

**Wensum Valley  
Birdwatching Society**



**Sixteenth Annual Report  
2018**

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**ET.B. Approved.**

## Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

### 2018 Annual Report

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Compiled by Ray Gribble and 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

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

## Committee 2018

President	Liz Bridge
Chairman	Alwyn Jackson
Secretary	Lin Pateman
Treasurer	Martin Spriggs
Membership Secretary	Richard Norris
Publicity	Sue Gale
Newsletter Editor	Alan Hughes
Recorder	David Gibbons
Member	Mary Walker Keith Walker Ray Gribble
Webpage	<a href="http://www.wvbs.co.uk">www.wvbs.co.uk</a>
Website Manager	Richard Norris
Loan Library	Selwyn & Kathy Jones

*Front cover: Red Kite, taken by Allan Hale*

## Chairman's Report

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

2018 was once again a busy but rewarding year in the development of the Society.

We had a full and interesting programme of outdoor and indoor meetings organised so ably by Mary Walker. We were treated to excellent talks and some good birdwatching. Our grateful thanks must be expressed to Mary and the leaders of the outdoor meetings for the time and effort they put into making the events so enjoyable.

Our thanks must also go to the rest of the committee who have been "beavering" away throughout the year to keep the Society functioning so successfully. Without their willingness to be involved we wouldn't have the chance of coming together as we do. Thank you Committee.

This year the committee has spent some time focusing on how we might heighten the Society's profile especially among the younger generation. To this end Keith and Mary Walker have been developing the use of social media, especially Twitter, to publicise our activities with encouraging results. Our Society is now reaching out to these potential members in the hope that it has a foundation for the future.

Another way of advertising the presence of the Society and to develop a feeling of belonging is to wear the Society's logo whenever we are birdwatching. To this end Alan Hughes has chosen a range and colour of clothing with the result that more of our members are wearing it when they are out and about. Thank you Alan for all the time and effort you have devoted to this.

Apart from the Committee there are a considerable number of members who contribute to the life of the Society in so many different ways - helping set up and pack away the village hall furniture, preparing and serving refreshments, giving the vote of thanks and helping at Wild

About the Wensum, etc. This is an excellent opportunity to say thank you to you all.

Enjoy your birdwatching and your membership of the WVBS.

Alwyn Jackson  
Chairman

## WVBS 2018 Programme of Meetings and Events

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Annual Winter Bird Count – Coordinator Lin Pateman
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	BTO work in Thetford Forest on Nightjars and other woodland species – Greg Conway
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Courtyard Farm for Finches and Holkham and other winter visitors – Coordinator - Phil Borley
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Driven Grouse Shooting and your part in its demise – Mark Avery
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Breydon Water and Burgh Castle for Rough Legged Buzzards and Short Eared Owls – Coordinator Sue Gale
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Birds and Climate Change – James Pearce-Higgins BTO
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Field Trip to Lackford Lakes – Coordinator Alan Fordham
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	AGM followed by: Europe's 52 Best Wildlife Weekends - James Lowen
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	A proposed trip to The Hawk and Owl Trust for Woodcock was cancelled due to unsuitable weather
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	A Field Trip to Mannington Hall – Coordinator Martin Spriggs



<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>A Spring Walk at Pensthorpe – Coordinator Ray Gribble</b>
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Wild about the Wensum</b>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>The Eleven Small Islands of Britain and their Birds – Patrick Barkham</b>
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>Lakenheath Fen followed by a pub supper and a woodland walk at Weeting Heath for Nightjars etc – Coordinator Alan Hughes</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<b>A talk on SWT Carlton Marshes – Matt Gooch (warden)</b>
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Following on from our last talk a Field Trip to Carlton Marshes – Coordinator David Gibbons</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Summer Social at Lenwade Village Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>A Dragonfly and Butterfly Walk at Surlingham Fen – Coordinator Barry Pummel</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>The Great Fen – A future Wetland and more – Henry Stainer</b>
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>A Field Trip to Potter Heigham Marshes and Hickling Broad – Coordinator Phil Borley</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Birding the High Andes – Speaker - Allan Hale</b>

<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>A Boat Trip to Blakeney Point – Coordinator Mary Walker</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>An update on Sculthorpe Moor and the Norwich Peregrines by Zoe Smith</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>The Hoe Bird Walk – Coordinated by David Knight</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Arizona to Alaska – A Talk by David Mason</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Cley and the surrounding area – Coordinators Glen Collier and Lucy Topsom</b>
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Annual Xmas Social.</b>

## Diary of Events in 2018

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January – The Annual Winter Bird Count – Coordinated by Lin Pateman**

A total of nine teams took part in this year's event which was won with a total of 81 species seen by Paul, Ian and Chris who entered as Norfolk N Chance. To finish the day tea and cakes were served in the Village Hall at Weston Longville.

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January – The Nightjar and other Woodland Species of Thetford Forest – Speaker Greg Conway of the BTO**

The talk featured four species namely Nightjar, Firecrest, Tree Pipit and Goshawk which are all associated with the Brecks but with varying degrees of success. Whereas The Brecks are a regional stronghold for the Goshawk Tree Pipits are now red listed. and are the subject of several studies to find the reason for their decline. Doing slightly better are both Nightjars and Firecrests although both are the subject of further study.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January – A Field Trip to Courtyard Farm and Holkham Marshes – Coordinated by Phil Borley**

The weather was cold but bright and just made for bird watching. Tree Sparrows were busy in a hedge in front of us and while walking the permissive paths around the farm we were rewarded with good views of many familiar species including two wing tagged Marsh Harriers.

Later at Holkham many more species were added to the list and to end the day there was a spectacular sight of 72 Red Kites circling in the sunset before going to roost.

A total of 55 species were seen during the day.

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Driven Grouse Shooting and our part in its demise – Speaker Mark Avery**

Mark started his talk by outlining the historical context of what is still considered a traditional sport and gave his usual impassioned defence for the protection of raptors on the moorlands of Britain. Parties pay large

sums of money for grouse shooting rights and many landowners do everything in their power to minimise any form of predation although it is believed that there are only 7 breeding pairs of Hen Harriers in England. The evening finished with a lively Q & A session.

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Birds and Climate Change – Speaker James Pearce-Higgins**

James showed how there is already a measurable effect on some bird populations of climate change causing heavier than normal rainfall and violent temperature fluctuations resulting in a lack of suitable food during the breeding season and therefore reduced brood survival. Climate changes are also causing warming seas which disrupt the food chain and reduce the supply of sand eels and other creatures that are so vital for many of our seabird populations.

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March – A Field Trip to Lackford Lakes – Coordinated by Alan Fordham**

This trip to Lackford Lakes produced the usual varied mix of birds and during the day a very respectable total of 70 species was recorded.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April - AGM followed by – Europe's Best Wildlife Weekends – Speaker James Lowen**

The AGM business was soon dispensed with and we were entertained to a very interesting talk by James who promised to cram a year's worth of weekends into an hour. James tailored his talk for us by concentrating on birds but in fact he is a naturalist and interested in all living things and much of his book recommends places for their plant or reptile life.

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April – A Field Trip to Mannington Hall – Coordinated by Martin Spriggs**

Mannington Hall is a new venue for the club and there was great interest in seeing what species turned up on the walk. We were not disappointed and a total of 49 species were recorded for the morning including very

good views of a Wheatear and a Lesser Whitethroat singing in a hedgerow.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May – A Spring Walk at Pensthorpe – Coordinated by Ray Gribble**

14 members enjoyed the opportunity of a free visit to Pensthorpe on a glorious spring day. The woods were full of Bluebells and in the water meadow plants were beginning to show their full beauty. Although water levels on the scrapes were still quite high a total of 78 species was seen during the morning.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May – 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 64 species had been recorded. In the marquee we had our Society Display erected and also we ran a competition for the children making and colouring paper birds for which we had a steady stream of participants.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May – A Journey around an Archipelago – Speaker Patrick Barkham**

The talk was by way of an introduction to Patrick's latest book on some of the 6200 islands and islets that surround the British Isles and concentrated mainly on 11 of the main ones He went on to show how difficult it can be to live in harmony with your surroundings and yet generate an income enough to survive. This was an enlightening talk about a subject that possibly not many people have considered in any detail.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – A Field Trip to RSPB Lakenheath Fen and NWT Weeting Heath – Coordinated by Alan Hughes**

The day started overcast with light rain but soon cleared and members enjoyed good views of several Hobbies hawking the numerous

dragonflies and a Bittern stealthily fishing from a clump of reed. After a meal in Feltwell members went on to Weeting Heath where after seeing Nightjars in close proximity the warden showed us some moths that were in the traps outside. A total of 70 species were recorded for the day.

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Carlton Marshes – The Southern Gateway to the Broads – Speaker Matt Gooch**

Matt became warden at Carlton Marshes in 2006 and has overseen significant developments since then. It consisted of just 300 acres then but plans are afoot to increase this to in excess of 1000 acres. The main focus now is to put more water into the landscape with extra scrapes and shallow pools planned. Already the benefits of this action have been felt with increased numbers of birds and wildlife in general visiting the site.

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June – A Field Trip to SWT Carlton Marshes – Coordinated by David Gibbons**

To follow our talk from the Warden earlier in the month members had an opportunity to see Carlton Marshes before the main body of work to transform the site gets underway.

They were not dismayed and were greeted by a good display of various species both of birds and other wildlife.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Social – Coordinated by Mary & Keith Walker**

Once again members gathered at the Ringland Swan for an evening of light hearted quizzes and good food and it was generally agreed that a good time was had by those present.

Our thanks must go to Mary and Keith for organizing the event once more.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August – A Field Trip to Wheatfen Broad – Coordinated by Barry Pummell**

We met at the Ted Ellis reserve at Wheatfen on what turned out to be a hot and humid walk through towering reedbeds and insect filled dykes.

Barry pointed out some of the many species that inhabit this special reserve including a Swallowtail and a beautiful Silver-washed Fritillary that posed gracefully for photographs on various bushes.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August – The Great Fen Project – Speaker Henry Stainier**

There was a lot of enthusiasm shown for this project after Henry's talk and it is certainly on the list for a future visit. It involves a huge area of peaty soils much of which is still being farmed in Stage 1. Stage 2 will see land grassed over and eventually water levels will be raised with the whole project taking 50 years.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August – A Field Trip to Potter Heigham NNR – Coordinated by Phil Borley**

Unfortunately a report was not submitted for this trip.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Birding the High Andes of Columbia – Speaker Allan Hale.**

Allan produced yet another entertaining talk with an account of this recent trip through wetlands and mountain passes to 4000m. Hummingbirds were a main feature this time with a different suite at every venue and each species adapted perfectly to their environment and feeding speciality. Many other species were seen including 14 species of Woodcreepers, Trogons and Toucans in what must have been a most enlightening trip.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – A Field Trip to Blakeney Point – Coordinator Mary Walker.**

After a meal at the Anchor in Morston we checked the Harbour area for birds before boarding the boat to go to the Point. As always there were both Common and Grey seals loafing around on the beach as we approached. We had 2 hours on the Point before being taken off so there was plenty of time to explore fairly thoroughly and a total count of 49 species was recorded for the Harbour and the Point.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October – The Norwich Peregrines – Speaker Zoe Smith**

The Peregrine platform has been in its present place since 2011. The birds do not build a nest but simply lay their eggs on the surface. Colour rings are used now and give much more information about the birds such as the fact that individuals do not necessarily mate for life. The talk was full of interesting facts and video from the webcam such as the fact that hunting territory can vary from as little as a square mile up to many times that when food is scarce.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October – The Hoe Bird Walk – Coordinator David Knight**

Unfortunately a report was not received for this trip.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November – From Arizona to Alaska – Speaker David Mason**

David has made many trips to North America and he shared some of the more memorable ones with us from Arizona to Alaska with the flora and fauna creating a memorable back drop to the many photographs of the varied wildlife that he encountered on the various trips that he made.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November – A Field Trip to Cley Marsh Reserve – Coordinated by Lin Pateman and Phil Borley**

In a biting wind ten hardy souls assembled at the visitor centre and set out for the East Bank and after varied success in the prevailing conditions refuge was sought in the slightly more congenial conditions of the hides to observe the various waders.

A total of 55 species were recorded for the day.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Our Annual Xmas Social.**

This year the Social was held at the Ringland Swan. In addition to the usual hotly contested quiz we had a meal prepared by the Pub staff that was enjoyed by everyone present. Our thanks must go once again to Mary and Keith for organizing the evening.



**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December – A Field Trip to Sparham Pools –  
Coordinator Alwyn Jackson.**

A pleasant walk around Sparham Pools included sightings of a Whooper Swan and 35 other species

*This diary has been compiled from contributions to the Newsletter by Anne Walker, Liz Gibson, Seamus O'Dowd, Phillip Howard, Steve Chapman, Liz Bridge, Jaquie Fenn, Lucy Topsom, Keith Walker, Alan Hughes, Lin Pateman, Sue Gale and Ray Gribble. Our thanks go to them all for their contributions over the year.*

## 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.

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

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

*Common naturalised resident*

Regular reports of flocks of up to 20 from 14 sites.

Higher counts of 28 at Pensthorpe on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug (RG, LB), 30 & 60 at Sparham Pools area on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct & 30<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCh), 30 at Great Ryburgh on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec (BP).

