

Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society



Twelfth Annual Report
2014

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Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

2014 Annual Report

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Covering the Wensum Valley from Norwich to Fakenham and beyond

Founded in March 2003 our aims are to:-

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

Meeting venue Weston Longville Hall for All on the third Thursday of each month.

Committee 2014

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

Front cover: Little Ringed Plover, the WVBS emblem species, photographed by member Allan Hale

Chairman's Report 2014

It seems hardly any time since I was thinking about the report for 2013. An indication, I think, of the successful year we had in 2014. Our membership has remained stable at around 125-130: as some members have left the society, we have had a steady influx of new members who are making a real contribution. Several of these discovered us via the website: if you have not explored this I can recommend that you do. I think it appropriate, at the beginning of this report, that I record my, and your, thanks to the committee for the work they do, mostly behind the scenes, to keep the society going forward, which means that our membership is thriving. I am personally grateful to each one for the support they have given me. I also thank you, the members, for supporting and helping with all the activities of the society – our unsung heroes.

We started our year, as usual, with the Winter Bird Count. A grand total of 91 species was seen in the valley by those taking part, an amazing number. We had nine speakers during the year and their subjects ranged from 'Wars and Wildlife', through Scandinavia, Cuba, the Masai Mara to New Zealand. Closer to home we heard about Breckland, Norfolk Butterflies and a fascinating and amusing talk entitled 'Birds, Birders and the work of the BTO'.

Our Field Trips were well supported and thanks go to the coordinators who have to plan the trip and not just turn up on the day! We went across to Welney where the floods prevented us from visiting the whole reserve, the North Norfolk Coast and Holme next the Sea, to Cley, Felbrigg, Horsey and Strumpshaw. Lakenheath and Weeting enticed us and we had three evening walks as well as the Dawn Chorus. A first for us was to go on the Hoe Bird Walk which was in its 30th year. This was so enjoyed that it is also in our 2015 programme. Maybe the highlight of the year was being taken round Sutton Fen by the Warden, Richard Mason. It had taken two years to get this trip on the programme and was a follow-up to the riveting talk that Richard had given us the previous year.

This leaves the Summer and Christmas socials. All who attended had most enjoyable evenings and a record number attended the Christmas one.

2014 Programme of meetings and events

Sun 5 th Jan	Field Trip – Annual Winter Bird Count. Co-ordinator – Richard Norris
Thurs 16 th Jan	Indoor meeting – Wars and Wildlife Speaker – Richard Porter
Sun 26 th Jan	Field Trip – Welney and Surrounding area Co-ordinator – Liz Bridge
Thurs 20 th Feb	Indoor meeting – Wildlife through the seasons in Scandinavia Speaker – Julia Burton
Sat 22 nd Feb	Field Trip – North Norfolk Coast Co-ordinator – Phil Borley
Sun 9 th Mar	Field Trip –Hoe Bird Walk in its 30 th Anniversary Year Co-ordinator – David Knight
Thurs 20 th Mar	Indoor meeting – Birds, Birders & the Work of BTO Speaker – Paul Stancliffe
Sat 29 th Mar	Field Trip – Felbrigg Co-ordinator – Glenn Collier
Thurs 17 th Apr	Indoor meeting - AGM followed by a talk – Cuban Bus Pass Boys Speaker – Allan Hale (WVBS member)
Sat 26 th Apr	“Wild About the Wensum” Conservation Event at Pensthorpe
Sun 27 th Apr	Field Trip – Horsey area Co-ordinator – Ray Gribble
Thurs 15 th May	Indoor meeting – Butterflies in Norfolk Speaker – Alan Dawson
Sat 24 th May	Field Trip – Dawn Chorus Co-ordinator – Glenn Collier
Wed 4 th June Evening	Field Trip – Costessey area of Wensum Valley Co-ordinator – Steve Chapman

Thurs 26 th June	Field Trip - Nightjar Evening Co-ordinator – Richard Norris
Sat 28 th June	Field Trip – Sutton Fen Co-ordinator – Liz Bridge
Thurs 17 th July	Indoor meeting – Farming & Conservation – A Farmer’s Perspective Speaker - Charles Sayer
Sun 27 th July	Field Trip – RSPB Lakenheath Co-ordinator – Sue Gale
Thurs 21 st Aug	Indoor meeting – Summer Social Evening
Fri 15 th – Sun 17 th Aug	Bird Fair at Rutland Water, Leics – dates for your diary
Sat 30 th Aug	Field Trip – Holme Co-ordinator – Phil Borley
Thurs 18 th Sept	Indoor meeting – Wildlife of the Maasai Mara Speaker – David Pelling (WVBS member)
Sun 28 th Sept	Field Trip – Cley NWT Co-ordinator – Steve Chapman
Thurs 16 th Oct	Indoor meeting – Birds of New Zealand Speaker – Bill Shepherd (WVBS member)
Sat 11 th Oct	Wild About Norfolk Conservation Fair at Easton College
Sun 26 th Oct	Field Trip – North Norfolk Coast Co-ordinator – Phil Borley
Thurs 20 th Nov	Indoor meeting – Wild Breckland Speaker – David Mason
Sun 30 th Nov	Field Trip – A Field Trip to Strumpshaw and Buckenham Marsh Co-ordinator – Mary Walker
Thurs 11 th Dec	Annual Xmas Social

Diary of Events in 2014

Sunday 5th January - The Annual Winter Bird Count.

Our eleventh year started off in its usual fashion with the Annual Bird Count. There was a better than average turnout and nine teams took part this year. It was a cold but fine day and an overall total of 91 species were recorded. The final winners were the team comprising of David Gibbons, Alan Fordham and Phil Borley and they were duly presented with the Bird Count Trophy to hold for the coming year. Later there was time for tea and cakes and a chance to mull over the events of the day.

Thursday 16th January - Wars and Wildlife - Speaker - Richard Porter.

Richard is an expert on the wildlife on the Middle East and was able to show the packed audience how this rich but fragile environment can be so easily upset by war and conflict. In fact some areas are still recovering from the oil well flooding of the first Iraq war. However he showed us one notable example of regeneration in the Iraq Marshes that have now been re-flooded. Within one year reed started growing from the dormant seedbed and birds and wildlife returned in large numbers. In fact there are now over 3000 Basra Reed Warblers in the area.

With oppressive regimes being overthrown Richard managed to be optimistic with renewed interest being shown in conservation issues by younger people and a hope that future generations will continue in this vein.

Sunday 26th January - A Field Trip to Welney - Coordinated by Liz Bridge.

Our trip to Welney was enlivened firstly by a stop at Denver Sluice where among other sightings a total of eight Goosanders were seen on the river. A further stop was then made at a farm in the area where there were over two hundred Corn Buntings sitting on the overhead wires in the rain.

Yellowhammers, Reed Buntings, Meadow Pipits and a large flock of Golden Plover were also in view.

At Welney flooding had closed all hides apart from the main one and the high water levels meant that many of the usual wintering species were absent but nevertheless a good range of birds were seen. WWT staff kindly arranged a hare watching walk and at least five were seen hunkered down in a field before taking off at high speed when they spotted us.

A total of 64 species was recorded for the day.

Thursday 20th February - Wildlife through the Seasons in Scandinavia - Speaker Julia Burton.

Julia's talk as always had many facets and managed to include insights into the culture and history on the indigenous people of the region. As always it was accompanied by her beautiful photographs including of the 11 species of Owl to be seen in Scandinavia. At Lake Hornborga she witnessed the courtship dances of over 18000 cranes and heard the eerie calls of Black Throated Divers. The last location was the Lofoten Islands where among a varied list of bird species she encountered Sperm Whales whose head makes up one third of its bodymass and which also contains 2000 litres of oil which apparently assists its echo-navigation through the oceans.

This was a very entertaining and informative talk that was enjoyed by everyone who heard it.

Saturday 22nd February - The North Norfolk Coast - Coordinated by Phil Borley.

On a sunny winter's day members gathered at RSPB Titchwell and were soon at the Visitor Centre feeders where Siskins, Goldfinches and Greenfinches were busily feeding. On the walk to the beach among others, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Shoveler and a female Scaup were observed together with several Common Snipe. For some there was also

a distant view of a Water Rail. From the beach large numbers of Common Scoter, a Velvet Scoter and Goldeneye were among the birds seen.

Later a few members went on to Holme for more sea watching with the most notable bird seen on the water being a Slavonian Grebe.

Sunday 9th March - The 30th Anniversary Hoe Bird Walk - Coordinated by David Knight.

The Hoe Bird Walk was led by David who for many years has recorded and monitored the site and on this, the 30th Anniversary of its inception he undertook to show some of our members around. We were able to see the work that had been carried out to three rejuvenated areas where tree felling has been followed by scraping the surface and allowing dormant seed to flourish. During the morning a Red Kite was seen which was a first for the Hoe Bird Walk and in all a total of 57 species were seen during the morning. This number turned out to be the most species ever recorded during thirty years of the walk.

Thursday 20th March - Birds Birders and the Work of the BTO - Speaker Paul Stancliffe.

Paul started his talk with some alarming statistics about the rapid decline in migrant numbers followed by details of how monitoring techniques are becoming, with advances in technology far more sophisticated. This enables the BTO to provide guidance to what is causing the decline in some populations. In some cases the time honoured practice of ringing which, while costing pence at best gives a poor return of data and this method is being superseded by the use of GPS tags but once again birds have to be re-caught to retrieve data. The latest development of satellite devices which transmit large amounts of data but which are only suitable at present for larger birds until technology advances can reduce the size. These are very expensive to use but have been used to show how Cuckoo numbers in England have fallen but increased in Scotland and also how the chosen migration route can adversely affect survival.

This was another interesting and informative evening when everyone learnt something about this fascinating subject.

Saturday 29th March - Felbrigg Hall - Coordinated by Glenn Collier

Seventeen members met for a walk around the park and woodland. A good morning was enjoyed by all and a varied list of birds had been seen by the end. These included Firecrests, 5 Little Owls, Goldcrests, Crossbills and Common Snipe. Later, around the lake area Mandarin Duck and Little Grebe were added to an ever growing list. Later in the day members went on to Cley NWT where another twenty species were added to the list.

By the end of the day a total of 84 species had been seen.

Thursday 17th April - AGM followed by: The Cuban Bus Pass Boys - Speaker - Allan Hale.

Society business, as is usual on these occasions was swiftly concluded with the committee being returned unopposed.

Allan's talk was an account of a trip to Cuba undertaken by some members of the club. The title of the talk derives from the fact that members travel to Gt. Yarmouth by bus to observe Mediterranean Gulls.

Of the 28 birds endemic to Cuba a total of 26 were seen and the talk included some stunning photography of many of the birds seen, with Woodpeckers proving to be very obliging in looking out from their tree holes at the slightest tap on the trunk. Unfortunately a downside is that populations of the more colourful birds are in decline due to their popularity as caged birds.

Cuba can boast many varied forms of transport including oxen, donkeys and very many forms of dilapidated motor transport that travel great distances transporting people to and from work and these caused a lot of interest on the long journeys members had between sites.

Saturday 26th April - Wild About the Wensum.

This is a regular event in our calendar and as usual we provided a supply of volunteers to man the hides and help a steady stream of visitors to see the birds feeding on the scrapes. In the marquee we had our Society display erected and also organized a colouring competition for the Brownies.

Sunday 27th April - A Field Trip to the Horsey Area - Coordinated by Ray Gribble

It was a cold dull morning when 16 members set off on what has become one of our favourite field trips and one that we do on a fairly regular basis. Spring migrants were in full song among the reeds including a Grasshopper Warbler skulking in the reed bed and in the wooded areas late Fieldfares prepared to move back to their breeding grounds. On the open fields a Yellow Wagtail was spotted as Whimbrel and a flock of Common Crane flew overhead. Later on the path to the beach, Wheatear, Stonechat and a Marsh Harrier were much in evidence. Later, the beach itself was enlivened by a large group of basking seals and out to sea two adult Gannets added interest.

A total of 64 species were recorded for the day.

Thursday 15th May - Butterflies in Norfolk - Speaker - Alan Dawson

In his talk Alan outlined how loss of habitat has been the prime cause of species decline but of the 59 nationally recognized we have 36 in Norfolk and of these 10 are red listed.

Careful plotting and recording by Butterfly Conservation of overall trends show that not all of these are downward. A notable example being the Holly Blue once scarce but now a fairly common sight in such places as Holt Country Park and Foxley Wood.

He also showed how we can help by providing a range of nectar rich plants in our gardens and perhaps leaving a few nettles.

This was a seasonally appropriate talk and our thanks to Alan for making it such an interesting evening.

Saturday 17th May - A Field Trip to the Stanford Battle Training Area

This was a new venture for the WVBS as we joined NARVOS for a trip to this 28,000 acre site that has been off limits to most civilian personnel since being commandeered over 70 years ago by the Army for training purposes.

It turned out to be an area rich in wildlife and particularly in birds. Also many species of butterflies, dragonfly and moths were much in evidence drawn in by the abundance of wildflowers and plants.

By the end of the day a total of 79 species had been recorded.

Saturday 24th May - Dawn Chorus Walk - coordinated by Glenn Collier

This is always a popular event as members are allowed by kind permission of the landowner in areas where access is usually denied. So on a rain threatened morning 20 plus members gathered for this annual event and before even leaving the car park a Cuckoo was heard calling in the receding gloom together with various warblers singing in the surrounding trees. Later a family of Bullfinches were spotted and the unwelcome sight of a young Great Tit struggling to regain dry land after falling from its nest, an incident that thankfully had a happy ending.

