

Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society



**Fourteenth Annual
Report
2016**

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Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

2016 Annual Report

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Compiled by Ray Gribble & Richard Norris

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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

Our meeting venue is now Great Witchingham Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month.

Committee 2016

President	David Knight
Chairman	Liz Bridge
Secretary	Lin Pateman
Treasurer	Martin Spriggs
Membership Secretary	Richard Norris
Publicity	Sue Gale
Newsletter Editor	David Knight
Recorder	David Gibbons
Member	Alwyn Jackson Mary Walker Ray Gribble Steve Chapman
Webpage www.wvbs.co.uk	
Website Manager	Richard Norris
Loan Library	Selwyn & Kathy Jones

Front cover: Marsh Harrier, photographed by Andy Thompson

Chairman's Report 2016

I ended my report for 2015 saying 'we can look forward to another interesting, informative and, hopefully, exciting year ahead. So how have we done?

The information passed on by our speakers cannot help but be interesting. So much knowledge passed on about Swifts, Ospreys, Montagu's Harriers. How to farm with wildlife, especially birds, in mind as well as being commercial. The history of the North Norfolk coast followed by a field trip there. Then we went to exotic places – Arabia, Uganda, Trinidad & Tobago, Southern Ontario, followed by a look at butterflies in the Balkans. As always a wide variety of topics given by truly inspiring speakers and we also had talks on two of our field trips prior exploring the reserves at Wheatfen and the BTO.

We repeated our venture of 2015 by having a half day birding round Cley before fish and chips at Kelling Heath prior to tracking down those elusive Nightjars. A new reserve for us to visit was Redgrave & Lopham Fen, which was well worth visiting. Our more usual trips included Minsmere, Lackford Lakes, Lynford Aborethum, Santon Downham and Strumpshaw Fen. The Hoe bird walk has become an annual tradition, but this year we went in October. Our Dawn Chorus was different this year being centred on the Yare valley and followed by a bbq in a committee member's garden. We repeated an outing from 4 years ago by joining the RSPB Wash Cruise; a good trip again but we got really wet from the rain. 4 morning walks proved to be popular and a weekend to Kent, although poorly supported, was enjoyed by those who went. Nor must we forget the Winter Bird Count which welcomes the New Year. I am sure we all really appreciate the work by the programme organisers and those members who are prepared to organise and coordinate the field trips. The Society would be far less interesting and informative without them.

As usual the Society was represented at Wild about Wensum and Wild about Norfolk. New in 2016 was a Bioblitz at Scarning Water Meadows, with which we helped. More members willing to help with these events would be appreciated.

However, the Society is not all about birdwatching. We had another very successful Christmas Social. But an exciting new venture was the WVBS Quiz and those present really had to engage the grey matter to tackle the questions. Many thanks are due to Mary and Keith Walker for organizing the event.

We are continually hearing of planning applications for developments in the valley. We do bring these to your attention and make representations on your behalf and so I think we have met our objectives.

The excitement continues into 2017 when we move to the Great Witchingham Village Hall for our indoor meetings after many happy years at the Weston Longville Hall for All. We will also be electing a new President, Chair and members of the committee.

Lastly, I could not finish my final report without giving a big thank you to the committee and all of you for the support I have been given in my 4 years as Chair of the Society. Thank you.

WVBS 2016 programme of Meetings and Events

Sun 3 rd January	The Annual Winter Bird Count. Coordinated by Lin Pateman & Phil Borley.
Thurs 21 st January	History, Wildlife & Landscape of the North Norfolk Coast – Speaker David North (NWT)
Sun 31 st January	A Field Trip to the North Norfolk Coast – Coordinated by Phil Borley.
Thurs 18 th February	Flickers, Snappers & other Weird Creatures – Speaker Su Gough (BTO)
Sun 28 th February	A Field Trip to Lynford & Santon Downham - Coordinated by Glenn Collier and Lucy Topsom.
Thurs 17 th March	Farming & Wildlife – Speaker Nicholas Watts.
Sat 26 th March	A Field Trip to Lackford Lakes - Coordinated by Alan Fordham.
Thurs 21 st April	AGM followed by: Uganda - The Pearl of Africa – Speaker Allan Hale.
Sat 23 rd April	Wheatfen with David Nobbs – Coordinated by Mary Walker
Sun 8 th May	A Field Trip for the Dawn Chorus – Coordinated by Glenn Collier and Lucy Topsom
Thurs 13 th – Mon 17 th May	WVBS Member's Trip to Kent.
Thurs 19 th May	Swifts: Problems and Solutions – Speaker David Newell, (Action for Swifts).
Sun 22 nd May	A Field Trip to Bintree Mill – Coordinated by Alwyn Jackson
Sat 11 th June	A Field Trip to Cley NWT followed by Nightjars at Kelling Heath - Coordinated by Phil Borley

Thurs 16 th June	Ospreys – Speaker Lucy McRobert
Sun 26 th June	A Field Trip to RSPB Strumpshaw Fen - Coordinated by Sue Gale
Thurs 21 st July	Summer Social Evening at Ringland Swan
Sat 30 th July	A Field Trip to Redgrave and Lopham Fen (SWT) Coordinated by David Gibbons.
Sun 14 th August	A Field Trip to RSPB Minsmere - Coordinated by Ray Gribble.
Thurs 18 th August	Trinidad and Tobago – Speaker David Pelling
Fri/Sat 19 th /21 st August	Rutland Bird Fair
Thurs 15 th September	A Butterfly and Wildlife Bonanza in the 'Lost Pearl of the Balkans' – Speaker Julia Burton
Sun 9 th October	A Field Trip to the RSPB Wash Cruise Coordinated by Liz Bridge
Thurs 20 th October	Hen Harriers/ Snettisham – Jim Scott (RSPB)
Sun 30 th October	A Field Trip to The Hoe Bird Walk – Coordinator David Knight
Thurs 17 th November	Birds and Birding in Arabia – Speaker Nick Moran (BTO)
Sun 27 th November	A Field Trip to BTO Nunnery Thetford – A Talk and Guided Walk – Coordinated by Mary Walker
Thurs 8 th December	Annual Xmas Social.

Diary of Events in 2016

Sunday 3rd January - The Annual Winter Bird Count - Coordinated by Lin Pateman.

Twenty members formed into seven teams and started this year's count on a bright winter morning but unfortunately the weather soon deteriorated making spotting very difficult in the conditions. However by the end of the day a total of 77 species had been recorded by the winning team and there was a combined total for the day of 89 which equalled last year's total.

Thursday 21st January – History, Wildlife & Landscape of the North Norfolk Coast – Speaker David North (NWT)

David, who is a very enthusiastic speaker showed us how over millennia the coast had been transformed to its present day position. Also using aerial images we saw how rivers had been re-routed to allow for sea defence improvements. Later there were photo shots of wildlife and fauna both familiar and more unusual to end an interesting and enlightening talk.

Sunday 31st January - A Field Trip to the North Norfolk Coast – Coordinated by Phil Borley.

It was a cold and windy day at Holme but nevertheless a total of 88 species was recorded for the day. Among the most notable birds were Shore Larks, Red-breasted Merganser, Goldeneye and Merlin with high flock counts of Pink-footed Geese, Grey Plover and Twite with Yellowhammer and Corn Bunting seen in abundance at Ringstead Downs later in the day.

Saturday 6th February - A Morning Walk at Sparham Pools – Coordinated by Alwyn Jackson.

This was the first of a series of half day trips undertaken during the year and members were able to bird parts of the reserve that are normally off limits. Highlights included three flocks of Siskin totalling over 120 birds, a

close encounter with 2 Goldcrests busy searching for prey in a hedgerow and completely oblivious to us, later a female Marsh Harrier flew off down the river after being disturbed. At the end a total of 43 species had been recorded for the morning.

Thursday 18th February – Flickers, Snappers and other Weird Creatures. The Wildlife of Southern Ontario – Speaker – Su Gough.

As always Su's talk was accompanied by marvellous photographs not only of the birds and wildlife but great views of the countryside. Even the city of Toronto with ravines that run down to the lake are teeming with wildlife. Niagara was another area explored where the trick is to be there at dawn before the tourists when Bald Eagles can be found fishing in the river. As always it was a pleasure to share Su's memories of her trip.

Sunday 28th February – A Field Trip to Lynford and Santon Downham – Coordinated by Glen Collier and Lucy Topsom.

Lynford Arboretum was planted by forestry students when Lynford Hall was owned by the Forestry Commission and run as a training school and now has many rare species growing within its grounds.

Notable birds during the morning session include Hawfinch, Woodlark and Little Grebes nesting on the lake.

The target bird for the afternoon at Santon Downham was a Great Grey Shrike that for a large part of the time eluded us but once we had located it seemed to shadow us for the rest of the day. By the close 56 species had been recorded for the day.

Saturday 5th March – A Morning Walk at Sculthorpe Moor – Coordinated by Alwyn Jackson.

Sculthorpe Moor is an 18 hectare site comprising of woodland, reed and fen habitat and is internationally recognized for its varied wildlife. During this visit members visited the various hides and feeders along the boardwalks and had also had good views of a large flock of Siskins and Redpoll feeding in the treetops. From the hides it was possible to closely

observe birds such as Bullfinch, Reed Bunting, Brambling and Nuthatch visiting the feed tables.

A total of 35 species were recorded on a very wet and windy morning.

Thursday 17th March - Farming and Wildlife – Speaker Nicholas Watts

Nicholas farms in the Lincolnshire Fens and during his talk showed how, despite changing farming methods leading to larger fields and increased tidiness he has been able to provide habitat for an increasing number of species. This involved such things as planting a spinney and leaving one side of dykes uncut to form a reed bed. Red Millet has been planted to attract Tree Sparrows and over 500 had been ringed during the year.

This was an inspiring talk which gave everyone food for thought.

Sunday 28th March – A Field Trip to Lackford Lakes (Suffolk Wildlife Trust) – coordinated by Alan Fordham.

Lackford Lakes is a beautiful site set in the Suffolk countryside and on this day was showing marked signs of the awakening of spring with birds starting to display their summer plumages and also trees beginning to burst forth once again. Through the day we recorded a total of 66 species

Thursday 21st April - AGM followed by: Uganda, Pearl of Africa – Speaker Allan Hale.

As is usual on these occasions the AGM was followed by one of Allan's inimitable talks. This trip covered many reserves including one called the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park where, as the name implies travel and accommodation was very difficult. Despite all this he recorded a total of 452 species including a wide variety of Kingfishers that despite their name live in deep woodland. Apart from the birds a wide variety of wildlife was seen during the trip including Lions, Crocodiles, Velvet Monkeys and Baboons.

Saturday 23rd April - Wild about the Wensum – Coordinated by Lin Pateman

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 and by the end of the day a total of 70 species had been recorded. In the marquee we had our Society display erected and also we organized a puppet making competition for the Brownies.

Saturday 23rd April – A Field Trip to the Ted Ellis Trust at Wheatfen Broad - Coordinated by Mary Walker.

Following a short introduction to the low key management style followed on the reserve members were taken around the reserve by the warden, David Nobbs who has managed the reserve for 26 years. They were able to see how following this ethos, habitat had been created for a variety of Butterflies including Swallowtail and White Admiral. Also scattered around were many litter heaps to provide refuge for grass snakes. Later in Surlingham Wood which along with the Broad is tidal, clearings are made to encourage butterfly food plants to grow. At the end of the day thanks were given to David for his in-depth knowledge and enthusiasm.

Sunday 8th May – A Field Trip for the Dawn Chorus – Coordinated by Glen Collier and Lucy Topsom.

This year there was a change from our usual venue and fifteen members met at the UEA woods in Norwich for what has always been one of our most popular events.

On a bright spring morning a total of 52 species were seen as those members present wandered through a mosaic of different habitats.

13th – 17th May – A Members Weekend Field Trip in Kent.

This weekend trip has now become part of our annual event calendar and is eagerly looked forward to by members. This year was no exception with a variety of habitats over the length and breadth of Kent being visited during the weekend.

Thursday 19th May – Birding and Birds in Arabia – Speaker Nick Moran

Nick is currently the organiser for Bird Track at the BTO but this talk was based on his time as a teacher in Dubai. During his time there he studied the birds throughout the different seasons and his talk was accompanied by many excellent photos and maps that helped to show the complex migration patterns in that part of the world.

Sunday 17th May – A Half-day birding at Cley and Nightjar Evening at Kelling Heath - coordinated by Phil Borley.

Good views of a female Serin in a garden near to Cley Visitors Centre gave a certain lift to the start of the day and the bird was a life tick for several of our members.

A walk visiting the various hides around the reserve where the many species associated with Cley were seen to their best in the fine and clear conditions.

Later after collecting fish and chips from Holt we travelled to Kelling Heath and after eating we moved further onto the heath where good views of Turtle Dove, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler were obtained. Unfortunately Nightjars were very quiet and only two were seen just before the rain descended and then only for a few fleeting moments. By the end of the day a total of 77 species had been seen.

Sunday 22nd May – A Morning Walk at Bintree Mill – Coordinated by Alwyn Jackson.

By kind permission of the owner Paul Seaman members had the opportunity to explore the varied habitat around Bintree Mill and beautiful parts of the River Wensum not normally accessible to us.

On a fine and dry morning probably the best sighting of the morning was a family of Grey Wagtails with the adults flying back and forth across the river busy feeding their young brood, their colours glistening in the sunlight.

Saturday 4th June – A Morning Walk at Great Ryburgh – Coordinated by Alwyn Jackson.

This was part of a series of shorter walks designed to enable members to familiarise themselves with parts of the Wensum Valley they may not know very well. On this occasion the walk took in a lesser known wetland site which was easily viewed from the road.

Nearly 40 species were observed on what was a rather misty and murky morning.

Thursday 16th June – Ospreys and Us - How to create a Conservation Story – Speaker Lucy McRobert.

This stimulating and informative talk showed how over a period of 5 years 64 chicks were translocated from Loch Garten to Rutland Water and how this has contributed to the fact that there are now 162 breeding pairs in the UK. An insight was also given into the migration habits of Ospreys to the Gambia and Senegal and how they do not return to the UK until they are mature and ready to breed.

Sunday 26th June – A Field Trip to Strumpshaw Fen – Coordinated by Sue Gale

Strumpshaw Fen is more famous in the summer months for insects and as the morning sun warmed this day was no exception. Perhaps the best sighting of the day was four Hobbies making the best of the day catching newly emerging dragonflies before perching nearby to feast on them.

A total of 62 species were noted for the day.

Saturday 2nd July – A Bioblitz at Scarning Water Meadows.

Trevor and Wendy Brown who are WVBS Members together with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust were instrumental in organising this event and the society helped with Bird recording, Moth trapping and also a Bat survey during the day.

Thursday 21st July – Summer Social at the Swan Inn at Ringland - Coordinated by Mary & Keith Walker

This event was a departure from our usual summer barbecue format. With generously donated prizes for the competition winners, good food and all on a beautiful summer evening everyone voted the evening a great success.

Saturday 30th July – A Field Trip to Redgrave and Lopham Fen – Coordinated by David Gibbons.

This again was a new venue for the Society. The fen is managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and is the largest valley fen in England and harbours a very diverse range of habitats and is also famous for being the home of the Fen Raft Spider.

During our visit a wide range of wildlife was seen and enjoyed with probably being able to locate and study the Raft Spider the highlight.

Sunday 14th August – A Field Trip to RSPB Minsmere – Coordinated by Ray Gribble.