Proof of breeding at Great Witchingham Common, Lenwade, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools and Sparham Hall Farm.

*Canada Geese,  
by Gil Brooking*



**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

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

Records only from Pensthorpe with proof of breeding in May and June.

Highest numbers in the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period of 105 on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb and 246 on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar. In the summer months numbers were around 130 and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period numbers had dropped to single figures.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

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

Records from throughout the valley with numbers regularly around 30 to 50.

Highest counts of 100+ on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan at West Raynham (IBI), 320, 150 & 250 on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at Pensthorpe (SCh, SCo, PR), 100 on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct at N Tuddenham (BP) & 140 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov at Sparham Pools, (SCh).

Proof of breeding at Great Witchingham Common, West Raynham, Bittering and Pensthorpe.

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

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

28 sightings in total this year.

In the first winter period high counts of 50 on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan at Pensthorpe, (BP, ID), 80 on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan & 600 on 25<sup>th</sup> at Brandiston (SB), 120 on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan at Dereham, (IB, PR, CS) & 97 on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan at Haveringland Hall flying NE (JH).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period 300 on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov at Dereham, flying E (RG), 200 on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec at Worthing (DK), 300 on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec at Brandiston (SB), 210 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at Costessey (AB) and 200 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at Potters Fen & Hockering flying E (PA, PR).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

*Fairly common breeding resident. Amber listed.*

Records from 18 sites throughout the valley.

Highest counts of 25 on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan at Guist Common (SCh, RN), at Pensthorpe 10 on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan (CH, MS), 16 on 14<sup>th</sup> Jun, (BH, RG), 10 on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug, (RG, LB), 14 on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, (PR, RG) and 13 on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct (PA, MS).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe, Haveringland Hall, Sparham Pools, Sparham Hall Farm and Fustyweed (Elsing).

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus colombianus*

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

3 records this year.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period 8 on 7<sup>th</sup> Mar at Costessey (AB).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period 60 to 70 on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov at Queen's Hill (AB) and 26 on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec at Honingham (IB).

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus Cygnus*

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

4 records this year from 2 sites in the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period.

Single birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (SCh), 16<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB) and 30<sup>th</sup> Dec (A&CJ) in Sparham Pools area. 3 birds recorded on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at Bittering GP (IB).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

*Naturalised resident, locally common.*

Records of 1 to 10 birds from 17 sites. Highest counts at Pensthorpe of 66 on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug (PA,CH) & 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, (SCh,SCr), 65 on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, (PR,RG).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe, Great Witchingham Common and Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Records from 6 sites from Jan to Aug. At Pensthorpe highest counts of 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr (MS,PA), 10 on 26<sup>th</sup> June (LB,RN), at Bittering 12 on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr (SCh) and at Old Beetley 10 on 22<sup>nd</sup> June (BP).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe and Old Beetley.

**Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

*Very scarce naturalised resident.*

Recorded at 3 sites this year.

At Pensthorpe 2 on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan (CH,MS), 2 on 24<sup>th</sup> Apr (BP,ID) and 7 on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec (SCh,PR).

At Sparham Pools 2 on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar (SC) and at Guist Common 1 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr (IB,PR).

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

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

6 records only from the Bintree Mill/Guist Common area.

Four on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Mar at Guist Common (RG, PR) & maximum of 2 on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar at Bintree Mill (PA).

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

*A winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.*

Records in all months from a total of 9 sites.

Highest counts at Pensthorpe of 21 on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan (BP, ID), 24 on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan (CH, MS), 30 on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb (LB, RG), 18 on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar (LB, RN) & 23 on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec (SCh, PR).

At Haveringland Hall 22 on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct & 42 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec (JH).

Proof of breeding at Old Beetley & Pensthorpe.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

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

Records in all months from a total of 13 sites.

Highest counts at Bittering GP of c100 on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (IBI), at Haveringland Hall 144 on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan & 95 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec (JH), at Pensthorpe 50 on 14<sup>th</sup> June (BH, RG), & 87 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov (SCo, CH), & at Sparham Pools 58 on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCh) and 60 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov (RG).

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

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

Records from 12 sites.

Highest counts in the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period at Bintree Mill of 45 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (IB), 140 on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb (BP) & c60 on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar (JH); at Creaking Gate Lake 40 on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, (IBI); at Pensthorpe 77 on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb (LB, RG) & at Bittering GP 116 on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar (PJ).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period, highest counts at Pensthorpe of 33 on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov (BP, ID), 48 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov (SCo, CH) & 57 on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec (LB, RN).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Records in all months from a total of 21 sites.

Highest counts at Pensthorpe of 137 on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan (BP,ID), 90 on 14<sup>th</sup> June (BH,RG), 160 on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug (PA,CH), 194 on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept (RG,RN) and 175 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov (SCo,CH).

At Haveringland Hall 101 on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan & 97 on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan (JH).

At Bittering GP 421 on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar (PJ).

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

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

Records from 2 sites only.

At Ringland 2 birds recorded on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (AB).

At Pensthorpe 1 to 2 birds recorded between 7<sup>th</sup> Sept & 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov (RG,RN, *et al*).

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

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

Records from 12 sites.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period highest counts of 50+ on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan at Bintree Mill (IB), 68 on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan (BP,ID) and 155 on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan (CH, MS) at Pensthorpe, 60 on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan at Lexham (IBI) & 80 on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar at Bittering GP (PJ).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period highest counts at Pensthorpe of 350 on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct (PR,RG), 384 on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov (BP,ID), 690 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov (SCo,CH), 650 on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec (LB,RN) & 470 on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec (SC,PR); at Haveringland Hall 53 on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep (JH).

**Pochard** *Aythya farina*

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

Equal number of reports in the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter periods.

Highest counts of 6 to 7 birds in Mar at Pensthorpe (LB,RG,PA, CH,RN).

Eight birds reported on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct at Pensthorpe (PA,MS).



**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

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

Records of small flocks in every month of 4 to 15 birds at a total of 15 sites.

At Pensthorpe highest counts of 91 in Jan, 68 in Feb, 48 in Mar, 81 in Apr, 30 in June, 35 in July, 42 in Aug, 46 in Sept and 93 in Dec. Reports also of good numbers at Haveringland Hall of 56 in Jan, 27 in Feb, 33 in Mar and 35 in Dec.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe and Great Witchingham Common.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

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

Records from 2 sites only.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan at Blickling Lake, (SB) and 2 to 6 birds recorded at Pensthorpe, Jan to Mar, (RG *et al*).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period records only from Pensthorpe of 1 to 3 birds from Sept to Dec.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

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

In the first winter period 1 bird on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb at Pensthorpe (PA,CH), 2 on 16<sup>th</sup> Mar at Worthing (DK) and 1 on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham Pools (SCh).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period only sighting was of 1 bird on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov at Old Costessey (SCh).

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

*Common naturalised resident. Thousands are released annually.*

Records from 18 sites of from 1 to 10 birds.

Highest counts of 10 on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan at Gt Ryburgh (SCh, RN), 6 on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug at Worthing & 6 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept at Worthing level crossing area (DK), 11 on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept & 10 on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct on HBW (DK).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

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

Records in most months of 1 to 5 birds from a total of 10 sites.

Highest counts of 6 birds on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan at Gately (C&FN, A&CJ), 11 on 15<sup>th</sup> July & 11 on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at Scarning (IB), 15 on 19<sup>th</sup> July & 1<sup>st</sup> Aug at N Tuddenham (BP) & 7 on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov at Brandiston (SB).

Proof of breeding at N Tuddenham.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

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

Records of 1 to 5 birds in most months from a total of 20 sites.

Highest counts on HBW of 7 on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr, 8 on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct & 15 on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov (DK); at Pensthorpe 7 on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7 on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb & 8 on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr (BP, ID, et al) & at SMHOT 7 on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb (DG).

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe and N Tuddenham.

**Little Grebe** *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Records from 8 sites. The HBW recorded numbers between 1 and 3 in most months.

Highest counts of 3 on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan at Lexham (BP, ID, AN), 5 on 10<sup>th</sup> May at Gt Ryburgh (PA), 4 on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug at Bittering (SC), 7 on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept at Haveringland Hall (JH) and 6 on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept & 30<sup>th</sup> Nov at Sparham Pools (SCh).

Proof of breeding at Gt Ryburgh, Bittering and Sparham Pools.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Records from 13 sites of 1 to 4 birds.

Highest counts of 5 on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan at Swanton Morley GP (PA,BM,SO'D), 6 on 24<sup>th</sup> Apr at Lyng Easthaugh (SCh), 6 on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 8 on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept & 6 on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct at Sparham Pools (SC),

2 pairs on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr at Sparham Hall Farm (RG) and 4 birds on 5<sup>th</sup> June at Bittering (BP).

Proof of breeding at Gt Witchingham Common and Sparham Pools.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

*Scarce vagrant.*

Single bird on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar at Bintree Mill (PR).

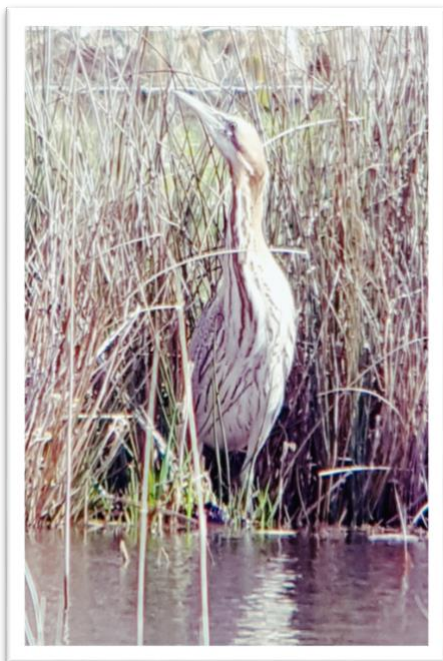
**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

*Very scarce winter visitor.*

**Amber listed.**

Two records this year of single birds the first on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar at Lyng Easthaugh & the second on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct in the Sparham Pools area (SCh).

*Bittern, taken by Steve Connor*



**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

*Rare visitor.*

Unconfirmed report of a single bird in the Reepham area on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug (DB).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

*Fairly common resident. Green listed.*

Records from 24 sites mainly of 1 to 2 birds. Highest counts of 11 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar at Bintree Mill (IB), c26 on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr at Gt Witchingham, (A&CJ), 4 on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 4 in June & July and 3 in Dec on the HBW (DK), 4 on 10<sup>th</sup> June at Guist (IB), 4 on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sparham Pools and 6 on 25<sup>th</sup> at Pensthorpe (RG,RN).

Proof of breeding at Hall Farm, Gt Witchingham with 12 active and 2 possibly active nests.



**Great White Egret**

*Ardea alba*

*Rare but increasing visitor.*

Single birds in Mar at Sparham Pools on 8<sup>th</sup> (CS) & at Lyng Easthaugh on 12<sup>th</sup> (JH).

Two on 14<sup>th</sup> Sep at Pensthorpe (IB). Single birds in Oct at Ringland on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> (SCH) & 7<sup>th</sup> (BP), in Dec at Elsing Bridge on 8<sup>th</sup> (BP) and at Honingham on 30<sup>th</sup> (IB).

*Great White Egret,  
taken by Steve Chapman*

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

*Very scarce resident. Green listed.*

Records from 24 sites. Highest counts of 8 birds on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at Worthing (DK), 5 on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb at Dereham, Rush Meadows (PA), 4 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 5 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr & 6 on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov at Pensthorpe (PA,CH,BP,ID).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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



Records of 1 to 5 birds from a total of 15 sites.

Highest counts of 11 on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan on HBW (DK), 8 on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 9 on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept, 9 on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10 on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov & 11 on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at Pensthorpe (PA,CH, *et al*), also 16 on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at Sparham Pools (Sch).

*Cormorant, by Gil Brooking*

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

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

2 sightings this year of single birds on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept in the Sparham Pools area and on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct at Elsing (Sch).

**Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

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

3 sightings this year.

1 bird on 28<sup>th</sup> June at Potters Fen (PA), 2 birds on 1<sup>st</sup> July at Swanton Novers (IB) and a single bird on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug at Pensthorpe (RG,LB).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

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

Seventy records of mainly single birds from 27 sites.

The HBW recorded 2 birds in Sept, 3 in Nov & 2 in Dec.

Numbers of 2 to 3 birds were recorded at Swanton Novers, Sparham Pools, Pensthorpe, Scarning & Dereham Rush Meadows.

Again this year several members recorded hunting around their garden feeders.



**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Seven records from Swanton Novers RWP this year.

2 birds on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 5 on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar, 3 on 20<sup>th</sup> Mar, 1 on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar, 1 on 7<sup>th</sup> Apr, 1 on 26<sup>th</sup> Apr & 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> July (SCh,IB,A&CJ,PR).

*Goshawk, by Gil Brooking*

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Twenty records of largely single birds from 8 sites, 14 of these from Pensthorpe & Guist Common.

Higher counts of 3 birds at Guist Common on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr (RG) and 4 at Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept (SCo,SCh).

A pair recorded in June at SMHOT but no reports of juveniles.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

*Uncommon winter visitor. Red listed.*

1 record of a juvenile on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept at Gt Ryburgh (SCh).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

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

Records of mainly single birds through the year from a total of 25 sites. Fifty-three records in total of which 19 were from the Honingham area.