Almost to the minute and as forecast earlier the rain started to fall at around 6am and two hours later and slightly damp we arrived back for coffee and a very welcome bacon roll.

A total of 47species were recorded for the morning.

Wednesday 4th June - Wensum Valley Walk - coordinated by Steve Chapman

This was held in a part of the Valley bordered by the Rivers Wensum and Tud and perhaps not as well known to members as some other areas. Most of the common species were present but perhaps the find of the evening was a White Ermine moth that had just laid a batch of eggs.

By nightfall a total of 41 species had been seen and our thanks to Steve for showing us a new and varied area of the Valley.

28th May - 6th June – A Members’ trip to Bulgaria.

This trip was organized by Steve Cale and 10 members took part. Over the period the group visited a vast array of habitats in wide ranging parts of the country.

The general consensus was that Bulgaria was a beautiful unspoilt country with a rich and varied flora and fauna. By the end of the trip over 170 species had been seen and many “first ticks” were recorded.

Wednesday 11th June - An Evening Walk at Bintree Mill - Coordinated by Alwyn Jackson

This again was an area that is not usually accessible and our thanks must go to the landowner, Paul Seaman for allowing us to share his passion for wildlife and conservation. He explained that he was a member of only the second family to own the mill in 800 years.

Our walk started in the quarry where it was hoped to establish a breeding colony of Sand Martins in the wall.

Walking through the marshes to the summer house the warm summer air was filled with the sound of warblers singing and in many cases displaying in full view. Reed Buntings, Mistle Thrushes and a Cuckoo were also seen among many others.

In the second part of the walk through wild flower meadows we saw the commemorative woods that have been planted in the past to remember both the Falklands and the Centenary.

A chance to see inside the now redundant mill was a fitting end to the evening.

19th June - 22nd June - Member’s trip to Wales

Thirteen members enjoyed a fine and sunny weekend that started off with a few hours spent at Burton Mere in Cheshire before travelling on to Wales.

On the second day the Aber Valley and the Great Orme were on the agenda followed on subsequent days by trips to RSPB Conwy and Betws-y-Coed.

On day four Anglesey was the destination and South Stack was the first stop followed by Cemlyn Bay and lastly, RSPB Valley Headlands where a pair of Lesser Redpolls were displaying well. This sighting turned out for many to be a particularly memorable part of the trip.

A total of 120 species were recorded for the trip.

Saturday 28th June - A Field Trip to Sutton Fen - Coordinated by Liz Bridge

This site is internationally important fen habitat situated in the Ant valley and normally is not open to visitors. It supports many rare plants and invertebrates that were once common in the Broads with possibly, two of the rarest being the Fen Orchid and the Fen Mason Wasp, where careful habitat management has probably saved both from local extinction.

This trip to such a rare venue proved so popular that it was split into two sessions and during the day 54 species were seen.

Thursday 17th July - Farming and Conservation - A Farmer's Perspective - Speaker - Charles Sayer

Charles Sayer who is an honorary member of the Society started his talk by telling us how the farm was bought from the Holkham Estate by his Grandfather.

The farm has always been rich in wildlife and this is encouraged even more in present times by utilising wide field margins, planting crops such as Millet and Fodder Radish. Hedgerows are left to produce a full crop of berries and dead trees are left for the benefit of Woodpeckers and insects.

Saturday 27th July - A Field Trip to RSPB Lakenheath. - Coordinated by Sue Gale

A start was made at Weeting Heath and true to form good views were had of Stone Curlew out on the heath together with a few stoats playing in the sunshine. Later at Lakenheath a long walk around the site

produced among other sightings Great White Egret, Bittern and a Honey Buzzard. Later, good views were had of Bearded Tits on a grit table.

At the end of a terrific day 72 species had been recorded.

Sunday 3rd August - A Bioblitz at the Dinosaur Park

Five Society members volunteered to conduct a bird survey in the Park as part of the Bioblitz weekend. In perfect weather 49 species were seen and the vote for the bird of the day award went to the Spotted Flycatcher seen almost at the end of the morning.

Thursday 21st August - Our Annual Summer Social Evening.

40 members gathered under lowering skies for the event but thankfully the rain held off although some took advantage of the warmth of the hall anyway. During the evening photographic shots of one of our earlier trips were scrolled on the screen. Altogether the event made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Saturday 30th August - A Summer Walk at Holme Dunes - Coordinated by Phil Borley

The event started with sea watching from Gore Point where a good list was assembled but without any rarities showing. After checking the NWT site a visit was made to the NOA reserve where close views were had of Speckled Wood, Red Admiral, Migrant Hawkers and a fantastic Hummingbird Hawk Moth feasting on a buddleia.

A total of 80 Species had been seen by the end of the day.

Thursday 18th December - The Wildlife of the Maasai Mara - Speaker - David Pelling.

In his usual inimitable style David conveyed the magic of South Western Kenya to the meeting accompanied by stunning photographs, not only of the birds of the area but also of the big cats and other assorted wildlife that abound in the area. Together with scenic shots this made for a

memorable experience and the last scene of an African sunset was a fitting closure to the evening.

Sunday 28th September - A Field Trip to Cley NWT - Coordinated by Steve Chapman.

An early sea watch was already in progress by the time most of the members arrived and by the time we were ready to move back to the visitor centre a respectable number of species had been recorded. After refreshments a walk to Walsey Hills produced a Chiffchaff and a female Blackcap which among other species enlivened the walk. Later a walk out to the centre hides produced views of Bearded Tits, Golden Plover, Little Stint, Pintails and fleeting views of a Water Rail in among the reeds.

A total of 79 species were recorded for the day.

Thursday 16th October - The Birds of New Zealand - Speaker - Bill Shepherd

Some of the birds found in New Zealand were released by early settlers but there are many endemic species as well. These include such birds as NZ Dotterel, NZ Fernbird, Wrybill and Stuart Island Shag.

A little known fact is that there are no indigenous mammals on the islands, only those that have been introduced, either by intent or otherwise by man. Amongst the most unpopular are rats and possums and the female possums always seem to be pregnant and as a species threaten the survival of some tree species.

Bill's talk was accompanied by stunning photographs which included the Southern Royal Albatross which is also the largest and most timid of all the Albatrosses.

The talk was enlivened by Bill's anecdotes about the funny aspects of his travels as well as the more serious bird watching aspects.

Sunday 26th October - The North Norfolk Coast - Coordinated by Phil Borley.

21 members met at Holkham on what turned out to be a very windy day which made some smaller species very elusive. The highlight of the morning being distant views of a Drake Surf Scoter. Later a move was made to RSPB Titchwell where a Bittern made a welcome flypast.

In all 80 species were recorded for the day.

Thursday 20th November - Wild Breckland - A Talk by David Mason

David's talk started with a short history of the area leading from the mining of flints in Neolithic times to the present day shaping of the area by the rabbit population that at one time numbered in the hundreds of thousands. In 1921 over 500 hundred people were employed in skin processing alone.

He took us through the seasons and the ebb and flow of different species and their conservation status.

A succession of crystal clear photographs accompanied David's talk and we were left full of admiration for his intimate knowledge of the area.

Sunday 30th November - A Field Trip to Strumpshaw and Buckenham Marsh - Coordinated by Mary Walker

As is usual with our trips to this part of the Broads we started with a tour of RSPB Strumpshaw reserve. Most birds were quite active and fine views were had by most people with perhaps the best being a group of Bullfinches feeding in bushes by the river. Later we visited Buckenham Marsh where good views of Peregrine, Ruff, and White-fronted Geese were obtained. As darkness fell we moved up the hill for views of what Buckenham is famous for, the Rook Roost and once again we were not disappointed. Thousands of birds gathered on the field and wires coming from all directions before moving off en masse to roost in the adjoining trees.

Thursday 11th December - Annual Xmas Social

After last year's 10th anniversary celebration, this year we returned to our more traditional form of socialising, eating and quizzing. Over 50 members attended what everyone agreed was one of our best social events yet.

This diary has been compiled from monthly contributions by David Knight, Liz Bridge, Glenn Collier, Lucy Topsom, Mary and Keith Walker, Lin Pateman, Sue Gale, Steve Chapman, Martin Spriggs, David Gibbons, Philip Howard, Phil Borley, David Martin, Alwyn Jackson, Judy Walford, Liz Gibson, Lynda Vincent and our thanks go to them for their contributions.

The Systematic List

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

Records have been entered into the Society's spreadsheet by David Gibbons. The species texts have been drafted by Steve Chapman (Mute Swan-Red Kite), Alwyn Jackson (Booted Eagle-Common Tern), David Gibbons (Arctic Tern-Sand Martin), Ray Gribble (Swallow-House Sparrow) and Richard Norris (Grey Wagtail-Corn Bunting & Escapes). The Systematic List has then been compiled by Alwyn Jackson. Steve Cale produced the line drawings that enhance it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common breeding resident. **Green listed.**

Records year-round from throughout the valley with high counts of 20 Ringland 2nd Feb and 10 HBW 20th Dec. Evidence of breeding at Bintree, Costessey Marshes, Pensthorpe, and Sparham Pools.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus colombianus*

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

A single record of 21 birds flying over Scarning on 21st Feb (IB).

Whooper Swan

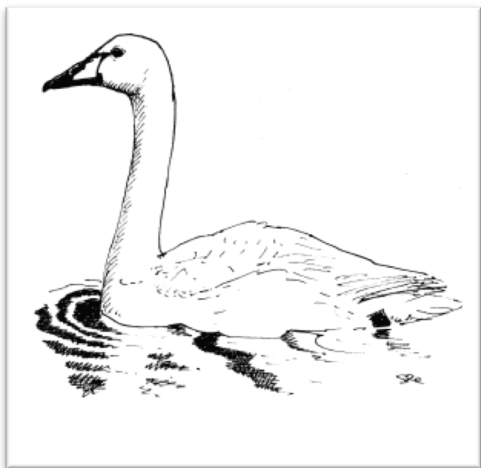
Cygnus cygnus

Uncommon winter visitor.

Mainly flyovers. **Amber listed.**

Two records reported; 2 flying over Great Ryburgh 18th Feb and 9 Drayton on 22nd Nov.

Whooper Swan, by Steve Cale



Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

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

Fourteen records of birds flying over in both winter periods. High counts of over 100 were 200 Great Ryburgh 2nd Jan, 70 Swanton Morley 5th Jan, 150 Sculthorpe 5th Jan, 350 Costessey 11th Jan, 200 Worthing 11th Jan, 120 Guist Common 24th Nov, 170 Costessey 25th Nov, 200 North Elmham 30th Nov.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common naturalised resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Recorded year-round from throughout the valley with peak counts of 300 Raynham Hall Farm 2nd Jan, 300 Bittering 5th Jan and 100-300 birds at Pensthorpe Jul – Dec.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common naturalised resident. Green listed.

Recorded at many sites throughout the year, with larger numbers found alongside or near rivers and lakes. Highest counts were 100 Ringland 2nd Feb, 60 Pensthorpe 19th Mar, 140 Lyng Easthaugh 4th Aug.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

Records mainly from Pensthorpe with a resident flock of at least 142 recorded on the water meadows or surrounding fields plus a single record of 5 at Gt. Ryburgh on 29th April.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Naturalised resident, locally common.

Present in all months throughout the valley, with most records being at or near the river. Pensthorpe had the largest numbers throughout the year, with a peak of 60 birds in Sept, with also 13 Lyng Easthaugh 13th Jan, 19 Great Ryburgh 24th Jan, 10 Ringland 13th Feb and 10 Sparham Pools 23rd April.

Evidence of breeding at Beetley, Lenwade Common, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools and West Raynham.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A scarce visitor to the valley. Amber listed.

Records from 8 locations with most from Pensthorpe where there is a small breeding population. Notable counts were 20 Pensthorpe 19th March, 6 West Raynham 4th May and 4 Gt. Ryburgh 24th May. Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe with up to 13 juveniles recorded in June.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Very scarce naturalised resident.

Records from 6 locations with pairs seen at Guist Common, Great Ryburgh and Pensthorpe. A single male was present at Lenwade Common between 11th Oct and 21st Dec.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Records from throughout the valley between Jan-Apr and late Aug-Dec. Highest counts in the first winter period 100 Bittering 14th Feb, 16 Pensthorpe 20th Feb and 40 Gt. Ryburgh 5th Mar.

In the second winter period peak counts were 115 Pensthorpe 5th Nov and 23 Sparham Pools 28th Dec.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Seen throughout the year at a number of sites along the valley. Highest counts recorded were 52 Pensthorpe 20th Feb, 40 Sparham Pools 14th Nov and c50 Haveringland Hall 13th Dec.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe 9th July.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Fairly scarce winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.

Present throughout the year, with a large influx of birds into the valley during the winter months. Highest counts were at Pensthorpe, with a winter peak of 300+ and in addition 22 Gt Ryburgh 22nd Nov, c60 Sparham Pools 29th Nov and 64 Costessey 26th Dec.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Present in all months through the valley with highest counts 100+ Guist Common 9th Sept, 70 Sparham Pools 14th Nov, 86 Pensthorpe 21st Dec.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Five records during the year all from Pensthorpe: 11th Feb (2), 11th Mar (2), 5th June (2), 9th July (fem) and 10th Sept (2).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

A winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.