This is always a popular event in our calendar and this year was no exception. The weather was fine but somewhat overcast. Not only were 75 species recorded for the day but a good range of other wildlife species such as various Butterflies and rare Wasps were seen by those present.

Thursday 18th August – Trinidad and Tobago – Speaker David Pelling

This was the account of a trip taken by David to photograph the wildlife of this fascinating part of the world. We learnt that the islands are home to many exotic birds including Scarlet Ibis, Tropic Birds, Frigate Birds and many species of humming bird. As is the case with all David's talks this one was illustrated by marvellous photography throughout.

Thursday 15th September – A Butterfly and Wildlife Bonanza in the Lost Pearl of the Balkans – Speaker Julia Burton.

Macedonia is an area that was formerly part of the Republic of Yugoslavia and is only just larger than Wales. However it has a total of 205 species of Butterflies recorded and the talk illustrated with the aid of excellent photographs the subtleties of the different subspecies present in the region. There is a heavy local pressure to redevelop the region and if this happens a lot of pristine habitat will be lost.

Sunday 9th October – RSPB Wash Cruise – Coordinator Liz Bridge

The “Boston Belle” left the dock promptly on the rising tide and passed the famous “Boston Stump” on its way down river. Much later a very bedraggled Peregrine would be observed sheltering from the driving rain high on this famous tower.

This trip enabled those present to see the wildlife from the different aspect of the water rather than from the bank. Rather changeable weather produced some wonderfully colourful skies to complement the vast flocks of Golden Plover, Pink-footed Geese and Oystercatcher that were seen on our voyage down the river. A ready supply of warm drinks and food supplied by the RSPB volunteers helped to keep the chill of the day at bay.

A total of 58 Species were seen during the morning.

Saturday 15th October – Wild about Norfolk – Coordinated by Lin Pateman

This event is held at Easton College and as usual we had a stand to promote the Society. We held a drawing competition for children and had a total of 88 entries with plenty of imagination showed by the entrants.

In other parts of the complex there were various demonstrations and displays on different aspects of the environment.

Thursday 20th October – Montagu’s Harriers and RSPB Snettisham – Speaker Jim Scott.

The talk was really two for the price of one as Jim is the RSPB warden at Snettisham and also is a Montagu’s Harrier enthusiast. East Anglia is a key breeding sites for what is the rarest raptor in the UK. Birds tend to nest in arable crops and with changes in farming practice this has caused problems particularly with the increase in oil seed rape production. Increased awareness of the problem together with a tagging scheme and plans to fence off the nest sites has led to hope that populations may increase over time.

Jim’s other responsibility is the reserve at Snettisham which as well as being the largest RSPB reserve in England is home to large flocks of wintering wildfowl and wading birds. The reserve is famous for the sight at dawn and dusk of between 20,000 and 40,000 Pink-footed Geese who use the reserve as an overnight roost.

Sunday 30th October – A Field Trip for the Hoe Bird Walk – Coordinated by David Knight.

On what was a very misty morning with the usual sweeping views over the White-water Valley all but obscured identification of the various birds was achieved mainly by sound rather than sight but despite this a species count of 45 was achieved for the morning.

Thursday 17th November – Swifts - Problems and Solutions – Speaker Dick Newell

This talk was enthusiastically received by the audience and garnered a great deal of discussion and questions throughout the evening.

After some myth busting about Swifts in general Dick went on tell us the latest data on migration and population numbers which sadly are falling rapidly. He thinks that a nest box scheme similar to that in the USA where over a million boxes have been put up for Purple Martins is required here together with better site protection as Swifts are very site faithful. There is an umbrella organization “Action for Swifts” where further information can be found.

Sunday 27th November - A Field Trip to the BTO at the Nunnery, Thetford - Coordinated by Mary Walker.

The walk around the reserve was kindly guided by Su Gough who is The BTO Training Manager and she explained that the mixed habitat of the reserve is a breeding ground for about 60 different species. Perhaps the high spot of the walk were two Kingfishers that gave a spectacular fly past before heading back up the river. After lunch we were given a talk on the work of the BTO and a tour around the historic buildings some of which date back to the 11th century.

Thursday 8th December – Our Annual Xmas Social.

As usual a good number of members attended the Social and the evening was enlivened with glasses of punch and several thought provoking quizzes. The evening was a fitting end to another successful year for the Society and was the last meeting in Weston Longville Village Hall that has been our home for several years.

This diary has been compiled from contributions to the Newsletter by David Knight, Liz Bridge, Lucy Topsom, Glenn Collier, Judy Hubbard, Mary Walker, Keith Walker, Jaquie Fenn, David Gibbons, Phil Borley, Philip Howard, Alan Hughes, Lin Pateman, Sue Gale, David Gibbons, Philip Howard, Alwyn Jackson. 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 Alwyn Jackson, David Gibbons, Ray Gribble and Richard Norris. The Systematic List has then been compiled by Alwyn Jackson. Gil Brooking and Steve Cale produced the line drawings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

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

Many records throughout the year with high counts of 43 at Bittering GP on 20th Mar and 81 at the same site on 22nd Nov. Also 18 at Pensthorpe on 12th May. Breeding confirmed at Taverham Mill fisheries, Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus colombianus*

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

One record only of 5 at Ringland on 7th Jan. (IB)

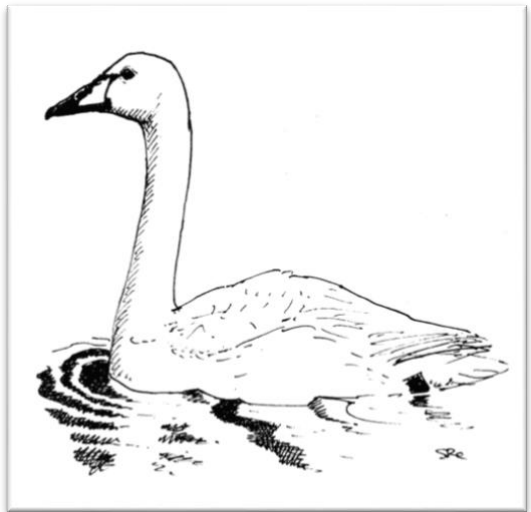
Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

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

Records for January only with a high count of 5 being recorded on 10th and 12th at Ringland.

*Whooper Swan,
by Steve Cale*



Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

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

The only record for the year was of 2 birds at Bittering (Tundra Bean Goose) on 20th Mar (IB, PJ, SB).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

Records from both winter periods with high counts in Jan of 300 over Old Costessey on 3rd (AB) and 350 at Worthing on 4th (DK).

Later in the year there were 100+ recorded flying over Haveringland Hall on 27th Nov and 120 over Guist Common on 2nd Dec.

White Fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Very Scarce winter visitor. Red listed.

One record only from Ringland Bridge of 22 Birds on 19th Dec (AB, MMc).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common naturalised resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Over 60 records from 15 sites throughout the recording area with the highest counts coming from Pensthorpe of 250+ on 29th Feb and 172 from Bittering GP on 20th Mar.

Canada Goose *Branta Canadensis*

Common naturalised resident.

Birds were present in the valley throughout the year with highest counts of 30 on 8th July and 40 on 15th July at Pensthorpe.

Later in the year there were counts of 40 at N Tuddenham, 30 at Bintree Mill and 100+ at Gt Ryburgh on 31st Dec.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

The only records are from Pensthorpe where high counts of 120 on 3rd Feb and 180 on 9th Feb were achieved.

Later in the year there were 150 present on 15th July and 185 on 15th Aug. Multiple proof of breeding confirmed.



Barnacle Geese, by Gil Brooking

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Naturalised resident, locally common.

Recorded throughout the area with the highest counts being from Pensthorpe during Sept, with 68 being present on 9th and 62 on 30th.

Proof of breeding was confirmed at Taverham and Pensthorpe.

Shelduck *Tadoma tadoma*

A scarce visitor to the valley. Amber listed.

Records from several sites with the highest counts being recorded at Bittering (GP) (IB) on 20th March and 24 at Pensthorpe on 17th May.

Proof of breeding was confirmed at Pensthorpe.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

A very scarce naturalised resident.

Two records of a pair being present on 11th Mar at Sparham Hall and again at Sparham Pools on 20th Apr.

One record from Bittering GP of a male bird present on 20th Nov (PJ).

There were several records from Pensthorpe during the year of uncertain origin.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Good numbers recorded during both winter periods with 130 being present on 20th Mar. (IB) and later in the year there were 200+ at Bittering GP and 134 at Creaking Gate Lake on 20th Nov. (PJ).

Records were also received from 10 other sites.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Present all year at a number of sites with the higher counts mainly in the winter periods. The most notable being 70 at Pensthorpe on 26th Jan and 50 at Bittering GP on 20th Mar.

During Nov there were counts of 60 recorded at both West Raynham and Lexham Hall on 20th Nov (PJ).

No evidence of breeding.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Fairly scarce winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.

Present throughout the year at over 10 sites in varying numbers with counts of 180 at Pensthorpe on 21st Jan and 50 at Bittering GP on 20th Mar.

During the autumn and winter periods numbers steadily built with highest counts being recorded at Pensthorpe of 410 on 7th Dec and 450 on 21st.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Recorded consistently in the Valley throughout the year with 291 birds being present on 20th Mar at Bittering GP.

Later in the year there were 190 at Pensthorpe on 12th Oct and 750 at Bittering GP on 20th Nov (PJ).

Proof of breeding at Great Ryburgh and Pensthorpe.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

During the first winter period there were records of one bird at Sparham Pools on 3rd Jan and 3 at Pensthorpe on 29th Feb.

During the second period a solitary bird was recorded at Bittering GP on 20th Nov and another at Pensthorpe on 7th Dec.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

One record only of a single bird at Pensthorpe on 5th Aug (SC & CH)

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

*A winter visitor
and rare breeder.*

Amber listed.

Notable counts during the first winter period and spring included 20 at Sparham Pools on 1st Jan, 29 at Haveringland Hall on 10th Mar and 29 at Bittering GP on 20th Mar.

Later in the year there were 45 recorded at Pensthorpe on 22nd Nov and 33 at Sparham on 8th Dec.



Red Crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Very rare wild or naturalised vagrant.

One record only of a single bird at Sparham Pools on 26th Dec (CS).

Pochard *Aythya farina*

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

Recorded throughout the year at Pensthorpe and during the first winter period records also from Bittering GP, Sparham and Ringland.

A high count of 10 birds recorded at Pensthorpe on 25th May.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

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

Records were received throughout the year with notable counts at Pensthorpe of 135 on 21st Jan and 120 on 26th Jan. Later in the year at at Haveringland Hall there were 51 birds present on 6th Mar and 47 on 13th Mar.

During the second winter period 65 were recorded at Sparham Pools on 14th Nov and 165 at Pensthorpe 21st Nov.

Proof of breeding confirmed at Sparham and Pensthorpe

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Very rare winter visitor. Red listed.

A drake at Hoe on 20th Mar was the first for HBW (DK, SMcC).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Very scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.

Records of a single bird at Sparham Pools on 1st June and later in the year at the same venue there were two birds present from 2nd to 4th Nov. (CS, RG).

Records also received throughout the year from Pensthorpe where a high count of 14 was recorded on 21st Dec. (The origin of these birds is uncertain).

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Very rare winter visitor. Amber listed.

A single record from Haveringland Hall on 15th Feb (JH).

Records also from Pensthorpe of up to 2 birds present but the provenance of these is uncertain.

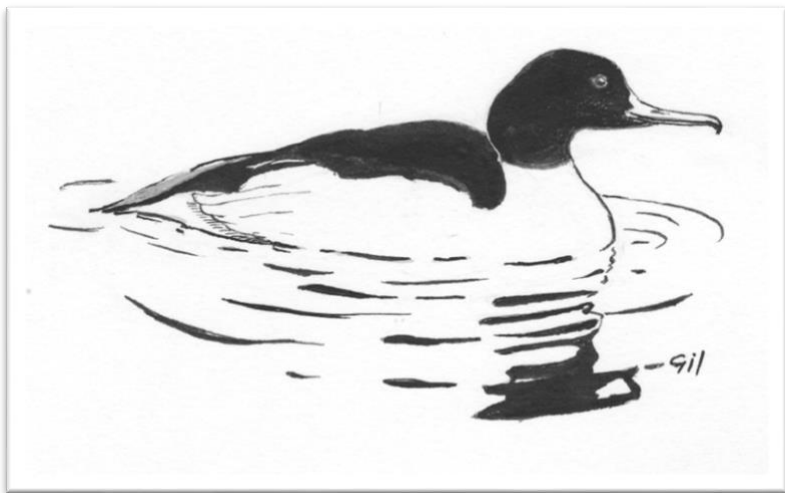
Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Green listed.

Records from the first winter period include 3 birds present at Sparham Pools on 2nd and 3rd Jan. 3 birds were still present here on 1st Mar (CS).

During second winter period 1 record only from Pensthorpe on 21st Dec.

Goosander, by Gil Brooking



Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Common naturalised resident.

Records from locations throughout the valley with 10 being recorded at Worthing on 10th Jan and 7 (inc 5 juvs) at Mill Street on 5th June.

Later in the year there were 20 at Alderford on 19th Oct and 19 at N Tuddenham on 28th Dec.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Scarce resident, declined in recent years. Red listed.

Records received from 9 locations mostly 1 or 2 birds but with a high count of 12 at N Tuddenham on 5th Sept and 5 at Daffy Green on 12th Sept.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common naturalised resident.

Present throughout the valley with counts of up to 10 birds being recorded. High counts of 18 on 16th Oct and 20 on 20th Nov were noted on the Hoe Bird Walk.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Overwintering records include 11 observed on the Hoe Bird Walk on 17th Jan and 5 at Pensthorpe on 3rd Feb.

Later in the year there were 8 at Hoe on 18th Sept and at Pensthorpe, 7 on 27th Oct and 11 on 22nd Oct.

There also summer records of 1 or 2 birds from Sparham Pools, Pensthorpe and the Hoe Bird Walk.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Very scarce winter visitor. Amber listed.

One record only of a bird at Sparham Pools on 5th Oct (CS).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Very scarce resident. Green listed.

Recorded at over 20 sites in the valley during the year.

Highest counts of 5 at Taverham Mill in Nov (DH), 4 at Hoe in Dec (PJ), 4 at Pensthorpe in Feb (PA,CH,BPa,RG), 3 at Worthing in Jan (DK), 3 at Scarning in Feb (IB), and 3 at Sparham in July (CS).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

Records from 21 sites, regularly seen at Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools, HBW, Lenwade Mill and at Park Farm, Great Witchingham.

Highest counts of 7 at Pensthorpe in Sept (SC, RN), 5 at Penthorpe in July (PA, SC), 5 at HBW in Mar (DK), 5 at Neatherd Moor in Oct (BH), 4 at Great Witchingham in Mar (A&CJ), 3 at Sparham Pools in Apr (SC), 4 at Lenwade Mill most of the year (JP).

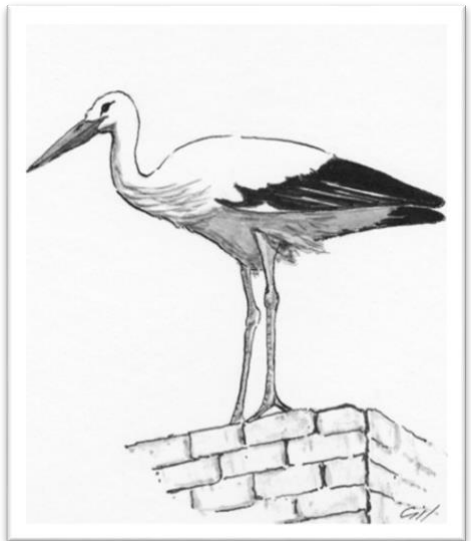
Evidence of breeding at Park Farm heronry, Great Witchingham with up to 4 active nests (A&CJ), 4 juveniles recorded at Lenwade Mill (JP) & 1 juvenile recorded at Lexham Hall (PJ).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Scarce vagrant.

