackford Vale Reepham	AJ, BB	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Neatherd Moor	BH
Brambling	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	SMHOT	SC	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Costessey	AG
Fieldfare	10 <sup>th</sup> May	Foulsham	JCa	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Neatherd Moor	BH

## Systematic List Contributors

Paul Adams (PA)	Alan & Janet Hughes (A&JH)
Alan & Jenny Baker (A&JB) *	Bob Hunter (BH)
Sacha Barbato (SB)	Alwyn Jackson (AJ)
Jerry Bart (JB)	Carole Jackson (CJ)
Stewart Betts (SBe)	Alwyn & Carole Jackson (A&CJ)
Ian Black (IBI)	Paul Jeffery (PJ)
Kathy Blake (KB)	Heather Kirk (HK)
Brian Bosley (BB)	Laura King (LK)
Liz Bridge (LB)	David Knight (DK)
Ian Brittain (IB)	Peter Lambley (PL)
Andrew Brown (AB)	Chris Lamsdell (CL)
James Cater (JCa)	David Laurie (DL)
Steve Chapman (SC)	Emily Leonard (EL)
Barry Coe (BC)	Steve Loades (SL)
Steve Connor (SCr)	Edmund Mackrill (EM)
David Cooling (DC)	Bernie Marsham (BM)
Nathan Craske (NC)	Mike McCarthy (MMc)
Rosie Dickens (RD)	David Norgate (DN)
Alan Dixon (AD)	Richard Norris (RN)
Ian Doble (ID)	Seamus O'Dowd (SO'D)
Nick Edwards (NE)	Nick Parsons (NP)
Sarah Evans (SEv)	Lin Pateman (LP)
Colin & Jacquie Fenn (C&JF)*	Steph Plaster (SP)
Adrian Gardiner (AG)	Barry Pooley (BPo)
David Gibbons (DG)	Barry Pummell (BP)
Sue Gibney (SGi)	Paul Riley (PR)
Liz Gibson (LG)	Andy Roberts (AR)
Chris Gribble (CG)	Cath Robinson (CR)
Ray Gribble (RG)	Charles Sayer (CS)
Ray & Chris Gribble (R&CG)	Neil Senior (NS)
Allan Hale (AHa)	Tony & Marralyn Sneesby (MSn)*
Joe Harkness (JH)	Matt Stainthorpe (MSt)
Richard Hawker (RH)	Chris Stone (CSt)
Andrew Howard (AHo)	Ann Walker (AW)
Brian Howe (BHo)	Mary Walker (MW)
Alan Hughes (AH)	Jenny Williams (JW)
Janet Hughes (JH)	

Usually only joint records. \*

## Principal Sites and their Grid References

The grid references refer to the co-ordinates of the south-west corner of the 1km square where most of the site is located in, or where there is an access point (e.g. car park).

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

Site	Grid ref	Site	Grid ref
Alderford/Alderford Common	TG1218	Bylaugh	TG0318
Attlebridge	TG1216	Bylaugh Hall	TG0418
Attlebridge, Hall Farm	TG1315	Bylaugh Marshes	TG0318
Bawdeswell Heath	TG0319	Bylaugh Sewage Works	TG0318
Beetley, Roosting Hills GP	TF9818	Cawston, Eastgate	TG1423
Billingford	TG0120	Colkirk	TF9226
Billingford Common	TG0119	Costessey Marshes (tetrad)	TG1811
Billingford Pits	TG0119	Costessey Mill	TG1712
Bintree Mill	TF9924	Costessey Pits	TG1610
Bintree Wood	TG0021	Costessey, Gunton Lane,	TG1910
Bittering	TF9317	Costessey, Tud valley,	TG1910
Bittering GP	TF9217	Coxford Heath	TF8330
Brisley Common	TF9521	Coxford/Coxford Abbey	TF8429
Briston Common	TG0631	Daffy Green	TF9610
Broom Green	TF9823	Dereham SW	TF9713

Dereham, Badley Moor	TG0111	Great Ryburgh	TF9527
Drayton	TG1813	Great Witchingham Common	TG0917
Dunton	TF8830	Great Witchingham, Eade's Mill	TG0921
East Barsham	TF9133	Great Witchingham, Manor Farm	TG1021
East Dereham, Heathfield	TF9714	Great Witchingham, Mill Farm	TG0921
East Raynham	TF8825	Gressenhall	TF9616
East Rudham	TF8228	Gressenhall, Union Farm	TF9716
Easton College	TG1310	Guist/Guist Common	TF9925
Elsing	TG0516	Guist, Sennowe Park	TF9825
Elsing Hall	TG0315	Helhoughton	TF8726
Elsing Mill/Mill Street/Bridge	TG0517	Hellesdon Mill	TG1910
Elsing, Fustyweed	TG0518	Hempton Marsh NR	TF9130
Elsing, Hamser Wood	TG0416	Hindolveston	TG0329
Elsing, Three Bridges Farm	TG0518	Hockering	TG0713
Etling Green	TG0113	Hockering Wood	TG0714
Fakenham Common	TF9329	Hoe	TF9916
Felthorpe	TG1618	Hoe Bird Walk	TF9917
Foulsham	TG0324	Hoe Rough/Common	TF9817
Foxley Wood NR	TG0522	Honingham	TG1011
Frans Green	TG0913	Horningtoft	TF9323
Fulmodeston	TF9930	Kettlestone	TF9631
Gateley	TF9624	Lenwade	TG0918
Lenwade Bridge	TG1018	North Tuddenham Common	TG0314

Lenwade, Bridge Lake	TG1018	North Tuddenham, Elsing Lane	TG0214
Lenwade, Marriot's Way	TG1018	North Tuddenham, Mill Farm	TG0413
Litcham	TF8817	North Tuddenham, Springfield Farm/Cottage	TG0414
Little Ryburgh	TF9628	Old Costessey	TG1611
Little Snoring	TF9532	Pensthorpe	TF9428
Longham	TF9415	Pockthorpe	TG0718
Lyng	TG0617	Pudding Norton	TF9128
Lyng Easthaugh	TG0817	Reepham	TG1023
Lyng Easthaugh, Walnut Tree Farm	TG0917	Ringland	TG1314
Lyng, Cadder's Hill	TG0617	Ringland Common	TG1314
Lyng, Collen's Green	TG0816	Scarning	TF9512
Lyng, Kingfisher Lakes	TG0618	Sculthorpe Airfield	TF8631
Lyng, Primrose Green	TG0616	Sculthorpe Mill	TF8930
Mannington Hall	TG1432	Sculthorpe Moor NR	TF9030
Marsham Heath	TG1723	Shereford	TF8829
Mattishall Burgh	TG0511	South Raynham	TF8723
Mattishall, Clippings Green	TG0412	Sparham Hall Farm/Fishing Lakes	TG0718
Mileham	TF9119	Sparham Hole	TG0519
Morton-on-the Hill	TG1216	Sparham Pools NR	TG0717
New Costessey	TG1710	Swanton Morley	TG0116
North Elmham	TF9820	Swanton Morley GP	TG0119
Swanton Morley, Park Farm	TG0216	West Raynham	TF8725
Swanton Morley, Waterfall Farm	TG0118	Weston Green	TG1014



Swanton Novers Raptor Watchpoint	TG0030	Weston Longville	TG1115
Taverham	TG1614	Whissonsett	TF9123
Taverham Fishery	TG1513	Whitwell	TG0821
Taverham, Ghost Hill Wood	TG1713	Whitwell Common	TG0820
Themelthorpe	TG0524	Wood Norton	TG0127
Thorpe Marriot	TG1614	Worthing	TF9919
Toftrees	TF8927	Worthing Church	TF9919
Twyford	TG0124	Worthing, level crossing	TF9919
Wendling	TF9313	Worthing, Swanton Road	TG0019
Wensum Valley Golf Club, Taverham.	TG1414		

## Abbreviations

GP	Gravel Pit
NR	Nature Reserve
SW	Sewage works

## **A brief study of Swallows breeding in the WVBS area in 2021**

Emily Leonard and Ray Gribble

### **Introduction**

Ray Gribble monitored Swallows over several years at various sites within the WVBS area. Lockdown for the Covid-19 epidemic meant none were done in 2020, but in 2021 Emily Leonard joined him, giving him a greater impetus for a more comprehensive study.

### **Sites**

Two sites that were formerly visited at Themelthorpe had Swallows visiting during April 2021 however they didn't stay to breed. We therefore focused on two sites: one at Lyng Easthaugh and the other at Swanton Morley. In both these sites livestock was nearby as well as water meadows thus providing plenty of flying insects for food.

The nests were in stables at Lyng Easthaugh and in a range of outbuildings at Swanton Morley. In addition a single site at Weston Longville Equestrian Centre was monitored, again providing the desired habitat.