Present most months of the year at Pensthorpe, with additional records of 3 Beetley 5th Jan, 2 Great Ryburgh 22nd Apr and 2 Sparham Pools 15th Nov. High counts recorded in winter and early spring at Pensthorpe with a maximum of 60 on 25th March.

No records of breeding evidence.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Very scarce naturalised visitor but wild birds from continental populations may also occur.

A single bird at Pensthorpe on 15th May.

Pochard *Aythya farina*

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

Records from 4 sites, with high counts of 10 Sparham Pools 3rd March and 8 Pensthorpe 21st Dec. No evidence of breeding submitted.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

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

Present throughout the valley on lakes and gravel pits, with large fluctuating populations at Sparham Pools and Pensthorpe. Peak counts of 45 Sparham Pools 10th Nov and 110 Pensthorpe 8th Dec. Evidence of breeding at Lenwade Common on 27th June (1 female with 4 young).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

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

Records from 4 sites. Single females were recorded at Sparham Pools 10th-13th Jan and Costessey Pits 17th-26th Dec, and a male was sighted on Costessey Marshes 26th Dec. Sightings of up to 2 birds at Pensthorpe throughout the year, but the origins of the birds were not confirmed.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

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

Records of 2 females at Bittering 14th and 15th Feb (IB). Also 2 records from Pensthorpe in Apr but the origin of the birds was not confirmed.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Very rare winter visitor. **Green listed.**

A single bird at Pensthorpe on 19th Nov.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

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

Records from 5 sites during both winter periods with highest count of 7 Sparham Pools 13th Feb. The last sighting in the first winter period was at Pensthorpe on 26th April with no further records until 1 at Costessey Pits on 19th Nov.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Common naturalised resident.

Recorded during most months of the year. Highest counts were in both winter periods, with 8 Elsing Hall 5th Jan, 10 Bittering 5th Jan, 15 Eades Mill to Furze Lane 13th Jan, 15 Hindolveston 13th Jan and up to 10 Worthing in Dec.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

Records of mostly singles and pairs from 15 sites. High counts of 6 Colkirk 2nd Jan, 5 Fakenham 5th Jan, 6 Daffy Green 14th July and 7 Scarning 10th Oct.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common naturalised resident.

Present throughout the valley with many birds originating from game management programmes on shooting estates. A notably high count of 100+ birds at Foulsham on 14th Sept.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Recorded throughout the year with reports from 11 sites with Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools having regular good numbers. Highest counts were 15 Lyng 10th Jan, 13 Sparham Pools 19th Oct and 10 Hoe Bird Walk 16th Nov.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Very scarce winter visitor. Red listed.

Two records of single wintering birds at Sparham 7th Feb (CS) and Guist Common 17th Mar (NM).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Very scarce resident. Amber listed.

Over 90 records of mostly single counts from over twenty locations indicate the species has become well-established in the recording area. Notable counts were 3 HBW 16th Mar, 4 Gt Ryburgh 30th Apr, 3+ Guist Common 26th May, 3 Pensthorpe 28th July, 3 Lenwade 28th Dec. No breeding evidence has been reported and it is not known whether the species roosts in the valley.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

A very rare vagrant.

A single record from Sparham Pools on 27th Dec (CS) which was still present at the end of the year.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

Over 100 records from 20 sites throughout the year indicate this species is a widespread resident in the valley. Highest counts were 5 HBW 19th Jan, 5 Pensthorpe 25th Sept and 4 Sparham 29th Nov. More information is needed on heronries in the recording area and evidence of breeding.

Little Grebe *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Recorded at 9 sites, with the highest count 5 at Sparham Pools 9th Oct and 6th Nov. Seven of the sites had records of 2 or more birds but breeding behaviour was only noted at Costessey Fish Farm (AG).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Recorded at only 8 sites in the valley. There was a peak of 11 wintering birds at Swanton Morley GP on 5th Jan and a spring maximum of 8 at Sparham Pools on 14th April.

Evidence of breeding at Sparham Pools (2 pairs) and Pensthorpe (1 pair).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

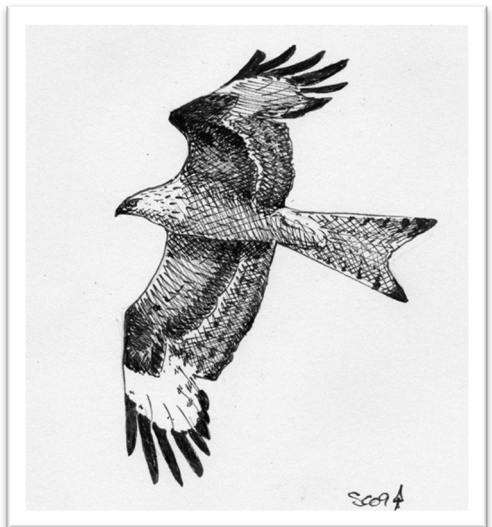
Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

A single bird at Gt Ryburgh on 26th May (IB) and an unconfirmed sighting of a single bird on 1st May.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

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

Records throughout the year of mainly singles from 26 sites in the recording area, with one high count of c12 over Hindolveston on 18th Feb (G&AJ).



Red Kite, by Steve Cale

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

A total of 26 reports of largely single birds from 9 sites.

In first winter period birds at Guist, Pensthorpe, Scarning and Costessey Ski Pits.

Occasional reports of single birds between Apr – Sept at Guist, Pensthorpe, West Raynham, Great Ryburgh (a pair), Bintree Mill and Sculthorpe. At the well watched site of Guist Common a max count of 3 birds – a male, female and juvenile – on 15th Aug and 3rd Sept. A male, female and juvenile also reported at Sculthorpe Moor on 21st Sept.

During the second winter period reported at Guist Common (2), Scarning and Ringland.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

A single male bird at Pensthorpe on 3rd Apr (RG, RN).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Two reports of single birds, one at Sculthorpe Moor on 13th Oct (LBr, FV) and the other at Pensthorpe on 17th Oct (SC, RG).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

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

One hundred reports of mainly 1-2 birds spread across 35 sites.

One bird observed chasing swallows at Guist Common on 18th Aug (LBr).

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo**Resident and passage migrant. Green listed.*

A further increase in sightings with a total of 256 reports scattered between 55 sites. Highest counts were 10 over the Easton Estate on 13th Feb (AG) and 11 at Pensthorpe on Oct 23rd (RG, MW). There were other high counts of 5-7 birds from a further 11 sites – 9 reports Mar-May and 13 Aug-Oct indicate perhaps some migratory movement through the area.

Regular monthly counts at HBW and Pensthorpe:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
HBW	1	2	5	4	4	4	2	4	4	2	1	1
Pens.	2	6	2	9	6	7	2	5	6	11	5	6

One pair bred at Sparham (CS) and 2 adults with 2 young seen at N Tuddenham on 19th Aug (B&BP).

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus**Scarce winter visitor.*

Two reports of single birds, one at Ringland on 22nd Feb (AB) and the other flying west at Pensthorpe on 8th Apr (SC, DP).

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

The only spring passage bird was reported from Lenwade village on 25th Apr (WG).

Wandering or returning birds reported from 9 sites between 2nd July at East Barsham (EJ) and 12th Nov in Lyng/Sparham/Lenwade area (SC, IB).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.

There were 156 reports of mainly 1-2 birds from 41 sites with a higher count of 4+ at Sculthorpe Moor on 21st Sept. Breeding confirmed at Bylaugh, Dunton, Sparham (2 pairs) and Swanton Morley.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Three reports of single birds – at Sculthorpe Moor NR on 5th June (BB, K&SJ, PL), at Great Ryburgh on 24th May (GRWG) and at Ringland on 25th Nov (AB).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.

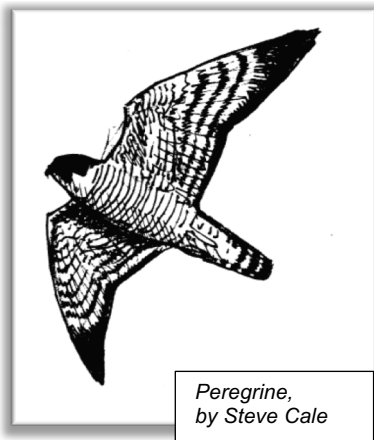
There were 24 reports of mainly single birds from 10 sites. First recorded on 24th Apr at Scarning (IB) and the last record from the same site on 5th Sept when a juvenile was seen with 3 Buzzards (IB). A pair in Sparham – Lenwade area on 30th Apr with eventually 3 at Sparham reported between 3rd May and Sept (CS). Highest count of 8 at Pensthorpe on 27th Aug (SC, PA).

A bird bred in 2013 was caught and ringed at Guist Common, while attacking a Swallow roost, on 7th Aug (RG, AH, RN, LB).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Ten records from 6 sites mainly of single birds with 2 at Norwich Cathedral from 14th Jan and at Pensthorpe on 19th Mar. The well-publicised pair at the Cathedral went on to produce 4 young.



*Peregrine,
by Steve Cale*

Water Rail *Rallus aquatus*

Very scarce resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Single birds present at 6 sites between 5th Jan – 13th Apr and at 11 sites between Sept – Dec. In second period 2 birds in Sparham Pools area on 6th Nov, 3 at Great Ryburgh Scrape on 24th Nov with 3 at Costessey Pits and R Wensum near Costessey Fish Farm on 26th Dec.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

Common resident supplemented by autumn immigrants. Green listed.

Reported at 21 sites with the highest counts from Pensthorpe of 53 on 23rd Oct; 40 on 5th Nov; 50+ on 8th Dec. Highest count elsewhere was 20 at Haveringland Hall on 13th Dec.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe and Great Ryburgh.

Coot *Falica atra*.

Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Eighty-one reports from 9 sites with most counts from Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools area. Highest monthly counts at Pensthorpe; Jan 38, Feb 26, Mar 10, Apr 7, May 5, Jun 8, July 59, Aug 80+, Sept 110, Oct 130, Nov 82, Dec 110. Highest count in Sparham Pools area was 20 on 10th Nov with 1-8 birds at all other sites.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe.

Common Crane *Grus grus*.

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

Six reports from 4 sites – 3 flying W over Ringland on 5th Mar (SC); 4 at Pensthorpe on 18th June (AH); 2 drifting slowly SW over Costessey on 2nd Oct (A&AG); 10 at Pensthorpe and 6 over A47 at Dereham on 22nd Oct (IB); 6 at Pensthorpe on 21st Dec (SC, CH).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Reported from 3 sites. The earliest was a single bird at Beetley on 27th Feb (IB). Present at Pensthorpe from 6th Mar to 27th Aug with the highest counts of 14 on 30th May (MS), 13 on 5th June comprising 9 adults plus 4 young between 3 broods (PA, CF).

Single bird at Great Ryburgh on 2nd June (GRWG) could have been a wandering bird from Pensthorpe.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Scarce summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

First reported at Pensthorpe where a single bird on 23rd Jan (SC, RN). This was followed by a further 59 records from 17 sites.

Highest counts recorded at Pensthorpe where 13 on 8th Apr, 10 on 30th May, 11 on 25th Jun and 13 on 9th July.

Bred at Pensthorpe (5 pairs) and Sparham (2 pairs). Not recorded after 27th Aug when noted as “present” at Pensthorpe.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Sixteen reports from 10 sites.

Last report in first winter period on 5th Mar when 27 flying over Great Ryburgh (GRWG).

Earliest report of returning birds on 21st Sept when 80 at Sculthorpe village (SC).

Highest counts 2000+ over Sculthorpe Airfield on 5th Jan (A&CJ), 220 at Beetley on 8th Jan (IB), 350 at Foxley on 23rd Oct (RG), c400 at Hoe on 13th Dec (DK) and c200 over Worthing on 19th Dec (DK).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

Sixty-nine reports from 17 sites.

Highest counts; Hindolveston 100+ on 24th Jan (G&AJ); Pensthorpe 134+ on 14th July (AH, RN), 300+ on 27th Aug, 250+ on 1st Sept (LB, RG), 200+ on 24th Nov (PA, SC), c130 on 8th Dec (RG, RN).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadris dubius*

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

A total of 23 records from 5 sites. Earliest report was of 2 birds on 30th Mar at Beetley (IB) and was last reported as being "present" at Pensthorpe on 27th Aug (PA, SC).

Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe where territorial behaviour was observed on 1st May and young were present on 12th June.

Highest count was of 13 at Pensthorpe on 30th May with 1-3 birds at the other sites.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

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

Four reported sightings: single at Beetley on 30th Mar (IB), 1 at Pensthorpe on 1st May (PA, MS) with 2 on the 8th (RN, MS) and 2 with young on 12th June (RN, LW).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

An increase in the number of sightings this year starting with 10 at Colkirk on 5th Jan (A&CJ, C&FN) followed by 2 at Dunton on 3rd Apr (PB), 2 at Great Ryburgh on 11th July (GRWG), single birds at Costessey Pits and 1 flying S at New Costessey on 26th Dec (A&AG) with 1 at Pensthorpe on 30th Dec (MS, MW).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed (islandica).

A single bird at Pensthorpe on 27th Oct (PA, SC).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Ten reports of mainly single birds; **May** Pensthorpe (1st), Costessey Pits (2nd), Sparham Pools (5th & 8th); **June** Pensthorpe (2 on 12th), Great Ryburgh (15th); **Aug** Sparham (8th); **Sept** Sparham (2 on 9th), Pensthorpe (11th); **Oct** Sparham Pools area (25th).