1 bird at Elsing in Mar (A&CJ) also recorded from Sparham where it stayed a week (CS). Also a record at Ringland in Mar (AB), 2 birds at Sparham in Apr and 1 bird in May (CS). One bird also recorded at Pensthorpe over 4 days in late Apr (RG,MS).

White Stork, by Gil Brooking



Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Single bird flying over at Pensthorpe in mid Aug (CK).

Little Grebe *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Sparham Pools area and Pensthorpe were the best places to see these birds. Also recorded at 7 other sites in the valley.

Highest counts of 4 at Sparham Pools in Jan (PB,AF,DG), 4 in Feb (SC), 5 in Oct (TF,CS), 4 at Pensthorpe in Sept (SC RN) and 5 on the HBW in Nov (DK).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Sparham Pools and Pensthorpe again proved to be the best sites, up to 3 pairs seen at Sparham Pools with 7 birds in Apr (SC) and 1 to 5 birds seen regularly at Pensthorpe most months. Also recorded at Lenwade, (RG), Fustyweed, Elsing (PL,LG,BB,LW) and Taverham Mill (DH).

Evidence of breeding at Sparham Pools and Pensthorpe.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

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

74 sightings during the year throughout the valley. Most reports of single birds with 2 at Honingham & Easton College in Feb (A&AG), at Drayton in Mar (PH), at Sparham Pools in Apr (SC), at Bintree in June (RD), at N Tuddenham in July with 3 there in Nov (BP) and finally 2 at Hoe in Dec (IB). Single birds were seen at Beetley, Cawston Heath, Colkirk, Dereham, Elsing, Fakenham, Hockering, Lenwade, Lyng, Mattishall, Pensthorpe, Pudding Norton, Raynham, Reepham, Ringland, Scarning, SMHOT, Taverham, Westfield, Weston Green, Weston Longville, Wood Norton and Worthing.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Thirty-six sightings during the year. The best place to see them was at Guist Common a pair in Mar (RG), 2 in Apr (IB,BP) and 5 birds in July (RG,CG,AH).

Two at Lyng in Apr (SC) and at Sparham in July (CS). Single birds also seen at Beetley, Pensthorpe, Scarning and Worthing.

Evidence of breeding at Guist Common where 6 young fledged from 2 nests, also young seen at Pensthorpe.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

A pair reared 2 young in the WVBS area and a single bird was recorded at Bintree in Aug (CM).



Montagu's Harrier, by Steve Cale

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

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

One male bird recorded at SMHOT in Oct (PJ).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

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

152 reports from 38 sites in the valley through the year. Seen in 11 months at Lenwade Mill with 2 birds in May (JP). Reports from members gardens were quite common.

Two birds at Neatherd Moor in Mar (BH), at Scarning in Apr and July (IB), at Old Costessey in Apr (SC), at Taverham in May (LW), at Potters Fen in Sept (PA) and at Sparham in Oct (RG).

Again this year no reported evidence of breeding.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

292 records from over 50 sites in the valley. Reports in every month of the year and very common to receive records of 1 to 4 birds.

Highest counts were 9 in Mar at Beetley GP (IB), 8 in Apr at Pensthorpe (SC), 7 at Bintree, (RD) and at HBW in Aug (DK), 18 at HBW (DK) and 12 at Pensthorpe in Sept (SC,RN).

Proof of breeding at Sparham with up to 8 pairs (CS). A pair were seen displaying at Sparham Pools in Mar (SC).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

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

Three records this year; a single bird in Apr at Little Fransham (BP) and at Potters Fen, Dereham in Sept (PA); 2 birds at Alderford Common also in Sept (DG).

Water Rail *Rallus aquatus*

Very scarce resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

19 records from 8 sites.

Two birds at Scarning in Apr (IB), and at Dereham SW (IB), Guist Common (RG) and SMHOT in Dec (LB).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

Common resident supplemented by autumn immigrants. Green listed.

Records throughout the valley and in all months.

Highest numbers of 40 in Aug, 32 in Oct and 40 in Dec at Pensthorpe (PA, RG, JH, LB).

60 to a maximum of 84 at Haveringland Hall between Sept and Nov (JH); 12+ at Lenwade Bridge in Jan (PB, AF, DG).

Records of 1 to 4 birds at Sparham Pools, HBW, Taverham Mill, Neatherd Moor and Swannington.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe with chicks in Apr, June and July and also at Neatherd Moor in Mar.

Coot *Falica atra*.

Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Records from 6 sites only with the Sparham Pools area and Pensthorpe recording the highest numbers.

At Pensthorpe 120 birds in Aug (PA, RG, JH) and 86 and c100 birds in the second winter period (MS, RN) and at Sparham 30+ and 40 birds recorded in Nov and Dec (A&CJ, CS). Counts of 1 to 5 birds at Bintree Mill, Lenwade, Swanton Pits and Taverham Mill.

Proof of breeding at Sparham Pools in May (RG, RN) and at Pensthorpe, with juveniles in the late spring and summer months (SC, PA).

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.**

Two reports - 4 birds seen at Pensthorpe in Sept (SC, RN) and 4 birds flying over at Colkirk in Dec (A&CJ). *The captive birds at Pensthorpe attract flyovers.*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Records from 2 sites this year. Between 4 and 6 birds seen from Mar to June at Pensthorpe (MS,EB-J,RG,CH) and 2 birds in Apr at Bittering GP (IB).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Scarce summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Seen in various locations between Feb and July. Most sightings were from Pensthorpe with between 2 and 23 birds, the highest count in Apr (SC), 7 birds in July at Lenwade Mill (JP), 4 birds in Apr at Sparham Pools (SC) and 4 birds recorded in Apr at Bittering GP (IB).

Also recorded at HBW, Neatherd Moor, Potters Fen, Taverham and Worthing.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Records from 5 sites only.

The first winter period saw around 100 birds at Elsing in Jan (SC,RN,RG,JH), a flock of 25 birds at Cawston Heath in Aug (JH).

The second winter period saw counts of 3 birds at Costessey over the River Tud in Nov (A&AG), 150 at Hoe (IB) and 40 at Lyng in Dec (A&CJ).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadris dubius*

Passage migrant and very scarce summer visitor. Green listed.

Earliest report was of 2 birds at Beetley GP on 27th Mar (IB) with presumably the same birds there in Apr and June. Also 3 at Bittering GP in Apr.

We received 7 reported sightings from Pensthorpe where 1 to 3 birds between Mar & June.

No reports of confirmed breeding received.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

Seen in all months from 14 sites.

Highest counts of 120 at Haveringland Hall (JH) and 200+ at Bittering GP (JH,SC,RN,RG) in Jan; 300-500 at Pensthorpe (BPa,RG,A&CJ) in Feb; 250 at Bittering GP (PJ,SB) and Beetley GP (IB) in Mar; 130 at Pensthorpe in Aug (SC,CH); c120 at Pensthorpe (PA,JH) & 170 at Hoe (IB) in Dec.

Also records of 4 - 40 birds from HBW, Neatherd Moor, Ringland, Sparham Pools and near Worthing level crossing.

Evidence of breeding at Guist Common (RG) and also adults sitting on nests at Pensthorpe in July.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Rare passage migrant. Red listed.

Records from 2 sites only for this rare passing migrant.

In Apr single bird seen in the Sparham Pools area on 18th & 20th (SC,CS) and 2 at Pensthorpe on 23rd (JH & WaW team).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Rare passage migrant. Red listed.

Single bird at Gateley on 24th May (RG).

Curlew, by Steve Cale



Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.

Two records this year, 5 birds at Ringland on 27th June (SC) and 2 at Pensthorpe on 25th July (MS,RN).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Three birds seen at Bittering GP on 10th Apr (IB).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Records from 4 locations.

In May 1 at R Tud, Costessey (A&AG) & 3 at Costessey Pits on 11th (MMc), 5 at Pensthorpe on 12th (RN,CH,SC), & 1 at Sparham on 13th (CS); in July 2 at Pensthorpe on 25th (MS,RN); in Aug at Pensthorpe 3 on 5th (SC,CH) & 1 on 15th (PA,RG,JH); in Sept 4 at Haveringland Hall on 9th (JH).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

13 records received this year.

Highest count of 10 in Aug and 3 in Sept at Pensthorpe (SC,CH,MS).

During spring 2 birds in Mar at Bittering GP (PJ,SB), and 1 bird at Rawhall GP (IB), and 2 birds in Apr at Ringland (AB). Single birds at Pensthorpe (SC,RG) & Taverham (LW) in June, at Haveringland Hall in Nov & Dec (JH) and Scarning in Dec (IB).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Two records this year both of single birds - at Sparham on 6th May (CS) and the other flying over Pensthorpe on 15th Aug (CK).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Single bird at Pensthorpe on 12th May (RN,CH).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Green listed.

We were lucky with 5 records this year, a single bird at Buxton Heath on 9th Feb (JH) 2 to 9 birds seen in at Beetley GP between 19th & 27th Mar (IB) and another single bird at Costessey Marshes on 19th Dec (AB).

Woodcock *Scotopax rusticola*

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

First winter period single birds at Costessey, Ringland Common and Sparham Pools with 3 at Great Ryburgh.

During breeding season single bird at Netherd Moor, Dereham and 2 roding birds at Marsham Heath on 27th May.

During second winter period counts of 6 at Sparham in Nov and 5 at Hoe in Dec with single bird at Great Witchingham Common.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Very scarce resident and scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber listed.

During the first winter period counts of 15 at Sparham with a high count of 29 at Bittering quarry on 10th Jan (JH). Elsewhere 9 at Beetley GP in Mar; 10 at Pensthorpe in Sept; 23 at Sparham in Nov and 5 at Costessey Marshes in Dec.

Occasional records through the year of 1-3 birds at a further 5 sites.

No records of breeding or drumming birds received.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Very scarce passage migrant. Green listed.

Single bird found at Sparham on 3rd Nov, the first record of a live bird for the finder since he picked up a dead one in c1980 (CS).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Very scarce passage migrant. Green listed.

Two birds at Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes on 6th May (CS) followed by a single bird there on 15th (CS & JH).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Earliest sightings were of single birds at Lyng GP on 4th Apr (CS), Sparham Pools area on 12th (SC) & 3 at Lenwade Mill on 13th (JP). Records of small numbers from a further 5 sites.

Three pairs bred at Sparham Pools and at Pensthorpe.

Latest sighting was of 5 at Pensthorpe on 15th Aug (PA *et al*).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Two at Elsing on 10th Apr (IB), 2 at Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes on 17th (CS & SC) and a single bird at Haveringland Hall on the same day (JH).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

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

Highest counts – Jan 50 at Worthing Bridge, up to 60 at Pensthorpe; Feb 56 at Netherd Moor (Dereham), max 155 at Pensthorpe & 70 in Sparham Pools area; Mar max 110 at Pensthorpe; June 97 at Netherd Moor, Dereham.

Thereafter highest counts mainly at Pensthorpe with 600 in Aug, 131 in Sept, c250 in Oct, 130 in Nov & 337 in Dec. Smaller flocks of c150 at Sparham Pools and 25+ at Reepham during second winter period.

During breeding season recorded at 8 sites with proof of breeding only reported at Pensthorpe.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare winter visitor. **Amber listed.**

Recorded at 3 sites – at Sparham single adult on 1st Mar (CS), at Pensthorpe single bird on 22nd Mar (EB-J), 6 on 5th Apr (PA&SC), 2 on 20th & 23rd (SC; RG *et al*) and at Netherd Moor, Dereham 2 on 27th June (RH). A single bird was heard at Pensthorpe on 5th Aug (SC&CH).

Mediterranean Gull,
by Steve Cale



Common Gull *Larus canus*

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

Occasional reports of 1-4 birds from 12 sites Jan-May & Aug-Dec.

Highest counts of 10 at Swannington & 50 on HBW in Jan; 18 at Pensthorpe & 10 in Sparham Pools area in Feb; 170 near Bintree Mill in Mar; at Pensthorpe 10 in Apr, 12 in Aug, 20 in Oct & 29 in Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

Occasional reports of 1-2 birds at 10 sites between Jan-July & Sept-Nov. Higher counts of 11 at Potter's Fen, Dereham on 4th May and 7 at Netherd Moor, Dereham on 27th June.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

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

Monthly maxima at Pensthorpe – Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 4, May 3, June 2, July 1, Aug 15, Sept 6, Oct 25, Nov 2, Dec 6.

Elsewhere occasional reports from a further 6 sites mainly of 1 or 2 birds with maxima of 3 at Sparham Pools area in Apr & 4 at Potter's Fen, Dereham in May.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Very scarce but increasing passage migrant. Amber listed.

Single bird at Pensthorpe on 5th Aug (SC&CH).

Rock Dove(Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Common resident associated with human habitation. Green listed.

Very few records received with highest count of 10 at Walsis Woods, Lenwade on 16th June.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Occasional reports of 1-6 birds from 20 sites. Highest count 15 at Beetley in Mar and 19 at Pensthorpe in June.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe where 3 pairs nesting in owl boxes, at Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley where 3 nests were found and at Bintree where young birds were recorded in June.

Evidence of birds feeding in gardens at Elsing, Lenwade and Worthing village.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident. **Green listed.**

Highest counts 69 on HBW & 50 in Sparham Pools area in Feb; 60+ at Sculthorpe Moor NR in Mar; 59 at Walsis Woods, Lenwade in June; c250 at Pensthorpe in Oct; 150+ during HBW & 50+ at Netherd Moor, Dereham in Nov; c200 at Pensthorpe in Dec.

Breeding attempt failed at Potter's Fen, Dereham when a nest was blown down. Only other report of breeding was of 2 young birds seen at Swanton Drive, Dereham in Oct & Nov.

A total of 578 counted migrating through the R Tud valley at Costessey between 25th Oct and 26th Nov with a peak count of 260 on 2nd Nov.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

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

Recorded at 17 sites with highest counts of 12 in Jan, 11 Feb, 12 Mar, 13 Sept, 22 Oct & 17 Nov at Swanton Drive, Dereham. Also 22 at Sculthorpe Moor NR in Dec.

No breeding records received.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.

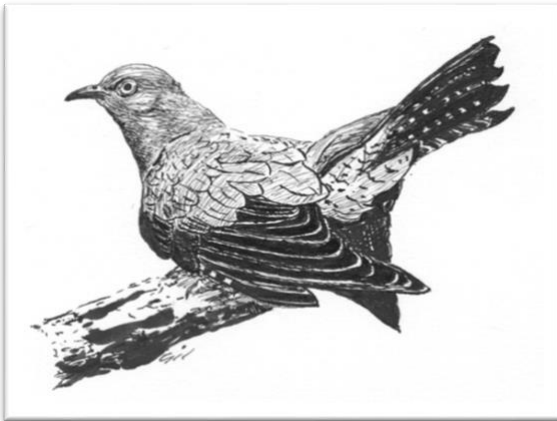
Earliest record single bird at Swannington on 20th Apr (TF). Two birds were present at this site all summer so breeding was probable but not possible to confirm.