Highest counts at Colton of 9 birds on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCh) and at Honingham area going into roost 19 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Nov & 15 on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCh), 10 on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec (PR) & 30<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB).

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

*Scarce winter visitor.*

Single bird flying NW mobbed by corvids in the Sparham Pools area on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (SCh).

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

*Scarce resident and passage migrant. Green listed.*

Occasional sightings of largely 1-4 birds at 66 sites.

Higher counts of 5 on HBW in Jan; 9 at Pensthorpe in Feb; max 10 at Swanton Novers in Mar; 5 on HBW, 7 at Pensthorpe & 6+ at Swanton Novers in Apr; 10 on the HBW in May; 6+ at Swanton Novers in July; 9 at Pensthorpe & 5 during HBW in Aug; 8 at Costessey & Scarning in Sept; 5 in Sparham Pools area in Oct; 6 during HBW in Nov & Dec.

Evidence of breeding at Wellingham where chicks were observed in a nest and 2 pairs in Sparham Hall Farm area. Other pairs reported "visible, presumably breeding" at Bylaugh Park, Elsing, Lyng Easthaugh, Weston Park and Whitwell. The species also reported as "permanently resident" at Costessey.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

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

During first winter period 4 at Costessey Fish Farm & 1-2 at Fakenham Common, Norwich (Swanton Rd), Pensthorpe, Scarning, H&OT Sculthorpe Moor Reserve & Swanton Morley GP.

During second winter period 1-2 at Great Witchingham Common & Pensthorpe. In Sparham Pools area 6 winter feeding territories identified over 3 visits to the site (SCh).

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

*Rare summer visitor. Red listed.*

Single bird heard during HBW on 17<sup>th</sup> June and was probably a bird from the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust's Reintroduction Project.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*.

*Common resident supplemented by autumn immigrants. Green listed.*

Occasional reports of 1-10 birds from 15 sites.

Higher counts at Pensthorpe of 33 Jan, 25 Feb, 28 Mar, 11 Apr, 31 July, 68 Aug, 38 Sept, 30 Oct, 44 Nov, 45 Dec; in Sparham Pools area of 16 Sept & 12 Oct.

Evidence of breeding at Great Witchingham Common, Pensthorpe & Worthing Bridge.

**Coot** *Falica atra*.

*Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.*

Occasional reports of 1-8 birds at 6 sites.

Higher counts in Jan of 45 at Bittering & Haveringland Hall lake & 42 at Pensthorpe; in Feb 58 at Pensthorpe with 24 in Mar, 16 in Apr, 19 in June, 48 in July & 73 in Aug; in Sept 24 at Haveringham Hall Lake, 89 at Pensthorpe 33 in Sparham Pools area; in Oct 125 at Pensthorpe & 15 in Sparham Pools area; in Nov 135 at Pensthorpe & 39 in Sparham Pools; in Dec 33 at Haveringham Hall & max 142 at Pensthorpe.

Breeding at Pensthorpe but no evidence of breeding reported from other sites.



**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**.

Three birds at Swanton Novers on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar (SCh) & 15 flying over Pensthorpe on 28<sup>th</sup> Aug presumed to be wild birds (AA).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Scarce summer visitor. **Amber listed**.

Earliest reports of 8 at Pensthorpe on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb & 2 at Sparham on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Subsequently occasional reports of 1-4 birds from 16 sites with higher counts of 28 at Pensthorpe in Mar & 13 in Apr; 10 at Bittering & 9 at Pensthorpe in Apr, 8 in May, 11 in June & 9 in July.

Breeding at Pensthorpe where adults with young observed but numbers not recorded. Probable breeding at Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes where pair seen in Mar and 2 birds with nest in June. No subsequent reports of fledged young received.

Last report of birds in the valley was of 3 at Pensthorpe on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare summer visitor. **Amber listed**.

First reported spring arrival was of 8 at Pensthorpe on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar. Followed in Apr by 2 at Bittering on 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 at Great Ryburgh on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 8 still present at Pensthorpe on 25<sup>th</sup>. This increased to 12 on 5<sup>th</sup> May & 15 on 26<sup>th</sup> June – 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Two also present at Old Beetley on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Bred at Pensthorpe where 14+ chicks counted there on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Last report of single at Pensthorpe on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

During first winter period counts in Jan of 50 at Bittering, 110 at Great Ryburgh, 50 at Gressenhall, 150 at Kettlestone, 30+ at Swanton Morley GP, 25 at Bylaugh; in Feb 400 at Gateley, 600 at Hoe, 324 on HBW, 140 at N Tuddenham, 450 at Pensthorpe, 100 at Scarning & 50 at Worthing; in Mar 25 at Bittering GP, max 42 at Pensthorpe & 27 at Swanton Novers.

During post-breeding & second winter periods max 320 at Pensthorpe & 105 at Sparham in Aug; in Sept 200 at Bittering, 30 at Guist & 112 at Pensthorpe; in Nov max 32 at Pensthorpe; in Dec 50 at Hoe, 33 on HBW & 345 at Pensthorpe.

Proof of breeding at Pensthorpe but number of fledglings not known.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Counts during first winter period; Jan 10 at Great Ryburgh, 40 between Hockering/Lenwade, 2 at Kettlestone 15 at Gateley all on 7<sup>th</sup>; Feb 300 at Hoe on 14<sup>th</sup>, 204 at Scarning on 18<sup>th</sup>; Mar 7 at Hoe on 5<sup>th</sup>; last spring report 23 at Swannington on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Earliest report of passage birds was 50 at Brandiston on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug then 4 at Reepham on 30<sup>th</sup>. In Sept 80 at Great Ryburgh on 21<sup>st</sup>; in Oct 1 at N Tuddenham on 7<sup>th</sup>, 80 at Cawston Heath on 8<sup>th</sup>, 3+ heard calling in murky conditions at Costessey on 17<sup>th</sup>, 30 at Brandiston on 28<sup>th</sup>; in Nov 20 at Brandiston on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 86 at Colton on 17<sup>th</sup>, 27 at Pensthorpe on 23<sup>rd</sup>; in Dec c150 between Lenwade/Weston Longville & c200 at Weston Longville on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadris dubius*

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

Earliest report single bird at Ringland on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar (PR) then 3 at Beetley on 31<sup>st</sup> (IB). During Apr up to 2 at Beetley & 4+ at Bittering on 14<sup>th</sup>, in May only reported at Pensthorpe with a count of 12 on 30<sup>th</sup> (JH); in June max 4 at Old Beetley on 22<sup>nd</sup> & single bird at Pensthorpe on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Juvenile at Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> July indicates probable breeding there (BP).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

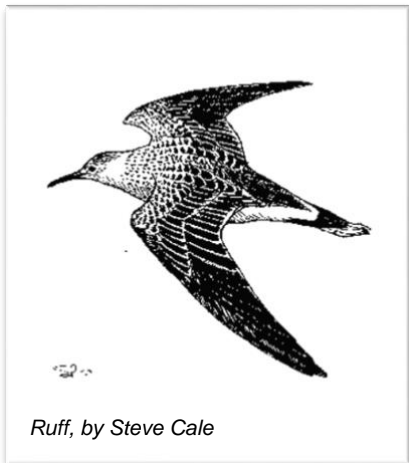
*Rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

Single bird flying south at Costessey at 7am on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr (AG) and another single bird at Ringland on the same day (MMC).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

*Rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

Single bird at Cawston Heath on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar (JH); on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr 3 on HBW (DK) and a further single bird at Cawston Heath (JH).



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

*Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

In Apr single bird at Guist Common on 7<sup>th</sup> (PR) and at Sparham Pools on 15<sup>th</sup> (SCH).

In Aug 2 at Pensthorpe on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> (LB, RG, JH)

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

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

A juvenile at Pensthorpe on 8<sup>th</sup> Aug (SCH).

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Small numbers of spring and autumn passage birds reported. On Mar 1<sup>st</sup> 2 at Dereham SW, on 1<sup>st</sup> with a single bird on 2<sup>nd</sup> (IB); on 16<sup>th</sup> single bird at Ringland (PR).

In Aug 3 at Pensthorpe on 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 6<sup>th</sup> (LB, RG, JH).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

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

Occasional records from seven sites during first winter period. In Jan single birds at Hoe Common & Swanton Morley; in Feb 2 at Brandiston; in Mar 1 at Worthing, 3 at Costessey Fish Farm, 3 at Lyng Easthaugh & 1 at Brandiston. High count of 8 at Dereham SW on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar (IB).

During breeding period single bird at Wellingham in Apr & May and a single bird at Marsham Heath on 29<sup>th</sup> May. No reports of roding birds received. Just one report during second winter period of a single bird at Great Witchingham Common on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Single birds in Jan at Buxton Heath on 13<sup>th</sup> (JH) and Scarning on the 30<sup>th</sup> (DN).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

Occasional records from 15 sites with no reports of breeding birds.

First winter counts in Jan of 14 at Old Beetley on 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 at Haveringland Hall on 8<sup>th</sup>, 13 at Buxton Heath on 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 at Pensthorpe on 27<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Scarning on 30<sup>th</sup>; in Mar 7 at Costessey Fish Farm on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 35 at Sparham Pools on 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 at Bittering on 18<sup>th</sup>, 5 at Great Ryburgh on 25<sup>th</sup>.

(continues)

**Snipe** (continued)

During autumn/second winter period in Sept 8 at Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup>; in Oct 6 at Guist Common on 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 at Sparham Pools on 18<sup>th</sup>; in Nov 8 at Costessey Marsh on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

Passage birds recorded at five sites.

In Apr 2 at Pensthorpe on 25<sup>th</sup>, in May 3 at Haveringland Hall on 20<sup>th</sup>, in June single bird at Bittering GP on 26<sup>th</sup>. In Aug 2 at Pensthorpe on 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> and 2 at Bittering on 14<sup>th</sup>.

In Sept single birds at Great Witchingham Common on 4<sup>th</sup> and Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

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

Occasional reports of wintering birds at 6 sites during first winter period. In Jan single bird at Scarning on 14<sup>th</sup>; in Feb 2 at Scarning on 6<sup>th</sup> and single birds at Dereham Water Meadows on 12<sup>th</sup> & Dereham Neatherd Moor on 15<sup>th</sup>; in Mar single bird at Dereham SW on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, single bird at Great Ryburgh & 1-2 at Rawhall Pit, Beetley on 25<sup>th</sup>, singles at Dereham Neatherd Moor on 27<sup>th</sup> and Felthorpe on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Probable spring passage birds in Apr when single at Dereham Neatherd Moor on 12<sup>th</sup> then at Bittering 6 on 14<sup>th</sup>, single birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.

Interesting reports of 2 at Bittering GP on 26<sup>th</sup> June & 4 at Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Non-breeders or early passage birds?

Probable passage birds at Pensthorpe in Aug when 4 birds between 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 14<sup>th</sup> & 2 on 20<sup>th</sup>. Also single bird at N Tuddenham on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 3 at Haveringland Hall on 31<sup>st</sup>. In Sept still 4 at Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> & a single bird there on 25<sup>th</sup>. In Oct 3 at Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> with no further wintering records to end of year.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

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

In Mar single birds at Dereham SW on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (IB); one flying over R Tud at Costessey on 24<sup>th</sup>, a rare bird for this area (AG); one at Beetley on 25<sup>th</sup> (IB,PR).

In Apr single bird at Bittering on 13<sup>th</sup> (IB,PR); in May 3 at Pensthorpe on 30<sup>th</sup> (JH); in July 2+ at Brandiston on 7<sup>th</sup> (SB).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

A single bird at Bittering on 3<sup>rd</sup> May (BP).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

*Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Single bird at Pensthorpe on 5<sup>th</sup> May (JH); in Aug 3 briefly late afternoon at Pensthorpe and a single bird at Bittering both on 14<sup>th</sup> (Sch).

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

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

First winter period counts in Jan 110 at Great Ryburgh; in Feb 51 at Dereham Neatherd Moor & max 140 at Pensthorpe; in Mar c200 at Cawston Heath 54 at Haveringland Hall, 100 during HBW & max 432 at Pensthorpe.

During Apr 300+ at Guist, 350 during HBW & max 262 at Pensthorpe.

Proof of breeding at Sparham Pools and Pensthorpe where up to 30 juveniles out of 206 birds in mid-Aug.

Post breeding/second winter period counts in Sept max 120 at Sparham Pools & 127 at Pensthorpe; in Oct 110 at Pensthorpe & max 77 at Sparham Pools; in Nov max 519 at Pensthorpe; in Dec max 141 at Pensthorpe & 50+ at Great Ryburgh.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

*Rare winter visitor. Amber listed.*

On Mar 24<sup>th</sup> single bird at Great Ryburgh (PR), on 26<sup>th</sup> 2 at Cawston Heath (JH) & Pensthorpe (LB,RN) plus a single bird at Scarning (IB).

In Apr 2 at Sparham Pools on 18<sup>th</sup> (SCh) and a single bird at Lyng Easthaugh on 24<sup>th</sup> (SCh).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

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

During first winter period counts in Jan of 20 at Great Ryburgh; in Feb 27 at Dereham Neatherd Moor; in Mar 16 at Haveringland Hall & 37 at Dereham Neatherd Moor where in the first week of Apr 110 were counted.