Dunlin *Calidris canutus*

Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.

Single bird at Beetley on 27th Feb (IB).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Thirty reports from 8 sites: Beetley (Jan 2, Mar 3, Apr 3); Costessey Pits (Oct); Dereham SW (Jan, Nov, Dec); Great Ryburgh (June 3, Aug); HBW (July 2); Pensthorpe (Apr, July 5, Aug 4, Sept); Sparham Pools (July 3); Worthing (Jan max 2, Feb).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very rare passage migrant. Green listed.

Single bird at Old Costessey on 15th July (SC) and a bird flying over Sparham on 10th Sept (CS).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Single bird at Pensthorpe on 14th Apr (LB, RG) and on 23rd (CF) with a further single reported at Costessey on 11th June (JN).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Single bird at Guist Common on 8th Oct (RG).

Woodcock *Scotopax rusticola*

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

Eight reports from 5 sites. Five at Scarning on 11th Jan and in Dec single birds at Scarning between 1st-9th, at Pensthorpe on 24th, at New Costessey on 26th and at Costessey on 30th. None seen at Sparham until late Dec when 10 counted.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

Recorded at 4 sites between Jan-Apr then no reports until 7th Aug through to end of the year from 8 sites.

Highest counts were 18 at Rawhall Road GP, Beetley on 9th Mar; 5 at Guist Common on 8th Oct and at Pensthorpe on the 17th; in Dec 4 at Great Ryburgh on 6th, 8 at Scarning on 26th and 25 at Costessey on 31st.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Very scarce passage migrant. Amber listed.

Two birds at NWT Sparham Pools NR and the adjacent Sparham Hall Farm fishing lake on 21st Apr (SC CS).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Birds recorded at 12 different sites between 5th Apr – 27th Aug.

Peak counts were 7+ at Sparham Pools on 23rd Apr and 8 at Pensthorpe on 25th June.

Bred at Pensthorpe where max 4 young reported and at Sparham Pools where 7 juveniles on 12th July. At other sites 1-3 birds.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Ten birds at Lyng GP on 2nd May (CS) and 3 flying over fields at Scarning on 5th (IB).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

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

Highest counts were of 250 along the River Wensum between Old Costessey and Ringland on 13th Feb (AG); 140 at Pensthorpe on 26th Feb (CF); 250 at Pensthorpe on 8th Apr (SC, DP); 150 at Sparham Pools on 23rd Apr (SC); 290 at Pensthorpe on 10th Sep (RG, RN); 300 on the River Tud at New Costessey on 19th Sep (AG); 400 at Pensthorpe on 23rd Oct (RG, MW); 200 at Dereham SW on 24th Nov (IB); 150 at Haveringland Hall on 20th Dec (JH); 500 at Pensthorpe on 24th Dec (RG, PA).

Evidence of breeding at Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare winter visitor. Amber listed.

5 records from 4 sites in March and April.

2 at Beetley on 9th Mar (IB); 2 at Corpusty on 25th Mar (PB); 2 at Pensthorpe on 3rd Apr (RG, RN); up to 6 at Sparham between 6th and 27th Apr (CS).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

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

Records from 12 sites usually in small numbers but highest counts were of 850 along the river Wensum between Old Costessey and Ringland on 13th Feb (AG); 70 at Worthing on 8th Mar (DK); 20 at Pensthorpe on 19th Mar (SC, MS); 20 at Dunton on 2nd Apr (PB); 60 at Pensthorpe on 21st Dec (CH, SC); 150 at Pensthorpe on 24th Dec (RG, PA); 31 at Pensthorpe on 30th Dec (MS, MW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

Records of small numbers from 6 sites: Pensthorpe, Bintree, Dunton, HBW, Sparham Pools and Lyng Easthaugh.

Juveniles seen at Pensthorpe in Aug. Counts of birds moving along the River Tud at New Costessey saw numbers of 213 on 18th Aug and 212 on 5th Oct (AG).

Herring Gull *Larus argentus*

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

Highest counts 10 at Pensthorpe on 25th Sep (LW, PA) and 9 on 23rd Oct (RG, MW). Records from 7 other sites of 1 to 3 birds.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Records from only 2 sites. Single birds at Pensthorpe in Mar, Jul and Oct, 2 birds at Pensthorpe on 5th Jun (CF, PA); and 1 bird at Scarning on 1st Dec (IB).

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Common resident associated with human habitation. Green listed.

Only 1 record received 1 bird at HBW on 21st Dec (DK).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Records of 1 - 8 birds from 20 sites throughout the year. Highest counts were c.50 at Corpusty (PB); 19 at Lenwade on 13th Dec (RG); 18 at Gt Ryburgh on 20th Dec (GRWG); 32 at Costessey on 29th Dec (AG).

Breeding in nest boxes at Swanton Morley (5 pairs), Elsing (2 pairs), Wood Norton, Drayton, Costessey, Ringland, Attlebridge, Hockering and Taverham.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident. Green listed.

Notable counts were 100 at HBW on 19th Jan and also on 21st Dec (DK); 100+ at Little Witchingham Hall on 13th Feb (DG); 100 at Pensthorpe on 20th Feb (SC, AH); 300 at Gt Ryburgh on 18th Nov (GRWG).

Between 20th Oct and 15th Nov a total count of 1721 migrating through the River Tud at New Costessey with the highest count of 797 on 6th Nov. (AG).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Fairly common resident associated with human habitation. Green listed.

Regular reports throughout the valley in small counts of up to 5 birds. Highest count of 14 at N Tuddenham on 20th Sep (B&BP).

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur turtur*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.

Earliest report of a single bird at Sparham Hall Farm on 1st May (CS); single birds in May at Lenwade, Hindolveston, Guist Common, Pensthorpe and Briston. Latest records of 3 birds at Springfield Farm, N. Tuddenham on 2nd Sept (B&BP).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.

Earliest record of 1 bird at Worthing on 17th May (DK). Reports from 18 sites with 2 birds at Scarning on 8th May (IB); 2 at Costessey Fish Farm also on the 18th (AG); 3 birds at Guist Common on 28th May (RG); 2 at Bintree Mill on 11th Jun (WVBS Event); and 2 birds at Sparham Pools on 22nd Jun (NE).

Evidence of breeding at Costessey Fish Farm in July (AG).

Latest record from Sparham Hall Farm on 16th July (CS).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Records on a regular basis throughout the year from over 35 sites. 2 birds often seen at Scarning (IB); records of 2 birds also at Taverham, Worthing and 3 seen at a WVBS event at Bintree Mill on an evening walk in June.

Evidence of breeding at Sparham, 2 broods from each of the 2 pairs (CS); Bylaugh, Worthing and at Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley (BM, R&CG).

Little Owl *Athene noctue*

Fairly common naturalised resident.

Records from 17 sites on a regular basis throughout the year. By far the most records from Springfield Cottage, N. Tuddenham of 2 or 3 birds recorded most months (B&BP). 2 birds also recorded at Dereham S/W and Daffy Green, on a few occasions (IB).

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

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Mainly single birds recorded from 23 sites throughout the year. 2 to 3 birds at Lenwade (RG); 2 at Taverham (LW); 2 at Worthing (DK). Breeding by 2 pairs at Swanton Morley (BM *et al*); 2 young fledged at Kettlestone (via G&AJ).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

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

Just the one record from Gt Ryburgh in Dec (GRWG).

Short-eared Owl, by Steve Cale



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor. **Red listed.**

4 birds seen at Marsham Heath in June (DD).

Swift *Apus apus*

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

Earliest sighting of 1 bird at Sparham Pools on 5th May (SC).

Highest counts in Jun 40 at Costessey, 50 in July at Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham, up to 40 also in July at Hindolveston.

Latest reported sighting was of 2 birds at Pensthorpe on 1st Sept (LB, RG).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident. **Amber listed.**

Reports on a regular basis from 20 sites.

3 birds recorded at Gt Ryburgh in July and on the HBW in Sept. 2 birds recorded at SMHOT, Pensthorpe, Worthing, Morton-on the- Hill, Costessey Ski Pits, Scarning, Swanton Morley and Helleston Mill.

Breeding confirmed at Gt Ryburgh, Pensthorpe, Helleston Mill and along the River Tud.

Green Woodpecker *Picis viridis*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Mainly single birds recorded from 22 sites throughout the year. A pair seen at Sparham Pools in July. 4 birds recorded at Sparham Pools in June, also in June 2 birds at Hindolveston, and 2 birds seen at Marsham Heath and Felthorpe in Sept.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders. Amber listed.

Regular sightings from 20 sites throughout the year. Highest counts were of 3 at Pensthorpe in Jan and 2 in Feb, Sept and Oct, 3 at Sparham Pools in Feb with 2 in Sept and Oct. 2 at Felthorpe in Sept and Oct, 2 at Lyng Easthaugh in June and July, 2 on the HBW in June and July, 2 at Hindolveston in Feb and 2 at Springfield Farm, N Tuddenham in Aug.

Evidence of breeding with young in a nest at Pensthorpe in May and juveniles in June, juveniles also at Worthing in Aug.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Common resident. Green listed.

Records of 1 to 3 birds from 20 sites throughout the year.

Highest counts of 30 at Costessey Fish Farm meadows on 16th Feb, (AG); 8 at Marriott's Way, N Earham on 22nd Feb (DH, JW); 8 at Pensthorpe on 5th Nov (LW, RN); 8 at Gt Ryburgh on 30th Nov (GRWG).

Jay *Garrulus glandaris*

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

Records from over 25 sites of 1 to 3 birds.

Highest counts were of 12 birds on the HBW on 21st Sept and 7 on 20th Apr (DK); 6 at Sparham Pools on 9th Dec (SC); 6 at Costessey West End on 27th Sept (SC); 5 at Taverham on 1st Oct (LW); and 5+ at Guist Common on 3rd Sept (RG).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Highest counts were of 130, 100 and 60 at Sparham Pools in Nov with 20 in Oct and 27 in Sept; 100 at New Costessey in Nov; 80 at Hindolveston in July; 30 at Carrick Estate, Swanton Morley in Mar; 50 at Pensthorpe in Dec and 20+ in Jan; 20+ at Furze Lane, Reepham in Jan.

Evidence of breeding at Alderford, Costessey, Swanton Morley, Swannington, Hockering, Themelthorpe and Wood Norton.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Highest counts of c.900 at Hindolveston on 5th Feb; 300 at New Costessey on 12th Nov; 110 at Sparham Pools on 21st Nov with 68 on 3rd Mar, 50 on 16th Feb and 50 on 20th Oct; 100+ at Pensthorpe on 26th Feb and 100 on 11th Sep and 75 on 6th Mar; 100 at Gt Ryburgh on 7th Feb; c.100 at Furze Lane, Reepham on 13th Jan; 58 on the HBW on 20th Apr and 40 here on 21st Sept.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Records of 1 to 8 birds from 16 sites throughout the year.

Highest counts 50+ at Rushmeadow, Dereham on 19th Nov; 24 at Costessey Fish Farm on 16th Feb; 12 at Guist Common on 15th Apr.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

Records from 12 sites of 1 to 3 birds.

Highest count of 5 at Scarning on 20th Oct.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Records from 26 sites throughout the year.

Highest counts of 12 to 15 birds on the HBW in Feb, Mar, June and July; 20 at Pensthorpe on 29th Jan; 18 at N Tuddenham Common on 10th May; 20 at SMHOT on 20th Dec; 12 at Sparham Pools on 20th Oct.

Evidence of breeding at Worthing, Hindolveston, Bintree and Lyng Easthaugh.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Records from 23 sites throughout the year of 1 to 5 birds.

Highest counts of 8 birds at Pensthorpe on 29th Jan and 25th Sept; 8+ at Bintree on 1st Aug; 7 on the HBW on 19th Nov; 6 at Sparham Pools on 15th Oct; 6 at Hoe Common on 13th Apr.

Evidence of breeding at Worthing, Bintree, Hindolveston and Lyng Easthaugh.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Records from 22 sites throughout the year of 1 to 3 birds.

Highest counts of 8 at Pensthorpe on 8th Dec with 5 recorded here on 17th Oct and also on 23rd Oct.

Evidence of breeding at Hindolveston.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Records from 25 sites of 1 to 3 birds.

Highest counts of 4 birds at Pensthorpe on 30th May and on the HBW on 21st Sept.



Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Scarce visitor to valley. **Amber listed.**

Records from 3 sites only.

5 birds at Pensthorpe on 27th Oct (SC, PA); 4 at Guist Common on 15th & 24th Nov (RG, SC, PA) and 1 bird at Sparham Pools on 2nd Oct (SC).

Bearded Tit, by Steve Cale

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

1 to 10 birds from 21 sites throughout the year.

Highest counts in the first winter period in the proximity of Worthing Church of 20 on 2nd Jan and 37 on 13th Feb (DK); 30 at Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham on 12th Jan (B&BP). In the second winter period 45 at Sparham Hall Farm on 1st Nov (CS); 18 at Sparham Pools on 5th Oct (SC).

Between 27th Sep and 8th Nov 100 counted migrating through the River Tud at New Costessey, (AG).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

Earliest record was of 10 birds at Sparham Hall Farm on 4th Apr (CS) then 6 at Sparham Pools on 5th Apr (SC).

Records were received from a further 8 sites during the summer. Latest record at Pensthorpe on 27th Aug. At Pensthorpe 5 to 6 birds during May to June and highest counts of 20 on the HBW on 25th June (DK) and 12+ at Lyng Easthaugh (SC) on 25th May.