Reports of single birds from a further 5 sites with the latest record a single bird at North Elmham on 29th Sept (TF).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.

Reports of largely single birds from 17 sites with the earliest record at Sparham on 17th Apr (CS) followed by one at Pensthorpe on 23rd Apr (JH).



Two birds at Walsis Woods, Lenwade on 16th June (JP) and latest report a single bird at Dereham on 17th July (IB).

Cuckoo,
by Gil Brooking

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

Reports of largely single birds from 36 sites. Proof of breeding at Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley & at Sparham where 3 pairs bred in boxes. In Mar 2 birds seen visiting horse field shelter at Weston Longville Equestrian Centre, 2 birds at Spring Meadow, N Tuddenham and 2 at Hoe in Dec.

Little Owl *Athene noctue*

Fairly common naturalised resident.

Occasional reports of single birds from 19 sites through the year. Two birds together at Springfield Cottage, North Tuddenham & Scarning in Mar, at Weston Longville in May and Mill Farm, N Tuddenham in Sept but no proof of breeding reported.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

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

One to three birds present at 27 sites at varying times in the year. Proof of breeding at Themelthorpe, Swanton Morley churchyard & Riverside Farm, Scarning where 1 adult & 1 young in each nest. An adult with 1 juvenile also reported at Taverham in June.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus otus*

Present all year but very scarce.

Green listed.

Single bird heard during HBW on 18th Dec (DK).

Long-eared Owl, by Steve Cale



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

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

Three birds including 2 displaying males at Marsham Heath on 27th May (JH) and 4+ birds including 3 males at same site on 21st June (LB & RN).

Swift *Apus apus*

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

Earliest record 4 at Lyng GP on 29th Apr (CS) with c30 at Potter's Fen, Dereham on 2nd May (PA).

Occasional records received from a further 10 sites with the highest counts at each site being 12+ at Bintree, 30 at Netherd Moor, Dereham, 9 during HBW, 24 at Lenwade Mill, 30 at N Tuddenham, c30 at Pensthorpe, c30 at Reepham, c20 at Taverham, 4 at Walsis Wood, Lenwade and 7 at Worthing.

Just one report of a pair breeding at Worthing village. Latest report a single bird at Dereham on 1st Sept (PA).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident. **Amber listed.**

Occasional records of mainly single birds from 17 sites with 2 at Hoe in Sept & Oct, at Taverham Mill in Oct and at Scarning in Nov & Dec.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe where a juvenile was caught in a mist net on 5th Aug (SC & CH).

Green Woodpecker *Picis viridis*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Occasional records of single birds from 25 sites. At Pightle Way, Reepham 2 adults & 2 juveniles on a lawn on 22nd July indicates probable breeding nearby. Juveniles also reported present at Worthing village on 2nd Aug & Sparham Pools on 18th Aug.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

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

One or two birds reported present at 27 sites at varying times in the year. Three at Sculthorpe Moor NR & 4 at Hoe in Dec.

One record of breeding at Pensthorpe where a juvenile was seen.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Recorded at 33 sites with high counts of 7 at Scarning in July, 6 at Pensthorpe in Sept & 8 along Dereham to Fakenham road in Dec.

Proof of breeding at Bylaugh, Pensthorpe and Sparham (2 pairs).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

Single bird at Bintree on 21st Nov (RD).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.

Earliest report was of a bird moving swiftly through the Sparham Pools area on 29th Apr (SC) then a single bird seen at Pensthorpe on 12th May (CH & RN).

Occasional reports of single birds from a further 8 sites with 2 at Worthing church on 28th May (DK) & at Scarning on 6th Aug (IB). Latest report a single bird at Pensthorpe on 30th Sept (SC & RN).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Green listed.

Reports of single birds at 6 sites. At Norwich Cathedral on 11th Apr, at Scarning in June, at North Elmham on 22nd Aug, during the HBW on 18th Dec (a first for the walk) and at Sparham and at Guist Common on 19th Dec.

At Norwich Cathedral 4 birds were fledged but all subsequently perished largely due to the aggression of an intruding female that had hatched in Bath in 2013.

Ringed-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare naturalised resident or escape.

Single bird at Costessey on 30th July (A&AG)

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Very rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

Single bird at Buxton Heath on 23rd Nov (JH).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Common resident. Green listed.

Recorded in every month of the year mainly in single figures but 20+ were in the Taverham area during the first 3 months of the year.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Fairly common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Recorded throughout the year in 1's – 3's with 5 at Sparham Pools in Feb and 5 on HBW in Sept.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Common resident. Green listed.

Monthly maxima: Jan 100 Swannington; Feb 60 Sparham Pools; Mar 32 Pensthorpe; Apr 34 Lenwade; May 20 Pensthorpe; June 50 HBW; July c40; Aug 44; Sept 140+; Oct 45; Nov 35; all Pensthorpe; Dec 10 HBW.

Proof of breeding came from Bintree, Bylaugh, Costessey, Lyng, Sparham, Swanton Morley, Taverham, Themelthorpe and Wood Norton.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident. Green listed.

Monthly maxima: Jan 100 Swannington; Feb 250+ Lyng Heath; Mar 225 Great Witchingham; Apr 40 Pensthorpe; May 50 HBW; June 38 Lenwade; July c80; Aug c60 both Pensthorpe; Sept 200+ Worthing; Oct c50; Nov 24 Dereham; Dec 52 Pensthorpe.

The Rookery at Great Witchingham had 111 occupied nests in March (A&CJ).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded in all months in single figures but 23 Taverham Mill Fishery on 22nd Nov; 85 East Dereham SW on 20th Mar and 12 at Swannington in Jan.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

Recorded in all months and from 23 locations.

Probable breeding at Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools. The highest count was 8 at Dereham SW on 17th Dec.

Birds visited fat balls in a Lenwade garden during Feb & Mar.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. **Green listed.**

A singing male Marsham Heath 27th Feb (JH).

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Most records are of singles but site maxima 10+ Alderford Common, 22 Guist Common (ringed), 55 HBW, 18 Lenwade Mill, 23 Lenwade, Walsis Wood, 12 N Tuddenham, 50 Pensthorpe, 14 Sparham Pools, 18 Weston Longville.

Proof of breeding from 11 of the 24 sites reported.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Most records are of singles but site maxima 10 Lenwade Mill, 21 Pensthorpe, 13 Weston Longville.

Proof of breeding was from 9 sites.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

All records are single figure from 16 sites.

The only proof of breeding came from Morse Close, Lenwade

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Records from all sites with maximum counts: Bintree, 2 Costessey Pits, 2 Great Witchingham Common, Haveringland Hall, 3 Hoe, 3 HBW, 2 Lenwade Mill, Walsis Wood, Lenwade, 5 Pensthorpe, Potters Fen, 2 Scarning, 4 Sculthorpe Moor, 3 Sparham Pools, 2 Taverham Mill, West Raynham, Worthing.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Scarce visitor to valley. **Green listed.**

A single record – 2 Guist Common in June (NM).

Woodlark *Lallula arborea arborea*

Scarce summer visitor. **Green listed.**

2 Buxton Heath and 2 Cawston Heath both on 2nd Apr (JH).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

Recorded in all months from 20 sites. In first winter period there was a flock of 40 on Sparham Hall Farm and 15 at Swannington.

28 pairs bred on Sparham Hall Farm with other breeding records from Neatherd Moor Dereham, Walcis Farm Lenwade, HBW, Pensthorpe, Reepham, Taverham, Weston Longville and Worthing,

In the second winter period numbers were greater with 10 Hoe, 20 Alderford, 20+ Pettywell, Reepham, 40 Spring Farm N Tuddenham and 60 Sparham Hall Farm.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

First record of the year was 5 at Pensthorpe on 5th Apr (PA, SC), followed by 6 the next day at Lyng GP. Most notable nesting colony was at Lyng Easthaugh where there was a maximum of 95 nestholes on 15th May.

Also recorded from Beetley, Guist Common, and HBW.

The last record was 15 over Great Witchingham Common on 24th Sept (RG).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

The first arrivals were 2nd Apr Haveringland Hall (JH) and 3rd Apr Queens Hill Costessey (SC).

During the breeding season 69 nests were monitored: Great Witchingham Equestrian Centre 21, Lyng Easthaugh 12, Swanton Morley 24, Themelthorpe 7 and Weston Longville 5. Average clutch size was 4.4; average nestlings 4.0; average fledged 3.8.

There were surprisingly few double figure counts: Bylaugh SW 12 on 5th July, Pensthorpe 20+ on 23rd Apr & c20 on 25th May, N Tuddenham 30 on 19th Sept, Worthing 16 on both 30th July & 23rd Aug.

The roost at Guist held 44 in July, 200+ in early Aug then during Sept numbers dropped from 200 on 5th, 100 on 13th to 60+ on 20th.

The last record was on 30th Sept when 2 at Pensthorpe (SC, RN).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

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

The first record was 5th Apr at Lyng GP (CS) then no others until 17th Apr when 20 on HBW (DK) after which numbers built rapidly.

Several sites had counts over 20: HBW 25 on 21st Aug, N Tuddenham (where nesting in artificial nestboxes) 50 on 19th Sept, Pensthorpe 52 on 30th Sept, Reepham Ind Est c50 on 30th Aug, Reepham SW c30 on 18th June, Rushmeadows c30 on 2nd May, Scarning 80 on 7th Sept, Worthing 100+ on 7th Sept.

The last record was on 11th Oct when 2 at Lenwade (RG).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Rare resident expanding its range through valley. **Green listed.**

Only reported from Drayton on 8th May (LW) and Pensthorpe from 5th May to 12th Oct with 4 on 30th Sept.

Cetti's Warbler, by Steve Cale



Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus
Common resident.

Green listed.

A good year with the maximum counts from either Jan or Sept. Reported from 29 locations with the following maxima double figure counts by site: 25+ Alderford Common; 12+ Great Witchingham Common; 13 HBW; 12 Lenwade Mill; 10 New Costessey; 24 Pensthorpe; c20 Furze Lane, c20 Market Place & c20 Mill Road Reepham; 10+ Ringland Marshes; c12 Sparham Pools and 20+ Taverham Mills.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce passage migrant.

Singles at Sculthorpe Moor 9th Oct (PJ) and Haveringland Hall 11th Oct (JH).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Early winter records came from Bylaugh SW with 2 on 3rd Jan (IB, JH, SC, RN, RG) and Pensthorpe where one on 9th Feb (CH, PA).

Spring arrival started from mid-Mar with 1 at Scarning on 11th.

Recorded from 38 locations. The only proof of breeding came from Guist Common but there were singing males thus: 8 Alderford Common, 6 Neatherd Moor Dereham, 8 HBW, 11 Pensthorpe, 15 Sparham Pools, 9 Walsis Wood Lenwade.

Last summer record 1 Pensthorpe on 12th Oct (LB, RG).

3 were wintering at Dereham SW on 17th Dec (IB).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common summer resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.

First recorded on 2nd Apr from Sparham Pools (SC).

Recorded from 14 locations. Proof of breeding came from Great Ryburgh and Guist Common.

Last record 15th Aug Pensthorpe (PA, RG, JH).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

There were 2 early winter records. A male was feeding in a garden in Kings Rd Dereham on 15th Jan (BH) and the other was on 11th Mar at Scarning (IB).

(continues)

Blackcap (continued)

The main spring influx started on 2nd Apr birds with records from Costessey, Swanton Drive Dereham, Haveringland Hall and Sparham Pools followed by many more in the next few days.

Reported during the summer from 29 locations and although breeding was not proven, singing males were at all of them. The last summer visitors were 2 on 28th Sept at Neatherd Moor Dereham (BH). Late winter records – a male & female in gardens in Costessey in Dec (DH, AG).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

Very few records – 20th Apr Lime Kiln Farm, Lyng (SC), 30th Apr Sparham (CS), 1st May R Tud Valley Costessey (AG), 27th May and 27th June Neatherd Moor, Dereham (BH).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Common summer resident. Green listed.

The first record was from Drayton 1st Apr (AG), Sparham Pools area on 20th Apr (SC) followed by 2 at Pensthorpe on 24th Apr.

Records also came from Alderford, Neatherd Moor Dereham (4), Guist Common (3), HBW (6), Walsis Farm Lenwade (3), Potters Fen, Swannington, Swanton Morley Churchyard, Thorpe Marriott, Weston Longville and Whitwell. The last record was on 29th Sept, Neatherd Moor, Dereham (BH).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

First recorded on 2nd Apr in Sparham Pools area (SC).

While one would expect it to be present the length of the Valley it was only recorded from Bintree Mill Farm, Guist Common, Lyng Easthaugh GP, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools and Whitwell Common.

Proof of breeding came from Pensthorpe and Guist Common where 12 juveniles and 2 adults were ringed.

Last record of the year 5th Sept Guist Common (RG *et al*).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceous*

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

Recorded from Bintree Mill Farm, Guist Common, Lenwade, Pensthorpe, Potters Fen, Ringland, Sparham Pools and Whitwell Common.

An indication of site density when the habitat is right - 60 birds, including 14 adults, were ringed on Guist Common between 18th July and 20th Sept. The latter being the last record of the year.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous*

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

15 Thorpe Marriott on 12th Nov (LB, R&CG) then 40 Bowthorpe Ind Estate on 17th Nov and presumably the same birds in Costessey with 12 on 22nd and 4 on 23rd St Walstan's Close (DH), 10 on 27th Nov (NE) and 48 Jermingham Rd on 28th (AG).

135 migrated through R Tud Valley, Costessey between 23rd Oct and 23rd Dec with a peak count of 71 on 19th Nov (AG).



Waxwing, by Steve Cale

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

Recorded from 23 localities with maxima of 4 at Pensthorpe and 5 at Sculthorpe Moor. Proof of breeding came from Lenwade Mill, Pensthorpe and Ringland Common.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

Recorded from 14 localities in 1-3's. No definite proof of breeding was recorded but singing male recorded from Sparham Pools (SC).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common resident. Green listed.

Perhaps because it is one of our most ubiquitous birds it was only reported from 24 sites.

Proof of breeding came only from Swanton Drive Dereham (BH), Guist Common, Lenwade, Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

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

Recorded from 29 localities.

In late Jan c3000 gathered at Swanton Morley (BM, DK) and 300 at N Tuddenham Lodge (BP).

Breeding was confirmed from Swanton Drive Dereham (BH), Mill Street Elsing, Guist, Potters Fen and Worthing.

At end Oct c2000 went to roost at Lyng Easthough and c500 at Swanton Morley GP while 200 went to roost on Guist Common on 19th Dec.

2063 migrated through R Tud Valley, Costessey between 5th Oct and 19th Nov with a peak count of 493 on 3rd Nov (AG).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Rare passage migrant. Red listed.

Two spring records – 20th Apr Springfield Farm, N Tuddenham (BP) and 29th Apr Cawston Heath (JH).

In the autumn 2 birds were present on 4th Oct with 1 remaining on 7th Cawston Heath (JH). Also 1 flew high over Costessey on 5th Oct (AG).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

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

160 records received in the year but probably under recorded by members on their birding trips.

A total of 215 recorded migrating through the Tud valley in Oct and Nov with high counts of 40 on 10th Oct and 46 on 3rd Nov (A&AG).

Walsis Wood Lenwade and Weston Longville had numbers in the mid-teens in the spring and summer months (JP).

Records from Penthorpe averaged around 20 birds in most months. The HBW again had numbers up to 20 in some months (DK). Records from the Dereham area were 18 to 20 birds in May and June (BH).