Between the second week of Apr and the end of Oct occasional counts of 1-4 birds at 7 scattered sites.

In second winter period no high numbers recorded except 61 at Pensthorpe in Nov & 15 during the HBW in Dec.

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

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

Reports from only 3 sites. In Jan 1 at Broomsthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> & 1 at Pensthorpe on 20<sup>th</sup>.

In Sept 2 at Sparham Pools area on 10<sup>th</sup>; in Oct 1 at Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup>; in Nov max 2 at Pensthorpe on 23<sup>rd</sup> then a single bird there during Dec.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

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

A juvenile bird at Earham Marshes on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar (PR).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

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

During first winter period only two sizeable counts of 12 at Bylaugh SW on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan & 17 at Pensthorpe on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Elsewhere occasional reports of 1-6 birds at a further 6 sites.

During Apr to end of August occasional reports of 1-8 birds at 6 sites.

High count of 100 birds flying to roost NW over Sparham Pools area on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. In the second winter period again only two high counts of 13 at Pensthorpe & 20 in Sparham Pools area during Nov. Elsewhere occasional reports of 1-5 birds at 5 sites.

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

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

Occasional reports of 1-4 birds from 14 sites.

Higher counts of 8 at Dereham Neatherd Moor in May, 8 at Dereham Potters Fen in July & 5 at Costessey in Aug.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

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

Earliest reports were of single birds at Sparham Pools & at Three Bridges Farm, Elsing on 7<sup>th</sup> Apr (IB,SCh,PR).

Occasional reports of 1-2 birds at 9 sites scattered through the valley. Two birds in the R Tud valley reported as the first for the valley on 20<sup>th</sup> Apr (AG).

Breeding at Sparham Pools & Pensthorpe. Twenty birds counted at Sparham Pools on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Latest report was of 10 birds at Pensthorpe on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug (LB,RG).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

*Rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.***

Single bird at Sparham Pools on 7<sup>th</sup> (SCh) followed by 10 there on 30<sup>th</sup> (DN).



**Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia**Common resident. Green listed.*

Reported present at 3 sites – Dereham Water Meadows 12 on 31<sup>st</sup> May & 10 on 25<sup>th</sup> July; Potter's Fen, Dereham single on 9<sup>th</sup> Aug; Pensthorpe 4 on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas**Fairly common resident. Amber listed.*

Occasional reports of small groups of 1-6 birds from 28 sites. Higher counts of 10 at Guist Common, 10 at Swanton Morley GP & 18 at Raynham on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan; 9 at Pensthorpe on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug; 12 at Queen's Hills, Costessey; 11 at Costessey on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct; 8 in Sparham Pools area on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov; a peak count of 12 migrating through the R Tud valley, Costessey on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov; 18 at Pensthorpe on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.

One report of breeding at Elsing where pair had 2 eggs (RG,RN).

Some reports of the species coming to feed below garden feeders.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus**Very common resident. Green listed.*

Highest counts - Jan c100 during HBW; Feb 200 HBW & c165 at Dereham Neatherd Moor; Mar 250 at Brandiston; HBW 100 in Mar; 200 in Apr, 100 in May, 150 in Sept, c100 in Oct & 150 in Nov. Also in Nov a peak counts of 794 migrating through the R Tud valley, Costessey on 3<sup>rd</sup> with a further 642 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur**Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.*

Earliest report was of a single bird at Lyng Easthough on 24<sup>th</sup> Apr (SCh) with a pair there on 29<sup>th</sup> (RG). Single birds present at Sparham Pools on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (IB), N Tuddenham on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June (BP) and Guist on 10<sup>th</sup> June (IB). Initially single bird at Alderford Common on 11<sup>th</sup> June (JH) then 2 present on 26<sup>th</sup> (AB) & 28<sup>th</sup> (LB) and 9<sup>th</sup> July (MW, *et al*). Single male at Alderford on 10<sup>th</sup> July (RG,RN) was latest report.

No proof of breeding received.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

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

Occasional records of 1-7 birds at 20 sites. Highest counts - 12 at Great Ryburgh on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, 16 at Sculthorpe Moor NR on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb & 11 at Dereham Neatherd Moor on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Proof of breeding only reported from Dereham Neatherd Moor.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

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

Earliest report was of 2 birds at Sparham Pools on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr (IB). Subsequently occasional reports of single birds at 16 further sites with latest being at Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> July (BP).

Proof of breeding at Swanton Morley where a nestling was found in a Dunnock's nest on 7<sup>th</sup> July (RG,BM).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**



Occasional reports of largely single birds from 28 sites. Two birds at Scarning in Jan, 2 at Mattishall in Feb, 2 at Brandiston & 3 at Elsing Mill Street in Mar, 2 at Mileham in Aug.

Breeding at Worthing, where adults seen feeding young in local barn. Two pairs bred at Swanton Morley where one deserted nest contained 4 cold eggs and the other nest contained 3 blind and naked young.

*Barn Owl, by Gil Brooking*

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded in all months and from 17 localities. Mainly singles but 3 at Brandiston in Dec (SB), 2 Great Witchingham Common in Oct (RG), 3 males and a female Hockering Woods in Sept (SCh), 2 Scarning in Jan (IB) and 2 Sparham Holes in Nov (SCh). No proof of breeding was recorded.



*Tawny Owl, taken by David Knight*

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Fairly common naturalised resident.

Recorded in all months and from 15 localities. Proof of breeding came from Elsing, Swanton Morley and Worthing while 2 pairs were recorded from Brandiston (SB).

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Up to 5 males were reported from Marsham Heath in late May (BP, JH).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

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

First report was a single at Pensthorpe on 24<sup>th</sup> Apr (BH) followed by 5 at the same site on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Counts of 20 or more came from HBW, Old Beetley, Pensthorpe and Worthing while 50+ were recorded from Reepham in July (DG).

Last sighting of the year was 2 at Costessey on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug (SCh).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded throughout the year from 14 sites in singles other than 2 at Pensthorpe and Rushmeadows, Scarning.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 25 localities, mainly 1's and 2's but 5 to 6 were regularly reported on HBW and 5 were at Pensthorpe in Jan & Feb. Surprisingly no proof of breeding was recorded.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picis viridis*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded throughout the year from 21 localities, mainly 1's and 2's but 4 were recorded on HBW on several occasions.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 46 localities. Proof of breeding came from Bylaugh, Great Ryburgh, Pensthorpe, Swanton Morley (2 pairs) and Taverham Mill.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

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

First reported on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr on Cawston Heath (JH) then a further 17 localities. Last recorded on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept at Honingham (SCh).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

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

In addition to breeding on Norwich cathedral birds were recorded from Aylsham church tower on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov and 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec with ring ZH (PR), Bintree Mill 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar (PR), Bittering 13<sup>th</sup> Apr (IB, PR), Brandiston 8<sup>th</sup> Feb (SB), Costessey 6<sup>th</sup> Mar (AB), Lenwade 24<sup>th</sup> May (RG), Pensthorpe 19<sup>th</sup> Dec (SCh, PR), Swanton Novers 25<sup>th</sup> Feb (IB) & 9<sup>th</sup> Mar (SCh) and West Raynham 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (PA, BM, SO'D).

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

*Rare naturalised resident or escape.*

A single was recorded in Costessey on 5<sup>th</sup> July followed by 4 on 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July (AG). The 4 may have been a family party raising the possibility of breeding nearby.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

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

Recorded from 33 localities in 1s and 2s but up to 6 Alderford Common 19<sup>th</sup> Apr (LB), 5 Rushmeadow Dereham 4<sup>th</sup> Oct (PA), 8 HBW 20<sup>th</sup> May & 16<sup>th</sup> Sept (DK), 5 Pensthorpe 25<sup>th</sup> Sept (RN, RG) and 5 Potters Fen several dates in Oct (PA).

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

*Common resident. Green listed.*

Recorded from 25 localities with a maximum count of 12 Queens Hills, Norwich 19<sup>th</sup> Sept (SCh). Only proof of breeding Potters Fen where feeding young on lawn (PA).

**Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*

*Common resident. Green listed.*

Maximum counts of 50 or more: 58 HBW on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb; 70 Sparham Pools on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov; 100+ Guist Common on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan and 200 Pensthorpe on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. While recorded from 25 localities breeding was only confirmed from Elsing and Wellingham.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Maximum counts of 100 or more: 100 HBW on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan & 20<sup>th</sup> May; 100+ West Raynham on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan; 220 Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct and there were 85 active nests at Hall Farm, Great Witchingham on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr (A&CJ).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Single figure counts from 23 localities with 30 on HBW on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 37 in Costessey on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug being the highest counts of the year.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Scarce irruptive late autumn and winter visitor to the valley. **Green listed.**



A single record of one at Bowthorpe, Norwich on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCh).

*Waxwing,  
taken by Steve Chapman*

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded from 16 localities with the highest count of the year 11 at Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec (LB, RN).

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Recorded from 14 localities with highest counts of only 5 at Pensthorpe and 6 on HBW. 2 pairs were feeding young at SMHOT on 1<sup>st</sup> June (RG).

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Very scarce and declining resident. **Red listed.**

A single record on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb at SMHOT (IB). This is a species that requires verification by the County Record Committee.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

The highest counts of the year were 20 on both Cawston / Marsham Heath and N Tuddenham Common and 36 at Pensthorpe.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Highest counts of the year were 20 on Cawston / Marsham Heath and 30 at Pensthorpe.

**Woodlark** *Lallula arborea*

Scarce summer visitor. **Green listed.**

One or two were reported from Cawston / Marsham Heath during Mar and Apr (JH, SCh).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

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

Recorded from 17 localities with the highest count of the year 24 at Marsham Heath on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. Elsewhere there were 12 at Marriott's Way Costessey on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct.

*Skylark, by Gil Brooking*



**Sand Martin**

*Riparia riparia*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant.*

*Decreasing. Green listed.*

First birds of the year were 2 at Guist Common on 5<sup>th</sup> Apr (PR). Highest counts reported were 30 at Pensthorpe on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr and 20+ at Sparham Pools on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, however, 120 were ringed at the Lyng Easthaugh colony in June (RG).

The last record of the year was 2 at Costessey on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug (SCh).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

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

The first birds of the year were 3 at Swanton Morley GPs on 7<sup>th</sup> Apr (PR).

Maximum counts were 50+ at Sparham Hall Farm on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr and 50 at Guist Common on 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug. Breeding success came from Great Witchingham Equestrian Centre c20 pairs, Lyng Easthaugh 3+pairs, Pensthorpe, Swanton Morley 8 pairs (BM), Themelthorpe 3 pairs, Weston Longville Equestrian Centre 2+pairs, Wellingham and Worthing. Note a strong association with livestock.

The last record was of 3 at Brandiston on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept (SB).



**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

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

The first record of the year was 1 at Haveringland Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr (JH).

Highest count of the year was 100+ at Guist Common on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug (LB, RN, RG). There were also counts of 100 at Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, 50+ N Tuddenham on 26<sup>th</sup> June and 50 Costessey on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Breeding was reported from N Tuddenham where 4+ boxes were occupied, Reepham, Potters Fen and Wellingham where visiting 12 nestboxes.

Last sighting of the year was one on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct at Costessey (SCH).

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

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

Recorded from Bintree Mill 2, Costessey Fish Farm and Pits, Great Witchingham Common, Guist Common 2, Pensthorpe 3 and Sparham Pools.

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

*Common resident. Green listed.*

Recorded from 29 locations throughout the year. While no proof of breeding was recorded the following maxima counts by site indicate a successful year. The highest count was 30 at Sparham Pools on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept, elsewhere there were 25 at Cawston / Marsham Heath on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug, 20 at Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and the same at Worthing on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first arrival was on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr at Haveringland Hall.

Recorded from 14 localities and the highest counts, both in late Apr, were 6 at Pensthorpe and 7 along the Marriott's Way.

The last bird of the year was at Sparham Pools on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Up to 3 birds were recorded at Bylaugh SW between 7<sup>th</sup> Jan and 14<sup>th</sup> Feb.

This was followed by singles at Dereham SW on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar, Sparham Pools 6<sup>th</sup> Mar and Elsing 10<sup>th</sup> Mar. The main influx was from the end of the month.

Recorded from 28 localities with maximum counts of 16 Pensthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and 14 Sparham Pools on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.

The last record of the year was 2 at Bylaugh SW on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

The first record of the year was from Lyng Easthaugh on 7<sup>th</sup> Apr (SCh).

Recorded from only 4 localities: Guist Common, Lyng Easthaugh, Pensthorpe and Sparham Pools complex.

Maximum count was 4 at Pensthorpe on 26<sup>th</sup> June and the last record 14<sup>th</sup> Aug at Guist Common.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

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

The first records of the year were 2 at Lyng Easthaugh and 3 at Sparham Pools on 24<sup>th</sup> Apr (SCh).

Recorded from only 6 localities: Guist Common, Haveringland Hall, Lyng Easthaugh, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools and Whitwell Common.

Maximum count was 15 at Pensthorpe on 11<sup>th</sup> May while only 11 were caught and ringed during 3 sessions at Guist Common where 9 were young birds.