At Lyng Easthaugh there were 115 active nesting holes.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

Earliest reported sightings of 1 bird at Costessey Pits on 3rd Apr (MMc) and 5 birds at Sparham Pools on 4th Apr (LW).

Breeding recorded at Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley with 10 active nests (RG, BM); Juveniles also recorded at Pensthorpe and Guist Common where 90 were ringed in July.

Highest counts of 700 at Guist Common on 7th Aug (RG *et al*); 50+ at Swanton Morley on 24th Jul (RG *et al*); 50 at Pensthorpe on 27th Aug (SC, PA); 40+ at Gt Ryburgh on 18th Aug (LB); 30 on the HBW on 17th Aug (DK).

During Aug a further 198 birds were ringed at Guist Common.

Latest sighting at Ringland on 10th Oct (RG).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Recorded from 19 locations.

The first record of the year was 2 at Pensthorpe on 8th Apr (SC, DP) followed by 6 on 12th and 10 on 13th at Sparham Pools.

(continues)

House Martin (continued)

The highest count of the spring was 55 at Queen's Hill, Costessey on 28th Apr with double figure counts in May: Pensthorpe 12; N Tuddenham 14 and in June: Pensthorpe 10, Costessey 20 and Bintree Mill 12+.

Breeding was recorded from Attlebridge Old Hall, Bintree Mill 4 nests, Hindolveston, Lenwade, N Tuddenham,

Maximum autumn gatherings from 1st July: Bintree 50+, Great Ryburgh 50, Guist Common 50, HBW 50, N Tuddenham 20, Scarning 50, Sparham Pools 50, Worthing Village 110.

Last record was 5 on 27th Sept in R Tud Valley at New Costessey (AG).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

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

Singles: 12th Apr Costessey (JN) and 2nd Oct Sculthorpe (IB).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

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

Recorded from 21 locations.

Breeding reported from Dunton, Hindolveston, Pensthorpe, and Sparham Pools.

Double figure counts: Max per site; HBW 13, Norwich 10, Pensthorpe 17 and Sparham Pools 30.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant.

Dereham 20th Oct (IB).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Green listed.

During the first winter period there was one at Bylaugh SW on 5th Jan (B&BP) then at Sparham Pools 10th Feb (SC) and possibly the same bird there on 3rd March when the main influx started with 3 Pensthorpe on 11th, 4 Sparham Pools and 6 HBW on 16th Mar.

While there was little proof of breeding established there were numbers of singing males during the summer: Costessey 6 on a private estate and at Queen's Hill Country Park 12, HBW 6, N Tuddenham Common 3, Pensthorpe 9, Sparham Pools 8.

Last summer visitor 13th Oct Lyng Easthaugh (IB).

Only second winter period record 8th Dec Old Costessey (AG).

Reported from 45 localities.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

The first arrivals were 3rd Apr when 1 at Ringland Common (SC) and Sparham Pools (CS). Birds continued to arrive through Apr and although there was no proof of breeding, recorded number of singing males is a good indication: Guist Common 2, HBW 6, Pensthorpe 7, Queen's Hill, Costessey 8, Ringland Common 1, Scarning 2, Sparham Pools 4.

Last record of the year, 26th Sept at Rush Meadow Dereham (PA). Records came from 14 locations.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Green listed.

A female in New Costessey on 29th Feb (AG) was fairly certainly an over-wintering bird from the Central European population that now winters in Britain. While a male singing at Dolphin Bridge, Norwich on 12th Mar was most likely the first spring arrival (AG). Records then flowed in from 19th Mar. (continues)

Blackcap (continued)

Locations with more than 1 pair: Costessey 8, HBW 4, N Tuddenham Common 2, Pensthorpe 7, Queen's Hill, Costessey 12, Scarning 4, Sparham Pools 7.

What was probably the last summer visitor record was one in Lenwade on 8th Oct.

One in Reepham on 22nd Nov (B&JP) and a male in a New Costessey garden on 9th & 28th Dec (AG) are Central European birds over-wintering here.

Records came from 23 locations.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

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

First records were from Coxford Abbey (P&CH) and HBW (DK) on 20th Apr.

Fledged young were observed at Costessey (MMcC), and multiple records came from Costessey Pits 4, Pensthorpe 5, Queen's Hill, Costessey 6 pairs, Sparham Pools 6.

The last record was as early as 7th Aug at Pensthorpe (LB, RG).

Records came from 11 locations.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

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

Only 8 records:

13th Apr Great Ryburgh (GRWG), 20th Apr Scarning 3 (IB), singles 21st & 23rd Apr Sparham Pools (SC, CS), 24th Apr R Tud valley, Costessey (AG), 26th Apr Costessey in PS's garden, 28th Apr Costessey Quarry (MMcC) and finally 18th May HBW (DK). Typically of this species no evidence of breeding was reported as it goes quiet once paired.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

The first record was 2 at Sparham Pools on 16th Apr (B&JP). This was rapidly followed by 1 at Costessey on 18th and 4 on HBW and 2 Scarning on 20th Apr.

Multiple sightings came from: Bintree Mill 2, Great Ryburgh 2, Gunton Lane, Costessey 3, HBW 9, Pensthorpe 4, Queen's Hill, Costessey 12 pairs, Scarning 6, Sparham Pools 3.

The final autumn record was Worthing on 14th Sept (DK).

Records came from 20 locations.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

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

A single record 5th June Costessey (JN). Are too many of us getting past being able to hear this species?

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

The first report was from Sparham Pools on 3rd Apr (CS). There were no further reports until 18th Apr when 4 in Costessey. Numbers built rapidly from then.

Multiple sightings came from: Costessey 8, Guist Common where 3 adults and 15 juveniles were ringed, Pensthorpe 5 and Scarning 2.

At the end of the summer 2 were ringed at Guist Common on 19th Aug, 1 was recorded at Pensthorpe on 27th Aug and a very late bird was reported at Sculthorpe Moor on 2nd Oct (EJ).

Records came from 9 locations.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
Vagrant to the area

A bird trapped at Pensthorpe on 26th May during a CES session was determined to be of this species following extensive measurement (GE, see page 91)



Marsh Warbler, by Steve Cale

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.

The first record was from Sparham Pools on 23rd Apr (SC).

Birds were recorded from: Bintree Mill 2, Costessey 3, Great Ryburgh 1, Guist Common where 15 adults and 53 juveniles were ringed, Pensthorpe 6, Sparham Pools 7.

Last records were 2 at Pensthorpe on 1st Sept (LB, RG) and 1 at Guist Common on 3rd Sept (RG).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous*

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

A single at Norwich on 19th Feb (PH).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded from 20 locations with 6 at Pensthorpe on 8th Dec being notable.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded from 10 locations with 5 on HBW on 20th July and 5 pairs at Queen's Hill, Costessey.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

This ubiquitous species was recorded from 19 locations with a max count of 11 on 24th May at Sparham Pools.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

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

In the first winter period there 300 at Mill Farm, N Tuddenham on 5th Jan, a small murmuration of 200 went to roost at Bawburgh Lane, New Costessey on 16th Feb and 250 seen on HBW on the same day.

Proof of breeding was only reported from Bintree where there were 10+ on 1st July (RD).

The first autumn gathering was 50 at Pensthorpe on 25th Sept with signs of an influx from continental Europe from 15th Oct when 50+ at Felthorpe, then 100+ at Great Ryburgh on 25th Oct and 500 going to roost at Sparham Pools on 31st Oct.

The peak daily counts passing over the R Tud valley, New Costessey were 1561 on 30th Oct, 1434 on 31st Oct, 2588 on 1st Nov and 1500 on 4th Nov with a total count of 8383 passing through between 28th Sept and 12th Nov.

Other notable records were 200 at Sparham Pools on 10th Nov while at Guist Common c.350 went to roost on 15th Nov and 500+ on 24th Nov.

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



Ring Ouzel, by Steve Cale

Two spring records 11th Apr (SC) and 19th Apr (CS) at Sparham Hall Farm.

In the autumn one on 10th Oct and another on 30th Oct in R Tud valley, New Costessey (AG).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

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

This ubiquitous species is certainly under recorded with only a few double figure counts reported. In the Sparham Pools area there were 12 at the end of Nov and a max of 25+ in Dec when there were 14 at Pensthorpe and 10 at Worthing Level Crossing.

150 migrated through the Tud Valley at New Costessey between 1st Oct and 18th Nov (AG).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

A good first winter period with many double figure counts during Jan & Feb.

Jan: Bawdeswell 50+, Gt Ryburgh 20, Lyng 60, N Tuddenham 120, Pensthorpe 50, Reepham c.50, Sparham Hall Farm c.60, Worthing 10.

Feb: Bittering 150, Briston c.200, HBW 60, Little Witchingham Hall 40+, Pensthorpe 18, Swanton Morley 15, Worthing 200,

Mar: N Tuddenham 120, Swanton Morley 200, Worthing 12.

Apr: Dunton 5 on 14th and the last a single at Sparham on 26th (CS).

The second winter period started at Cawston Heath with 6 on 14th Oct (MS). Also in **Oct:** Old Costessey 6 on 16th; Sparham 2 on 20th, Bintree Mill 17 on 24th and Lyng Easthaugh 70 on 31st.

Nov: Heydon – Salle 100+.

Dec: Costessey Fish Farm 205, Costessey Pits 200+, Lyng, Cadders Hill 30+, Lyng Easthaugh 12, N Tuddenham 30, Sparham Pools 200, Worthing 30.

721 migrated through the Tud Valley at New Costessey between 14th Oct and 21st Nov with a peak count on 516 on 6th Nov (AG).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelus*

Common resident and passage migrant. Red listed.

Reported from 32 locations during the year.

Proof of breeding from only: Kettlestone, Pensthorpe and West Raynham.

397 migrated through the Tud Valley at New Costessey between 13th Sept and 21st Nov with a peak count of 150 on 14th Oct (AG).

Redwing *Turdus illiacus*

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

Reported from 23 locations.

During the first winter period double figure counts came from -

Jan: HBW 15, Walcis Farm, Lenwade 23, Pensthorpe 20, Reepham c.25, West Raynham 10.

Feb: HBW 10, Little Witchingham Hall 30+, Pensthorpe 14, Worthing Mill Bridge 40+.

Mar: Returning passage birds Sparham Pools 18 on 2nd, Queen's Hill, Costessey 20+ on 5th and then an influx from 16th when HBW 95 and R Tud Valley, New Costessey 40 heading W. Last birds of the spring Costessey 300 and Pensthorpe 160 both on 19th.

First returning birds in autumn were 7 at Lyng Easthough on **13th Oct**. The next day 232 passed over Costessey Pits between 8.30 & 9.30a.m., while 240 were recorded going S/SE over Old Costessey between 7.00 & 7.35a.m. Also on the 14th there were 40 at N Tuddenham Common and AG recorded his peak daily count of the autumn of 2609 passing along R Tud valley at New Costessey.

Another 60 were heading WSW over Old Costessey between 7.15 & 7.45 a.m. on 16th. On 17th 25 were at Pensthorpe then on 19th HBW 43 and Pensthorpe 80. It then went quiet until 30th Oct when another 2031 passed along R Tud valley at New Costessey.

Nov: A quieter month with max counts of 50+ Pensthorpe on 13th and 92 Sparham Pools area on 21st.

Dec: Only 10 on HBW, 15 Worthing and c.10 Sparham Pools indicate that this species is mainly a passage migrant through the WVBS area.

A total of 5925 were recorded between 13th Oct and 21st Nov passing along R Tud valley at New Costessey (AG).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Reported from 25 locations. Most counts were 1 to 3 birds but 22 at Sparham Pools on 5th Oct was exceptional.

Breeding was proven from Corpusty, Dunton, Pensthorpe and West Raynham.

15 passed along R Tud valley at New Costessey between 25th Sept and 6th Nov.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

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

Reported from Corpusty, Great Ryburgh, Guist Common (2 broods), Mannington Hall, Pensthorpe (bred), Sparham Hall Farm (1 pair bred) and Worthing (1 pair bred).

Earliest date 16th May, Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

Latest date 28th Aug, Pensthorpe (SC, PA)

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident. Numbers may be augmented by passage migrants in autumn and over-wintering birds. **Green listed.**

Proof of breeding of this ubiquitous species came from Bintree, Great Ryburgh, Hindolveston and Pensthorpe.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

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

All records are from Ringland Common where 2 singing males were reported from 20th Apr (SC) to 6th June (JN).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

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

Two autumn records: A single at Great Ryburgh on 13th Aug (GRWG, B&BP) and 3 at Sparham Hall Farm on 7th Sept "best count here, and the first for several years" (CS).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Scarce passage migrant. **Green listed.**

Two at Great Ryburgh in Nov on 13th (GRWG) and on 27th (LB).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Scarce passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

All spring records. 17th Apr a male near Thorpe Marriot, Taverham (NE), 25th Apr Sparham Hall Farm (CS), 4th May a female South Raynham (PH) and 14th & 15th May 2 of the Greenland race N Tuddenham (B&BP).

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. **Amber listed.**

Proof of breeding of this ubiquitous species came from Billingford, Bintree, Gunton Lane, Costessey, N Tuddenham and Worthing.

11 passed along R Tud valley at New Costessey between 14th Sept and 15th Nov.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

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

About 100 records were received for this species that warrants close monitoring due to its Red Listed status.

