

**Wensum Valley
Birdwatching Society**



**Seventeenth Annual
Report 2019**

Pensthorpe
Natural Park



Naturally inspiring every generation

"The nature park and hides are magical with loads of wildlife to see in such free and natural conditions"

Trip Advisor 2019



Your visit supports our conservation projects

pensthorpe.com

Fakenham, NR21 0LN **01328 851465**

Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

2019 Annual Report

Contents	Page
Introducing the WVBS	4
Chairman's report	6
2019 Programme of meetings and events	8
2019 Diary of events	11
Systematic List – edited by Alwyn Jackson	20
List of Contributors	65
Principal sites & their Grid References	66
Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants	70
Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors	71
2019 Ringing Report – Ray Gribble	72
NOA Hempton Marsh Report – David Bratt	76
Pensthorpe Constant Effort Site – Gary Elton	82
Pensthorpe Wildlife Report 2019 – Richard Spowage	85
2019 Weather Summary – Norman Brooks	87
Map of Recording Area	96

Compiled by Ray Gribble and Richard Norris



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 2019

President	Alwyn Jackson
Chairman	Keith Walker
Secretary	Lin Pateman
Treasurer	Martin Spriggs
Membership Secretary	Richard Norris
Publicity	Sue Gale
Newsletter Editor	Alan Hughes
Recorder	David Gibbons
Member	Mary Walker
	Nick Edwards
	Ray Gribble
Webpage:	www.wvbs.co.uk
Website Manager	Keith Walker
Loan Library	Selwyn & Kathy Jones

Chairman's Report 2019 - Keith Walker, Chairman

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

2019 was a highly successful year with some rapid growth in membership numbers and increased financial stability.

There was an element of poignancy when Alwyn Jackson relinquished his post as Chair in April, and we are so grateful to one of our founders, for his contribution in this role. Thankfully he remains as President of the Society and continues to take a full and active interest and provides invaluable help to the inexperienced new Chair. Another founder Ray Gribble remains on the committee and has also been a continued source of guidance, experience and wisdom to enable this wonderful group to grow and prosper.

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

Our finances are very carefully and capably administered by Martin Spriggs and we endeavour to pay for the ordinary running expenses for the Society from membership income. We have been successful in generating external funds from Donations and via Easy Fundraising, with the plan to use monies from those sources towards projects within the Wensum Valley.

Reported bird sightings in 2019 for the Wensum Valley exceeded 10,000 and our Recorder David Gibbons does a fantastic job, meticulously collating and reporting the information.

I would also like to record our appreciation to Alan Hughes our Newsletter editor who has consistently created a Newsletter of quality which is the envy of our peers.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the efforts and support of all of the unsung committee who have been so proactive throughout 2019 to keep the Society functioning successfully. Without their willingness to be involved and the other selfless contributions of our friends above, we wouldn't have the chance of coming together as we do. So a big thank you to all the committee.

In 2019 we focused on heightening the Society's profile especially among the younger generation. We have also established a Whats 'App group for members use only, and this has blossomed under the stewardship of Nick Edwards and Steve Chapman.

Many members supplement the work of the Committee, and help the Society in so many different ways - helping at indoor meetings by moving hall furniture, preparing and serving refreshments, giving the vote of thanks, helping Lin with the raffle, and running the Library. Our presence at Pensthorpe for the inaugural Bird & Wildlife Show in 2019 was a tremendous success, with the help of a large number of members, who seemed to have a most enjoyable time!

Thank you to everyone for making this Society such a successful, happy, friendly and supportive group.