The last record was one at Sparham Pools on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

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

Recorded twice from Scarning on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June (IB).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

One recorded from Great Ryburgh on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb (IB) was probably an over-wintering bird as the main influx started from 4<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Recorded from 25 localities. Highest counts were in April c15 Sparham Pools on 18<sup>th</sup> (SCh) and 20+ (at least 6+ pairs) on 23<sup>rd</sup> (LB). Only proof of breeding came from Guist where 3 young were trapped and ringed.

Two birds in Sparham Pools area on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov (SCh) were probably the last summer visitors while the 3 seen on HBW on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec were likely to have over-wintered (DK).

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

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

The first record of the year was from Pensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> Apr (PA, MS).

Recorded from 13 localities with the highest count 6 at Pensthorpe on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

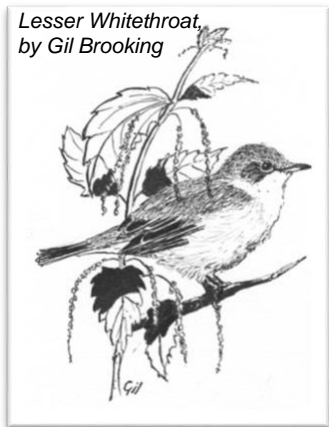
The last bird of the year was at Sparham Pools on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept (SCh).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

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

Only 12 records were received from 9 localities. All were singles except for 2 on HBW 19<sup>th</sup> Aug (DK). The first record was from Sparham Pools on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr and the last on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug at Cawston / Marsham Heath both (SCh).

Lesser Whitethroat,  
by Gil Brooking



**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Common summer resident. **Green listed.**

The first record of the year was heard on HBW on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr (DK).

Records came from only 9 localities with a maximum count of 5 at Pensthorpe on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Proof of breeding – a juvenile caught at Guist Common on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug.

The last record was 2 on Cawston / Marsham Heath on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug (SCh).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 11 localities with a maximum count of 6 on St Faith's Common on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov (PR).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Sightings from multiple sites during the year with a maximum of 14 at Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> July and 11 at Hoe on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Records from 13 sites during the year with a maximum of 6 at Pensthorpe on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Records from several sites throughout the year with a maximum count of 5 being seen on the Hoe Bird Walk on 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Pastor roseus*

*Rare vagrant.*

A single bird was present at Costessey on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Oct (SG, IB).

*Rose-coloured Starling, taken by Steve Connor*



**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

*Common resident. Red listed.*

Many records from throughout the valley during the year with the highest count being 5000+ at Swaffham on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb (IB). A total of 2071 was observed migrating through the Tud valley between 7<sup>th</sup> Oct & 18<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

*Very rare passage migrant. Red listed.*

Records during April mainly from from Cawston Heath with a maximum of 2 birds seen at a time. One autumn record only, again from Cawston Heath.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

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

Recorded throughout the year at many places and with breeding proved at a total at least 8 sites. A high count of 35 at Pensthorpe on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

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

During the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period a count of 400+ from Gt Witchingham and several more of 150+ from other sites with the last siting of this period being on Apr 20<sup>th</sup>. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> period the first record was 22 on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and a total of 433 birds were observed moving through the Tud valley between 8<sup>th</sup> Oct and 18<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).



*Fieldfare, taken by David Knight*

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

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

Counts of 25 on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan and 42 on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar were the most notable during the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period. During the second period, on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct a peak count of 489 birds was observed migrating through the Tud valley and between 5<sup>th</sup> Oct and 18<sup>th</sup> Nov a total of 2004 passed through the same valley (AG). Other notable counts during this period were of 150 on Oct 7<sup>th</sup> and 138 on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at Costessey (Sch.)

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident and passage migrant. **Red listed.**

Single figure counts from many sites throughout the year. Singing male heard at Wellingham, Mill Street, Dereham and Potters Fen.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Apart from 15 birds being at Cawston Heath on Aug 27<sup>th</sup> (SCh) there were only single figure counts which were observed at multiple sites throughout the year. Singing males heard at Lenwade, Wellingham and Neatherd Moor.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

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



Last report of the year was from Haveringland on Aug 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Spotted Flycatcher adult and juveniles, taken by Alan Dixon*

First report of the year was at Sculthorpe on May 25<sup>th</sup>. 2 pairs were at Swanton Morley on June 25<sup>th</sup> but unfortunately one pair were predated at nest and the outcome of the other pair is unknown.



**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

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

Multiple records from throughout the valley during the year with proof of breeding noted at Pensthorpe only.

**Pied flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

2 records only, both from Bittering on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

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

Two records only, one from Reepham Station on Mar 6<sup>th</sup> and another of a bird singing in Norwich on Jun 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Black Redstart, by Steve Cale*



**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

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

One record only from Bittering on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Scarce passage migrant. **Green listed.**

A maximum of 5 birds present at Marsham Heath on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Also reported from 4 other sites during the year.



**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Scarce passage migrant. **Green listed.**

Records from 5 sites during the period Apr 15<sup>th</sup> to Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a maximum of 3 at Cawston Heath on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

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

Reports of flocks of 30+ from several sites during year and proof of breeding from Wellingham, Potters Fen, Neatherd Moor, N Tuddenham and Swanton Morley.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Uncommon declining resident. **Red listed.**

A report of 2 at Mileham on Aug 6<sup>th</sup> was the sole record for the year (IB).

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. **Amber listed.**

Single figure counts only from multiple sites throughout the year and proof of breeding from Reepham, Lenwade, N Tuddenham and Potters Fen.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Rare passage migrant in valley. **Red listed.**

One record of a single bird at Bintree Mill on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 records both of 2 birds at Brandiston on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Records from 11 sites throughout the year and proof of breeding from Worthing, Bintree Mill and Swanton Morley.

**Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail)** *Motecilla alba*

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

Sightings from throughout the Valley during the year. Proof of breeding from Rawhall GP and Potters Fen only. High counts of 100+ at Bylaugh on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> (SCh) and on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 300 going to roost at Longwater (AG).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

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

Recorded at only 8 sites with a high count of 10 at Neatherd Moor on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Common resident. **Green listed**.

Records from throughout the Valley during the year with highest counts coming from 38 at Costessey on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and 48 on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> from Pensthorpe. There was proof of breeding from Pensthorpe only.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

Twelve recorded on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> at Great Withingham otherwise all single figure records for 1<sup>st</sup> winter period with last record being on April 17<sup>th</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> record for 2<sup>nd</sup> period was on Oct 7<sup>th</sup> and a total of 36 birds migrated through the Tud valley from Oct 8<sup>th</sup> to Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

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

1<sup>st</sup> winter period records of 16 birds at Swannington on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> (SB) and 16 at Horsford on Mar 15<sup>th</sup> (JH). Two records only in 2<sup>nd</sup> period, both of single birds.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded at 19 sites throughout the year with 10 being at Sculthorpe Moor on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> (SCh) but single figure counts only from everywhere else.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Sightings from 15+ sites throughout the year but in single figures only.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Notable flocks from both winter periods during the year with !20+ being counted at Hoe on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> (DK) and 150 being present at Sparham on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> (SCh).



Common (Mealy) Redpoll & Siskin,  
taken by Steve Connor

**Common (Mealy) Redpoll**

*Acanthis flammea*

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

Reports from 8 sites all in the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period and all in single figures apart from 1 notable count of 30 at Cawston Heath on Mar 30<sup>th</sup>.

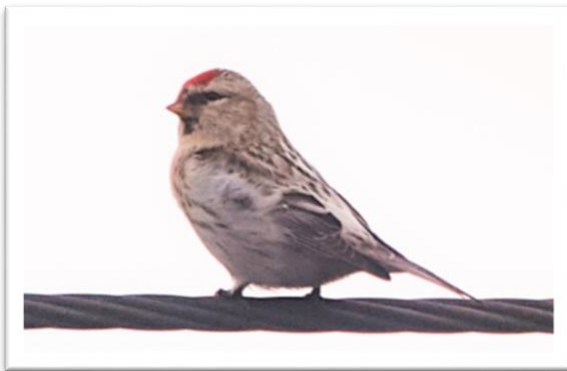
**Lesser Redpoll (Redpoll)**

*Acanthis cabaret*

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

Records from 5 sites in both winter periods with high counts of 60 at Cawston Heath in the 1<sup>st</sup> Period and 32 at Pensthorpe on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Arctic Redpoll** *Acanthis hornemanni*  
*Very rare vagrant.*



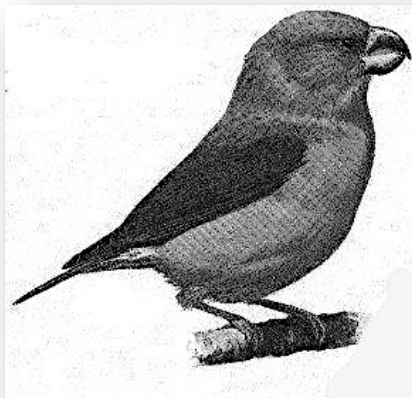
2 Records for the year only, both from Felthorpe of 3 birds on Mar 31<sup>st</sup> and 2 on Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Arctic Redpoll, taken by Steve Connor*

**Parrot Crossbill**  
*Loxia pytyopsittacus*  
*Very rare vagrant. Amber listed.*

One record only of a single bird at St Faiths Common on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> (PR).

*Parrot Crossbill, by Steve Cale*



**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*  
*Very scarce resident and irruptive winter visitor. Green listed.*  
Single record from St Faiths Common on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Records from many sites throughout the year with several counts of 25+ inc one of 70 at Brandiston on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. Proof of breeding came from N Tuddenham, Cawston Heath and Neatherd Moor.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

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

Several records from both winter periods with high counts mainly from the 1<sup>st</sup> period of 60 at Pensthorpe on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> and 40 at Sculthorpe Moor on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

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

Recorded throughout but mainly in single figures apart from 25 at Mileham on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 15 at Scarning on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and 17 at Sparham on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Very low single figure counts only with a maximum of 7 recorded at Pensthorpe on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. Proof of breeding from Pensthorpe on Jun 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Balkans east through C Asia, N Africa. Winters S to Nile valley, India & China.

One record only from Pensthorpe on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Contributors to Systematic List

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David Gibbons	Martin Spriggs
Ray & Chris Gribble	Chris Stone
Allan Hale	Jenny Williams & Alan Baker
Joe Harkness	Mary Walker

## 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 2018**

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Common Tern	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools, 3 Bridges, Elsing	IB,SC, PR	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Pensthorpe	LB, RG
Turtle Dove	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Lyng Easthaugh	SCh	10 <sup>th</sup> July	Alderford	RG, RN
Cuckoo	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools	IB	13 <sup>th</sup> July	Pensthorpe	BP
Swift	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Pensthorpe	BH	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Costessey	SCh
Hobby	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Cawston Heath	JH	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Honingham	SCh
Sand Martin	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Guist Common	PR	22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	Costessey	SCh
Swallow	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Swanton Morley GP	PR	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Brandiston	SB
House Martin	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Haveringland	JH	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Costessey	SCh
Chiffchaff	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Scarning	IB	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Bylaugh SW	BP
Willow Warbler	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Haveringland Hall	JH	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Sparham Pools	SCh
Blackcap	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Costessey	SCh	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Sparham Pools	SCh
Garden Warbler	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Pensthorpe	MS, PA	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sparham Pools	SCh
Lesser Whitethroat	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools	SCh	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Cawston Heath	SCh

(continues)

### Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants 2018 (continued)

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Whitethroat	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	HBW	DK	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Cawston Heath	SCh
Sedge Warbler	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Lyng Easthaugh	SCh	14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Guist Common	RN, LB, RG
Reed Warbler	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Lyng Easthaugh Sparham Pools	SCh	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sparham Pools	SCh
Spotted Flycatcher	27 <sup>th</sup> May	Sculthorpe Moor	IB	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Haveringland Hall	JH

### Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors 2018

Species	Latest	Location	Obs.	Earliest	Location	Obs.
Goosander	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Worthing	DK	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Old Costessey	SCh
Golden Plover	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Swannington	JH	10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Brandiston	SB
Fieldfare	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools	R& CG	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Pensthorpe	PA, MS
Redwing	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Worthing	DK	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Brandiston	SB
Brambling	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Lenwade	RG	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Brandiston Costessey	SB SCh

*Bittern, by Gil Brooking*



## WVBS 2018 Ringing Report

This is a selection of records showing significant movements, longevity and site fidelity of birds ringed or recovered in the WVBS area during 2018

My thanks to all the ringers that operated in the WVBS study area during 2018 for access to their records and the public for reporting ringed birds.

### Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2018

#### Greylag Goose

Adult 17 – Nov - 2010 Whitlingham Broad, Norwich  
 Ring read in field 20 – Jan – 2018 Wensum Park, Norwich (4km)

At 7yr 2 mon this is still far short of the oldest recorded of 19+ years. It had been reported 3 times at Whitlingham Broad prior to 2018

#### Mallard

Adult Female 18 – Feb – 2010 East Lexham  
 Shot 16 – Jan – 2018 West Lexham (1km)

At 7yr 10 mon 29 day this is still far short of the oldest recorded of 20+ years.

#### Teal

Adult male 11 – Feb – 2017 Litcham  
 Hit by car 11 – Jan – 2018 near Mileham (2km)

Surely an unusual demise for a Teal.