Maximum double figure counts for each location are: Bintree 12+, Great Ryburgh 30, Lyng Easthough 50+ in both Jan & June, N Tuddenham - Pound Lane 60 & Springfield Cottage 40, Pensthorpe 12, Taverham – Taverham Road c.40 & Thorpe Marriot 29 and Worthing 23.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. The valley is a stronghold in Norfolk for this species. Amber listed.

Recorded throughout the year from 23 locations with proof of breeding from Hellesdon, Lyng Mills and Scarning.

One lucky member had one visit her garden pond in New Costessey during Feb (JW).

22 migrated along R Tud valley at New Costessey between 14th Sept and 15th Nov.

Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail) *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

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

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

Recorded throughout the year from 20 locations with proof of breeding from Dunton, Great Ryburgh, Guist, Pensthorpe, West Raynham and Worthing.

On 25th July 50 birds went to roost on Guist Common where there were over 100 during Nov.

Other significant counts came from Dereham SW where 20+ on 24th Nov and 60 on 26th Dec (IB).

The sole record of White Wagtail was at Pensthorpe on 14th May (LB, RG).

The 99 birds migrating through R Tud valley at New Costessey between 19th Sept and 20th Nov would fairly certainly have been comprised of both races.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Fairly common winter visitor.

Amber listed.

Records were received from 9 sites in the area with counts of up to 30 being noted.

During the period 16th Sept to 21st Nov 53 birds were observed passing through the Tud Valley (AG).

During the 2nd winter period upwards of 100 birds were observed moving loosely around fields at Sparham Hall Farm.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Green listed.

Records were received from only 5 sites with the 2 highest counts, both in the 1st winter period, coming from Sculthorpe NR. 14 were observed on 5th Jan and 20 on 1st Feb. There was a late sighting of a male bird made at Pensthorpe on 3rd April.

Later in the year a count of three was noted on 28th December at Sparham Hall Farm.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

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

There were records from multiple sites during the year with the highest count of 260 being reported at Old Costessey on 29th Dec.

There was a flock of 100+ at Sparham Hall Farm throughout the 2nd winter period, and 50+ reported at North Tuddenham on 14th Dec.

Observation of the autumn migration in the Tud valley produced a count of over 1000 birds (AG).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Good numbers were recorded at several sites during the year with the highest being 8 at Queens Hills on 19th May.

During the second winter period counts of up to 5 were recorded at various sites including Scarning on 13th Sept, Pensthorpe on 17th October, Rush Meadow on 1st Nov and the Hoe Bird Walk on 16th Nov.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common declining resident. **Green listed.**

Records from over 20 sites were received during the year with the highest count being 120 at Old Costessey on 29th Dec. Elsewhere, at Sparham Hall Farm on 10th Oct and Pensthorpe on 23rd Oct counts of 20 were achieved and at Scarning 30 were recorded on 30th Dec.

In addition to these, counts of up to 10 were noted at multiple sites throughout the recording area.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Good numbers were recorded at 14 sites with the highest count being 100 on 28th Dec at Sparham Hall Farm. Elsewhere there were notable records of 50+ at North Tuddenham 14th Jan and at Foxley on 25th Oct among other sites.

In addition, during December there were 2 flocks totalling 225 birds feeding on stubble at Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

Lesser Redpoll (Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret*

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

The highest count of the year was of 20 recorded at Pensthorpe on 16th and 17th Jan. Elsewhere records in single figures were received from 7 sites with the most notable being 5 recorded at Fustyweed on 18th Feb.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Very scarce winter visitor. Green listed.

There were only 2 records, both from Pensthorpe on 16th and 17th Jan (RG).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Very scarce resident and irruptive winter visitor. Green listed.

Five records from 3 locations of birds flying over, 1 Costessey Pits 17th Jan, 1 Ringland 13 Mar, 2 Costessey (Tud Valley) 15th May and 1 Costessey Pits 12th June.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident. Green listed.

Good numbers recorded in over 20 sites with the most notable being 200+ at Weston Longville on 4th Oct.

Elsewhere 100+ were recorded at Pensthorpe on 4th Oct, 60 at Old Costessey on 16th Oct and a count of 50 at Sparham Hall Farm on 7th Dec.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Very rare vagrant. Amber listed.

Only 1 instance recorded on 22nd July at Gt Ryburgh (GRWG)

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common or fairly common winter visitor. Green listed.

Reported from 12 sites during the year with the highest counts in the first winter period of 50+ occurring at Pensthorpe on three occasions namely 16th 17th and 29th January. There was also a record of 20 at Swanton Morley GP on 5th Jan. During the second winter period the highest count recorded was 4 at Pensthorpe on 1st Dec.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

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

Records were received from 17 sites with the highest counts in the first winter period being 16 at West Raynham on 2nd Jan and 20 on 26th Mar at Worthing. Later in the year a count of 50+ was recorded at Worthing Level Crossing on 6th Dec and there were 20+ birds wintering on fields at Sparham Hall Farm during the period from Oct to Dec.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

There were records from 15 sites throughout the year with the highest count being 10 at Sculthorpe Moor on 5th Jan.

Strong evidence of breeding from Guist Common with 9 Juveniles being ringed on 6th July and a further 3 on 29th July.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

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

One record only from Coxford Abbey on 20th Apr (P&CH).

Escapes

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Australia & Tasmania; introduced New Zealand.

Believed to be an escapee from Elsing Hall and recorded at Mill Street on 7th Feb and Lenwade Bridge on 25th Mar.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Eastern Europe, Asia and North Africa.

Two records received with one being from Rawhall GP on 2nd Jan and one from Beetley GP on 13th Aug.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Interior NW N America (SW Canada to Mexico); West Indies.

A solitary record from Pensthorpe on 28th July.

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Wensum Valley Recording Area



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.

GP = gravel pits

SW = sewage works

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

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

Felthorpe	TG1618	Hoe	TF9916
Hoe Bird Walk	TF9917	Marsham Heath	TG1723
Hoe Rough/Common	TF9817	Mattishall Burgh	TG0511
Honingham	TG1011	Mattishall, Clippings Green	TG0412
Horningtoft	TF9323	Mileham	TF9119
Kettlestone	TF9631	Morton-on-the Hill	TG1216
Lenwade	TG0918	New Costessey	TG1710
Lenwade Bridge	TG1018	North Elmham	TF9820
Lenwade, Bridge Lake	TG1018	North Tuddenham Common	TG0314
Lenwade, Marriot's Way	TG1018	North Tuddenham, Elsing Lane	TG0214
Litcham	TF8817	North Tuddenham, Mill Farm	TG0413
Little Ryburgh	TF9628	North Tuddenham, Springfield Farm/Cottage	TG0414
Little Snoring	TF9532	Old Costessey	TG1611
Longham	TF9415	Pensthorpe	TF9428
Lyng	TG0617	Pockthorpe	TG0718
Lyng Easthaugh	TG0817	Pudding Norton	TF9128
Lyng Easthaugh, Walnut Tree Farm	TG0917	Reepham	TG1023
Lyng, Cadder's Hill	TG0617	Ringland	TG1314
Lyng, Collin Green	TG0816	Ringland Common	TG1314
Lyng, Kingfisher Lakes	TG0618	Scarning	TF9512

Lyng, Primrose Green	TG0616	Sculthorpe Airfield	TF8631
Mannington Hall	TG1432	Sculthorpe Mill	TF8930
Sculthorpe Moor NR	TF9030	Toftrees	TF8927
Shereford	TF8829	Twyford	TG0124
South Raynham	TF8723	Wendling	TF9313
Sparham Hall Farm/Fishing Lakes	TG0718	Wensum Valley Golf Club, Taverham.	TG1414
Sparham Hole	TG0519	West Raynham	TF8725
Sparham Pools NR	TG0717	Weston Green	TG1014
Swanton Morley	TG0116	Weston Longville	TG1115
Swanton Morley GP	TG0119	Whissonsett	TF9123
Swanton Morley, Park Farm	TG0216	Whitwell	TG0821
Swanton Morley, Waterfall Farm	TG0118	Whitwell Common	TG0820
Swanton Novers Raptor Watchpoint	TG0030	Wood Norton	TG0127
Taverham	TG1614	Worthing	TF9919
Taverham Fishery	TG1513	Worthing Church	TF9919
Taverham, Ghost Hill Wood	TG1713	Worthing, level crossing	TF9919
Themelthorpe	TG0524	Worthing, Swanton Road	TG0019
Thorpe Marriot	TG1614		



Garganey, by Steve Cale

Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Hobby	24 th Apr	Scarning	IB	5 th Sept	Scarning	IB
Common Tern	5 th Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	27 th Aug	Pensthorpe	SC, PA
Turtle Dove	1 st May	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	2 nd Sept	North Tuddenham	B&BP
Cuckoo	17 th May	Worthing	DK	16 th July	Sparham Hall Farm	CS
Swift	5 th May	Sparham Pools	SC	1 st Sept	Pensthorpe	LB, RG
Sand Martin	4 th Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	27 th Aug	Pensthorpe	SC, PA
Swallow	3 rd Apr	Costessey Pits	MMc	10 th Oct	Ringland	RG
House Martin	8 th Apr	Pensthorpe	SC, DP	27 th Sept	New Costessey	AG
Nightingale	20 th Apr	Ringland	SC	6 th June	Ringland	JN
Sedge Warbler	3 rd Apr	Sparham Pools	SC	2 nd Oct	Sculthorpe Moor	EJ
Reed Warbler	23 rd Apr	Sparham Pools	SC	3 rd Sept	Guist Common	RG
Lesser Whitethroat	13 th Apr	Great Ryburgh	GRWG			
Whitethroat	16 th Apr	Sparham Pools	B&JP	14 th Sept	Worthing	DK
Blackcap	12 th Mar	Norwich	AG	8 th Oct	Lenwade	RG

(continues)

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

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Garden Warbler	20 th Apr	Coxford Abbey HBW	P&CH DK	7 th Aug	Pensthorpe	LB, RG
Chiffchaff	11 th Mar	Pensthorpe		13 th Oct	Lyng Easthaugh	IB
Willow Warbler	3 rd Apr	Ringland Common	SC	26 th Sept	Dereham	PA
Spotted Flycatcher	16 th May	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	27 th Aug	Pensthorpe	SC, PA

Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors

Species	Latest	Location	Obs	Earliest	Location	Obs
Goosander	26 th Apr	Pensthorpe	SC, GC, LT	19 th Nov	Costessey Ski Pit	MMc
Golden Plover	5 th Mar	Great Ryburgh	GRWG	21 st Sept	Sculthorpe HBW	SC DK
Fieldfare	26 th Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	14 th Oct	Cawston Heath	MS
Redwing	19 th Mar	Costessey	AB	13 th Oct	Lyng Easthaugh	IB
Brambling	3 rd Apr	Pensthorpe	RN, RG	1 st Dec	Sculthorpe Moor	DK



Hen Harrier, by Steve Cale

WVBS 2014 Ringing Report

Ringers were busy in the Wensum Valley during 2014, and this report documents the results of their efforts. This report covers a mixture of longevity and distance movements. There are three exchanges with continental Europe – a Goldcrest to Sweden, a Sand Martin to France and a Sedge Warbler from France.

My thanks to all the ringers that operated in the WVBS study area during 2014 for access to their records.

Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2014

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

Marsh Harrier

Nestling Male	15-July-2012	Near East Raynham, Fakenham
Field record	04-July-2014	Near Roydon (20km W)

Nestling F	19-June-2013	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Field record	06-Nov-2013	Near Heigham Holmes (55km)
Field record	31-Mar-2014	Stiffkey Fen (16km)
Field record	01-Apr-2014	Near Hickling Broad (53km)

Nestling M	09-June-2014	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Field record	03-Oct-2014	Near Barton Bendish (33km)

All these birds were wing-tagged and their tags were read in the field. There were no spectacular movements from the WVBS area in 2014 but a greater understanding of Marsh Harrier movements has been gained from this project which has been extended for a further 5 years

Woodcock

Two first year birds ringed at Gateley at the end of Feb 2012 were shot nearby at Sennowe Park, Guist on 18th Jan 2014 - a distance of 3km and 1yr 10 months later. From this data it is impossible to conclude whether they were locally bred birds or immigrants from NE Europe, where many of our wintering Woodcock originate.

Common Tern

Nestling 01-June-2011 Sparham Pools

Freshly dead 16-July-2014 Hoveton Great Broad (24km, E)

The first recovery from a long standing WVBS ringing and monitoring project at Sparham Pools.

Woodpigeon

Adult 31-Dec-2008 Litcham

Freshly dead 21-Dec-2014 Litcham

Although this bird lived to nearly 6 years before being hit by a car the longevity record for this species is 17 years, 8 months 19 days set in 1999.

Kestrel

Nestling 03-July-2013 Dunton, Fakenham

Freshly dead 20-Feb-2014 North Brink, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire
(51km, WSW)

A good example of post-juvenile dispersal when the adult birds “push” their young out of their territory and also the vulnerability of birds in their first year. This bird was found freshly dead in a water butt.

Goldcrest

First-year	12-Dec-2013	Horsford Woods
Re-trapped	11-Sept-2014	Eggegrund, Gävleborg, Sweden (1,334km, NE)

This is a typical example of a Goldcrest wintering in Britain from its NE Europe breeding area. The date of capture in Sweden suggests it could be on a SW return journey from even further N / NE.