*A typical Swallow nest lined with horse hair and feathers, by Emily Leonard*

## Results

Over the course of the season, 42 nesting attempts were monitored. Although we monitored 42 nests, we are unable to determine the exact number of pairs which bred as they can sometimes use other vacant old nests or build a brand new nest for second and third breeding attempts.

Of the 42 nests monitored, 30 (71%) were successful but the other 12 (29%) failed.

	Eggs Laid	Eggs Hatched	Young Fledged
Total No.	182	124	116
Average per nest	4.33	2.95	2.76
Date First	1 <sup>st</sup> May	15 <sup>th</sup> May	4 <sup>th</sup> June
Date Last	14 <sup>th</sup> Aug*	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Maximum clutch size: 6		Minimum clutch size: 2	

\*This nest was deserted after the 4<sup>th</sup> egg had been laid and before any had hatched. This coincided with a snap of cold weather.

As can clearly be seen from the above data, the main area of failure is at egg stage (32%) but once hatched most young fledge. Only 6% failed between hatching and fledging. 58 eggs that were laid failed to hatch and 8 nestlings failed to fledge.

*Swallow nestlings,  
by Emily Leonard*



## **Catching Roosting Swallows**

In addition to the nest recording, when a roost of Swallows develops at Guist Common, which it does most autumns, an attempt is made to catch them. In 2021 a single ringing session took place on 10<sup>th</sup> August when 55 new Swallows were captured and ringed plus one bird that had previously been ringed (a control). Of the 56 birds captured only 5 (8.9%) were adults and the rest juveniles. This is partly explained by there being more juveniles at this time but also because they are more susceptible to being netted, especially when a Swallow song playback is used to lure the birds into the nets.

The control bird was an adult female that RG ringed as a nestling in Themelthorpe on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019. This bird had survived two return migrations to Africa and was soon to set out on its third. It is always exciting to gain such information especially when you have handled both ringing and recapture but far more importantly it adds to the BTO database where population trends are analysed.

Photographs by Emily Leonard

## **Acknowledgements**

Many people have encouraged and allowed us to monitor the Swallows that nest on their property. Our particular thanks go to John & Mandy Brigham, Bernie & Sally Marsham, Horatio Diggle, Richard & Annemette Hoegh and Penny Lockwood. Also Mark Noble, a trustee of Guist Common, and Tamsin Conyers.

## **Nestbox Project**

Ray Gribble and Emily Leonard

In 2013 WVBS started a nest box project aimed at helping Barn, Tawny and Little Owls and Kestrels by putting up boxes in Churchyards in the recording area. This had limited success due to its “scattergun” approach. By 2019 many of these original boxes were getting past their useful life and where there was any danger to the public the old boxes were removed.

A new project began late 2019/ early 2020 when members were asked to identify areas where the species were known to exist and permission could be obtained to erect and monitor boxes. The Covid-19 epidemic at this time raised both problems and opportunities. Member Stephanie Plaster and her husband Paul helped with the design and manufacture of plywood boxes, at cost, while they were unable to work during the epidemic. Members who had land where we could put the boxes generously covered the cost of these boxes – at a fraction of the cost of boxes purchased from the RSPB or Hawk and Owl Trust. Covid-19 induced lockdown made erecting the boxes more difficult.

While we design boxes specifically for each species the real world doesn't work like that. Birds will find what is available in nature and make use of it whether the hole size is exactly 100mm or whatever. This means we are always trying to supply a better option than they can find in the wild. Other species will also use them, especially Jackdaws and Stock Doves. We have had Great Tit in a box designed for Little Owls – a rather spacious residence. The different Owls and Kestrel will also utilise boxes designed for other species, e.g. Tawny Owls in Barn Owl boxes. Less welcome are Grey Squirrels and Tree Bumblebees.

We are also experimenting with turning plastic drainage pipe into boxes after learning of the success Jonathon Hall of NarVOS has had with these in West Norfolk. Barry Pummell and Bernie Marsham took on the task of

construction of two sizes based on 9" and 12" pipes. The former are aimed at Little Owls and the latter at Barn and Tawny Owls and have even been used by Kestrels. At the time of writing there are still examples of both sizes available to members who have sites for them.

As well as the boxes erected by WVBS, society members also monitor boxes erected by a few other people. The total number of boxes monitored is 53.

Barn Owl: 21

Little Owl: 15

Tawny Owl: 11

Kestrel: 6

The Covid-19 pandemic limited monitoring in 2021 but 3 Barn Owl nests fledged 5 young (3,2) but 3 young from the other disappeared under suspicious circumstances; 4 Little Owl nests fledged 5 young (2,2,1) but a nest failed with 5 eggs; one Kestrel successfully raised 2 young from 5 eggs laid, the other 3 being addled. No Tawny Owls were monitored. Nest Record Cards were submitted to the British Trust for Ornithology for all nesting attempts.



*Young Kestrels,  
by Emily Leonard*

*Young Barn Owl ready to be  
ringed, by Nick Edwards*



### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Paul and Steph Plaster, Bernie Marsham and Barry Pummell for building the boxes and to all the members who have supported the project by purchasing and siting boxes and allowing their monitoring.

## **Norfolk Ornithologists' Association – Hempton Marsh Report**

Emma Buck

### **Birds**

**January:** Chilly conditions in January meant the reserve and feeders were busy with good numbers of finches and tits. There was a bumper crop of alder cones meaning most of the finches were high in the canopy and not many were caught. The finch flock was mainly made up of Goldfinch and Siskin with 8 Redpoll sp observed on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Siskin reached a high of 35 on the 24<sup>th</sup> and Goldfinch peaked at 45 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Brambling numbers were fairly low with odd birds being seen with Chaffinch flocks near the end of the month. On the grazing marsh on the 12<sup>th</sup> one Woodcock and two Snipe were present. A flock of 16 Redwing was observed on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. By the 22<sup>nd</sup> the grazing marsh was extremely flooded and attracting a wide variety of species including one Cormorant, one Grey Heron, one Lesser Black-backed Gull, 60 Black-headed Gull, 3 Herring Gull, two Common Gull, 10 Mallard, 6 Shoveler, and 14 Gadwall. Two Water Rail were very vocal on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup> a Great White Egret was spotted flying over the reserve. A Sparrowhawk was observed on 5 visits this month.

**February:** Finch numbers continued to build into February with more Redpoll sightings, one was spotted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and at least 4 on the 5<sup>th</sup> including one very red male in with a flock of 30+ Siskins. The Siskin flock was present on most visits, generally staying in the alders but occasionally coming to the feeders. Brambling numbers also rose being observed on most visits in small flocks feeding on the ground with Chaffinch. A high of 15 Brambling and 25 Chaffinch was seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The first Chiffchaff of the year was observed on the 9<sup>th</sup> at the entrance to the reserve however no birds were heard singing this month. Heavy snow near the beginning of the month made birds on the marsh more visible with 12+ Meadow Pipits seen around the scrape on the 10<sup>th</sup> and a Grey Wagtail at the entrance of the reserve. It also increased the flooding on the grazing marsh as the snow melted with one Grey Heron, one Lesser



Black-backed Gull, two Common Gull, 40 Black-headed Gull, one Egyptian Goose, 3 Pied Wagtail, 4 Snipe, 8 Mallard, 4 Gadwall and 25 Teal all observed on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Meadow Pipit numbers on the marsh increased to at least 20 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. On the 15<sup>th</sup> a Woodcock was flushed near the Woodland Hide and again on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 17<sup>th</sup> a Red Kite and female Marsh Harrier were observed flying over the reserve. The first Kingfisher of the year was noted zipping down the river on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. A male and female Sparrowhawk were circling over the reserve on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the flood waters finally receded which meant a decrease in waterfowl on the grazing marsh. On the 25<sup>th</sup> a Reed Bunting was heard singing near the edge of the marsh and a Stock Dove was singing in the alders on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**March:** Brambling numbers peaked this month with 50+ being seen on two occasions, the 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. They were regularly using the feeders as well as feeding under them. There were also good numbers of Chaffinch and the ever present Siskin flock now using the feeders after gorging on the natural food. The last Redpoll were seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> with 2 birds at the feeders. The first singing Chiffchaff of the year was heard on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, which was 10 days earlier than 2020, and a high of 5 were seen on the 30<sup>th</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup> a Wren was spotted nest building in front of the Woodland Hide and on the grazing marsh one Grey Heron, two Little Egrets and 3 Snipe were counted. Of note this month was a flyover Curlew on the 9<sup>th</sup> and a Long-tailed Tit was observed collecting a feather which they use to line their nests. Sparrowhawks and Buzzards were regularly seen this month with a high of 4 Buzzards overhead on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup> a pair of Green Woodpeckers were investigating the dead tree they nested in last year, however they sadly did not use it this year. Thrush numbers were low this month, but a highlight was a flock of 7 Fieldfare flying over on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Only one Goldcrest was seen this month on the 5<sup>th</sup> and one Cetti's Warbler heard on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**April:** Although cold, April started with the first singing Blackcaps of the year on the 1<sup>st</sup> plus at least 4 Chiffchaffs. Finch numbers dropped this

month as the winter visitors left for their breeding grounds, Siskin were only recorded on two visits, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Bramblings lingered and the last was observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. But, of course, new species arrived with the first Cuckoo and Willow Warbler on the 9<sup>th</sup> bringing some much needed song to the reserve, this was 15 days and one day earlier than 2020, respectively. Another Cuckoo was heard on the 16<sup>th</sup>. On the grazing marsh on the 22<sup>nd</sup> 4 Mallard, 3 Greylag Geese, 3 Grey Heron, 3 Snipe, one Little Egret and a singing Reed Bunting were seen. Although lots of corvids fly over the reserve a surprise Rook came down to the feeders on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A pair of Stock Doves were seen and heard on a few occasions, lastly on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and then sadly not heard again. On the 25<sup>th</sup> a Great White Egret was seen flying over the reserve. The first Barn Owl of the year was observed hunting over the grazing marsh on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 3 Swallows flew over the reserve.