#### Black-headed Gull

First year 30 – Dec – 1996 Norwich  
 Live ring read 31 – Nov – 2018 Huizen, The Netherlands (272km)

This bird has been recorded nearly every winter since 1999 at Huizen and at 21yr 10mon 1 day is by far the oldest recorded in our area but well short of the 32+ year record.

**Little Owl**

2 adult females have been retrapped at the nest for the last 5 years in Elsing and 4 years in Briston. The longevity record is 13yr 10 mon.

**Jay**

Adult female	10 – May – 2012	West Lexham
Caught by ringer	30 – July - 2014	West Lexham
Shot	20 – Jan - 2018	West Lexham

First year	14 – Oct - 2012	East Lexham
Shot	20 – Jan - 2018	East Lexham

They both survived over 5 yr but Lexham seems a dangerous area if you are a Jay!

**Marsh Tit**

First year male	17 – Aug – 2009	East Lexham
Caught by ringer	18 – Aug – 2018	East Lexham

First year	9 – Feb – 2013	Kettlestone
Caught by ringer	30 – Nov – 2018	Kettlestone

Examples of 2 long lived birds. The first at 9 years and the second at 5y 9m 21d compared to the oldest recorded at 11y 3m. Will this longevity slow the decline of this species?

**Great Tit**

First year female	16 – Mar – 2016	Old Weston, Cambs
Caught by ringer	31 - Dec – 2016	Kettlestone
Caught by ringer	13– Jan – 2018	Kettlestone (104km ENE)

Most Great Tits do not move more than a few km from their natal area.

### **Sand Martin**

Nestling 27 – July – 2016 Dunkirk, Ely, Cambs  
Caught by ringer 25 – June – 2018 Lyng Easthaugh (64km ENE)

Adult male 25 – July – 2017 Coxford  
Caught by ringer 2 – Aug – 2018 Thornham

Very few nestling Sand Martins are ringed. Assume it was from an artificial nestbox.

Sand Martins frequently change breeding colonies.

### **Sedge Warbler**

Adult male 16 – May – 2013 Pensthorpe  
Caught by ringer 16 – June – 2018 Pensthorpe

This bird was retrapped at Pensthorpe every of the 5 years since first capture. A good example of site fidelity.

### **Reed Warbler**

Adult female 4 – July – 2011 Pensthorpe  
Caught by ringer 16 – June – 2018 Pensthorpe

This bird was retrapped at Pensthorpe every one of the 7 years (except 2017) since first capture. Another good example of site fidelity.

First Year 30 – July – 2016 Guist Common  
Caught by ringer 22 – July – 2018 Litlington, East Sussex

This bird was re-trapped on passage to Africa demonstrating how early our summer visitors can depart.

### **Blackcap**

First year male 30 – June – 2010 Shereford  
Caught by ringer 12 – May – 2012 Kettlestone  
Caught by ringer 7 – Apr – 2018 Kettlestone

At 7y 9m 8d this bird is still a fair way off the oldest recorded at 10y 8m 15 d.



### **Robin**

First year            29 – Mar – 2017    Nidingen, Halland, Sweden

Killed by cat        22 – Jan – 2018    Mattishall (864km SW)

Scandinavian Robins move SW in winter.

### **Brambling**

First year male     11 – Dec – 2016    Kettlestone

Ring read in field 13 – Mar – 2018    Saint-Mars-La- Briere, Sarthe,  
France (843km S)

Brambling can winter in different areas, even countries.

### **Common Redpoll**

First year            22 – Feb – 2018    Hempton

Caught by ringer   3 – Apr – 2018     Edwinstowe, Notts (132km WNW)

### **Siskin**

First year male     30 – Mar – 2018    Little Barningham

Caught by ringer   9 – Apr – 2018     Cnoc, Argyll and Butte (531km NW)

A rapid movement back to its breeding area.

## **Report on Monitoring of Common Terns & Black-headed Gulls at NWT and Sparham Hall Farm Lakes for 2018**

The monitoring of Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls at Sparham in 2018 included the NWT island and raft plus the island and the 2 rafts at Sparham Hall Farm.

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.

A new strategy was adopted in 2018 by removing the rafts from the lake over winter and delaying their return until the first Common Terns were seen at Sparham. Meanwhile Charles Sayer's island was cleared of vegetation to attract the Black-headed Gull to nest and settle down there. As will be seen later this strategy worked well for the Common Terns, if not the Gulls.

### **8<sup>th</sup> May**

The 2 rafts on Charles Sayer's lake were returned to the lake and covered with new shingle.

### **7<sup>th</sup> June**

#### **The Original Raft**

**Common Tern** – 9 nests:- 3 x 3 eggs; 3 x 2 eggs; 2 x 1 egg and 1 x 1 egg + 1 chick.

**Black-headed Gull** – 7 nests:- 1 x 5 eggs (2 of which were quite blue?); 3 x 3 eggs; 1 x 2 eggs; 1 x 1 egg + 1 chick and 1 x 2 eggs + 1 chick.

#### **The New Wooden Raft**

**Common Tern** – 12 nests:- 4 x 3 eggs; 2 x 2 eggs; 1 x 1 egg; 2 x 1 egg + 1 chick; 1 x 2 eggs + 1 chick; 1 x 1 egg and 2 chicks and 1 x 3 chicks. Also 1 dead chick.

**Black-headed Gull** – 1 nest with 2 eggs.

So a total of 21 Common Tern nests and 8 Black-headed Gull nests were on the 2 rafts. None of the chicks were large enough to ring.

It does raise the question whether the birds prefer the open visibility of the wire walls on the new raft to the solid walls on the original raft.

### **Charles's Island**

Only 1 nest of an Oystercatcher with 3 eggs. The island was covered in goose guano which itself or the geese's presence may have put off the terns and gulls.

### **NWT Island**

**Common Tern** – there was no evidence of breeding

**Black-headed Gull** – it was not possible to count the nests but there were approximately 80 chicks of which 50 were ringed, 6 – 8 were too young to ring and 3 were dead. In addition there was a total 16 eggs in 5 nests.

Also a Mallard nest with 12 eggs.

### **NWT Raft**

This was unoccupied.

### **18<sup>th</sup> June**

#### **The Rafts**

32 Common Tern and 9 Black-headed Gull chicks were ringed. In addition there was 1 Common Tern nest with 1 chick and 1 egg plus 3 further eggs.

7 Black-headed Gulls were too small to ring and there were 7 eggs.

Neither the NWT or Charles' islands were visited as there was clearly nothing on the former and too much disturbance would have been made to the latter at this stage.

### **Conclusions**

The strategy of removing the rafts from the lake and not returning them before the first Common Terns are seen at the site has proved very

successful with c36 Common Terns fledging. Taking the site as a whole this has been the most successful for many years for the Common Terns without adversely affecting the Black-headed Gulls.

### **Plans for 2019 Season**

Continue to clear Charles's island and also the NWT Island, if required, and launch the rafts as in 2018. In the meantime considerable work needs to be done to the new wooden raft, which has rotted badly, if it is to be fit for use in 2019.

### **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 Tern, by Steve Cale*

## Norfolk Ornithologists' Association – 2018 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.

### Birds

The first visit in **January** occurred on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 2 Nuthatches and a Marsh Tit visiting the feeders whilst on the marsh Grey Heron, 2 Egyptian Geese, 4 Shelducks, 4 Mallards and 16 Teal were noted. Fifty Black-headed Gulls were around the marsh on the 6<sup>th</sup> and a Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard calling on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The first Treecreeper of the year was seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> with Buzzard overhead. On the 13<sup>th</sup> 7 Bramblings were of note with in excess of 100 Jackdaws seen heading to roost.

Two Marsh Tit, Nuthatch and Great Spotted Woodpecker were recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> and interest on the 20<sup>th</sup> included 20 Goldfinches, 2 Siskins, Jay, 2 Egyptian Geese, 2 Greylag Geese, Grey Heron and 2 Common Buzzard over. Ten Pink-footed Geese were unusual on the 26<sup>th</sup> on an interesting day with Water Rail, 3 Nuthatch, 2 Redpolls, 4 Goldcrests, 2 Treecreepers, 65 Starlings, 40 Goldfinches, 5 Siskins, 2 Mistle Thrushes and 9 Redwing recorded. The first Little Grebe of the year was heard on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Seven Blackbirds were feeding under the boardwalk on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 Marsh Tits were visiting feeders on the 2<sup>nd</sup> as **February** arrived. A Buzzard and 13 Pheasants were on the marsh on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4 Mute Swans were seen along the river. Five Siskins, a Greenfinch, Meadow Pipit and 2 Woodcocks were all of interest on the 5<sup>th</sup> and on the 6<sup>th</sup> 18 Redwings, 9 Fieldfares, Woodcock and 2 Teal were recorded. Two pairs of Bullfinches were working their way through the riverside Willows on the 8<sup>th</sup> with 9 Brambling feeding on the ground near the boardwalk. On the 16<sup>th</sup> 4 Red-legged Partridge were on the marsh and birds visiting the

feeders included 10 Siskins, 2 Lesser Redpolls, 30 Chaffinches and Bullfinch; overhead were 50 Redwings.

A single Redpoll was present on the 18<sup>th</sup> and the obvious highlight on the 21<sup>st</sup> was a Peregrine Falcon late afternoon, powering west up the valley. Three Grey Herons, 3 Lesser Redpoll, 40 Siskins, 2 Treecreepers, 5 Redwings and 2 Pied Wagtails were also noted on the same date. At least 8 Mealy Redpolls and 2 Lesser Redpolls were visiting the feeders on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with 30 Siskins, Mistle Thrush, 8 Greylag Geese, a big female Sparrowhawk and a male Bullfinch providing the rest of the interest. A Red Kite drifted over the entrance on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a minimum of 40 Chaffinches were feeding on the ground around the feeders, with 30 Goldfinches and 2 Siskins feeding busily in the tops of the Alders.

The intense cold and thick snow cover at the beginning of **March** made it relatively simple to locate species usually difficult to count, out on the marsh; 24 Teal, 14 Woodcocks, 6 Common Snipe and a Jack Snipe were seen using small patches of sheltered, bare ground and open water on the 1<sup>st</sup> and birds on the feeders included 3 Redpolls, 40 Goldfinches, 8 Chaffinches, 20 Siskins and 3 Marsh Tits. A Fieldfare and Marsh Harrier were noted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 Redwing and a Woodcock on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first Green Woodpecker of the year was heard on the 5<sup>th</sup> when Brambling, 8 Siskins, 3 Redpolls, Mealy Redpoll, 16 Chaffinches, 2 Redwings, 30 Goldfinches, Song Thrush and a Lesser Black-backed Gull were also of interest.

Two Lapwings, Siskin and Redpoll were the best of the 8<sup>th</sup> and single Woodcocks were noted on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. A Barn Owl was hunting in the late afternoon on the 14<sup>th</sup> with a Moorhen also heard calling from the river. The first Chiffchaffs were recorded on the 26<sup>th</sup> when a Cetti's Warbler was also singing from the meander; Green Woodpecker and 4 Jays were heard and 18 Siskins were visiting feeders – rising to 30 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Ten Chaffinches, 6 Lesser Redpolls and a Mealy Redpoll were seen on the same date and 20 Redwing were around on the 29<sup>th</sup> when the Cetti's Warbler was heard again.

Good counts at the start of **April** included 82 Black-headed Gulls, Mediterranean Gull and 8 Herring Gulls bathing and feeding on the flooded marsh and around the rest of the reserve, 18 Siskins, 4 Redpolls, 10 Chaffinches, 2 Reed Buntings, 3 Chiffchaffs and Stock Dove visiting a nest box. Three Shovelers, 2 Gadwalls and 8 Teal were using the flood on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 pairs of Reed Bunting were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Four Common Gulls and a Pied Wagtail were of interest on the 9<sup>th</sup> and as the first Willow Warbler arrived on the 13<sup>th</sup>, lingering winter visitors included 6 Lesser Redpolls, 3 Mealy Redpolls, 4 Siskins and 4 Redwings. Two Blackcaps had returned by the 19<sup>th</sup> when Oystercatcher, 3 Chiffchaffs, Willow Warbler, Green Woodpecker and Little Grebe were all heard whilst a Grey Heron was still feeding regularly on the marsh to the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Cetti's Warbler was still holding territory into **May**, heard throughout the day on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first Cuckoo and Sedge Warbler were heard on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 Moorhens were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Song Thrush were all singing on the 9<sup>th</sup> when a Treecreeper was seen collecting nesting material.

Six Greylag Geese were near the scrape on the 10<sup>th</sup> with Cuckoo and Green Woodpecker heard again and 5 Swifts overhead. The first Swallow was heard on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 4 Canada Geese and a Bullfinch were present on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 2 Garden Warblers were singing on the 24<sup>th</sup>, when a Barn Owl was seen hunting at dawn. Singles of Cuckoo and Garden Warbler were heard again on the 31<sup>st</sup> when 3 Chiffchaffs and 2 Blackcaps were still singing.

Chiffchaffs, Blackcap and Willow Warbler were recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of **June**, heading into a typically quiet period. Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker were also in evidence and 3 juvenile Robins were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> with Grey Heron still being seen on the marsh and Sedge Warbler singing near the entrance. Two Cuckoos were heard on the 7<sup>th</sup> with 3 Jays and Little Grebe noted on the same date and on the 14<sup>th</sup> 2 Marsh Tits, Garden Warbler, Song Thrush, 2 House Martins, Swift and Cuckoo were of interest.