Proof of breeding at Bintree, Dereham Neatherd Moor, Pensthorpe and Reepham.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

56 records received from 24 sites throughout the valley.

Highest counts in the first winter period; **Jan** Sparham Pools 60-200, Coxford c40; **Feb** N Tuddenham 80, Pensthorpe 55, Sparham Pools up to 50, Worthing 40;

Mar Beetley & N Tuddenham 150, Sparham Pools 60, Dereham Neatherd Moor 43.

The last record of 26 birds at Sparham Pools on 2nd Apr (SC).

First records in the second winter period were on 12th Oct at N Tuddenham and Sparham with 20 and 3 birds respectively (BP & CS).

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Fieldfare (continued)

Highest counts in this period; **Oct** N Tuddenham 100, Dereham Neatherd Moor 70+, Sparham Hall Farm 30; **Nov** Neatherd Moor 70+, Sparham 100; **Dec** Elsing c45, Pettywell, Reepham 30+.

A total of 1022 migrating through the R Tud Valley in Oct and Nov with a peak count of 466 on 3rd Nov (A&AG).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelus*

Common resident and passage migrant. Red listed.

Records from 35 locations during the year of largely 1-3 birds. Larger counts of 5 at Weston Longville on 24th May (JP), 4 at Neatherd Moor on 27th May (BH), 6 at Walsis Woods on 16th June. (JP) and 4 at Pensthorpe on 23rd June (RN, RG).

214 recorded migrating through the R Tud valley, Costessey, between Sept 15th and Nov 5th with a peak count of 37 on 5th Oct. (A&AG).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

57 records from 16 sites throughout the valley.

Highest counts in the first winter period; **Jan** Pensthorpe 48, Coxford c60; **Feb** Pensthorpe 28, Sparham Pools 27; **Mar** Sparham 50, Worthing 37, River Tud valley 60.

The latest record of 18 at Sparham Pools on 2nd Apr (SC).

In the second winter period the first record was of 2 at Sparham on 2nd Oct (CS). Highest counts were; **Oct** Cawston Heath c100, Sparham 60, Great Witchingham Common 50, HBW 40 and Guist Common 20; **Nov** HBW 40, Scarning 37; **Dec** Taverham c10. A quieter month for records.

A total of 2361 counted migrating through the R Tud Valley between 5th Oct and 19th Nov with a peak count of 349 on 9th Oct (A&AG).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Records from 22 sites this year.

Most counts were between 1 and 3 birds.

Highest counts were 9 at Swannington in Jan (TF), 7 at Pensthorpe in June (RG,SC). 7 at Pensthorpe in June (RG,SC) and 40 at Sparham in Aug (CS).

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

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

Records from 11 sites. First recorded at Walsis Wood, Lenwade on 16th June (JP) and the last record was of 2 birds at Haveringland Hall on 22nd Aug (JH).

Also seen at Costessey, Great Witchingham, HBW, Lenwade Mill, Pensthorpe, Sparham, Whitwell and Common Worthing.

Proof of breeding at Haveringland Hall and Sparham.

Spotted Flycatcher, by Gil Brooking



Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

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

Nearly 200 records for this species with highest counts at Pensthorpe in most months of around 20 birds, the highest of 25 on 25th Oct (LB,RG). 17 birds recorded at Weston Longville on 10th Apr (JP).

Proof of breeding at Bintree, Swanton Drive in Dereham and at Pensthorpe.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

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

Records from 2 sites this year. Earliest record of single bird at Ringland on 13th Apr (AB) and latest of 2 at Bintree on 3rd June (RD). Two birds recorded at Ringland on 24th Apr (SC).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce passage migrant in the valley. **Amber listed.**

Single bird at Sculthorpe Moor NR on 9th Oct (PJ).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Scarce passage migrant. **Green listed.**

Two birds at Cawston Heath on 10th Aug (JH).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Scarce passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

Records from 3 sites this year.

Single bird at Bittering GP on 10th Apr (IB), 4 at Cawston Heath on 19th Apr and 2 on 29th (JH) and 1 at Worthing on 1st Sept (DK).

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. **Amber listed.**

136 records of 1 to 8 birds from 19 sites.

Proof of breeding at Bintree (RD), Swanton Drive in Dereham (BH), Pensthorpe (PA,SC) and Sparham Pools (SC).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

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

84 records from 21 sites throughout the valley.

Highest counts of 20+: **Jan** Poplar Farm, Scarning 25 (BM,PA,DK), Taverham c20 (LW); **Feb/Mar** Dereham, Netherd Moor 20 (BH), Reepham 20+ (DG); **July** Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham 40 (BP); **Sept** Pound Farm, N Tuddenham 50 (BP), Worthing 20 (DK);

(continues)

House Sparrow (continued)

Oct Dereham, Neatherd Moor 23 (BH), Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham 30 (BP), Worthing 20+ (DK); **Nov** Dereham, Netherd Moor 20 (BH), Elsing 20 (A&CJ).

Proof of breeding at Potters Fen, Dereham and Pensthorpe.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Amber listed.

Reports from 25 sites and mostly of 1-2 birds each month. Higher counts of 4 at Bintree Mill in May (A&CJ), Bylaugh SW in July (BP) and Dereham SW in Dec (IB).

Proof of breeding at Haveringland Hall, Helhoughton, Lenwade Mill, Marriott's Way at Lenwade, Swanton Morley Waterfall Farm and Worthing river bridge.

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.

Records from 20 sites and throughout the year.

Highest counts of 35+ at Attlebridge in Jan (PB, AF, DG), 88 at Dereham (supermarket car park) in Mar (IB) and in Dec 60+ going to roost at Guist Common (RG), 50 at Dereham SW (IB) and 15 at Bylaugh SW (A&CJ).

Proof of breeding at Dereham Neatherd Moor, Elsing, Pensthorpe, Reepham Industrial estate and Worthing village.

Records of 2 White Wagtail at Lenwade Mill between Oct and Dec (JP).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.

Two at Cawston Heath on 4th Oct (JH).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Fairly common winter visitor.

Amber listed.

Records from 10 sites with highest counts of c30 at Reepham in Jan, 100 on ten fields at Sparham Hall Farm in Oct, 35 caught & ringed also on Sparham Hall Farm in Oct and 11 at Dereham Netherd Moor in Dec.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Green listed.

Reported present at 6 sites in the first winter period and 3 sites in the second winter period mostly in small numbers. Higher counts of 140 at Swannington and 13 at Mill Street, Elsing in Jan, 70 at Sparham Hall in Oct, 15 in orchard and bird-food strips at Sparham during Nov/Dec and 20+ at Sculthorpe Moor NR in Dec.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common resident. Green listed.

Monthly counts at Pensthorpe – Jan 10+; Feb 35; Mar 38; Apr 30; May 16; June c25; July 12; Aug 15; Sept 12; Oct 20; Nov 20; Dec 16.

Elsewhere 75 at Sparham, 60+ at Swannington & 10+ at Reepham in Jan; 11 at Sculthorpe Moor NR, 12 in Sparham Pools area in Feb; 12 at Weston Longville, 20 N Tuddenham in Apr; 10 Bylaugh SW in July.

Evidence of breeding at Bintree; Netherd Moor, Potters Fen & Swanton Drive, Dereham.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Occasional reports of 1-2 birds at 23 sites. Higher counts of 4 at Themelthorpe in Jan, 4 in Sparham Pools area in Feb, 7 at Sculthorpe Moor NR in Mar, 4 at Walsis Wood, Lenwade in Apr, 5 during HBW in Oct and in Dec 4 at Pensthorpe & Sculthorpe Moor NR with 5 at Hoe.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Highest counts 60+ at Swannington in Jan, 100 at Sparham & 30 at Lenwade in Nov.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Highest counts in Jan c35 at Worthing & 20 at Swannington; in Feb 250 at Sparham & 20 at Worthing; in Mar 40 at Bittering GP; in Apr 40 at N Tuddenham; in Sept 60 at N Tuddenham; in Oct 30 at Sparham & 30 at N Tuddenham; in Oct 50 at Sparham increasing to 110 in Nov; in Dec 50+ at Worthing & c40 at Broom Green.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

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

On 5th Dec 8 at Netherd Moor, Dereham (PA).

Lesser Redpoll (Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret*

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

Reported present at 8 sites in the first few months of the year. Three at Sparham on 11th Jan (CS), 6 at Worthing on 15th Jan (DK), 10 during HBW on 17th Jan (DK), 1 at Mill Street, Elsing on 1st Feb (A&CAJ), 2 at Sculthorpe Moor NR on 2nd Feb (BH) and 3 on 5th Mar (A&CAJ), 4 at Cawston Heath on 13th Mar (JH) and 1 at Walsis Wood, Lenwade on 22nd Apr (JP).

Common Redpoll (Mealy) *Acanthis flammea*

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

Three at Pensthorpe on 7th Dec (RG,MS) and 1 at Sculthorpe Moor NR on 22nd Dec (LB).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
Common resident. Green listed.

Recorded from over 25 sites during the whole year with a high count of 100 at Scarning on 9th Sept. (IB). Several counts of 20+ birds from Pensthorpe also throughout the year. During the period Oct/Nov a total of 254 migrated through the Tud valley. Proof of breeding received from Bintree and Swanton Drive Dereham.

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

Records from over 15 sites during the year with the exception of May. A high count of 150+ recorded at Sparham Pools on 13th Feb (A&CJ) and several counts of 30+ birds recorded during the year from various sites.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*
Common but declining resident. Red listed.

Records from sites throughout the valley with 45 wintering in feed strips at Sparham (CS). Singing males heard and pairs in suitable habitat observed during Apr at Sparham.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Up to 50 counted in feed strips at Sparham throughout Nov, Dec (CS). Summer records included 8 at Pensthorpe on 8th June and 7 at Guist on 30th July.

Escapes

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

Harris Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

W Panama to Brazil and N th Argentina

A single record from Bintree on 21st May (RD).

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

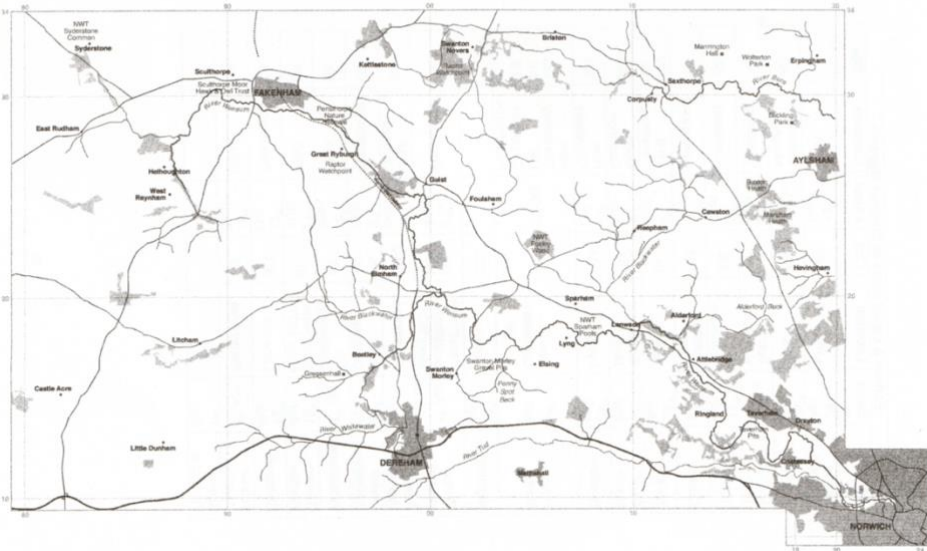
E Pakistan, India & Sri Lanka

A single male roams freely around Walsis Wood area (JP).

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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		

Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants 2016

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs
Common Tern	4 th Apr	Lyng GP	CS	15 th Aug	Pensthorpe	RG, PA, JH
Turtle Dove	20 th Apr	Swannington	TF	29 th Sept	N Elmham	TF
Cuckoo	1 st May	Ringland	AB	17 th July	E Dereham	IB
Swift	29 th Apr	Lyng GP	CS	1 st Sept	E Dereham	PA
Hobby	29 th Apr	Sparham	SC	30 th Sept	Pensthorpe	SC, RN
Sand Martin	5 th Apr	Pensthorpe	PA, SC	24 th Sept	Great Witchingham Common	RG
Swallow	2 nd Apr	Haveringland Hall	JH	30 th Sept	Pensthorpe	SC, RN
House Martin	6 th Apr	Lyng GP	CS	11 th Oct	Lenwade	RG
Chiffchaff	11 th Mar	Scarning	IB	12 th Oct	Pensthorpe	RG, LB
Willow Warbler	2 nd Apr	Sparham Pools	SC	15 th Aug	Pensthorpe	PA, RG, JH
Blackcap	11 th Mar	Scarning	IB	28 th Sept	Neatherd Moor	BH
Garden Warbler	22 nd Apr	Walcis Wood, Lenwade	JP	8 th Sept	Taverham Mill	LB
Lesser Whitethroat	20 th Apr	Lyng	SC	27 th June	Neatherd Moor	BH
Whitethroat	19 th Apr	Costessey	AAG	28 th Sept	Neatherd Moor	BH

(continues)

Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants 2016 (continued)

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs
Sedge Warbler	2 nd Apr	Sparham Pools	SC	5 th Sept	Guist Common	RG,RN, LB, BM
Reed Warbler	20 th Apr	Pensthorpe	SC	20 th Sept	Guist Common	RG, RN, AH
Spotted Flycatcher	27 th May	Sparham	CS	18 th Sept	HBW	DK
Nightingale	13 th Apr	Ringland	AB	3 rd June	Bintree	RD

Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors 2016

Species	Latest	Location	Obs	Earliest	Location	Obs
Goosander	21 st Mar	Sparham Pools	SC	21 st Dec	Pensthorpe	PA, JH
Golden Plover	3 rd Jan	Mill Street, Elsing	JH, SC, RG, RN	19 th Nov	Lenwade Costessey	AB AAG
Fieldfare	2 nd Apr	Sparham	SC	8 th Oct	Costessey	AAG
Redwing	2 nd Apr	Sparham	SC	2 nd Oct	Sparham Costessey	CS AAG
Brambling	17 th Apr	HBW	DK	4 th Oct	Costessey	AAG



Golden Plover, by Steve Cale

WVBS 2016 Ringing Report

Ringers were busy in the Wensum Valley during 2016, and this report documents some of the results of their efforts. This report covers a mixture of longevity and distance movements. There are several exchanges with continental Europe – a Common Tern to The Netherlands and Black-headed Gull & Reed Warbler from The Netherlands, Sand Martins to and from France and a Sedge Warbler from Belgium. My thanks to all the ringers that operated in the WVBS study area during 2016 for access to their records.

Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2016

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

Marsh Harrier

Nestling Female	17-June-2016	Guist Common	
Alive	10-Aug-2016	Cley-next-the-Sea (20km NNE)	
Alive	15-Sept-2016	Beachy Head, East Sussex (234km SSW)	
Nestling	Female	25-June-2016	Guist Common
Alive	14-Aug-2016	Boughton Fen (37km SW)	
Alive	23-Sept-'016	Welney, Norfolk (57km WSW)	
Nestling Female	25-June-2016	Guist Common	
Alive	10-Oct-2016	Strumpshaw Fen (40km ESE)	
Alive	22-Dec-2016	Hickling (44Km E)	

Wing-tagging of nestling Marsh Harriers has revealed that the young seem to disperse far and in random directions.