**May:** Just as spring was starting to get into full swing, we were hit with a very wet and cold May. However, migrants did continue to trickle in with the first Sedge Warbler seen on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> was also a good day for raptors with one Red Kite, one Marsh Harrier and two Buzzards being seen soaring over the reserve as a family of Mute Swans drifted by on the river, 2 adults and 6 cygnets. The most notable bird for May and probably the year was a second year Black-crowned Night-heron found along the river on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It was very shy and elusive being seen a handful of times over the next three days and then vanishing. It seemed to like feeding along the river near the Woodland Hide and roosting in the alders. The 27<sup>th</sup> was a busy visit with the first two Reed Warblers and one Whitethroat seen. Notable for Hempton was two House Sparrows in the willows near the entrance of the reserve. The first Grasshopper Warbler arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup> singing along the river much later than last year with the first on 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Great White Egret was seen once again this month on the 31<sup>st</sup> on the grazing marsh. Disappointingly no Water Rail or Kingfishers were seen or heard this month, reflecting the quietness of the month.

**June:** The weather finally warmed as we went into June and the month started well with both male and female Cuckoo heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup> indicating they may have bred close by. Also on the 3<sup>rd</sup> a Green Woodpecker was heard and two Swifts were spotted over the reserve. On the 11<sup>th</sup> both Lesser and Common Whitethroat were seen, one of each. A good variety of singing warblers were recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> including one Grasshopper, one Sedge, one Reed, one Cetti's, two Chiffchaff, two Common Whitethroat and two Blackcap. Also on the 15<sup>th</sup> two Stock Dove were observed feeding under the feeders and the first juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen. A Kingfisher was observed flying over the reserve on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 23<sup>rd</sup> was an explosion of juvenile birds with 5 young Wrens in the undergrowth, a Song Thrush feeding babies along the board walk and a male Reed Bunting feeding two juveniles on the grazing marsh plus plenty of juvenile Blue and Great Tits now coming to the feeders. Only one Sparrowhawk was recorded this month on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup> a notable sighting of two Collared Doves flying past the entrance of the reserve and then on the 28<sup>th</sup> one was seen also flying by the entrance. The last Cuckoo of the year was heard on the 25<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup> two House Martin were observed over the reserve.

**July:** The 3 Buzzard chicks in the nest on the edge of the grazing marsh looked ready to fledge, jumping and wing stretching on the 8<sup>th</sup> and had gone by the next visit on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup> a family of Reed Warblers were noisily feeding in the willows along the river with at least 3 juveniles and the pair of Stock Doves were seen again at the feeders. A band of Jays of between one and 4 individuals were seen and heard on most visits. Kingfishers were seen and heard 3 times this month, the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. On the 21<sup>st</sup> 7 Bullfinch were observed, including juveniles, and the highest numbers were caught this month. Reed and Sedge Warblers were seen throughout, the last Sedge of the year was seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> however Reed carried on being seen into August. A highlight on the 28<sup>th</sup> was a flyover Oystercatcher.

**August:** August started with a great sighting of 3 Green Sandpipers flying over and calling on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Kingfisher was heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Finch numbers began to increase again especially Greenfinch with many juveniles coming to the feeders. Once they stop singing Cetti's Warblers can be difficult to find and only one was recorded this month on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 4<sup>th</sup> 8 Buzzards, 14 Swifts, and 4 Swallows were seen over the reserve. Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were still regularly observed throughout the month however the last Reed Warbler was reported on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 12<sup>th</sup> a juvenile Marsh Harrier and adult male glided over the reserve and carried on to the Hawk and Owl reserve. Another Green Sandpiper flew over on the 18<sup>th</sup>. No new Marsh Tits were ringed this year suggesting a bad breeding season; either hit hard by the poor weather this spring or outcompeted by other Tits for nesting holes. Sadly, this species seems to be following in the footsteps of its cousin the Willow Tit which was last seen on the reserve around 2011.

**September:** September remained fairly quiet but on the 1<sup>st</sup> a good variety of birds were observed with 20 House Martin soaring over, one Kingfisher heard, 3 Chiffchaff and one Blackcap. This was in fact the last Blackcap reported for the year but Chiffchaffs continued to be seen in good numbers on most visits this month. On the 7<sup>th</sup> 3 Goldcrest were of note. Juvenile Goldfinch increased on the feeders and a juvenile Siskin was caught on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. A Magpie was moving around the grazing marsh on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Only two Marsh Tits and one Coal Tit were recorded this month, both on the 29<sup>th</sup> and no Cetti's Warbler was seen or heard.

**October:** October saw the last Chiffchaffs reported on the 4<sup>th</sup> with 3 birds. On the 12<sup>th</sup> a Kingfisher was perched on the branch over the river meander and flocks of Redwing passed over the reserve all morning adding up to over 400 birds. On the grazing marsh there was one Snipe, two Pied Wagtail, two Grey Heron, and 4 Meadow Pipit. A Tawny Owl was calling near the Woodland Hide early on the 15<sup>th</sup> along with a flyover Woodcock and Collared Dove. On the 16<sup>th</sup> 5 Grey Heron were feeding on the grazing marsh and a male Siskin was seen in the alders. A pair of

Barn Owls were hunting over the grazing marsh on the 18<sup>th</sup> plus two Grey Herons, 5 Meadow Pipit, and 3 Pied Wagtails feeding with two Water Rails and two Cetti's Warblers heard along the river.

**November:** November started chilly but calm with two Pied Wagtails recorded flying over the reserve on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Water Rail calling. On the 4<sup>th</sup> small flocks of Redwing passed over totalling around 80 birds and on the 9<sup>th</sup> a flock of 25 was observed on the reserve. Also on the 9<sup>th</sup> 4 Redpoll sp and 12 Siskin flew over and 6 Meadow Pipits were recorded on the grazing marsh. On the 12<sup>th</sup> one Jack Snipe, two Woodcock and 4 Common Snipe were observed feeding on the grazing marsh in the evening using a thermal camera. On the 16<sup>th</sup> there was a lot of bird activity with 32 species recorded including 30+ Redwing, 40 Fieldfare, 80 Starling, 3 Meadow Pipit and one Brambling all passing over. Also a Water Rail and Sparrowhawk were on the main reserve while two Grey Herons, two Mallard and two Magpie were on the grazing marsh. On the 19<sup>th</sup> a pair of Grey Wagtail were caught on the trail camera out on the grazing marsh. A Kingfisher was heard flying down the river on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5 Goldcrests were observed on the reserve and a Siskin flew over. On the 24<sup>th</sup> the highlight was a Mistle Thrush calling on the reserve and a Water Rail and a Cetti's Warbler were also heard. At the end of November the finches finally starting arriving with a flock of over 50 Goldfinches feeding in the alders and coming to the feeders on the 29<sup>th</sup>. On the grazing marsh one Woodcock, one Little Egret and 3 Grey Herons were along the main drain.

**December:** December was unusually mild. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December a small flock of 16 Pink-footed Geese flew over the reserve early morning but it was otherwise quiet apart from a group of 40 Goldfinch. A Sparrowhawk upset the feeder birds on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a Grey Heron and Snipe were observed on the grazing marsh. On the 21<sup>st</sup> a pair of Mute Swans were cruising on the river while 6 flew overhead. Siskin numbers grew and a flock of 17 were spotted feeding with Goldfinch in the alders and a group of 11 Chaffinch were feeding on the ground. A Goldcrest

was flitting around in front of the Woodland Hide also on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Late on 25<sup>th</sup> and early on 26<sup>th</sup> a Jack Snipe was caught on our trail camera on the grazing marsh, presumably the same bird.

## Mammals

Mammal records for 2021 were greatly improved by the use of a trail camera on the grazing marsh. Thanks to One Stop Nature shop for lending us the OS Wild 4K Solar Trail Camera. In 2020 there was only one Otter (*Lutra lutra*) sighting, a mother and cub in **November**, but we can see from the camera that they are very frequent visitors to the grazing marsh. Although it is hard to tell exactly how many Otters are using the reserve this year there was at least one lone male and a mother with two cubs but there were also videos with a pair of Otters. The camera also showed that a Fox/Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) uses the grazing marsh regularly although there have been no actual sightings of Foxes on the reserve.