A Red Kite came through high on the 21<sup>st</sup> and a Greenfinch was present on the 25<sup>th</sup> along with Kingfisher, Reed Bunting, Bullfinch, Mistle Thrush, 4 Blackcaps, 3 Chiffchaffs and the first Reed Warbler of the year. Two Stock Doves were feeding amongst the cows on the 28<sup>th</sup> and a Kestrel was hunting over the marsh on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Two recently fledged Blackcaps were in a Hawthorn by the meander on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Little Grebe was still being heard on the river at the start of **July**. A Red Kite drifted over again on the 5<sup>th</sup> and a single Swift was hawking on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Three Swifts and a Red Kite were over the marsh on the 19<sup>th</sup> with Buzzard, Jay and Moorhen also seen and on the 26<sup>th</sup> a Great Spotted Woodpecker was visiting the feeders.

The warm, settled weather dampened activity on most visits during the summer and this continued as **August** got underway - Chiffchaff, Moorhen and Jay were recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Treecreeper on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Grey Heron was in the drainage channel on the 10<sup>th</sup> and on the 11<sup>th</sup> 4 Swallows and 7 House Martins were feeding over the marsh. Green Woodpecker, Pied Wagtail and Great Spotted Woodpecker were seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> and birds visiting the feeders on the 23<sup>rd</sup> included Coal Tit, Nuthatch, Marsh Tit and Jay whilst a Kestrel was seen hunting near the river. A Swallow and 6 House Martins were present on the 25<sup>th</sup> and on the 31<sup>st</sup> a Common Buzzard and Jay were the best, whilst a Magpie and Kestrel sparring from the marsh hide provided welcome interest.

Six Black-headed Gulls, Grey Heron and Common Buzzard were on the marsh on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and Kestrels were recorded on every other visit through **September**, with two birds present on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> when a family party of Long-tailed Tits was feeding in the low vegetation by the river. A Swallow and Grey Heron were seen from the marsh hide on the 20<sup>th</sup> and interest on the 22<sup>nd</sup> included 2 Common Buzzards, 4 House Martins and a Lesser Black-backed Gull.

A male Sparrowhawk showed well on the 25<sup>th</sup> in trees above the feeding station where 2 Nuthatches were present and on the 27<sup>th</sup> highlights included a Red Kite, 3 Red-legged Partridges and Little Grebe. Visiting the feeders on the 28<sup>th</sup> were Nuthatch, Marsh Tit, Treecreeper, Jay and 2 Coal Tits.



Variety finally increased at the start of **October** with a Pied Wagtail and Grey Heron noted on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Two Kestrels were seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 100 Jackdaws flew south towards their roost in the afternoon; A Common Buzzard, 2 Collared Doves, Kingfisher and Common Gull were also of interest. A small increase in Blackbirds recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> saw 14 birds around the reserve and a Common Gull was on the marsh again on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Birds visiting the feeders on the 18<sup>th</sup> included 2 Coal Tits, 2 Marsh Tits, a male Great Spotted Woodpecker, 5 Chaffinches and Goldfinch, whilst Little Grebe, Moorhen and Grey Heron were seen on the river. Two Marsh Tits, 2 Nuthatches, 3 Chaffinches and 4 Jays were seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a Sparrowhawk, Common Gull and Common Buzzard were seen on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Two Red Kites were the best of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Signs of passage at the end of the month saw 4 Meadow Pipits, 18 Blackbirds, 2 Mistle Thrushes, 60 Redwings, 3 Fieldfares, 3 Goldcrests, 10 Starlings, 5 or more Siskins, 2 Mealy Redpolls and a Bullfinch recorded on the 31<sup>st</sup> whilst local interest included 2 Common Buzzards, Sparrowhawk, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 2 Nuthatches, Marsh Tit, 2 Treecreepers and 2 Jays.

Moorhen, Little Grebe, Mallard, 5 Blackbirds and 11 Jackdaws were the best of the 1<sup>st</sup> as **November** began. A Kingfisher was fishing from the fenceline on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and singles of Red-legged Partridge and Grey Heron were recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Ten Red-legged Partridge were seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> and seasonal interest included 2 Woodcocks, 4 Redwings and 3 Song Thrushes overhead.

Ten Goldfinches and 25 Red-legged Partridge were recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a single Fieldfare on the 15<sup>th</sup> when 4 Common Gulls were on the marsh and a Cormorant was fishing on the river. Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Nuthatches, Treecreeper, Marsh Tit and 2 Chaffinches were visiting the feeding station on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and several hundred Jackdaws flew over from roost on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A Kingfisher was present again on the 30<sup>th</sup> with other interest including 10 Long-tailed Tits, Meadow Pipit, 4 Fieldfares, Woodcock and a Tawny Owl calling from the island.

A mild start to **December** kept the feeding station relatively quiet with local birds providing all the interest. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Nuthatch, Marsh Tit, 3 Long-tailed Tits, 3 Blackbirds, Jay, Bullfinch and 7 Starlings were the highlights. Two Goldcrests were noted on the 6<sup>th</sup> with a Red-legged Partridge on the marsh. A Woodcock and 2 Mute Swans were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> with Woodcock recorded again on the 8<sup>th</sup> when a Kestrel was seen. Green Woodpecker was heard on the 10<sup>th</sup> when 10 Goldfinches and 10 Siskins were present in the canopy and a single Siskin was heard on the 20<sup>th</sup> when 10 Chaffinches and 8 Goldfinches were feeding in the area. The Green Woodpecker was heard again on the final 2 visits of the year, the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> when 10 Chaffinches, 30 Goldfinches, 3 Siskins, Great Spotted Woodpecker and 2 Egyptian Geese provided the only other interest.

## Insects

Eight species of Odonata and sixteen species of butterfly were recorded this year, unsurprisingly the season started late but many species were seen in good numbers after their first emergence and for an extended period.

No invertebrates were recorded in **March**, but after their absence last year Brimstones (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) were recorded on most visits through spring from the 7<sup>th</sup> **April**. The first Peacock (*Inachis io*) was seen on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Orange-tips (*Anthocharis cardamines*) and Small Tortoiseshells (*Aglais urticae*) were regular from the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The first Large Red Damselflies (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) were out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> **May** and Speckled Woods (*Pararge aegaria*) were seen from the 5<sup>th</sup>. Small Whites (*Pieris rapae*) were seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> and the first Banded Demoiselles (*Calopteryx splendens*) on the 24<sup>th</sup>, whilst an early Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) was seen on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) and Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) were recorded from the 7<sup>th</sup> **June** and the first Comma (*Polygona c-album*) was seen on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Ringlets (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) were abundant from the 30<sup>th</sup> onwards.

Red Admirals (*Vanessa atalanta*) were noted from the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Large Skippers (*Ochlodes sylvanus*) were seen for a short period from the 5<sup>th</sup>. The first Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*) wasn't recorded until the 12<sup>th</sup> of July when Meadow Browns (*Maniola jurtina*) were also first noted. Gatekeepers (*Pyronia tithonus*) were seen in small numbers from the 13<sup>th</sup> whilst Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*) and Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*) were out from the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The first Small Skippers (*Thymelicus sylvestris*) of the year were out on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. New species in September included Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*) seen from the 13<sup>th</sup>. Common Darters were on show right through to November, with 12 still on the wing on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

A number of Bitter-cress Diamond-back (*Eidophasia messingiella*) came to light at the reserve on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, proving to be a fairly scarce moth in Norfolk.

The hot summer provided great numbers and added variety for moth trapping throughout the country in 2018, and a very successful catch at the annual moth event on the 21<sup>st</sup> July produced 506 moths of 124 species. Highlights included 2 Garden Tigers (*Arctia caja*), 3 Crescent (*Helotropha leucostigma*), Small Seraphim (*Pterapherapteryx sexalata*), Bulrush Wainscot (*Nonagria typhae*), Ghost Moth (*Hepialus humuli*) and Hemp Agrimony Plume (*Adaina microdactyla*). High counts included 41 Smoky Wainscot (*Mythimna impure*), 12 Fen Wainscot (*Arenostola phragmitidis*) and 37 Mother of Pearl (*Patania ruralis*).

## Mammals

A very quiet year for mammal records with no Bank Voles (*Myodes glareolus*) or Brown Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) recorded. Up to 3 Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) were seen regularly throughout the year and Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) were recorded on most visits with a high count of 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. Water Voles were seen on 3 visits in early April.

David Bratt

## **Pensthorpe Natural Park 2018 Wildlife Report**

2018 has seen a significant change in the way recording is dealt with at Pensthorpe Natural Park. Records are now held within a specialist database that allows much greater access to and comparison of information.

This has given us the opportunity to input many of the older records including all of the old WVBS data which have previously sat in individual spreadsheets going back as far as 2013, giving us greater understanding of historical records and potential changing trends.

In 2018 we recorded a total of 601 species including 131 species of bird, 165 species of plant, 161 species of moth, 23 butterflies, 18 odonata and with a lichen survey we recorded 54 species of lichen to add to our list.

Birds included our regular visitors but also a couple of unusual sightings. Osprey was reported in 30<sup>th</sup> June passing over, Honey Buzzard on the 6<sup>th</sup> Aug, only a single Crane record of fifteen birds flying over on 29<sup>th</sup> August, Great White Egret visited us on 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September (in 2017 a bird visited on 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September) and Short-eared Owl was seen one evening on 18<sup>th</sup> December, the first for a number of years.

However, we also had several birds of an uncertain origin turn up. The first, White Stork, was seen on 26<sup>th</sup> March but was reported to be from released stock while on 8<sup>th</sup> November a single Ferruginous Duck appeared with Tufted Duck for only a few hours during which time it was ascertained to have no rings.

Arrival dates for returning birds and summer arrivals were Avocet on 9<sup>th</sup> March, Chiffchaff on 21<sup>st</sup> March, Swallow on 5<sup>th</sup> April, Willow Warbler on 9<sup>th</sup> April, Cuckoo 19<sup>th</sup> April and Swift on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Indicator bird spp

Yellowhammer (breeding)	2017 4 singing birds 2018 4 singing birds
Avocet (breeding)	2017 5 broods produced 13 yng 2018 7 broods produced 16 yng
Lapwing (breeding)	2017 3 pair, 3 broods produced 5 yng 2018 3 pair, 2 broods produced 4 yng
Linnet (winter)	2017 no records of flocks 2018 max count 55 on 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct

Other wildlife of note particularly highlighted odonata with sightings of Willow Emerald and Small Red-eyed Damselfly on the reserve and Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral butterfly.

Worryingly only one sighting of Water Vole was recorded this year. Given its former regular presence on the river this is of concern and may be related to river level heights.

*For further information on specific species please contact Pensthorpe Natural Park*

Richard Spowage – Reserve Manager, Pensthorpe Natural Park

## Pensthorpe Constant Effort Site

For the thirteenth year running the NOA carried out ringing for the Constant Effort Site (CES) study at Pensthorpe.

During the breeding season between May and August, standardized data collected from Pensthorpe and the other CES sites throughout the country (approximately 140 in total) provides an accurate measure of changes in bird abundance. Recaptures of birds ringed in previous years also allow survival rates to be calculated. The ratio of juvenile to adult birds caught on CESs provides a second measure of breeding success, that also takes into account the number of successful breeding attempts made per adult (as many species attempt to rear more than one brood per season), and the survival of young birds immediately after fledging. CES covers 24 woodland, scrub and reedbed species. As would be expected, the weather plays a major part in the survival and breeding success of our birds and hence the CES results.

### DATA FROM PENSTHORPE CES 2018

The number of new birds caught this year (217) was well down against the previous year's total (298) which as mentioned last year is a long way off the heady heights of the 348 new birds in 2014. When comparing captures of new and retrapped birds collectively, as opposed to just new birds, the figure is 304, again a drop on last year's figure of 376. A degree of the decline can be attributed to the fact we only managed eleven of the twelve allowed main visits this year as opposed to twelve the year before. Catching conditions were generally good from a weather perspective, though there were some concerns over the general maturing of the ringing site. This has resulted in the surrounding vegetation in some places becoming higher than the nets. A degree of management is allowed under the rules of the project and credit to the team at Pensthorpe is due as management work has already been carried out to try to address this.

As with last year it is difficult to comment too much on the value of the data we collected for the project if only looking at Pensthorpe alone, its value is being part of the data collected nationally. That said, if we look at the species we used as comparisons locally last year, all the species that had showed an encouraging increase last year have dropped, with the exception of Willow Warbler to some of the lowest numbers ever! These species are listed next, with this year's total and the previous two years for comparison : Willow Warbler (7 v 11 v 9), Chiffchaff (11 v 47 v 20), Greenfinch (2 v 9 v 4) and Blue Tit ( 17 v 53 v 29). Looking at the other species we compared last year, that had dropped last year to 2015/16 levels, namely Reed and Garden Warbler, Blackcap and Wren, their numbers were virtually identical again this year, and unfortunately showed little sign of increasing.