Blue Tit

First-year F	10-Aug-2010	Hungerford, West Berkshire
Re-trapped	09-Nov-2014	Wicken Green Village (222km, NE)

Juvenile	20-June-2008	Pensthorpe
Re-trapped	10-Aug-2013	Fakenham
Re-trapped	29-Dec-2013	Fakenham
Re-trapped	13-Jan-2013	Fakenham

The first is one of the longest distance movements recorded for this, normally sedentary, species in 2014.

The second is one of the oldest Blue Tits recorded in 2014 at 5 years 6 months 24 days but falls well short of the record of 10 years 3 months 10 days set in 1997

Sand Martin

First-year	01-July-2014	near Easthaugh
Re-trapped	24-July-2014	Pointe d'Offey, Cayeux-sur-Mer, Somme, France (285km, S)

This record shows how early some Sand Martins start their migration to Africa and how quickly. Its parents would be expected to be on its second brood by the time this bird was in France.

First -year	21-Aug-2013	Pett Level, Icklesham, East Sussex
Re-trapped	01-July-2014	near Easthaugh

Sedge Warbler

First-year 31-July-2011 Marais de Cap, Montmartin-En-Graignes,
France

Re-trapped 02-May-2013 Pensthorpe (422km, NNE)

When originally ringed on the N coast of France this is likely to have been a British bred bird heading south. Sedge Warblers tend to migrate S earlier than Reed Warbler.

Reed Warbler

Adult M 25-May-2007 Pensthorpe

Re-trapped 07-June-2007 Pensthorpe

Re-trapped 12-June-2009 Pensthorpe

Re-trapped 26-May-2014 Pensthorpe

At 7 years and a day this is still short of the longest recorded at 12 years 11 months and 21 days.

Dunnock

First-year 19-Aug-2012 Guist, East Dereham

Freshly dead 21-Mar-2014 Guist, East Dereham

Dunnock are renowned for their sedentary nature and this bird was recovered within 100m of where it was ringed.

Report on Monitoring of Common Terns & Black-headed Gulls at Sparham for 2014

As in previous years the monitoring of Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls at Sparham Pools NWT and Sparham Hall Farm Lakes threw up some interesting results and questions.

Sparham Pools NWT

There was no evidence of Common Terns breeding among the Black-headed Gulls which have taken over the island on the reserve. No visits were made to the island in 2014 as NWT had stipulated that, although the chicks could be ringed, any disturbance should not lead to birds swimming away. Unfortunately this is always the case and from several years' experience at other Black-headed Gull colonies chicks always return to the island colonies. Perhaps the Trust should have been challenged on this restriction and asked to drop it.

Sparham Hall Farm Lakes

As well as the Tern Raft being cleaned the island on the adjacent trout lake was cleared of vegetation for the arrival of the Common Terns. This strategy was adopted to attract any Common Terns usurped by Black-headed Gulls from the NWT island.

Visits were made to the raft and the island on 2nd & 17th June and 2nd July.

2nd June

The Raft

COMMON TERN – 11 nests: 8 x 3 eggs; 1 x 3 addled eggs; 1 x 3 downy chicks and 1 x 2 downy chicks. No chicks were old enough to ring.

BLACK-HEADED GULL – 7 nests: 1 x 3 eggs; 3 x 2 eggs; 1 x 1 egg; 1 x 1 downy chick and 1x 1 downy chick. 3 chicks ringed.

The Island

COMMON TERN – 10 nests: 5 x 3 eggs; 3 x 2 eggs and 2 x 1 egg.

BLACK-HEADED GULL – 37 nests: 1 x 4 eggs; 23 x 3 eggs; 8 x 2 eggs; 4 x 1 egg and 1 x 2 eggs + 1 downy chick.

17th June

The Raft

COMMON TERN – 15 chicks ringed plus 1 dead egg.

BLACK-HEADED GULL – 2 chicks ringed, 1 chick too small and 6 dead eggs.

The Island

The island was visited with high expectations only for these to be dashed. All the Common Tern eggs and chicks had been predated and all that remained of the Black-headed Gulls was 1 dead chick and 2 live chicks too small to ring.

2nd July

The Raft

COMMON TERN – 2 chicks still present (both ringed on 17th June)

BLACK-HEADED GULL – 5 chicks ringed

The Island

It was decided to revisit the island but not a single egg or chick was found. Predation had been absolute. The cause of this is unknown but the most likely candidate is Otter as both eggs and chicks had been decimated. Other possible mammalian predators are Fox and Badger, both of which are in the vicinity. Avian predators are unlikely to have been able to reach

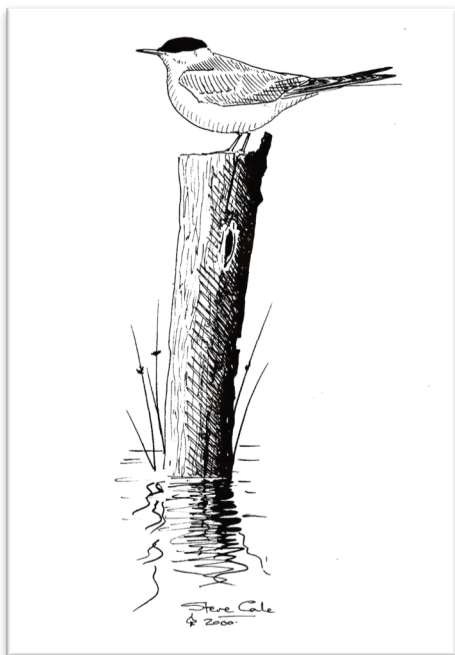
all the chicks with pipes and bushes to hide in & under. There would also have been eggshells left behind.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Charles Sayer for allowing and supporting the monitoring and ringing of the Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls.

Ray Gribble

Common Tern, by Steve Cale



Hempton Marsh Reserve Report 2014

As in past years credit must go to the volunteers and visitors to the reserve who, once again, enabled a comprehensive record to be collected of the birds, insects and mammals seen there during the year. As mentioned in the ringing report, regular ringing visits were also made to the site during the year, and whilst the results were unremarkable it does give us a good baseline for future years' monitoring.

Colour ringed Marsh Tits continued to be reported at a healthy rate, highlighting the value of this type of ringing. One of the more interesting sightings included Y313149, which carries yellow over red rings on its left leg and was originally ringed in 2011, and has now been re-sighted nine times in total since ringing, with three of those in 2014, though seemingly it has not moved far from its place of ringing at Hempton Marsh.

A total of 4,303 bird records were amassed, down on previous years, with the highest counts being made during the earlier part of the year which is possibly a reflection on birds being more visible on the feeders and more people visiting at this time of year.

BIRDS

The year started with regular counts of birds visiting the feeders during **January**, which included small numbers of Chaffinches, with two Bramblings on the 10th, and a Siskin noted on the 17th. The expected tit species were regularly seen along with single Great Spotted Woodpeckers, though three of this latter species were noted on the 17th. Slightly more unusual sightings during the month included a Nuthatch (10th, 20th), a Woodcock (16th) and four Teal (13th).

February's highlights included a Barn Owl seen on four dates, and a Woodcock on the 6th, with three Mute Swans (18th) being unusual. A Kingfisher was of note (6th). With the water level higher on the marsh larger numbers of Gulls were recorded, with a single Lesser Black-backed gull noted on the 8th. Wildfowl numbers increase too, with Teal present on 14th and 22nd (6) and fifty Mallard counted on the 11th.

During **March** Greylag Goose numbers increased with birds reported on fourteen dates, with two Egyptian Geese seen on the 14th. A Stock Dove was recorded on 13th with a Green Woodpecker on the 23rd, two Bullfinches on the 13th, and Chaffinch numbers increased as would be expected at this time of year with a single Brambling noted with them on the 10th. Three Redwings were noted on the 17th, the same date as the first Chiffchaff of the year, with a Willow Warbler heard singing on the 29th, an early date for this species.

In **April** the Egyptian Geese were again present on 13th, and a Little Egret appeared on 17th. The first Blackcap was heard on 2nd, with the last Redwings of the winter period recorded on the 3rd. Other species of note included a Redpoll sp and Kingfisher on the 3rd, Cetti's Warbler and Oystercatcher on the 7th, a Water Rail on the 13th and single Marsh Harriers on three dates, with a male Hen Harrier reported flying high north-west on the 13th.

May saw summer visitors continuing to appear with the first Cuckoo recorded on the 3rd, a day later than last year with four records in total for the month. The first Sedge Warbler was noted on 3rd and Lesser Whitethroat on the 15th. A Little Grebe was noted on the 6th. A family of Pheasants had already hatched by the 10th, with Kestrel, Buzzard, 2 Jays and a Great Spotted Woodpecker also of note on the 17th. Both Kestrel and Sparrowhawk bred on the reserve with much activity noted at the end of May and beginning of June.

The first Reed Warblers and Swifts were recorded in **June** on the 3rd and 7th respectively and Kestrel and Sparrowhawk sightings increased, a combination of local birds fledging and feeding young. A Bullfinch was seen on the 6th and Song Thrushes were recorded on six dates. Marsh Tits were also present during the spring and summer with regular sightings in May and June. Treecreeper was also noted on several dates. A Cuckoo was still calling on the 25th. A Little Grebe was calling on the river on the 27th.

July and **August** were somewhat quieter bird wise with birds of note in **July** including a Kingfisher on the 26th and single Green Woodpeckers

on the 17th and 26th. Woodland species continued to be present including Treecreeper, Marsh Tit, and a Nuthatch on the 25th and 26th. Two Buzzards were also seen on the 26th. In **August** Marsh Harriers were seen on the 5th and 9th (2), with a Kingfisher again on 7th, two Garden Warbler on 2nd and a Spotted Flycatcher on 7th, which is a very unusual visitor to the site, and unfortunately a sad reflection again on the times and fortunes of some of our bird species. Further Nuthatch sightings continued into August with 2 on the 30th.

In **September** a singing Cetti's Warbler was heard on 29th, with a Kingfisher seen the same day and a Green Woodpecker on the 30th. Woodland species continued to use the site with Great Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper and Jay recorded throughout September. Kestrel and Sparrowhawk also continued to be active. Chiffchaffs were also recorded most days.

During **October** six Mute Swans on the 14th were the highest count of the year, a Marsh Harrier was seen on the 1st with a Cetti's Warbler heard again on the same date and Kingfishers put in an appearance on three dates. A Chiffchaff was still singing on the 9th. Long-tailed Tit flocks were recorded on seven dates with up to 13 birds counted on the 11th, and a Bullfinch of note on the 26th. The first Woodcock of the second winter period was seen on the 30th.

In **November** the last of the summer visitors had left although a variety of woodland species including a Goldcrest (5th) were still present. A Kingfisher was still being seen regularly and a Grey Heron was around the marsh on several dates. A flock of around 50 Pink-feet flying high over the marsh in thick fog on the 30th was unusual, with a Water Rail and Cetti's Warbler heard the same day. The first Redwing and Siskin of the Autumn were also recorded on the 30th. Kingfishers were again seen on three dates and as expected Chaffinch numbers started increasing.

During **December** winter feeding flocks were building up with a mixed group of up to 50 birds including Blue Tits, Great Tits, Long-tailed Tits, Chaffinches and Goldfinches recorded on the 22nd. 40 Goldfinches alone were recorded on the 7th. More unusual records included two Snipe on

the 2nd, a Kingfisher on the 4th, 10 Lapwings flying over south, and a Collared Dove, Bullfinch and Siskin were all seen on the 30th.

INSECTS

A total of 167 casual insect observations were made during the year, a decrease on the previous year, with the majority of the records unsurprisingly related to Butterflies. The first of these for the year were in late **March**, with both Peacock (*Aglais io*) and Brimstone (*Gonepheryx rhamnii*) seen on the 29th the only records for the month.

April records were an improvement on 2013 but still rather sparse, with a total of 11 butterfly records. The sightings included the first Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) on the 1st, two further Brimstones on the 2nd, a Small White (*Pieris rapae*) on the 2nd and an Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) on the 24th. The first Large Red Damselflies (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) were also seen towards the end of the month on the 24th.

During **May** numbers did not increase, with just 11 butterfly records for the month indicating that numbers were struggling this spring. However these did include Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) (14th, 15th, 17th), Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegaria*) on the 17th and 23rd and Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) on the 10th, Azure Damselflies (*Coenagrion puella*) were also seen on the 17th and 23rd.

Numbers of butterflies recorded in **June** were only half that of the previous summer, with a total of fourteen records during the month. These were 7 Speckled Wood, 3 Small Tortoiseshell and 3 Red Admiral, though the first Ringlet was also noted on the 26th. The first Dragonflies were recorded with Broad-bodied Chasers seen on the 12th and the 25th and damselflies included the appearance of Banded Demoiselles, recorded initially on the 5th and subsequently on a further three dates during the month.

July was a much better month, with twelve species of Butterfly recorded. A Clouded Yellow was undoubtedly the highlight seen on the 25th, but Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) (9th, 19th & 25th), Comma

(*Polygonia c-album*) (5th, 24th & 25th), Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) (19th, 24th) and Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) (24th) were all recorded. Large White and Speckled Wood were most abundant with six records of each during July. Dragonflies and Damselflies appeared to be either very scarce or under recorded with Banded Demoiselle the only species recorded, noted on four dates (4th and 6th, 17th and 19th) during the month.

August saw the appearance of the first Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*) on the 9th, which was surprisingly the only sighting of the year and two Painted Ladies (*Vanessa cardui*) were noted on the 9th and 13th. Speckled Wood (13), Large White (8) and Red Admiral (6) were the most numerous butterflies this month.