Reeve's Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) numbers continue to be high especially on the grazing marsh with individuals seen most visits. Fawns were seen early in the year but sadly two were found dead after the heavy snow in **February**. Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) were less frequently seen with the first record on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of **June** of one female. The next encounter was not until **October** 13<sup>th</sup> with two seen on the grazing marsh. On **November** 16<sup>th</sup> a herd of 4 were feeding on the grazing marsh and one on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Again no Chinese Water Deer (*Hydropotes inermis*) were seen.

One Stoat (*Mustela erminea*) was recorded this year on the 24<sup>th</sup> of **March** running along the boardwalk near the Woodland Hide. Bank Voles (*Myodes glareolus*) and Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) were regularly seen around the feeding station. One of the highlights this year was a Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens*) on the 8<sup>th</sup> of **June**. It was foraging in the mud on the edge of the river for several minutes. A Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*) was seen scurrying around in the Woodland Hide on 3

occasions this year. The only Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) observed this year was caught by the camera trap on June 16<sup>th</sup> and droppings were found by the river also in June.

## Insects

Although a generally cold year with a very wet May butterfly numbers seemed to do very well in the latter half of the year. The first butterfly of the year was observed 6 days later than 2020 with one Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) and two Peacocks (*Aglais io*) on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. A butterfly was not seen again until a Peacock on 16<sup>th</sup> of April. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> a variety of species were seen including 4 Orange Tips (*Anthocharis cardamines*) which was 12 days later than the previous year. The first Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) was also seen which was much later than 2020. The first Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) was also observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Unfortunately, May was an extremely poor month for butterflies and odonata at Hempton with only one Peacock, 4 Green-veined Whites (*Pieris napi*) and 5 Orange Tips seen. Large Red Damselflies increased with 20 noted on the 27<sup>th</sup>, also the first Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) was seen on this date.

Thankfully numbers really picked up in June with the first Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a huge 18 days later than 2020: on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 15 were recorded. The first Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*) emerged a month later than 2020 with the first observed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> but numbers quickly grew with numbers of over 70 being recorded. The first Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*) was observed on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Peacock numbers remained low with only two observed this month. The first dragonfly was seen this month, 4 Black-tailed Skimmers (*Orthetrum cancellatum*) on the 8<sup>th</sup> which was earlier than the previous year. Blue-tailed Damselflies (*Ischnura elegans*) also emerged with the first seen on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A very interesting looking creature called the Scarce Fungus Weevil (*Platyrhinus resinosus*) was found dead near the Woodland Hide

on June 11<sup>th</sup>, their larvae develop in a fungus called King Alfred's Cake or Cramp Balls.

**July** saw an explosion of Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) and Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) butterflies with 20+ recorded for both on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Both species were recorded in June in 2020. The grazing marsh was also awash with Large Whites (*Pieris brassicae*) near the end of **July** with 50+ recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup> along with huge numbers of Skipper sp. The first Comma (*Polygonia c-album*) was seen on the 21<sup>st</sup>, much later than 2020 with the first recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June that year. Banded Demoiselle numbers stayed high this month, the first Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*) was recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the first Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

A Large Red Underwing moth (*Catocala nupta*) was an impressive find on the outside of the Marsh Hide on August 8<sup>th</sup>. **August** saw the emergence of the first Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Red Admiral, Peacock and Green-veined White were the most abundant species this month and only one Speckled Wood was seen on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There was an absence of Brown Hawkers (*Aeshna grandis*) with one not being seen until the 3<sup>rd</sup> around two months later than 2020. There were also several sightings of Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*) this month. The last Banded Demoiselle was observed on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

In **September** Peacock numbers dropped with only 3 being seen however Red Admiral numbers remained high. Speckled Wood numbers increased to 15, the last seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> of **October** compared to **September** 28<sup>th</sup> in 2020. The last of the odonata to be seen were the Darters, the last Ruddy Darter was the 23<sup>rd</sup> but Common Darters remained on the wing into **November** with the last seen on the 16<sup>th</sup>. In 2020 no butterflies were seen in **November**, however this year one Peacock and one Red Admiral were recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Sadly the Hempton Moth Day had to be cancelled for a second year due to Covid.



## **Pensthorpe Natural Park 2021 Wildlife Report**

David Roberts, Senior Reserve Warden

Firstly, let me introduce myself. My name is David Roberts and I am the Senior Reserve Warden at Pensthorpe. I started in [March](#) 2021 so was able to see the Park through much of the year and gain an idea of the species and recording on site.

After a slow start to the year, due to the national lockdown, wildlife recording then picked up, thanks to Wensum Valley Birdwatching Volunteers and increased staff members. The spring of 2021 was very different from the long dry spells of the previous year. Fluctuating water levels on the Wader Scrape, for example, unfortunately led to no successful breeding waders in that location, after a few attempts by Avocets and Little Ringed Plover. Lapwing and Oystercatcher did, however, have a good year, with five pairs of both species around the site nesting on higher ground.

A total of 441 different species of flora and fauna were recorded in 2021 (312 in 2020, 564 in 2019, 601 in 2018) including: 127 species of bird (111 in 2020, 135 in 2019, 131 in 2018), 24 butterflies (20 in 2020, 21 in 2019, 23 in 2018) and 21 odonata (17 in 2020, 18 in 2019 & 2018). Regular moth trapping sessions throughout the year meant that 181 species were recorded (21 in 2020, 123 in 2019, 161 in 2018), including 57 new for the site.

There have been a few site firsts recorded in 2021, including Raven, Sandwich Tern (both flyovers) and Bar-tailed Godwit. The highlight for the year were the Cattle Egrets (up to 8), generally recorded with the herd of Angus cattle. Over the winter months an egret roost of up to 18 birds was regularly seen on Moonwater, made up of Great, Little and Cattle Egrets. An Isle of Wight released White-tailed Eagle (satellite tagged G471) was recorded on November 18<sup>th</sup>; a bird which then stayed in Norfolk for the following few months. New invertebrates recorded

included Scarce Emerald Damselfly, found in a few locations (alongside good numbers of Willow and Common Emerald) and Wall Brown butterfly. A few plant species new to site included Mossy Stonecrop, recorded near the sand quarry and Snake's Head Fritillary, near the Fishing Hut.

Other wildlife of note included butterfly species Purple Hairstreak and Silver-washed Fritillary and our highest count of Norfolk Hawker dragonflies (9 individuals). After no signs for the previous two years, Water Vole activity was recorded in two locations.

Arrival dates for some of our returning birds included:

Avocet	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b> (14 <sup>th</sup> March 2020, 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2019, 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018)
Chiffchaff	<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> March 2020, 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2019, 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018)
Swallow	<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> April 2020, 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2019, 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2018)
Willow Warbler	<b>15<sup>th</sup> April</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> April 2020, 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2019, 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2018)
Cuckoo	<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b> (26 <sup>th</sup> April 2020, 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2019, 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2018)
Swift	<b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> May 2020, 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2019, 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2018)

Comparison data for some of our Indicator bird species are both positive and negative:

Yellowhammer (breeding)	2017	4 singing birds
	2018	4 singing birds
	2019	3 singing birds
	2020	2 singing birds
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2 singing birds</b>
Avocet (breeding)	2017	5 broods produced 13 young
	2018	7 broods produced 16 young
	2019	2 sat, 2 broods produced 0 young (flooded)
	2020	Up to 8 birds on site, multiple sitting attempts, 0 young
	<b>2021</b>	<b>Max. 16 birds on site, 1 young (predated)</b>

Lapwing (breeding)	2017	3 sat, 3 broods produced 5 young
	2018	3 sat, 2 broods produced 4 young
	2019	4 sat, 2 broods produced 3 young
	2020	10 sat, 5 broods, 6 young
	<b>2021</b>	<b>5 nesting pairs, 6 young</b>
Linnet (winter)	2017	no records of flocks
	2018	max count 55 on 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct
	2019	max count 120 on 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec
	2020	max count 100 on 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb
	<b>2021</b>	<b>max count 60 on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>

For further information on specific species please contact Pensthorpe Natural Park

## **Pensthorpe Constant Effort Site**

Gary Elton, Assistant Warden

For the sixteenth year running the NOA carried out ringing for the Constant Effort Site (CES) study at Pensthorpe. During the breeding season between May and August, standardized data collected from Pensthorpe and the other CES sites throughout the country (approximately 140 in total) provide an accurate measure of changes in bird abundance.

Recaptures of birds ringed in previous years also allow survival rates to be calculated. The ratio of juvenile to adult birds caught on CESs provides a second measure of breeding success that also takes into account the number of successful breeding attempts made per adult (as many species attempt to rear more than one brood per season) and the survival of young birds immediately after fledging. CES covers 24 woodland, scrub and reedbed species. As would be expected the weather plays a major part in the survival and breeding success of our birds and hence the CES results.