Woodcock

Adult	24-Nov-2015	Gwenlas, LLanbadarn Fynydd, Powys
Freshly shot	05-Nov-2016	Thurning Hall Farm, Dereham (299km E)

A high proportion of the Woodcock wintering in Britain come from Russia and Scandinavia. They migrate through the East coast in Oct / Nov before continuing SW. This is the likely origin of this bird.

Common Tern

Nestling	12-June-2013	Sparham
Caught by ringer	06-Sept-2016	off Oost-Vlieland, Vlieland, The Netherlands (278 ENE)

Black-headed Gull

First Year	30-Dec-1996	Norwich
Alive	02-Feb-1999	Huizen, The Netherlands (271km E)
Alive	06-Nov-2016	Huizen, The Netherlands (271km E)

This bird was then reported from the same area in Holland nearly every winter with a final sighting on 06-Nov-2016. There were 19yr 10m 7d between ringing and the final sighting when it was still alive. This is still a long way off the longevity record for this species of 29yr 3m 12d.

Nestling	03-Jun-2016	Sparham, Norfolk
Alive	29-Nov-2016	Redes Mere, Cheshire (229km WNW)

This is an example of post juvenile dispersal. Others from this site have gone to Ireland for their first winter suggesting a westerly post-fledging dispersal.

Collared Dove

Adult	22-July-2010	Wicken Green Village
Freshly dead	05-Feb-2016	Tattersett (2km)

This bird was taken by a bird of prey at 5 years 6 months 14 days well short of the longevity record of 18 years for this species.

Barn Owl

Nestling Male	13-June-2005	near Gateley
Caught by ringer	18-July-2016	Harpers Green (3km SW)

Nestling	11-July-2015	North Duffield, Selby, North Yorkshire
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Freshly Dead	11-Nov-2016	Dereham (180km SE)
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The first was still alive after 11years compared to the longevity record of 15+ years. The second was the longest movement of a Barn Owl recorded in 2016.

Tawny Owl

Nestling	01-June-2015	Swanton Morley Churchyard
Drowned	06-Oct-2015	Swanton Morley

A surprisingly common fate for owls – drowned in an artificial water container. Do they fall in or attack their reflection?

Coal Tit

First-year Female	16-Nov-2010	Kettlestone
Re-trapped	03-Feb-2011	Kettlestone
Re-trapped	03-Dec-2016	Kettlestone
Re-trapped	17-Dec-2016	Kettlestone

At final recapture this Coal Tit was 6y 1m 1d approximately two thirds the age of the oldest recorded at 9y 2m 25d.

Marsh Tit

First Year	25-Jan-2010	Sculthorpe Moor
Alive	02-Jan-2011	Sculthorpe Moor
Alive	24-Jan-2012	Sculthorpe Moor
Alive	26-May-2014	Sculthorpe Moor
Alive	05-Dec-2014	Sculthorpe Moor
Alive	18-Mar-2015	Sculthorpe Moor
Alive	29-Jan-2016	Sculthorpe Moor

This bird was colour ringed which enabled all the sightings. It was 6y 0m 4d from ringing to last sighting. The longevity record for this species is 11y 3m 0d set in 2015.

Sand Martin

First –year	13-Aug-2009	Etang de la Horre, Lentilles, Aube, France
Caught by ringer	23-July-2010	Beetley (539km NNW)
First-year	25-June-2013	Lyng Easthaugh
Caught by ringer	11-Aug-2013	Hiers-Brouage, Charente-Maritime, France (779km SSW)
First-year	25-June-2015	Lyng Easthaugh
Caught by ringer	21-June-2016	Coxford GP (31km WNW as breeding female)
Caught by ringer	12-July-2016	Coxford GP (31km WNW as breeding female)
Adult	06-Aug-2015	Lyng Easthaugh
Caught by ringer	21-June-2016	Coxford GP (31km WNW)
First-year Male	22-Aug-2013	Pett Level, East Sussex
Caught by ringer	25-June-2015	Lyng Easthaugh
Caught by ringer	06-July-2016	Lyng Easthaugh (205km N)

The first two records show the timing of Sand Martins passing through France on the way to their wintering grounds in the Sahel region of Africa. The third and fourth records show birds going to a different colony to breed from their natal site.

Swallow

Nestling	22-June-2016	Low Smerby, Argyll & Bute
Caught by ringer	12-Sept-2016	Litcham (513km SE)

Nestling	06-Aug-2016	Lyng Easthaugh
Caught by ringer	30-Aug-2016	Thornham (43km NW)

Nestling	28-July-2016	Lyng Easthaugh
Caught by ringer	01-Sept-2016	Martham Pits (35km E)

Nestling	12-July-2016	Great Witchingham Equestrian Centre
Caught by ringer	23-Aug-2016	Thornham (42km WNW)

Nestling	12-June-2016	Cockley Cley
Caught by ringer	05-Aug-2016	Guist Common (29km NE)

Nestling	12-June-2016	Hemsby
Caught by ringer	05-Sept-2016	Guist Common (29km NE)

The first record is of a Scottish bird passing through Norfolk. The rest are of local nestlings caught at roosts relatively close to their natal areas.

Long-tailed Tit

Full-grown Male	07-Feb-2010	East Lexham
Caught by ringer	15-Oct-2010	East Lexham
Caught by ringer	28-Feb-2013	East Lexham
Caught by ringer	27-May-2016	East Lexham (0km 6y 0m 15d)

The longevity record for Long-tailed Tit is 8years 11months

Sedge Warbler

Adult Male	08-June-2016	Pensthorpe
Caught by ringer	30-July-2016	Stanwell Moor, Surrey (181 km SSW)
First-year Male	05-Aug-2014	Woumen, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Caught by ringer	08-May-2015	Pensthorpe
Caught by ringer	05-May-2016	Pensthorpe
Caught by ringer	03-July-2016	Pensthorpe (243km NNW)

The first shows an early departure from the breeding site. The origins of the second bird are unknown but it favoured Pensthorpe as a breeding site.

Reed Warbler

Juvenile	30-July-2016	Guist Common
Caught by ringer	01-Sept-2016	Icklesham, East Sussex (211km S)
First-year	10-July-2015	Wassenaar, Sparregat, The Netherlands
Caught by ringer	08-June-2016	Pensthorpe (245km WNW)

The first shows a fairly late movement through Sussex.

Treecreeper

Juvenile Male	21-June-2011	Kettlestone
Caught by ringer	28-Mar-2012	Kettlestone
Caught by ringer	07-Apr-2013	Kettlestone
Caught by ringer	14-May-2014	Kettlestone
Caught by ringer	08-June-2015	Kettlestone
Caught by ringer	13-Aug-2016	Kettlestone (0km 5y 1m 23d)

An interesting series of re-traps. The longevity record for Treecreeper is 8 years and 18 days set way back in 1987.

Grey Wagtail

Nestling Female 16-June-2015 Swanton Morley
Caught by ringer 10-Nov-2016 Great Livermere, Suffolk
(49km SSW 1y 6m 2d)

An interesting dispersal of a locally bred Grey Wagtail

Greenfinch

Adult Female 5-Aug-2016 Guist
Killed by Cat 9-Aug-2016 Guist

The demise of too many garden birds!

Goldfinch

First-year Female 18-Dec-2015 East Lexham
Caught by ringer 02-Apr-2016 near Market Rasen, Lincs (107km)

This was a significant movement for a Goldfinch within Britain.

Reed Bunting

Juvenile 07-Aug-2014 Guist Common
Caught by ringer 25-June-2015 Pensthorpe (5km NW)

British bred Reed Buntings tend to be sedentary

Report on Monitoring of Common Terns & Black-headed Gulls at Sparham Hall Farm Lakes for 2016

The monitoring of Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls at Sparham in 2016 included the island and the 2 rafts at Sparham Hall Farm. No visits were made to the NWT island as it had not been cleared of vegetation and was therefore no longer suitable for Common Terns to breed.

As well as the Tern Rafts 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 Gull from the NWT island.

Three visits were made to the rafts and island: on 3rd and 22nd June and 6th July

3rd June

The Rafts

Common Tern – None, usurped by Black-headed Gulls.

Black-headed Gull – The chicks were large and wandering so it was not possible to identify which young came from specific nests. It is estimated that there were 19 nests in total. On the original raft there were 10 nests with a total of 12 eggs still to hatch. 18 young were large enough to ring. On the new raft there were 9 nests including 2 with 3 downy chicks and 2 warm eggs each. 17 chicks were ringed and a further 9 were considered too small to ring and 2 were dead.

Island

Common Tern – 14 nests

Black-headed Gull – 19 nests

22nd June

The Rafts

No visit was made to the rafts on this date due to the risks of young getting over the surrounding “fences” and being unable to get back.

Island

The island was visited again and with more success than in 2015. 10 Common Tern chicks were ringed and there were 5 nests with 3 eggs and 1 with 2. Black-headed Gulls still had 7 nests: 3 x 3 eggs; 2 x 2 eggs, 1 x 1 egg and 1 x 1 downy chick. A further 2 chicks were ringed. Obviously some predation had occurred but not to the devastating level of 2015.

6th July

There were still 6 Common Tern nests with eggs: 3 x 4 eggs, 1 x 2 eggs and 1 x 1 egg. Three nearly full grown chicks were ringed.

At least 1 young Common Tern was seen flying so there was some success compared with the previous two years.

Other nests on this visit were a Mallard with 1 egg hatching and a Tufted Duck with 12 eggs. The latter had 7 downy chicks and 2 warm eggs on 20th July.

Summary

Though not a good year for the Common Terns there was some success compared with the previous 2 years.

The rafts continue to support nesting but the Black-headed Gulls have usurped the Common Terns.

BTO nest record cards were completed for no Common Tern or Black-headed Gull but 1 Tufted Duck and 1 Coot were completed.

Plans for 2017 Season

It is intended to remove the rafts from the lake in Oct / Nov 2016 to clean and maintain them. Then return them to the water when the first Common Terns are reported in the area. By doing this it should prevent the Black-headed Gulls getting a head start and allow the Common Terns to compete for nest sites.

The NWT island will be monitored.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to NWT and Charles Sayer for their permission and support of this project and to my many helpers who I'll not try to name as I'm bound to forget someone!

Ray Gribble



Common Terns, by Gil Brooking

Hempton Marsh Report

As always, 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 here during the year.

Two significant, but very positive, changes occurred in 2016. The first was the appointment in March of a full-time Assistant Warden to attend the Associations' reserves, ensuring that Hempton Marsh was monitored regularly year-round. The second was the replacement of the entire boardwalk through the reserve, which was completed in the early autumn. Our thanks must go to the Goldcrest Charitable Trust who have funded both of these improvements.

BIRDS

Typical sightings throughout **January** included the usual species visiting the feeders. Small numbers of Chaffinches and Blue, Great and Coal Tits were joined by Nuthatches, which were noted increasingly and more regularly throughout the year with birds noted on ten dates. Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen regularly, and Treecreepers were seen or heard on three dates, with two birds present on the 9th. Siskins were evident feeding in the tops of the Alders for much of the month with seven noted on the 12th, and Bullfinch, Barn Owl, Mistle Thrushes and Green Woodpeckers were also of interest. On the grazing marsh, four Wigeon were unusual on the 12th, and 13 Gadwall and a Shoveler were counted on the 15th.

In **February**, the first Kingfisher of the year was noted on the 2nd, when a Little Egret was also seen along the river. Single Woodcocks were recorded twice during the month, with one on the 4th and another on the 28th. Nuthatches were recorded on eight dates, and 40 Siskins were seen in two flocks on the 4th when ten Common Gulls were loafing on the flooded grazing marsh. Singles or pairs of Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Marsh Tits and Treecreepers were recorded on most visits and a Green Woodpecker was heard on two dates. At least ten Siskins were still present to the 20th.

The grazing marsh remained flooded into **March**, with Little Egret recorded there on three dates and Greylag Geese numbers rising to 22. A pair of Egyptian Geese took up residence during the month, and species and numbers visiting the feeding station remained fairly constant. Nuthatches were noted on six visits, a pair of Marsh Tits were seen regularly, and Treecreepers and Great Spotted Woodpeckers were noted throughout. A male Greenfinch on the 8th was more unusual. Local Reed Buntings were seen paired up by the 14th, and Siskins were still around to the 18th when seven were present, as were a flock of 25 Redwings, with some birds heard singing in trees to the south of the woodland hide. Two Woodcocks were seen on the 14th, the first singing Chiffchaff was noted on the 25th, and two Bullfinches were noted on the 27th.

April began with upwards of 25 Greylag Geese on the 1st, and a Grey Heron was also present on the grazing marsh. A male Marsh Harrier over was notable on the 3rd, as were two Red-legged Partridges and two Snipe on the marsh. A Tawny Owl was heard on the 4th when 3 Chiffchaffs were singing, and Bullfinch, Nuthatch and three Siskins were of interest. Two Marsh Harriers were recorded on the 5th, and the first Willow Warbler returned on the 6th. Up to four Canada Geese were on the marsh on three dates, a Kingfisher was noted on the 15th. Two Oystercatchers were seen regularly, and woodland species were noted in good numbers throughout the month, preparing to breed. Other interest included two Tufted Duck on the 8th, two adult Mediterranean Gulls over to the north on the 12th, the first singing Blackcap on the 13th, a Red Kite over on the 17th, and a calling Cuckoo heard on the 30th from the meander platform.

In **May**, a Mediterranean Gull and a Cuckoo were both seen flying west on the 2nd, when the first Sedge Warbler was noted singing near the entrance. Treecreepers were seen on five dates through the month, nine Mute Swan cygnets were on the river regularly from the 6th with at least one adult in attendance, a Cuckoo was still present in the area, and a Kingfisher was noted on the 11th when the first Reed Warblers and Whitethroat were seen. Other interest through the month saw a White Stork of unknown origin drop in on the grazing marsh on the 13th. A Mediterranean Gull heard again on the 17th, and small numbers of Swifts

and hirundines were present over the marsh. Five House Martins were present on the 26th when a Barn Owl and five Mistle Thrushes were noted.

Not surprisingly, activity of resident species was fairly limited through **June** with many of the typical woodland species scarcely recorded; Great Spotted Woodpecker was noted on four dates and Treecreepers on three dates. Summer migrants proved easier to record with most visits producing Swifts, Swallows, Blackcaps, Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and Sedge Warblers. Woodcocks were noted on two dates, a Red-legged Partridge was seen with chicks on the 7th, and a Mediterranean Gull was seen on the 15th. Other more unusual sightings included a Cormorant on the 4th, a male Bullfinch on the 26th and Marsh Harriers on the 15th and 26th.

July proved to be a quiet month, as would be expected, with interest limited at the start of the month to a family of Garden Warblers on the 7th and a Little Grebe calling on the same date. Nuthatches made their presence more obvious again from the 22nd, and were noted on a further three dates to the end of the month. Up to three Buzzards were seen regularly over the reserve, and House Martins and Swifts were also noted regularly hunting insects over the marsh. Up to three Jays were seen regularly around the feeding area, a female Marsh Harrier was noted on two dates, and a Spotted Flycatcher was seen on the 31st, the only record of the year.

Two Greater Spotted Woodpeckers were noted on three dates through **August**, another relatively quiet month typically. A Little Grebe continued to call from the river with regularity, Marsh Tit, Nuthatch and Goldcrest families were in evidence, and six Jays were seen together visiting feeders by the woodland hide on the 8th. Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard were seen regularly in the skies, and a Green Woodpecker and a Tawny Owl were both heard on the 31st.