Dragonflies and Damselflies fared better during the month, with 3 Ruddy (*Sympetrum sanguineum*) and 3 Common Darters (*Sympetrum striolatum*) recorded, Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*) and Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*) on the 9th and Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*) on the 28th.

September butterfly sightings were primarily of 6 Large White, 4 Red Admiral and 7 Speckled Wood with a total of seventeen records, with a single sighting of a Small Tortoiseshell on the 18th. Dragonfly species seen were the expected ones; 2 Common and 4 Ruddy Darters, and 5 Southern Hawkers.

October saw the season coming to an end, there were only 6 butterfly records with Large White and Speckled Wood recorded on the first day of the month, and then four records of Red Admiral, the final butterfly of the year being a Red Admiral on 30th. There were 5 further records of dragonflies with 2 Common and 3 Ruddy Darters, their last dates being the 26th and 30th of the month.

MAMMALS

A total of 181 Mammal records were collected this year, a sizable increase on 2013 with the majority of these records again accounted for by three species, Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) - 98 records, Muntjac

deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*) - 42 records and Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) - 21 records. There were seven records of Bank Vole (*Myodes glareolus*) a slight increase, and four of Water Vole which was particularly pleasing after a complete blank for this species last year. The remaining records were made up as follows, with four records of Stoat, on 27th March, 24th April, 17th and 25th October, Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) on 18th July and 27th November and a Wood Mouse on the 30th October.

Gary Elton
Assistant Warden

Report from Sculthorpe Moor 2014

In January it did not seem like the middle of winter as very mild temperatures were being experienced. The usual winter visitors had been here for a few weeks with Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* in reasonable numbers with up to 15-20 recorded in small groups, Siskin *Carduelis spinus* were in usual numbers for Sculthorpe - around 100-150+, Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* with 35 being the most recorded at the feeding stations, this was very low compared with the 300+ display of winter 2012/13. Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*, Woodcock (Eurasian) *Scolopax rusticola*, and Snipe (Common) *Gallinago gallinago*, also Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* were all present in small numbers (10+).

Sculthorpe Moor has always held good numbers of Reed Bunting and during late autumn / early winter a small roost appeared with 30-40 birds dropping in just before dusk, much to the delight of the local Sparrowhawk. This winter 2 Bitterns *Botaurus lentiginosus* appeared but these birds frequently disappeared and were seen further up the valley on many occasions and by spring time they had moved on. During early March the Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* arrived back from their wintering grounds. Mrs H our regular summer breeding bird turned up on site and since 2004 has always arrived on 19th March. This year she produced 5 young, 3 were wing tagged but the other 2 had already fledged. Red Kite *Milvus milvus* were more numerous than previous with sightings on a daily basis. The usual summer migrants established themselves with numbers similar to previous years.

Hobbies occasionally hunted over the pools for dragonflies but have never stayed on site even though we have tried to tempt them with the odd basket for breeding in.

Barn Owls *Tyto alba* produced 3 young, and Tawny Owls *Strix aluco* had a good year with 8 young from 3 nests.

Work started in late August to regenerate the reed-bed and also create some more open water on the site which will hopefully improve the reed fringe available to warblers etc. Kingfishers seemed to be a

regular feature at Sculthorpe from August onwards, with up to 4 individuals recorded together around the pools on several occasions.

Late September early October brought a flurry of excitement when a juvenile Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* turned up on site although it had probably been here for several days before it was identified. It was following the highland cattle about a lot of the time and catching frogs that were being disturbed. The work on the reed-bed was completed in the 2nd week of December after causing me a very large amount of stress, as the weather turned against us, with rain appearing on nearly every day through November. Well it has been an eventful year at Sculthorpe and I will be doing what I do at the end of every year, the festive season and all that! Celebrating with several, well earned, large glasses of fine malt Whisky!!

Nigel Middleton
Conservation Officer Hawk & Owl Trust

Description of Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

On Monday 26th May, myself Noel Elms, David Bratt and Jean Anderson were carrying out a CES ringing visit at Pensthorpe.

Weather conditions and catches had been good, and at around 11 o'clock Jean and I did a net round, on which I extracted an extremely fresh, olive looking *Acro.*, which started alarm bells ringing, though an initial look at the bird facially made me think more Reed Warbler than Marsh - the bill looking a bit too long from past experiences of the latter species. Returning to the ringing table we processed the bird and closer inspection revealed it was in fact a Marsh Warbler. Notable features included extremely fresh plumage with textbook pale tipping to the primary feathers, a concolourous mantle, rump and tail appearing olive toned and the underside appeared to have a yellowish tone which made the bird quite distinct looking. The legs clearly showed a pinkish element and retrospective checking of the pictures showed the bird to have less strongly curved claws than a Reed Warbler and a darker base to the feet. Other features noted primarily by David again from looking at pictures, were a dark alula and a plainer looking face than Reed warbler. The bird was checked for any sexual/breeding activity and was tentatively sexed as a male.

Biometrically the bird fitted perfectly for Marsh Warbler although the bill length was at the top end of the range.

Measurements as follows: Wing Length 72 mm, notch length 10mm, which is a wing/notch ratio well within range for the species.

Bill length was measured, bill to feather 11mm, bill to skull 17, tarsus diameter 1.8, and bill width at end of nostrils 5mm. A comment made by Noel, and is worth bearing in mind, is that accuracy measuring at this level is at times difficult to obtain with a 100% certainty.

Gary Elton, David Bratt, Noel Elms.

Weather Report 2014

January

A month dominated by a seemingly endless procession of deep Atlantic depressions whose mild maritime air gave our region its mildest January since 2008. Winds were often strong but inland never reached gale force. Thunder was heard on two days and a few random snowflakes were observed on the 27th.

The county average of rainfall was 90.5mms making it the wettest January since 1995.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

February

This was the most cyclonic month in 142 years of records.

Only two slight air frosts were recorded and there was a total absence of snow. It was the mildest February since 2002 but rainfall was generally excessive.

During the evening of the 27th the Aurora Borealis was widely observed.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

March

This was the mildest March since 2002 and deficient in rainfall throughout the County with the average only being around 60% of normal, allowing conditions to be ideal for spring sowing.

At Buxton no rain fell from the 3rd to the 17th but on the 23rd hailstones with a diameter in excess of 5cms fell in some areas. No snowfall was reported during the month and with a mean of 5.3 the soil temperature at a depth of 10cms reached the threshold at which plant growth resumes.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs (March)

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

April

A mild month with an average temperature appropriate to May, it was dry throughout the County and with a rainfall deficit around 50%. Many localities noted only a slight air frost allowing tender plants and fruit blossom to escape any significant frost damage. The maximum of 20.5° on the 1st was noteworthy and no snowfall was reported throughout the month

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	4	2	6	2	8	2	3	1

May

Fears of a return to drought conditions were eliminated by excessive rains throughout the county with the average of 112.3 mm being about 250% above average of normal. In the Norwich area it was the second wettest May since at least 1836. Much of the excess rainfall was accrued during a protracted downpour that began overnight on the 26th, continued throughout the 27th and finally ceased early on the 28th after yielding totals of around 50-60 mm which consequently causing some flooding. Thunder was heard on 4 days during the month.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

June

This was a very average summer month in which the maximum temperature of 25.4 on the 8th could be considered very modest. Thunder was heard on 5 days and a storm at Lingwood on the 27th producing hail stones large enough to shred vegetation.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

July

A very warm month with the monthly mean temperature of 18.7° being over 2 degrees above average and the maximum of 28.1° on the 18th was the highest of the year.

Thunder was heard on 5 days and a storm on the 20th deposited 48.5 mm on Norwich Airport, 42.9mm at North Thorpe but only 6.9 mm at Old Costessey.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	3	1	3	0	10	5	7	2

August

August was the only month in 2014 with a mean temperature below normal, due mainly to the period 17th - 31st experiencing conditions more akin to mid autumn than late summer.

Thunderstorms on 4 days caused most areas of the county to record an excess of rainfall.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	3	3	1	9	10	3	2

September

Dominated by high pressure September was an extension of summer with a preponderance of fine sunny but often hazy days. It was very dry throughout the county with the exception of East Harling where 43.9 mm of rain fell during a very localised thunderstorm on the 19th.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

October

The warmest October locally since 2006 with a freak late season heat wave causing the final day of the month to attain a maximum of 21.1°. There were no air frosts recorded and only a single ground frost.

There was a spectacular thunderstorm on the 11th which provided a magnificent display of vivid lightning and an exceptionally heavy fall of hail in the Longwater area of Costessey.

On the same day a funnel cloud was observed over Norwich Airport.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	1	0	2	5	16	1	1	5

November

November was mild with an unusually high maximum of 17.9° on the 1st. There were only 2 air frosts and a complete absence of snowfall. Rain fell on 18 days with south east Norfolk being particularly wet but it was relatively dry in the north of the county.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	0	4	6	2	3	5	0	9

December

A mainly mild month but colder conditions at the end of the month caused the average temperature to be only marginally above average with the lowest temperature of -1.9° being unusually modest. December was virtually snowless.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	1	0	1	1	11	6	6	4

Monthly Summaries for 2014

	Total Rainfall (mm)	Percentage of average rainfall	Days with Air Frost	Days with Ground Frost	Monthly Mean temperature	Deviation from average
January	82.7	143%	7	14	5.7°	+1.7 $^{\circ}$
February	77.8	181%	2	10	6.8°	+3.0 $^{\circ}$
March	22.8	49%	9	17	8.3°	+2.4 $^{\circ}$
April	20.4	42%	1	7	11.1°	+3.5 $^{\circ}$
May	131.8	290%	1	2	13.3°	+2.0 $^{\circ}$
June	56.5	105%	0	0	15.3°	+1.0 $^{\circ}$
July	61.4	109%	0	0	18.7°	+2.2 $^{\circ}$
August	87.6	171%	0	0	16.3°	-0.1 $^{\circ}$
September	18.2	33%	0	0	15.5°	+1.2 $^{\circ}$
October	88.7	153%	0	1	13.3°	+2.3
November	101.7	167%	2	5	8.7°	+2.0
December	60.0	99%	11	12	5.3°	+0.5 $^{\circ}$

Annual Summary 2014

Total Rainfall	809.6 mms (125% of average)	Wettest Day	27 th May (39.1 mm)
Days with rain recorded	185	Days with thunder	23
Lowest maximum	3.5°C (26 th December)	Lowest minimum	-3.6° (12 th January)
Lowest grass minimum	- 6.5°C (24 th March)		
Air frosts	33	Ground frosts	68
Days with sleet or snow	1	Days with snow lying	0
Days with hail	7	Mean cloud cover at 0900hrs:	63%
Highest Maximum:	28.1°C (18th July)	Highest minimum:	17.9°C (19 th July)
Days with gales:	0	Days with fog (0900hrs):	

Longest period without any measurable rainfall: 12 days from 2nd - 13th July inclusive: 68%

Annual mean maximum: 15.6°C

Annual mean minimum: 7.5°C

Annual mean: 11.5°C

Wind Direction Summary at 0900hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	15	16	29	36	35	96	58	30	50

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

Norman Brooks (Fellow Royal Meteorological Society)

Membership subscriptions

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

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

New memberships should also be sent to the Membership Secretary. For details see the Join Us page at www.wvbs.co.uk

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

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

Notes for Contributors

Submission of Records for 2015 Report.

All observers are requested to **submit records on a monthly basis** as this helps considerably with managing the workload and speeding up production of the Report. If it is not possible to submit records until the end of the year, this should be done **by the 31st January 2016**. Late records cause considerable problems in drafting the Systematic List and their inclusion cannot be guaranteed if received after this deadline. Where possible, observers are also asked to **submit records by email using the Society's records sheet**. This will enable records to be imported straight into the main spreadsheet thus reducing the work load.

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

National and County Rarities

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

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

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

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

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2021 PDF of the WVBS Twelfth Annual Report_2014

9th October 2021

Text changes

Format changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
Committee 2014	Mary Waller	Mary Walker
Programme	Sat 11 th Oct TBC	Sat 11 th Oct
Diary of Events in 2014		
20 th February	of it's bodymass assists it's echo-navigation	of its bodymass assists its echo-navigation
9 th March	and In all	and in all
30 th August	close views where close views were had	close views were had
28 th September	which among other species that enlivened the walk	which among other species enlivened the walk
Systematic List		
Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anus Penelope</i>	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Pintail & Shoveler	<i>Anus</i>	<i>Anas</i>
Bittern	<i>Botaurus Stellaris</i>	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba alba</i>	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melancephalus</i>	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur turtur</i>	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Little Owl	By far most	By far the most
Garden Warbler, Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia</i> (GE)	<i>Sylvia</i> (GE, see page 91) (1)
Marsh Warbler	<i>Turdus torquatus torquatus</i>	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
Ring Ouzel	<i>Lusciniamegarhynchos</i>	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Nightingale	<i>megarhynchos</i>	
Pied Wagtail	have comprised of	have been comprised of
Hempton Marsh Reserve Report	small numbers Chaffinches	small numbers of Chaffinches
Description of Marsh Warbler	The legs could clearly showed	The legs clearly showed
Weather Report 2014		
Monthly Summaries for 2014		Days with Ground Frost (2) Annual Summary changed to a table

(1) PDF page of the article describing the Marsh Warbler

(2) This is now the heading for column 5, following the 2015 table