The number of new birds caught this year (160) was a dramatic drop on 2020 (200) and way below historic numbers caught during past seasons at the site. Birds re-trapped (already ringed) produced a further 65 birds, bringing this year's total to 225, again below 2020's figure of 264, and well below 2019 (299).

To put this into perspective the number of visits during the season has to be taken into account, ten visits this year which was one up on last year's nine, making the 2021 season arguably our worst year on record and unfortunately leaves us again asking questions about the future of the project.

As mentioned previously in the last few annual reports the ongoing issue is the continuing and increasing height of the vegetation at the ringing site. The project allows for a degree of habitat work to be carried out prior

to the season beginning, to try and maintain habitat consistency but also to enable the nets to catch in an efficient way.

Due to various reasons, no work of any note has been carried out on this habitat for several years now and therefore this is having an impact on our bird catching efficiency. Another added consideration is that this growth is predominantly Willow, consequently drying out and covering more of the site area. This is allowing the composition of the habitat to change, affecting the species caught and to a degree distorting the data we have collected historically.

Whilst the above reasons explain to some degree the drop in numbers 2021 was, it seems, a poor breeding season nationally as well, a brief summary of which follows below:

The weather in early 2021 was far from ideal with the breeding season starting with below average temperatures and regular frosts, resulting in April being the coldest since 1989 and May the coldest since 1996 with the month also proving to be far wetter than normal, with these conditions extending into June, though July improved dramatically and proved to be the equal fifth warmest.

Comparing numbers of bird species caught at Pensthorpe year to year is often difficult due to the small data set which highlights its value more in a national context. That said, a simple comparison on total catches of several resident species encountered in larger numbers at the site during the season compared to last year revealed a drop in several. This included Cetti's Warbler (11-4), Wren (6-2) and Long-tailed Tit (17-2). As resident birds this is at odds with the preliminary finds of the survey nationally, with both Cetti's Warbler and Wren showing an increase in abundance.

The decline in Long-tailed Tits at the site this year is difficult to comment on as it is as likely to be reflection on the route the birds have taken around the site as much as a genuine decline, with the post breeding flocks possibly avoiding the ringing area all together or flying directly over the nets as they move around the surrounding vegetation.

More in line with the trend though was a drop in Blue Tit (43-25) and Great Tit (16-12) numbers with both species, according to the Nest Record Scheme, producing less fledglings per brood in 2021, with the cold wet weather in spring and early summer impacting young survival on leaving the nest, and Great Tit also having the lowest clutch sizes on record.

Comparing several migratory species caught at the site was seemingly more in line with national trends with significantly higher numbers of several long distance migrants encountered nationally during the season, seemingly a product of higher than average survival rates of young birds from 2020. At Pensthorpe the most numerous of these we catch is Reed Warbler and whilst numbers didn't increase, numbers were still comparable, with 84 encounters as opposed to 87 in 2020. Sedge Warbler on the other hand was more in line with the increase nationally with 25 in 2020 compared to 33 in 2021. Numbers of Blackcaps fledging was low nationally in 2021, again fledged birds were impacted by the wet, cold weather but for us Blackcap and Chiffchaff numbers were virtually identical to 2020.

As with previous years, extra nets were erected, when time and manpower allowed, adjacent to the CES site. This resulted in a further 69 new birds being ringed and an additional 17 retrapped that had been previously ringed. Disappointingly we didn't catch any Kingfishers this year with fewer also seen on our visits, but consolation surprises included a Sparrowhawk and a Mute Swan (which was hand caught).

Other more noteworthy species included Cetti's Warbler 1, Bullfinch 4(3), Garden Warbler 5(1) and Willow Warbler 2. These totals are for all birds with re-trap numbers in brackets. Four Swallow pulli (nestlings) were also ringed, courtesy of the avicultural team on site.

NB. The totals mentioned in the main CES report above for 2020 are slightly different to the those published last year, due to a data input error.

## **Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve Report**

Victoria Chamberlin and Jake Kenworthy

### **Wildlife highlights**

Over the autumn and winter months there have been a number of wildlife highlights at the reserve. As autumn began, we were visited by three Hobbies, one a juvenile, making the most of the supply of dragonflies around the new wetland. Their aerial acrobatics are always a fantastic spectacle. As autumn made way for winter, we had sightings of our usual migrant species. Flocks of Siskin enjoyed the alder trees and amongst one flock a Lesser Redpoll was spotted. At the end of November, one of our regular photographers got some great images of Great White Egrets and Water Rail at the scrape. The star sighting of the month though was of a White-tailed Eagle seen perched in a tree overlooking the new wetland. As the UK's biggest bird, this impressive eagle dwarfed the crow sat a few trees away.

A highlight of the winter months was a visit by a Waxwing, which drew in many keen birders and photographers. It was particularly fond of the guelder rose berries on the reserve. Another spectacle was the large roost of Red Kite, about 30 birds, in a copse across the river between the reserve and Sculthorpe Mill. On the wetland two male Goosander visited for several days and away from birds, there were a number of sightings of an ermine stoat.

As the weather began to improve and signs of spring appeared, we had some good sightings of Marsh Harriers and Otters in front of Whitley Hide.

### **Reserve Developments**

There have been lots of developments at the reserve over the last few months. Our fantastic team of volunteers have been hard at work on several projects. A new boardwalk, each board sponsored by a member of the public, has been built by the new wetland hide. The hide itself has

been a very big undertaking and is nearing completion. We're confident this will be really popular with our visitors and could even provide views of the Beavers that will soon be in residence. The reserve has been granted a licence by Natural England to host a beaver family relocated from Scotland. A 47-acre enclosure is being constructed to ensure the beavers don't escape from the reserve and a study will be undertaken over the next five years to understand their impact on biodiversity and flood management. Beavers are described as a 'keystone species' because of the significant ecosystem benefits they can generate, and we hope their presence at the reserve will not only delight visitors but improve habitats for many other species.





## The Weather Report for 2021

Norman Brooks, Fellow Royal Meteorological Society

### January

The coldest January since 2013 and the last significantly colder one was in 2010. Sunshine was deficient with rainfall above average over most of Norfolk. Snow fell on six days with the most significant accumulation of lying snow on the 16<sup>th</sup> (7cm) at Hempstead. Rainfall totals across Norfolk varied between 122mm at Walsingham and 73.5mm at Ashby St Mary.

#### *Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

### February

A mainly mild month with thirteen days recording maxima above the average for February. A cold spell from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> produced a widespread snow cover with a depth of 31cm in some localities. Snow fell on five days and two days had maxima below freezing point. Most of the county had rainfall above average during the month.

#### *Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	6	5	7	5	0	0	5

### March

March was cloudy, mild and rather dry with little frost. Unusual warmth at the close of the month when Sheringham recorded a maximum of 24.4c and Weybourne 23.9c and maxima exceeded 21.0c over most of the County. Confirming the southerly origin of the warmth the sky on the 31<sup>st</sup> was discoloured by dust of Saharan origin.

#### *Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

## April

April was an unusually cold month with exceptional frequency in the incidence of both air and ground frosts. The month was sunny and dry but with slight snow falling on four days.

The monthly mean temperature was the lowest for April since 1984 and for the first time since 1978 April was colder than the preceding March. The frequency of cold nights and an absence of warm days delayed the onset of spring by about two weeks.

Rainfall totals across the county varied between 33.0mm at Walsingham and a negligible 1.5mm at Tacolneston.

### *Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	7	9	2	0	4	0	3	4	1

## May

The month was cool, cloudy and wet with rain measured on twenty days. It was the coldest May since 1996 and only a single day recorded a maximum in excess of 21.0c. (Compared with May 2020 when there were sixteen).

Rainfall totals across the County varied between 132.2mm at Syderstone and 66.0mm at Ashby St Mary.

### *Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	6	1	3	6	5	5	6	1

## June

June was warm but variable with the maximum of 22.0c on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March not being exceeded until 1<sup>st</sup> June. Temperatures declined after mid-month when the mean maximum from 1<sup>st</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of 24.1c fell to 17.2c from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

The partial solar eclipse on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> caused a slight drop in temperature and dampened the normal rise experienced on a midsummer morning.

County rainfall totals varied between 97.1mm at Gorleston and 36.9mm at Burnham Market.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	4	5	0	2	3	7	5	1	3

## July

July was a fairly warm month with typical variability of rainfall across the county in high summer. There were four days with thunder and the month was totally dry from the 13<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> inclusive. A maximum of 25.8c on the 22<sup>nd</sup> was followed by a maximum of only 19.1c on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> an isolated rainfall of 50mm in two hours was measured at Norwich and during the month County rainfall totals varied between 105.9mm at Spixworth and 29.8 at Longham.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

## August

This was the coolest August since 2014 with a marked deficit in sunshine but dry in most areas except the extreme north of the county.