## COMPARISON WITH BREEDING BIRD SURVEY DATA 2018

To put the results from Pensthorpe into a wider context, a comparison may be made with the results of the 2018 Breeding Bird Survey, published in May 2019 by the British Trust for Ornithology, on behalf of a partnership involving BTO, RSPB and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

The Survey report concluded that the Beast from the East in early March had big effects on some of our resident species, while strong winds in the Sahara may have had a detrimental effect on some of our summer migrants. Although the duration of the Beast from the East was short, our smallest birds were particularly vulnerable, with Goldcrests, Wrens and Long-tailed Tits showing population declines of 38%, 21% and 22%, respectively, in 2018 compared with the previous year. Owing to the sudden freezing of shallow water, Kingfishers were also affected, suffering a 38% population decline compared with 2017.

Although our summer visitors were mostly still in sub-Saharan Africa when the Beast struck, subsequent strong northerly winds apparently hampered northbound journeys, so that many species arrived late or in

lower numbers than usual. The Breeding Bird Survey showed population declines for House Martin, Sand Martin and Swift of 17%, 42% and 20%, respectively. Two of our commonest warblers were down as well, Whitethroat by 18% and Willow Warbler by 23%. It is unknown whether local conditions on wintering grounds contributed to these declines.

But not all the news was bad. In contrast to some other species, Cuckoos arrived back in the UK on schedule, and their population increased by 22% compared with 2017, partly reversing a long-term decline of 41% between 1995 and 2017.

## SECOND SITE AT PENSTHORPE

As in previous years, extra nets were erected when time and manpower allowed, adjacent to the CES site. This resulted in a further 100 birds being ringed, this total including 14 Reed Warblers, 23 Blackcaps, six Chiffchaffs, five Willow Warblers and single Garden Warbler, Goldcrest, Jay and Bullfinch. Disappointingly no Kingfishers were caught this year, though two were caught during the season on the main CES site. Activities away from the usual extra ringing area resulted in a Green Sandpiper caught and ringed on the wader scrape, plus four Mute Swans 'corralled' and ringed. Four pulli (three Black-headed Gulls and an Oystercatcher) were also ringed.

Gary Elton  
Assistant Warden NOA



**Total Birds Caught at Pensthorpe in 2018**

	Full grown	Nestling	Retraps	Total
Mute Swan	4	0	1	5
Oystercatcher	0	1	0	1
Green Sandpiper	1	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull	0	3	0	3
Kingfisher	2	0	0	2
Wren	14	0	1	15
Dunnock	2	0	1	3
Robin	6	0	2	8
Blackbird	8	0	6	14
Song Thrush	1	0	0	1
Cetti's Warbler	6	0	3	9
Sedge Warbler	28	0	15	43
Reed Warbler	64	0	31	95
Garden Warbler	8	0	4	12
Blackcap	44	0	3	47
Chiffchaff	17	0	1	18
Willow Warbler	12	0	3	15
Goldcrest	1	0	0	1
Long-tailed Tit	30	0	5	35
Marsh Tit	0	0	1	1
Coal Tit	6	0	0	6
Blue Tit	28	0	15	43
Great Tit	16	0	3	19
Jay	2	0	0	2
Chaffinch	0	0	2	2
Greenfinch	2	0	0	2
Reed Bunting	8	0	6	14
Bullfinch	3	0	1	4
Totals:	313	4	104	421

NB Under retraps / recoveries each time the same bird is retrapped it is counted again. Thus the 15 retrapped Blue Tits might refer to only 10 individual birds.

## The Weather Report for 2018

### January

A drab month with a total absence of “hard” winter conditions proven by the lowest screen minimum being an unusually modest -1.5c. Snow fell on only two days but did not lie and snowdrops were in full bloom by the 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

### February

On the 26<sup>th</sup> extremely cold polar air swept in from the continent (the beast from the east). The maximum temperature of -2.1c on the 28<sup>th</sup> was Norfolk’s coldest since 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Fine granular snow accompanied the cold blast and drifted in the strong and gusty wind, blocking many rural roads. On the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> snow lay to a level depth of 18cms to the west of Norwich. (This exceeded in depth the sum total of snow in the past four years). On the 27<sup>th</sup> a screen minimum of -5.4c was registered which was the lowest temperature of 2018.

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

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

### March

This was the coldest March since 2013 with soil temperatures remaining below 6.0c resulting in minimal spring growth.

Intense cold persisted from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> with the screen maximum of -1.0c on the 1<sup>st</sup> being the coldest March day in most of Norfolk since March 6<sup>th</sup> 1942 and snow lay widely as well between 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. A further cold outbreak accompanied by snow assailed Norfolk on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with a maxima of -0.1c on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 0.5c on the 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a wet month with rain or snow on 26 days.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	3	13	2	2	2	6	0	3

**April**

April brought a belated early spring when Eastern England experienced a period of most unusual warmth with maxima rising from 8.1c on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 24.0c on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 28.1c on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The month was almost entirely frost free with no screen frosts and only a single localised ground frost recorded.

Thunderstorms were widespread across the county on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with hailstones approaching the size of golf balls reported at Diss.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

**May**

A notably warm and dry month with no significantly warmer May in Norfolk since 1947. Winds with a Northerly or Easterly component blew on 26 days. Rainfall totals across the County varied widely with West Raynham measuring 52.0mm and Buxton a mere 11.5mm. The period 14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> was totally devoid of rainfall.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

**June**

June was sunny and dry throughout Norfolk with Langham recording only 1.0mm of rainfall. Thunderstorms produced some localised heavy falls illustrated by the 21.7mm that fell at Costessey on the 2<sup>nd</sup> which was 83% of the monthly total. There was no measurable rainfall from 10<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	3	2	2	0	0	5	5	12	1

**July**

A notably hot and very dry month in many Eastern Counties but however rainfall totals in West Norfolk were much higher with reports of golf ball sized hail. The dry spell that began at Costessey on the 16<sup>th</sup> June eventually ended after 41 days on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, an exceptionally long period.

A maximum temperature of 35.4c on the 27<sup>th</sup> was recorded at Costessey and this was the UK's highest reading for the month and also the hottest July 27<sup>th</sup> ever documented for the British Isles. (Tibbenham recorded 34.7c on the same date).

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	3	3	0	6	8	8	1	1

**August**

This was the warmest August since 2016 and the wettest since 2015 with scattered thunderstorms on several days.

The mean temperature of the summer (June, July, August) equalled that for 2003, exceeded the mean for 1976 but was 0.2c lower than the classic summer of 1947.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	0	0	2	2	9	11	3	2

**September**

A “westerly” month with several days achieving maxima in excess of 23.0c. A slight ground frost on the 29<sup>th</sup> was unusual as there has been

only one other September frost recorded in the last ten years. Signs of the summer drought were still evident all over the county.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	0	0	3	4	13	7	3

## October

A rather wet and generally benign month until an outbreak of arctic air on the 26<sup>th</sup> caused a steep fall in temperatures and the first significant frosts of autumn. There was unusual disparity between the warmest and coolest days with a maxima of 24.0c being recorded on the 13<sup>th</sup> and only 7.3c on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

## November

Mild conditions predominated due to winds blowing from a southerly quarter on nearly half the days in the month. A spell of easterly winds from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> gave Norfolk a foretaste of winter but frequent cloudy nights kept air frosts largely at bay.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	1	5	4	8	7	2	0	3

## December

This was the mildest December since 2015, however with above average rainfall. This was a drab and uneventful month that ended the year with a total absence of sleet or snow and without any significant harsh frosts.

*Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs*

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

### Monthly Summaries for 2018

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	52.4	90	8	13	5.2	+1.2	4.9
February	55.4	82	17	20	2.7	-1.1	2.8
March	100.0	215	10	18	5.0	-1.1	3.7
April	92.0	0	0	1	10.6	+3.0	8.9
May	23.9	53	0	1	13.9	+2.5	12.0
June	26.3	49	0	0	16.3	+2.0	15.5
July	17.4	31	0	0	20.1	+3.6	17.2
August	68.5	134	0	0	18.2	+1.8	16.5
Sept	41.0	75	0	0	14.6	+0.3	12.0
October	79.9	134	1	3	11.8	+0.8	9.8
Nov	57.2	81	1	8	7.8	+1.6	6.6
December	81.6	341	6	7	6.4	+1.3	5.3

## Annual Summary for 2018

Total Rainfall	695.6mm	Wettest Day	24.1mm (27 <sup>th</sup> October)
Days with rain recorded	169	Days with thunder	7
Lowest maximum	-2.1c (26 <sup>th</sup> January)	Lowest minimum	- 5.4c (27 <sup>th</sup> February)
Lowest grass minimum	-9.5c (27 <sup>th</sup> February)	Total snow depth	36cms
Air frosts	43	Ground frosts	73
Days with sleet or snow	15	Days with snow lying	12
Days with hail	5	Mean cloud cover at 0900hrs	60%
Highest Maximum	35.4c (27 <sup>th</sup> July)	Highest minimum	17.6c (27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> July)
Days with gales	1	Days with fog	5

Longest periods without any measurable rainfall: 41 days – 16<sup>th</sup> June – 26<sup>th</sup> July.

Annual mean maximum: 15.3c

Annual mean minimum: 6.8c

Annual mean: 11.0c

Average mean soil temperature at 10cm depth: 9.6c

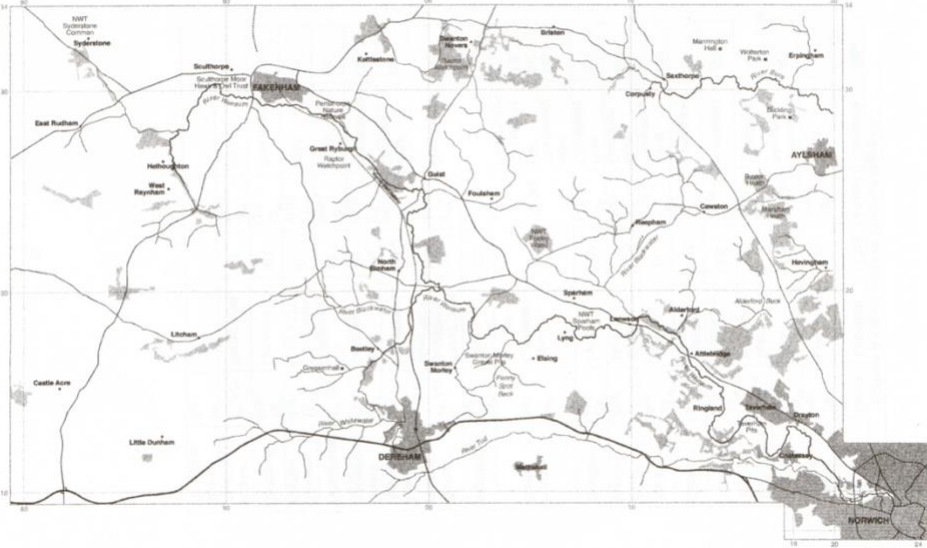
### *Wind Direction Summary at 0900hrs.*

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	11	31	48	24	27	59	88	45	32

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)

Wensum Valley Recording Area





### **Membership subscriptions**

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

**Membership renewals** are due on **1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 2019 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 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2020**. 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](http://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](http://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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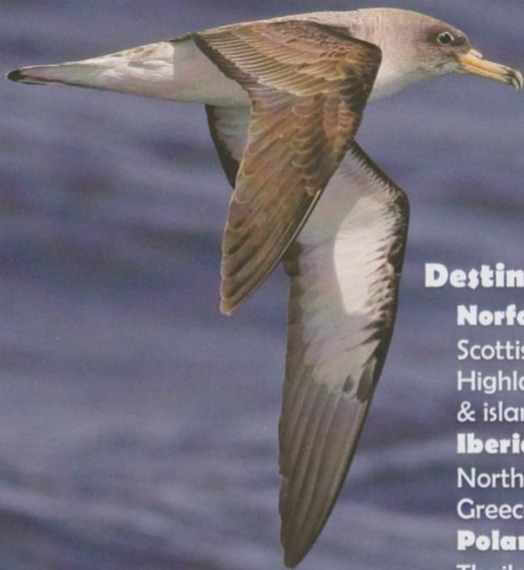
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**2021 PDF of the WVBS Sixteenth Annual Report\_2018**12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Text changes

Format changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
<b>Diary of Events</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> April	into a hour	into an hour
<b>Systematic List</b> Wigeon Mallard Cormorant  Mediterranean Gull Ring-necked Parakeet Ring Ouzel, Stonechat, Wheatear & Reed Bunting Fieldfare  House Sparrow, Dunnock, Pied Wagtail, Chaffinch, Goldfinch & Reed Bunting Brambling Arctic Redpoll	on 7 <sup>th</sup> an <i>Anus platyrhynchos</i> Sparham Pools (SCH). from 15 sites <i>Ichthyaetus melancephalus</i> <b>Ringed-necked Parakeet</b>  a maxima with the last 8/10 and 18/11  P.O.B. from Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> and Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> Felthorpe 3	on 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> Sparham Pools (SCH).  <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i> <b>Ring-necked Parakeet</b>  a maximum with the last 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct and 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov  proof of breeding from Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> to Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> Felthorpe of 3
<b>Sites</b>		Changed to alphabetical by page
<b>Earliest and Latest Summer Migrants</b>	dates	Reported Dates
<b>Ringing Report</b> Reed Warbler Brambling	every of the countries	every one of the countries
<b>Tern raft</b>	BHG	Black-headed Gull
<b>Pensthorpe Natural Park</b>	2013. Giving us	2013, giving us
<b>Weather</b> September	a maxima	maxima Annual Summary changed to a table