Sightings through **September** were limited by ongoing work renewing the boardwalk access to the reserve, but Swallows and House Martins were noted on the 1st and 8th feeding over the marsh, a Treecreeper was seen on the 12th, and Green Woodpecker, Grey Heron on two dates and two Jays on the 28th were of interest.

October was relatively quiet, with mild conditions for the first half of the month. Grey Herons were noted on four dates with two together on the 5th and 22nd. A male Kingfisher was seen on the 23rd near the scrape, and a Nuthatch, two Jays, two Song Thrushes and a Green Woodpecker were seen on the same date. The first Redpoll of the autumn was seen on the 27th, and Marsh Tit, Great Spotted Woodpecker and six Chaffinches were seen on the 28th.

A more typical autumnal feel took hold in **November**, with Redwings seen on the 1st and 30th, and other winter visitors noted towards the end of the month. Treecreepers were noted on three dates, as were two Nuthatches, and Goldfinch numbers began to climb with 11 the highest count on the 8th. Three Goldcrests were seen on the 15th, and a Kingfisher was seen on two dates. Two Bramblings and three Siskins had arrived by the 30th; other counts on this date included three Buzzards, two Great Spotted Woodpeckers, two Jays, three Coal Tits, two Marsh Tits, 16 Blue Tits, 12 Great Tits, a Pied Wagtail over east and a Snipe on the marsh.

A relatively calm and mild start to **December** meant limited interest, with two Nuthatches the only notable record on the 2nd. A male Brambling was seen on the 4th, and Woodcocks were seen on the 4th and 8th. Marsh Tits were noted throughout the month, being seen on five dates with a maximum of five seen on the 30th. A Little Grebe was still present on the river on the 18th. Twenty Chaffinches were seen feeding in the leaf litter on the 19th, when 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen. Around 240 Jackdaws were noted going to roost on the 28th, and two Bramblings were seen on the 30th with eight Chaffinches and ten Goldfinches. At least nine Bramblings were present on the 31st when a Buzzard was seen circling over the reserve.

INSECTS

Fifteen species of butterfly were noted through the year, though many blank visits suggest the weather had a significant impact on the recording of many species.

The first butterflies sighted in **March** were two Brimstones (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) on the 17th, followed by the first Red Admiral

(*Vanessa atalanta*) of the year on the 26th; both species continued to be recorded as singles into **April** when the first Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) was seen on the 13th and further species included Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegaria*), Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) and Small White (*Pieris rapae*), all noted on the 30th.

Large Red Damselflies (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) were noted from the end of April with the highest count coming on the 17th of **May** when 20 were noted along the boardwalk. Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*) was first recorded on May 4th, when two Peacocks (*Inachis io*) were also the first of the year. On the 11th, ten Green-veined Whites were on the wing and Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) was seen, the only record of the year. Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) was noted on the 22nd.

Very limited invertebrate recording through **June** included a single Green-veined White on the 19th; a Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*) and 12 Banded Demoiselles (*Calopteryx splendens*) were seen on the same date.

The first Comma (*Polygonia c-album*) was seen on **July** 3rd when Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) was also noted, and Ringlets (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) had emerged by the 7th. Records remained fairly limited, but new species for the year on the 17th included Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*), Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*), Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) and three Large Skippers (*Ochlodes venata*). A single Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*) was seen near the scrape hide on the 30th, and a Norfolk Hawker (*Aeshna isosceles*) was reported on the 31st.

August proved particularly quiet, but four Common Darters (*Sympetrum striolatum*) were new for the year on the 31st. A Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*) was seen on **September** 8th. On the 9th, Red Admiral, Speckled Wood, Small White, Gatekeeper and Common Darters were still being seen.

MAMMALS

Casual observations of mammals throughout the year included a single record of Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) on May 12th, three sightings of

Bank Vole (*Myodes glareolus*), and several Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) sightings around the scrape hide in June and July. Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and Brown Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) were seen throughout the year around the feeding station. Singles of Wood Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) on July 3rd and Stoat (*Mustela erminea*) on June 16th were also logged. Reeve's Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) were seen on almost every visit, but rarely more than two per day, whilst Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) were seen regularly on the grazing marsh from mid-March to late May, with up to three together.

David Bratt
Assistant Warden



Little Egrets, by Gil Brooking

Pensthorpe Natural Park 2016 Wildlife Report

Having only recently joined Pensthorpe in November 2016, I am still learning so much about this very diverse site and therefore it isn't easy for me to provide a concise report for 2016.

We are fortunate to have very good relations with The Wensum Valley Bird watching Society and Gary Elton from The Norfolk Ornithologists Association and it is their intimate knowledge of the site and their sightings which make them the main contributor to this report using their bird records and providing a valuable spread of count information across the year.

Key Wildfowl species included:

Tufted Duck which are an all-round resident but peak in winter months with a max count of 165 in November

Shoveler - generally in low numbers most of the year but again peaked in November with a maximum count of 45

Wigeon – we recorded low wintering numbers with a peak in November of 20 birds

Teal - an important winter species with high counts in November of 450 birds and again in of December 665, this could have been down to the lower than normal levels on the Wader Scrape for this time of year.

Gadwall – seen around the site all year but with increased numbers in the winter months. The highest count was in September with 62 birds recorded.

Additional wildfowl recorded included; a juvenile male Long-tailed Duck on the 9th December after strong winds. There were also recordings of Pintail in November and December.

Key waders:

Lapwing - an important species both as breeding birds and wintering flocks. During June, approximately 12 birds were present on site but no information is available as to breeding numbers or success rate. However, post breeding and wintering numbers steadily built from July onwards to peak at over 200 birds in December.

Other wader information is limited to, however: unfortunately the summer breeding season was very disappointing due to summer flooding.

Other birds of note have included occasional wintering records of Bittern and a report of successful breeding of Hobby on site.

Our Constant effort ringing site saw a large number of bird species ringed. Reed Warblers were in abundance with a total of 112 ringed; 73 of which were new birds. In comparison, 43 Sedge Warblers were ringed; 21 of which were new birds. Reed Bunting was in much lower numbers with 12 ringed; 6 of which were new birds.

Other wildlife

Dragonflies continued to have good numbers this year with the regular species being joined by sightings of Norfolk Hawker and Willow Emerald, a rare species difficult to distinguish from the Emerald Damselfly.

Butterflies also have a good assemblage but due to the weather, numbers were low during 2016.

A good range of mammals were found on site including Otter, Water Vole and Brown Hare.

Richard Spowage
Reserve Manager, Pensthorpe Natural Park

Pensthorpe Constant Effort Site

For the eleventh year running the NOA carried out ringing for the Constant Effort Site (CES) study at Pensthorpe, achieving twelve site visits in total during the season.

During the breeding season standardized data collected from Pensthorpe and the other CES sites throughout the country provides an accurate measure of changes of bird abundance. Recaptures of birds ringed in previous years also allow survival rates to be calculated. The ratio of juvenile to adult birds caught on CESs provides a second measure of breeding success that also takes into account the number of successful breeding attempts made per adult (as many species attempt to rear more than one brood per season) and the survival of young birds immediately after fledging.

As would be expected the weather plays a major part in the survival and breeding success of our birds and hence the CES results. The winter 2015–16 was the third warmest since 1910 for the UK as a whole, and the warmest ever for England though it was the second wettest for the UK.

Mean spring temperatures were more typical, falling slightly below average in April and rising slightly above in May. Breeding season rainfall varied dramatically between countries and months, however. Southern and eastern England experienced a wet March, April and June, with a brief respite in May. In July and August there were exceptionally dry conditions in the south, where summer temperatures were also above average.

The number of individual birds caught this year (278) was slightly down on 2015 (289) and down considerably against 2014 (348), this is disappointing as catching conditions were generally good and a maximum number of standard ringing visits were achieved. Whilst caution is always necessary before drawing any meaningful conclusions from numbers here alone, a downward trend is now seemingly the norm.

Numbers of individual species at the site based on new birds ringed, showed an increase species such as Reed Warbler (73 v 49) Blackbird (6 v 2), Willow Warbler (9 v 5) and a decrease in species such as Wren (5 v 11), Blackcap (21 v 34), and Long-tailed Tit (6 v 34). As commented earlier it is difficult to comment fully or draw too many conclusions on the status of key species at Pensthorpe. This is due to the small sample size collected; its principal value is being part of the national CES scheme.

CES results nationally show that 2016 was a good year for both short- and long-distance migrants. Five of the eight migrants monitored exhibited statistically significant increases in abundance in 2016 when compared to the previous five-year mean. Chiffchaff was recorded in the greatest numbers since 1983, when the survey began, and survival rates were also the highest on record, indicating that they fared well over the winter months. Whilst our numbers of birds caught for this species at Pensthorpe were comparable with 2015, returning birds from previous years on the site have been zero which is somewhat at odds with the above. Nationally the Blackcap seemingly fared similarly, whereas our catch numbers were down, with the majority of the birds being caught at Pensthorpe found during the latter part of the season.

By comparison Reed Warbler numbers increased significantly at the site, largely boosted by returning adult birds in the spring which reflected the national trend and is thought to be related to the wet growing season in the Sahel during 2015.

An interesting and some would say overdue addition to the CES totals was Cetti's Warbler again this year, with the last successful record of breeding at the site in 2011. Appearing to benefit from the 2015–16 mild winter, it is a species that is particularly susceptible to winter weather conditions, being largely sedentary during the winter months and maintaining a somewhat tentative foot hold in the Wensum Valley. Males will pair with one or more females during the breeding season, overlapping the broods (BWP). We appeared to have had the latter, a male and two females, and based on catch times and numbers an early brood of four and a second of two young, with all these seemingly caught and ringed.

Resident species, as with Cetti's Warbler, appeared to have benefitted from the mild winter and favourable post breeding conditions, increasing both adult survival and their young. This was reflected in an increase in numbers caught at the site for Blackbird and Dunnock but at odds with a decrease for both Robin and Wren.

Nationally, 2016 was seemingly a poor year for Blue and Great Tits, but numbers caught at Pensthorpe were virtually identical to 2015. By contrast Long-tailed Tit numbers were considerably lower at the site, though as catches are generally a reflection of timing the value of this is questionable, the appearance of a roving flock is often the cause of a high number caught in the net! As with previous years extra nets were erected when time and man power allowed adjacent to the CES site. This resulted in a further 115 birds ringed with this total including twenty-eight Reed Warblers, eight Garden Warblers and a Kingfisher. Nestling ringing included three Swallows and a young Oystercatcher.

Gary Elton
Assistant Warden

Little Bunting – A New Species for NarVOS and WVBS

On the afternoon of Wednesday 7th December 2016 I had intended to go fishing on the River Wensum at Lenwade as I had caught some good size Roach over the last few weeks. Then I had a change of heart as the weather was fine and still thus suitable for ringing and it could be my last chance for a while to ring the Pied Wagtail roost on Guist Common. Making such a late decision meant I had left it too late to invite Allan or Richard to help me.

Even as I drove out of my road I was still wondering if I'd made the right decision. Arriving at Guist I was even more uncertain as the line of scrub along the northern edge of the common in front of the cottages had been razed to the ground, despite my request to leave it for connectivity for passerines and especially the Whitethroat that nested in it earlier in the year.

I still erected a couple of mistnets and put a play back tape of Pied Wagtails under them. In these situations I keep close to the nets as I want to avoid catching any of the Starlings that also come into roost. At times Starlings can be very difficult to remove from nets and not something to be engaged with when on your own. The first bird I caught was a Wren that I duly took from the net, ringed and released.

During this time most of the Pied Wagtails had come in to roost and several were in the net. The first bird I came to was a Reed Bunting which I extracted and noticing there was another non-Pied Wagtail at the far end of the nets I went to extract it before starting on the Pied Wagtails. It was lying feet up in the net and its streaked breast made me think "never caught a Meadow Pipit here before" but as I turned the bird over and saw its head my thoughts changed to "Bless my soul it's a Little Bunting" or words to that effect! I bagged the bird then proceeded to extract the 16 Pied Wagtails I had caught. Once bagged the birds were safely hung in the car and the nets taken down.

As it was too dark to process i.e. ring, measure and weigh, the birds and release them there and then I took them all home to overnight in my

garage. This was probably more comfortable and safer for them than a cold wet reedbed. I left the site a much happier man than when I arrived.

I then sent out an e-mail on both NarVOS and WVBS Yahoo e-groups that I would release the bird back onto the Common at daybreak the next morning at Guist Bridge. This gave nearly 20 people the opportunity to view, and photograph the bird close up.

Ray Gribble

Swallow Project Report for 2016

During 2016 I decided to put more effort into studying Swallow nests, success rates and the subsequent dispersal of nestlings.

In total 69 nests were monitored, 303 eggs were laid, producing 276 nestlings of which 261 fledged. See Appendix 1. An average of 3.7 visits was made to each nest and Nest Record Cards were completed for all of them. 213 nestlings and 251 full grown Swallows were ringed. All this information is submitted to the British Trust for Ornithology who monitor the fortunes of all bird species in Britain.

5 ringed Swallows were subsequently caught again. See later.

Nests were monitored at the following locations:

Great Witchingham Equestrian Centre	21
Lyng Easthaugh	12
Swanton Morley	24
Themelthorpe	7
Weston Longville Equestrian Centre	5

2016 was a very successful year with a breeding success rate of 97% and only 2 of the 69 nesting attempts resulting in failure, one was predated at Themelthorpe and the other at Swanton Morley was deserted – reason unknown.

The average number of eggs laid was 4.4 and 4.0 nestlings were hatched.

There is a clear correlation with Swallow nesting and livestock. In every case farm stock was close by and 44 of the 69 nests were associated with horses i.e. the nests were in stables.

Captures of Swallows away from the nest sites.

As well as monitoring the nests full grown Swallows were caught and ringed at Guist Common where many come into roost in the reedbed in the autumn before heading south for Africa for the winter. 251 Swallows were caught and ringed at this site during 2016. Each ring has a unique

number so the finder on has to report where found and the date for useful information to be gathered.

Nestling **Swallow S199445** was ringed in a bus shelter in Cockley Cley near Swaffham on 12th June 2016 and netted at Guist 54 days later on 5th Aug 2016 29km NE.

Nestling **Swallow S172123** was ringed in Hemsby, Norfolk on 12th June 2016 and netted at Guist on 5th Sept 85 days later and 51 km WNW

Nestling **Swallow Z265817** ringed at Great Witchingham EC on 12th July 2016 was caught going to roost at Ash Carr, Thornham, Norfolk on 23rd Aug 42 days later and 42 km WNW.

Nestling **Swallow S414630** ringed at Vale Farm, Lyng Easthaugh on 6th Aug 2016 was caught going to roost at Ash Carr, Thornham, Norfolk on 30th Aug 24 days later and 43 km WNW.

Nestling **Swallow Z265966** ringed at Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng Easthaugh was at Martham Pits, Norfolk on 1st Sept 35 days later and 35 km E.

As can be seen from the above Swallow fledglings seem to move in a fairly random way once they leave the nesting area before heading south for winter. My observations indicate they spend a short time after fledging close to the nest then move to a nearby small communal roost then to larger roosts prior to heading south to Africa. Any reports of birds from outside Britain can take a long time, even years to reach us. Unfortunately many of the foreign ringing schemes are nowhere as efficient as BTO.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to David Sayer of Great Witchingham Equestrian Centre, the Brigham family at Lyng Easthaugh, Bernie Marsham at Swanton Morley, Penny at Themelthorpe and Tamsin at Weston Longville Equestrian Centre for allowing me access to monitor their nesting Swallows.