Rainfall totals varied between 78.7mm at Houghton St Giles and 18.1mm at Hempsall.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

## September

September was warmer than both June and August. Over East Anglia September has been warmer than August only five times since records began in 1884.

There was a very wide variation of rainfall across the county with the wettest being North Creak with 106.9mm and the driest being Kirkby Bedon with 14.5mm

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	2	1	3	3	7	8	3	2

**October**

A mild month that was very similar to October 2020 being totally devoid of air frost. A dramatic fall in temperature with the maximum of 20.4c on the 19<sup>th</sup> falling to a maximum of 10.1c on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Rainfall totals for the month varied between 120.4mm at Starston and 51.8mm at Blakeney.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	0	6	3	4	12	3	6	2

**November**

November was rather mild and unusually dry over most of the county, however there was slight snowfall on two days.

Rainfall totals varied between 76.8mm at Gorleston and 28.2mm at Denver.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

**December**

A mild month with little significant frost and rainfall and was generally near average. A main feature of the month was a distinct lack of sunshine. It was the dullest December in the United Kingdom since 1956. There was exceptional warmth at the close of the month with maxima of 15.4c on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 15.0c on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

## Monthly Summaries for 2021

Month	Total Rain- fall mm	% of average rainfall	Days with Air Frost	Days with Ground Frost	Monthly Mean Temp.	Deviation from average	Mean soil temp. at 10cm depth
January	98.9	171	17	19	3.0	-1.0	2.7
February	51.7	120	13	16	5.0	+1.2	4.0
March	38.2	82	3	5	7.3	+1.4	6.3
April	7.3	16	13	16	6.6	-1.0	7.0
May	94.5	208	2	4	10.4	-1.0	10.3
June	53.7	100	0	0	16.5	+2.2	15.0
July	58.5	104	0	0	17.9	+1.4	16.5
August	36.3	71	0	0	16.7	+1.4	15.8
September	26.7	49	0	0	16.8	+2.5	15.1
October	68.8	119	0	0	12.0	+1.0	11.7
November	59.0	84	3	6	7.7	+1.0	8.0
December	71.9	118	3	8	5.9	+1.1	5.5
Total or Mean	<b>665.5</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>+0.7</b>	<b>9.8</b>

## Annual Summary for 2021

Total Rainfall:	665.5 mm (104% of average)
Days with rain recorded:	192
Wettest day:	19.0mm (27 <sup>th</sup> November)
Wet days (1mm or more):	145
Days with sleet or snow:	18
Days with snow lying:	11
Total snow depth:	21cm

Highest maximum:	29.4c (7 <sup>th</sup> September)
Highest minimum:	18.3c (17 <sup>th</sup> June)
Lowest maximum:	-0.5c (8 <sup>th</sup> February)
Lowest minimum:	-6.6c (12 <sup>th</sup> February)

Air frosts:	54
Ground frosts:	74
Days with hail:	8
Days with gales:	0
Days with thunder:	12

Average mean soil temperature at 10cm depth: 9.8c

Lowest grass minimum: -9.4c (12<sup>th</sup> February)

Mean cloud cover at 0900hrs: 73%

Longest period without any measurable rainfall:

14 days (13<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> July inclusive)

Annual mean maximum: 14.2c

Annual mean minimum: 6.8c

Annual mean: 10.5c

#### *Wind Direction Summary at 0900hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	33	38	16	21	36	71	66	48	36

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

### **Membership subscriptions**

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

Membership renewals are due on **1<sup>st</sup> April** each year.

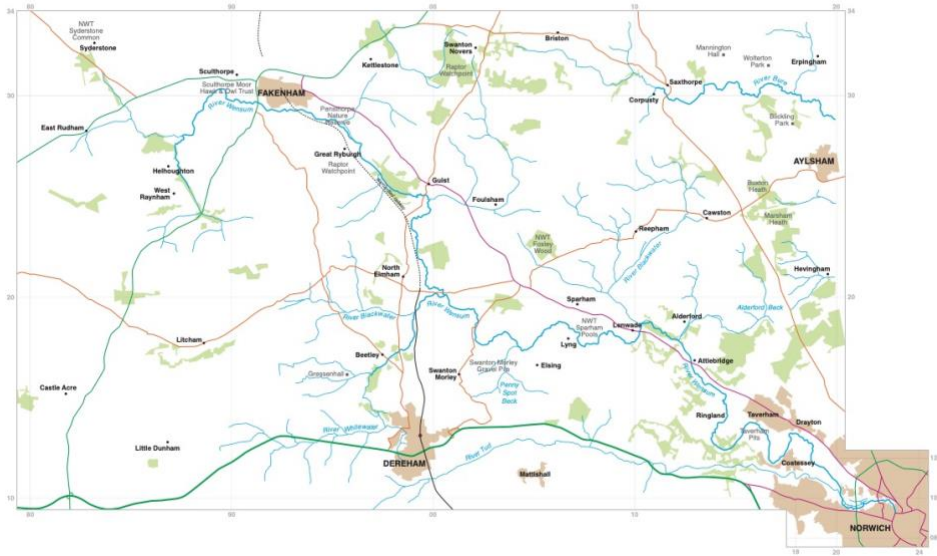
Current rates are £11.50 for individual and £17.50 for a couple.

We request members to pay by bank transfer or standing order if possible. Bank details are given in the March Newsletter and as reference please use WVBS plus your initials and send a brief email to [wvbs.memberships@gmail.com](mailto:wvbs.memberships@gmail.com) so our records can be updated.

Alternatively, cheques payable to Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society can be sent to the Membership Secretary.

For details and information on new memberships see the Join Us page at [www.wvbs.co.uk](http://www.wvbs.co.uk)

### Wensum Valley Recording Area



Web version

[www.wvbs.co.uk/wensum-valley-map.html](http://www.wvbs.co.uk/wensum-valley-map.html)



[www.pensthorpe.com](http://www.pensthorpe.com)

From wetlands to grasslands, woodlands to farmlands, we have **over 700 acres of diverse habitats** to explore.



Pensthorpe  
Natural Park 



Wildlife Walks



Beautiful gardens



Cafe & Shop



Get closer to Nature

[pensthorpe.com](http://pensthorpe.com) | Fakenham, NR21 0LN | 01328 851465

[www.waterfallfarm.co.uk](http://www.waterfallfarm.co.uk)

# Waterfall Farm Cottages.

**Self-catering holiday accommodation  
located in the heart of rural Norfolk.**

**Central for Birdwatchers.**



To make a reservation please call:

**01362- 637300**

**Bernie and Sally Marsham, Waterfall Farm,  
Worthing Road, Swanton Morley,  
Norfolk. NR20 4QD**

**e-mail: [sally@waterfallfarm.co.uk](mailto:sally@waterfallfarm.co.uk)**

**Web: [www.waterfallfarm.co.uk](http://www.waterfallfarm.co.uk)**



[www.gjlanimalfeeds.co.uk](http://www.gjlanimalfeeds.co.uk)



**GJL ANIMAL FEEDS LTD**

A cartoon illustration of a farmer in a brown hat and blue overalls holding a pitchfork and giving a thumbs up. He is surrounded by a pig, a cow, a chicken, a dog, and a sheep. In the background is a yellow barn with a red roof and a green field with a fence.

**BEDDING** **FEED** **TOOLS** **SUPPLEMENTS**

**GJL**

**CLIPBUSH BUSINESS PARK  
FAKENHAM NR21 8SX**  
office@gjlanimalfeeds.co.uk  
www.gjlanimalfeeds.co.uk

Call now for me to  
come & deliver to your  
door, stable, farm or  
paddock!

**CALL NOW  
01328 851351**



Find and follow us on Facebook for all our latest news and offers

[www.norfolkbirding.com](http://www.norfolkbirding.com)

# NORFOLK BIRDING

birding tours & wildlife photography



**Join us in.....**

**Norfolk**

**Scotland**

**Spain**

**India**



**[www.norfolkbirding.com](http://www.norfolkbirding.com)**

[www.oriolebirding.com](http://www.oriolebirding.com)



## Small Group Birding & Wildlife Holidays

- Family run company based in North Norfolk
- 20 years experience in small group tours
  - First class tour leaders
- Extensive choice of UK & Worldwide tours



E [info@oriolebirding.com](mailto:info@oriolebirding.com)  
[www.oriolebirding.com](http://www.oriolebirding.com)  
Freephone 0800 9993036

**2022 PDF of the WVBS Nineteenth Annual Report\_2021**4<sup>th</sup> July 2022Text changes. **Format changes**

Where	Original text	PDF text
<b>Introduction</b>		Acknowledgement of advertisers added
<b>WVBS Northeast England Tour 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Text only  Line drawing of Red-backed Shrike	Includes colour images  Not included and replaced by a photograph of a Red-backed Shrike
Advertisements		<b>Grouped at the end of the PDF</b>

Text changes to the Systematic List and the Table of Earliest &amp; Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants 2021

Where	Original text	PDF text
<b>Introduction</b>	The 16,479 records for 2021	The print version of the Report used 16,479 records for 2021
<b>Introduction</b>		<p>Please note:</p> <p>The PDF version contains additional sightings by Steve Connor that were submitted online but inadvertently omitted from the print version. The species affected (marked by an asterisk) are Shelduck, Gadwall, Teal, Stock Dove, Turtle Dove, Woodcock, Green Sandpiper, Marsh Harrier, Tawny Owl, Green Woodpecker, Rook, Carrion Crow, Great Tit, House Martin, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Wren, Treecreeper, Starling, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Spotted Flycatcher, Robin, Wheatear, Pied Wagtail, Greenfinch, Linnet, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer.</p> <p>Details of the changes are on pages 142-149</p>

<b>Shelduck</b>	Proof of breeding was reported from Fakenham, Old Beetley, Pensthorpe and School Lane GP.	Proof of breeding was reported from Colkirk, Old Beetley, Pensthorpe and School Lane GP.
<b>Gadwall</b>	102 records  Highest counts elsewhere were 80 in Feb and 70 in Dec at Sparham Pools (CS) with 16 counts in double figures at other locations.	103 records  Highest counts elsewhere were 80 in Feb and 70 in Dec at Sparham Pools (CS), 80 in Dec at Gorgate (SCr) with 16 further counts in double figures at other locations.
<b>Teal</b>	89 records  Other counts of 150 or more were 250 in Jan and Feb and 150 in Jan at Sparham Pools (CS) and 180 on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar at Ringland (AG).	90 records  Other counts of 150 or more were 250 in Jan and Feb and 150 in Jan at Sparham Pools (CS), 210 at Gorgate in Dec (SCr) and 180 on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar at Ringland (AG).
<b>Stock Dove</b>	262 records  Highest counts: 53 on 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb and 75 on 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct at Great Ryburgh (NP, SCr), 29 on 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Brandiston (SB), 55 on 28 <sup>th</sup> June and 20 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, SC), 40 on 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct at Bittering (SCr), 20+ on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct at Longham (SP) and 40 on 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Stanfield (BP).	261 records  Highest counts: 53 on 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb and 75 on 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct at Great Ryburgh (NP, SCr), 29 on 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Brandiston (SB), 27 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr at North Elmham (SCr), 55 on 28 <sup>th</sup> June and 20 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, SC), 40 on 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct at Bittering (SCr), 20+ on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct at Longham (SP) and 40 on 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Stanfield (BP).
<b>Turtle Dove</b>	Nine records only of 1 to 2 birds from 7 sites. No record of nesting this year.	Ten records of 1 to 5 birds from 8 sites. Highest count was of 2 adults and 3 juveniles showing breeding at an undisclosed location (SCr).
<b>Woodcock</b>	20 records  all of 1 or 2 birds except for 5 at Swaffham North in Mar (SCr). Thirteen records were in the first winter period (Jan to mid-Mar) and 7 in the second from 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct (CS).	21 records  all of 1 or 2 birds except for 5 at Swaffham North in Mar and 4 at Gorgate on 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec (SCr). Thirteen records were in the first winter period (Jan to mid-Mar) and 8 in the second from 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct (CS).
<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	44 records  In the winter months usually single birds at Bintree, Great Ryburgh, Guist, Haverlingland Hall Park, NDR at Horsford and Weasenham. Higher counts during the summer months of 4 on 21 <sup>st</sup> June at Old Beetley, 8 on 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 5 on 6 <sup>th</sup> and	47 records  In the winter months usually single birds at Bintree, Great Ryburgh, Guist, Haverlingland Hall Park, NDR at Horsford and Weasenham but 3 reported from Swaffham North on 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar (SCr). Higher counts during the summer months of 4 on 21 <sup>st</sup> June at Old

	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept at Castle Acre (SCr), 3 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug at Pensthorpe (KB, CR), 4 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 3 on 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug at Haveringland Hall Park (SC).	Beetley, 10 on 29 <sup>th</sup> July at Castle Acre (SCr), 8 on 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 5 on 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept at Castle Acre (SCr), 3 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug at Pensthorpe (KB, CR), 4 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 3 on 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug at Haveringland Hall Park (SC).
<b>Marsh Harrier</b>	55 records  Highest counts of 5 on 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 4 on 31 <sup>st</sup> May and 10 on 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Guist/Guist Common (SCr, NE).	56 records  Highest counts of 5 on 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr (SCr), 4 on 31 <sup>st</sup> May (NE) and 10 on 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov and 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec at Guist/Guist Common (SCr).
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	58 records from 25 sites of 1 to 4 birds.	59 records from 25 sites of 1 to 6 birds.
<b>Green Woodpecker</b>	219 records from 33 sites of 1 to 3 birds. Highest counts: 4 on 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr and 6 on 11 <sup>th</sup> June at Gorgate (SCr), 4 on 14 <sup>th</sup> July at Honingham (DL).	220 records from 33 sites of 1 to 6 birds. Highest counts: 4 on 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 6 on 11 <sup>th</sup> June at Gorgate (SCr), 4 on 9 <sup>th</sup> July at Gressenham (SCr) and on 14 <sup>th</sup> July at Honingham (DL), 6 on 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH).
<b>Rook</b>	234 records  Proof of breeding at Brisley with 19+ active nests, and at Neatherd Moor.	237 records  Proof of breeding at Brisley with 19+ active nests, Gateley with 51 nests, North Elmham with 98 nests (SCr), and at Neatherd Moor (BH).
<b>Carrion Crow</b>	404 records  Highest counts: 44 on 31 <sup>st</sup> May at Potters Fen and 25 on 3 <sup>rd</sup> June at Dereham S/W (PA). Proof of breeding at East Tuddenham (DL), Neatherd Moor (BH), Potters Fen (PA) and Worthing village (DK).	406 records  Highest counts: 63 on 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan at Dereham SW (BH), 44 on 31 <sup>st</sup> May at Potters Fen and 25 on 3 <sup>rd</sup> June at Dereham S/W (PA). Proof of breeding at East Tuddenham (DL), Gressenham (SCr), Neatherd Moor (BH), Potters Fen (PA) and Worthing village (DK).
<b>Great Tit</b>	Exactly 400 records this year.  Proof of breeding at Bintree Mill, Honingham, Pensthorpe and SMHOT.	Over 400 records this year.  Proof of breeding at Bintree Mill, Brisley, Honingham, Pensthorpe and SMHOT.
<b>House Martin</b>	Highest counts: 32 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept at Neatherd Moor (BH), 30 on 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept at Springfield Cottage (BP), 20 on 15 <sup>th</sup> July at Heydon (DG).	Highest counts: 32 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept at Neatherd Moor (BH), 30 on 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept at Springfield Cottage (BP), 25 at Scarning on 30 <sup>th</sup> June (SCr), 20 on 15 <sup>th</sup> July at Heydon (DG).



<b>Chiffchaff</b>	<p>294 records</p> <p>Highest counts: 11 on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar at Worthing (A&amp;JH), 17 on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar at Marsham Heath (SC), 14 on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar at Lenwade, Marriott's Way (DG), 9 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr and 6 on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at HBW (BH), 6 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr and 7 on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sparham Pools (DL), 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, 15 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 12 on 16<sup>th</sup> June at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, LK, CR, KB) and 14 on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Bintree Mill (SCr).</p>	<p>306 records</p> <p>Highest counts: 11 on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar at Worthing (A&amp;JH), 17 on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar at Marsham Heath (SC), 14 on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar at Lenwade, Marriott's Way (DG), 9 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr and 6 on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at HBW (BH), 6 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr and 7 on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sparham Pools (DL), 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr, 15 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 12 on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 11 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at Pensthorpe (BP, ID, LK, CR, KB, SC, SCr) and 14 on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Bintree Mill (SCr).</p>
<b>Blackcap</b>	<p>199 records.</p> <p>Highest counts: 8 on 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr and 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Pensthorpe (EL, NE, LK, CR, AH, SCr), 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> May at Sparham Pools (DL).</p>	<p>200 records.</p> <p>Highest counts: 8 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr, 9 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 11 on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 8 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Pensthorpe (EL, NE, LK, CR, AH, SCr), 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> May at Sparham Pools (DL), 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall (SCr).</p>
<b>Wren</b>	<p>384 records</p> <p>Highest counts: 7 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 9 on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb and 9 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr at Neatherd Moor (BH), 8 on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar and 6 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr at HBW (BH), 13 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10 on 16<sup>th</sup> June at Pensthorpe (LK, CR, AH, SCr, KB), 24 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall, 14 on 4<sup>th</sup> June at Great Ryburgh and 13 on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Bintree Mill (SCr).</p> <p>Proof of breeding: juveniles ringed at Guist Common in Aug (EL, AHa, RN, RG).</p>	<p>388 records</p> <p>Highest counts: 7 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 9 on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb and 9 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr at Neatherd Moor (BH), 8 on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar and 6 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr at HBW (BH), 13 on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 12 on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10 on 16<sup>th</sup> June at Pensthorpe (LK, CR, AH, SCr, KB), 17 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at North Elmham, 24 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall, 14 on 4<sup>th</sup> June at Great Ryburgh and 13 on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Bintree Mill (SCr).</p> <p>Proof of breeding: juveniles ringed at Guist Common in Aug (EL, AHa, RN, RG) and a fledgling at Gorgate (SCr).</p>
<b>Treecreeper</b>	<p>41 records</p> <p>Highest counts: 5 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (PA, DL, EL, NE), 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH), 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec in garden at Waterfall Farm (BM).</p>	<p>42 records</p> <p>Highest counts: 5 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr at Pensthorpe (PA, DL, EL, NE), 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> Apr and 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH), 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec in garden at Waterfall Farm (BM). Also 2 at Horningtoft, Potter's Fen, and Swaffham North (PA, SCr).</p>