Ray Gribble

Young Swallows, by Gil Brooking**Appendix 1****Species Summary with Survival Rates- Swallow**

Site	Nests	Eggs	Pulli	Fledge	Av. Eggs	Av. Pulli	Av. Fledge	Egg/ Pulli Survival
Lyng Easthaugh Valley Farm	7	28	25	24	4.0	3.6	3.4	89.3%
Lyng Easthaugh Walnut Tree Farm	5	23	22	22	4.6	4.4	4.4	95.7%
Swanton Morley, Dereham	24	111	101	93	4.6	4.2	3.9	91.0%
Themelthorpe	7	31	24	21	4.4	3.4	3.0	77.4%
Weston Longville Equestrian Centre	5	22	22	19	4.4	4.4	3.8	100.0%
Great Witchingham Equestrian Centre	21	88	82	82	4.2	3.9	3.9	93.2%
Totals	69	303	276	261	4.4	4.0	3.8	

Four Funerals and a Wedding for Norwich Cathedral Peregrines

Falcons bred at Norwich Cathedral on a platform erected by the Hawk and Owl Trust. Apart from 2011 when the mature resident female was driven off by an intruding immature female whose egg proved unviable, each year at least 2 chicks have fledged successfully and survived and one has been breeding in Newcastle.

Perhaps complacently we assumed that 2016 would have a similar outcome. By the time the Watch Point opened on 23 March 2 eggs had been laid on the same dates as in 2014. Incubation was slightly longer than in previous years, three eggs hatching after 35 days and the 4th after 36 days. The chicks were ringed on 16 May.

A daily log of peregrine activity has been kept from the early days of the Watch Point which records activity around the Platform. In 2015 a female with a blue colour ring GA hatched in Bath in 2013 proved particularly persistent and reappeared in 2016. On 14 May, although the resident female was present on the spire there is no record of her feeding the chicks. The following day GA appeared mid-morning and was aggressive throughout the day preventing the chicks being fed by the female. The resident pair attempted to drive her off; the falcons making physical contact on at least one occasion. GA persisted and by the end of the day had the resident female pinned down above the west door of the cathedral.

The resident female was not seen again. The following day the chicks were ringed; normally she would have been a visible and vocal presence but she was neither seen nor heard. The male then became solely responsible for feeding the chicks and was successful although the type of prey and number of feeds changed. He brought in more kills, (the highest number being eleven in one day), but these were smaller birds and fledglings, particularly starlings and blackbirds, also more collared doves and very few feral pigeons. In addition, although initially he plucked and prepared prey, fed the chicks individually and removed remnants from the platform, as the chicks needs increased kills were dropped on

the platform with little or no preparation, chicks fed themselves and remains were left, resulting in an increasingly littered platform.

Throughout this period GA consistently called the male, soliciting for food and snatching kills as he brought them to the platform. Although she did not directly attack the chicks her presence influenced their behaviour. There was far less vigorous wing-flapping and 'helicoptering' than usual although in retrospect there may have been other factors influencing this behaviour.

When the chicks fledged things changed dramatically. Chick 43 fledged on 9 June; within hours she was attacked by GA and was found dead later in the day. Although the cause of death was parasitic disease she had wounds consistent with the attack.

Chick 41 fledged the following day and was attacked at least twice and found grounded. She had a minor injury and was unable to gain any height when flying and was sent for rehabilitation but died unexpectedly a month later. Chick YY fledged on 13 June and came straight down into the precincts of Norwich school. She was returned to the cathedral roof but again came straight down. She too was picked up and sent for rehabilitation and after initially doing well suffered a wing fracture while flying and died despite efforts to repair it.

The male almost immediately started to respond to GA when she called him and was seen sitting in close proximity to her on the spire. However he continued to bring food to Chick 42 and that evening spent several minutes feeding her on the platform. At 21.15 she was preening on the edge of the platform when she was attacked by GA. Her body was retrieved the following day and showed talon injuries to her skull and heart. Following the death of the last chick bonding behaviour continued in earnest, including sharing prey and creating scrapes. GA has remained in residence throughout the winter and at the time of writing, courtship behaviour continues.

This was undoubtedly the most challenging and demanding season ever experienced at the Watch Point. Although every endeavour is made not to anthropomorphise the birds and their behaviour, when staff, volunteers and the public observe them on a daily basis for weeks and

months it is inevitable that this occurs to some degree and so to watch the aggression of GA and the death of all the chicks was distressing to everyone.

However to end on a positive note; it is deeply rewarding to be able to show these amazing birds to members of the public of all ages and abilities, to see the 'Wow' factor in operation as people observe a peregrine for the first time, to educate, to inform and to share my own delight in watching wildlife. It was a privilege in 2016 to work with such a great team.

Norwich Urban Peregrine Project volunteer

Jan Smith

This article was provided courtesy of Hawk and Owl Trust Sculthorpe Moor

Peregrine, by Steve Cale



The Weather Report for 2016

January

It was a mild and wet month with scarcely any “winter” weather although a few snowflakes fell on 14th, 15th and 17th.

Signs of a premature spring were abundant with a continuation of grass growth, swelling of buds on bushes, ornamental trees in bloom and daffodils and snowdrops in full bloom.

There were seven air frosts, fourteen ground frosts and the rainfall total for the month came to 84.6 mm (146% of average). The monthly mean temperature was 5.3c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	2	3	2	5	8	4	7

February

There was a continuation of the bland nature of the previous month but winter managed to make brief appearances from the 11th – 19th and during the final week of the month. Slight snow fell on five days and lay briefly on the 15th. Nacreous, or mother of pearl clouds, a rare phenomena was widely observed early in the month.

During the month there were twelve air frosts and eighteen ground frosts. Rainfall total was 37.6 mm which was 87% of average and the mean temperature was 5.1c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

March

A wet month with ground frosts which slowed the premature growth of January. Slight snow and sleet fell on four days during the first week and there was a thin snow cover on the 7th. Together with the 15th February these were the sole dates in 2016 when our area was “under snow”. Hail was noted on five days and there were five air frosts and sixteen ground

frosts. The rainfall total was 89.5 mm which was 192% of average and the mean temperature was 6.2c

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	5	6	1	3	1	4	7	3	1

April

Initially the month was mild, but a cold final fortnight caused the mean temperature to be an extraordinary 2c lower than the preceding December. Slight snow fell on three days and hail on a further five. Seventeen ground frosts reduced the soil temperature enough to slow spring growth.

Rainfall throughout the county was well above average with the total at Costessey of 71.6 being 146% of average. The monthly mean temperature was 7.9c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	3	2	1	5	2	2	8	6	1

May

An uneventful month, but it was slightly warmer on average than usual. However there were very cool conditions prevailing on 30th and 31st when maxima were lower than the preceding Christmas and Boxing days. With only a single air frost on the 1st there was no check to spring growth.

The maximum of 25.5c on the 8th was an early foretaste of summer. Most of the month was dry but heavy rain and thunder brought the monthly total close to average.

Rainfall total for the month was 52.6mm (116% of average) and the mean monthly temperature was 12.8c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

June

The warmest for ten years, this was in spite of an absence of hot days with 25c only being exceeded once. The cold experienced on the final days of May continued on the 1st and 2nd, both again colder than the temperatures over the 2015 Christmas period. Thunder was heard on seven days and in spite of the first ten days being completely dry the rainfall total for the month was excessive and encouraged early summer growth.

Rainfall total for the month was 97.8 mm (183% of average) and the mean monthly temperature was 15.6c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

July

July was generally dry with a brief and humid period from the 18th – 20th, with the temperature peaking at 30c on the 19th. Although fairly dry in many areas thunder was heard on three days and localised heavy thundery rain produced some high daily totals notably on the 12th with 44.0 mm at Ashby St Mary and 43.7mm at Lingwood causing some local flooding.

Rainfall totalled 37.6mm (67% of average) and the mean monthly temperature was 18.2c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	1	3	4	7	10	3	2

August

This was a dry month with above average temperatures, which in combination with June and July gave us a “good summer” in spite of the wet June. During the month there was a total absence of thunder. On the 24th the maximum at Costessey reach 30.4c and there were reports that some localities in the UK recorded 34c.

Total rainfall for the month was 24.1mm (47% of average) and the mean monthly temperature was 18.3c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	1	1	3	4	7	10	3	2

September

Unusually the peak of summer arrived in early Autumn with a spell of very high maxima of 26.9c on the 12th, 28.9c on the 13th, 31.3c on the 14th and 29.7c on the 15th. The 14th was the hottest day of the year and the hottest day at Costessey since 1st July 2015.

The average monthly temperature was identical to that of September 2006 thus causing it to be the equal warmest September since 1949.

A thunderstorm on the 16th produced the heaviest daily rainfall of the year with 37.4mm measured. Rainfall for the month totalled 54.2mm (100% of average) and the mean temperature was 17.5c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

October

The month was dominated by winds from the north and east with anticyclonic conditions prevailing. However these winds passing over a still warm North Sea caused showery conditions that allowed some coastal localities to measure high rainfall totals with, notably Cley recording 121.0 mm. This was nearly four times the total recovered at some inland stations.

It was a frost free month with the rainfall total measuring 59.0 mm (102% of average) and a mean temperature of 11.1c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	3	5	6	0	4	2	1	3	7

November

November was a dull and quiet month that was however devoid of any significant fog. The screen minimum -5.1c was the lowest temperature recorded in 2016. Ground frost formed on fifteen nights and rainfall over the county was very variable with a total 101.0mm at Walsingham but only 42.0mm at Snettisham.

The month was snow free and the rainfall total was 77.2mm (110% of average). The mean monthly temperature was 6.0c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	1	2	2	7	5	1	13

December

The driest since 1988 and nearly 1c warmer than usual, this was a rare combination in December. Fog shrouded eight days and there were ten air frosts and fifteen ground frosts but no snow or sleet. The maximum of 13.6c on the 25th together with the 14.6c recorded on 25th December 2015 were the highest recorded on that date for at least one hundred and seventy years.

Monthly rainfall totalled 21.4mm (35% of average) and the mean recorded temperature was 5.7c.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	1	2	2	7	5	1	13

Monthly Summaries for 2016

Month	Total Rain-fall mms	Percentage of average rainfall	Days with Air Frost	Days with Ground Frost	Monthly Mean Temp.	Deviation from average	Mean soil temp. at 10cms depth
January	84.6	146	7	14	5.3	+1.3	5.1
February	37.6	87	10	18	5.1	+1.3	4.2
March	89.5	192	5	16	6.2	+0.3	4.9
April	71.6	146	3	17	7.9	+0.3	4.9
May	52.6	116	1	4	12.8	+1.4	12.3
June	97.8	183	0	0	15.6	+1.3	14.9
July	37.6	67	0	0	18.2	+1.7	16.7
August	80.3	47	0	0	18.3	+1.9	16.2
Sept	54.2	100	0	0	17.5	+3.2	15.7
October	59.0	102	0	0	10.7	+0.1	10.1
Nov	77.2	110	4	15	6.0	-0.9	6.3
December	21.4	35	10	15	5.7	+1.1	9.9

Annual Summary 2016

Total Rainfall	707.2 mm (111% Of Average)	Wettest Day	
Days with rain recorded	183	Days with thunder	18
Lowest maximum	3.0°C (14 th January)	Lowest minimum	- 5.1°C (29 th November)
Lowest grass minimum	-7.1°C (29 th November)		
Air frosts	42	Ground frosts	99
Days with sleet or snow	12	Days with snow lying	2
Days with hail	12	Mean cloud cover at 0900hrs	67%
Highest Maximum	32.3°C (14 th September)	Highest minimum	19.4°C (7 th September)
Days with gales	2	Days with fog (0900hrs)	16 (0900 Hrs)

Longest period without any measurable rainfall: 10 days from 1st – 10th June inclusive.

Annual mean maximum: 14.9°C

Annual mean minimum: 6.7°C

Annual mean: 10.8°C (identical to 2015).

Wind Direction Summary at 0900hrs.

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	18	30	20	26	30	111	59	41	30

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 2017 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 2018**. 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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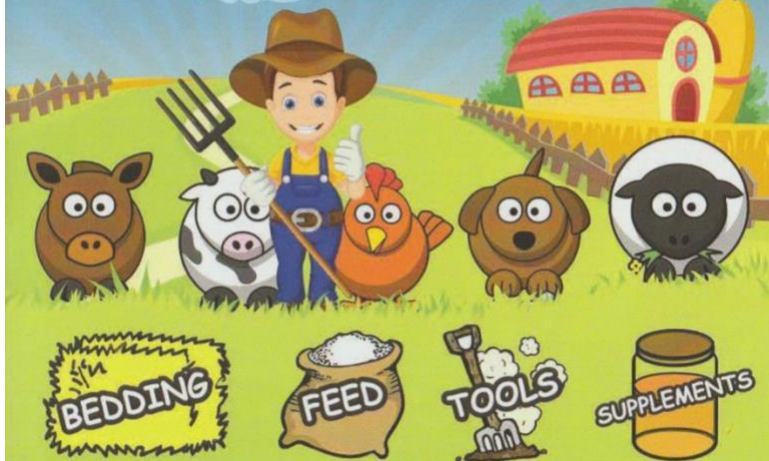
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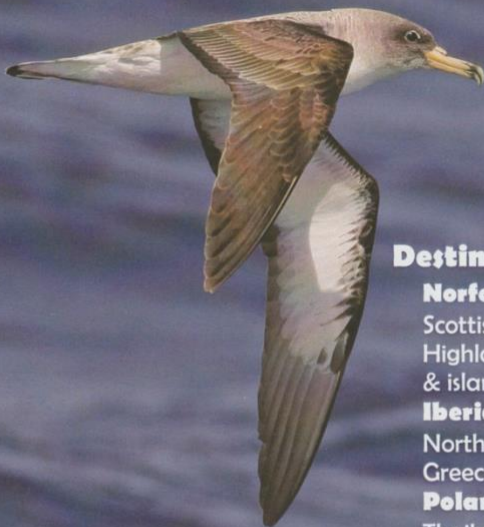
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Text changes

Format changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
Diary 26 th June 30th July 20 th October	for insects as being the highlight for what the rarest	for insects and as the highlight for what is the rarest
Systematic List Canada Goose Mandarin Duck Wigeon Garganey Pochard Bittern Osprey Black-headed Gull Mediterranean Gull Herring Gull Turtle Dove Blackcap Whitethroat Ring Ouzel Nightingale Redstart	<i>Branta Canadensis</i> Ther were <i>Anas Penelope</i> <i>Anas strepera</i> and also, during <i>Botaurus Stellaris</i> a single birds <i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>Larus melancephalus</i> <i>Larus argentus</i> <i>Streptopelia turtur turtur</i> locations although breeding visitor were <i>Sylvia</i> <i>Turdus torquatus torquatus</i> <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> <i>megarhynchos</i> <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> <i>phoenicurus</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i> There were <i>Anas penelope</i> <i>Anas querquedula</i> and during <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> a single bird <i>Larus ridibundus</i> <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> <i>Larus argentatus</i> <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> locations and although breeding visitors were <i>Sylvia</i> <i>Turdus torquatus</i> <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Earliest and Latest Summer Migrants	dates	Reported Dates
Common Terns & Black- headed Gulls at Sparham	Obviusly	Obviously
Hempton Marsh Report	which noted increasingly more regularly	which were noted increasingly and more regularly
Pensthorpe Report	it is there intimate favorable	it is their intimate favourable
Swallow Project Report Appendix 1		Headers simplified
Weather June	in spite of a absence	in spite of an absence