<b>Starling</b>	286 records from 37 sites.  Proof of breeding at Honingham, under roof tiles (DL), Potters Fen (PA) and Worthing Village (DK).	287 records  Proof of breeding at Gressenhall (SCr), Honingham, under roof tiles (DL), Potters Fen (PA) and Worthing Village (DK).
<b>Song Thrush</b>	175 records  Highest counts: 4 on 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar at HBW and 4 on 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Neatherd Moor (BH), 6 on 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Scarning (IB), 4 on 7 <sup>th</sup> May at Foxley Wood (DL).	177 records  Highest counts: 4 on 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar at HBW and 4 on 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Neatherd Moor (BH), 5 on 24 <sup>th</sup> May at Hoe (SCr), 6 on 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Scarning (IB), 4 on 7 <sup>th</sup> May at Foxley Wood (DL).
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	89 records  Highest counts: 5 on 9 <sup>th</sup> June at Foulsham (JCa), 6 on 30 <sup>th</sup> June at Mill Lane, Dereham and 4 on 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Rawhall Lane GP (BH), 12 on 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug at Sparham (CS), 5 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (KB, SC), 10 on 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft and 5 on 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Gateley (SCr).	91 records  Highest counts: 5 on 9 <sup>th</sup> June at Foulsham (JCa), 6 on 30 <sup>th</sup> June at Mill Lane, Dereham and 4 on 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Rawhall Lane GP (BH), 12 on 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug at Sparham (CS), 28 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept at Gorgate (SCr), 5 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (KB, SC), 10 on 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft and 5 on 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Gateley (SCr).
<b>Blackbird</b>	469 records  Highest counts: 20 on 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Hackford Vale, Reepham (AJ), 84 on 31 <sup>st</sup> May and 76 on 29 <sup>th</sup> June at Potters Fen (PA), 20 on 15 <sup>th</sup> June and 21 on 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr), 30 on 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct at Sparham (CS), 30 on 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Bintree (SCr), 27 on 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Pensthorpe (BP, ID).	471 records  Highest counts: 20 on 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Hackford Vale, Reepham (AJ), 25 Gateley 14 <sup>th</sup> May (SCr), 84 on 31 <sup>st</sup> May and 76 on 29 <sup>th</sup> June at Potters Fen (PA), 20 on 15 <sup>th</sup> June and 21 on 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr), 30 on 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct at Sparham (CS), 30 on 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Bintree (SCr), 27 on 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Pensthorpe (BP, ID).
<b>Fieldfare</b>	117 records  Highest counts in the first winter period: 100 on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan at Great Fransham (PJ), 150 on 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan at Sparham (CS), 100 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan at Hackford Vale, Reepham (AJ), 155 on 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar at Neatherd Moor (BH), 150 on 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Haveringland Hall Park (SC), 100 between 24 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr at North Tuddenham (BP), 250 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Ringland (SBe).	118 records  Highest counts in the first winter period: 100 on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan at Great Fransham (PJ), 150 on 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan at Sparham (CS), 100 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan at Hackford Vale, Reepham (AJ), 155 on 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar at Neatherd Moor (BH), 150 on 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Haveringland Hall Park (SC), 145 on 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Gorgate (SCr), 100 between 24 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr at North Tuddenham (BP), 250 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Ringland (SBe).

<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	Six records from 4 sites. 1 on 16 <sup>th</sup> May at Sparham (CS), 2 on 29 <sup>th</sup> May at Great Ryburgh (NP), 1 on 30 <sup>th</sup> May, 3 on 21 <sup>st</sup> July and 1 on 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug at Honingham (DL), 3 on 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH).	Seven records from 5 sites. 1 on 16 <sup>th</sup> May at Sparham (CS), 2 on 29 <sup>th</sup> May at Great Ryburgh (NP), 1 on 30 <sup>th</sup> May, 3 on 21 <sup>st</sup> July and 1 on 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug at Honingham (DL), 3 on 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug at HBW (BH) and 1 on 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept at Gorgate (SCr).
<b>Robin</b>	428 records  Highest counts: 20 on 2 <sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall (SCr), 14 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 22 on 8 <sup>th</sup> and 10 on 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (SC, DL, SCr, BP, ID).	430 records  Highest counts: 13 on 14 <sup>th</sup> May at Gateley, 20 on 2 <sup>nd</sup> June at Gressenhall (SCr), 14 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 22 on 8 <sup>th</sup> and 10 on 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (SC, DL, SCr, BP, ID).
<b>Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)</b>	13 records  Highest counts: 2 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Mattishall Burgh (PA), 5 on 5 <sup>th</sup> May at Sparham (CS), 9 on 5 <sup>th</sup> May at Cawston Heath (DG, SC).	14 records  Highest counts: 2 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr at Mattishall Burgh (PA), 5 on 5 <sup>th</sup> May at Sparham (CS), 9 on 5 <sup>th</sup> May at Cawston Heath (DG, SC), 2 on 12 <sup>th</sup> May at Oxwick (SCr).
<b>Pied Wagtail</b>	173 records  Highest counts: 25+ on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 40 on 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 40 on 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Costessey Mill (AB), 112 on 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Great Ryburgh (NP), 25 on 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar in the Swaffham area (SCr), 29 on 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Worthing (DK), c30 on 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Honingham (DL).	175 records  Highest counts: 25+ on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 40 on 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 40 on 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Costessey Mill (AB), 112 on 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Great Ryburgh (NP), 25 on 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar in the Swaffham area (SCr), 29 on 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov at Worthing (DK), c30 on 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Honingham (DL). A White Wagtail (M. a. alba) was recorded at Swaffham North on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar and at Guist Common on 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr (SCr).
<b>Greenfinch</b>	216 records  Proof of breeding at SMHOT (SC), Springfield Cottage (BP) and Worthing Church area (DK).	217 records  Proof of breeding at Horningtoft (SCr), SMHOT (SC), Springfield Cottage (BP) and Worthing Church area (DK).
<b>Linnet</b>	Numbers of 40 to 100+ also from Cawston Heath, Fakenham, Hoe Common, Horsford along the NDR, Sparham Hall Farm, the Swaffham area and Worthing level crossing.	Numbers of 40 to 100+ also from Bintree, Brisley, Castle Acre, Cawston Heath, Dereham (Neatherd Moor), Fakenham, Gorgate, Great Ryburgh, Horningtoft, Longham, North Elmham, Sparham, Swaffham North, Wendling, Worthing level crossing.

<b>Goldfinch</b>	<p>344 records</p> <p>Highest counts: c40 on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan at Reepham (DG), 48 on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan and 34 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug at Neatherd Moor (BH), 29 on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan at Norwich (CR), 30 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept and 85 on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (SC, SCr, DL).</p>	<p>345 records</p> <p>Highest counts: c40 on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan at Reepham (DG), 48 on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan and 34 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug at Neatherd Moor (BH), 29 on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan at Norwich (CR), 29 on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr at Gressenhall (SCr), 30 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept and 85 on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (SC, SCr, DL).</p>
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	<p>230 records</p> <p>Highest counts: 70 on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar in the Swaffham area and 38 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr), 15 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at North Tuddenham (BP), 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 9<sup>th</sup> May at Cawston Heath (SC, DG).</p>	<p>221 records</p> <p>Highest counts: 70 on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar in the Swaffham area and 38 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Horningtoft (SCr), 35 on 7<sup>th</sup> Mar at North Tuddenham (BP), 22 on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr at North Elmham (SCr), 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 9<sup>th</sup> May at Cawston Heath (SC, DG).</p>
<b>Earliest &amp; Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants 2021 Latest sighting of Spotted Flycatcher</b>	<p>15<sup>th</sup> Aug HBW BH</p>	<p>12<sup>th</sup> Sept Gorgate SCr</p>