WVBS 2019 Programme of Meetings and Events

Sunday 6th January	Annual Winter Bird Count – Coordinator Lin Pateman
Thursday 17th January	The British Isles – A Birder’s Paradise – Jason Moss
Thursday 21st February	Holme Sweet Holme – Gary Hibberd
Sunday 24th February	Field Trip to Lynford Arboretum and Cockley Cley – Coordinator – Ray Gribble
Thursday 21st March	Operation Godwit – Hannah Ward
Saturday 23rd March	Field Trip to Waveney Forest – Coordinator Sue Gale
Saturday 13th April	Field Trip – Woodcock Walk Sculthorpe Moor – Coordinator Mary Walker
Thursday 18th April	AGM followed by: There’s a Tapir at the Door – Green Birding Adventures – Gary Prescott
Sunday 28th April	A Field Trip to Cantley Beet Factory – Coordinator Mary Walker
Saturday 11th May	Dawn Chorus at Pensthorpe Natural Park – Coordinators Ray Gribble, Lucy Topsom & Glenn Collier

Saturday 18th May Sunday 19th May	Norfolk Bird and Wildlife Fair
Thursday 16th May	Berney Marshes – Mark Smart
Thursday 20th June	Dragonflies and other Norfolk Wildlife – Pam Taylor
Saturday 29th June	Field Trip to Dersingham Bog for Nightjars – Coordinator Alan Hughes
Saturday 6th July	Field Trip to Upton Fen – Dr Pam Taylor / Mary Walker
Thursday 18th July	Our Place – Mark Cocker
Thursday 8th August	Members' Evening
Saturday 24th August	A Field Trip to Frampton Marsh – Coordinator Alan Hughes
Thursday 19th September	Oz – Allan Hale
Sunday 29th September	Breydon Water and Yarmouth – Coordinator Ray Gribble
Thursday 17th October	Norfolk Bat Project – Stuart Newson

Saturday 26th October	North Norfolk – Coordinator by Martin Spriggs
Thursday 21st November	BTO Garden Bird and other Wildlife Surveys – David White
Sunday 24th November	Horsey Mill then Raptors and Cranes at Stubbs Mill – Coordinator David Gibbons
Thursday 12th December	Annual Xmas Social

Diary of Events in 2019

Sunday 6th January

The Annual Winter Bird Count - Coordinated by Lin Pateman.

As always, this event was very popular, but with 12 teams participating, this was the biggest yet. Congratulations are due to the joint winning teams – The Italian Nutjob and the Red-faced Cake Eaters, with an excellent score of 77 species seen between 8am and 4.30pm all within our Wensum Valley recording area. Many thanks are due to Lin's hard work in organising the count, and for baking all those delicious cakes.

Thursday 17th January

The British Isles – A Birder's Paradise – Speaker Jason Moss

Jason took us through his time helping warden the Farne Islands, Fair Isle and Skomer explaining his role in monitoring the breeding birds and engaging with the visitors on these special islands. As well as monitoring the thousands of seabirds breeding on these islands Jason recorded the many migrants that land on them, including such rarities as Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, Lanceolated Warbler, Pechora's Pipit, and Collared Flycatcher. Jason is celebrated for finding a Magnolia Warbler on Fair Isle (only the 2nd time this American vagrant has been recorded in the UK).

Thursday 21st February

Holme Sweet Holme – Speaker Gary Hibberd

Holme Dunes reserve was purchased by NWT in 1965 and Gary has been warden for the last 30 years. He shared his vast knowledge of the natural history of the area and the challenges of wardening a site so popular with the general public. While many of us concentrate on mainly birds Gary informed us of Natterjack Toad requirements and the many special plants and fungi species to be found on the reserve.

Sunday 24th February

Field Trip to Lynford Arboretum and Cockley Cley – Coordinator – Ray Gribble

Just over 20 members enjoyed a bright sunny day in the Brecks. 58 species of birds were seen but unfortunately not by all participants. At Lynford the normal woodland species were seen including Marsh Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Siskin and Brambling with the specialities of the area Woodlark, Hawfinch, Firecrest, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and also an unexpected Water Rail was showing well. At Cockley Cley Warren the group had excellent views of Goshawk and female Sparrowhawk giving the opportunity for comparison. A pair of Crossbill sat in a tree top. A visit to Cockley Cley wood failed to produce Willow Tit but both Lesser and Common (Mealy) Redpoll were seen as well as Bullfinch.

Thursday 21st March

Operation Godwit – Speaker Hannah Ward

In her very clear and concise presentation Hannah told us all about Project Godwit, which she manages on behalf of the RSPB and WWT. We all see large numbers of Black-tailed Godwits during the winter months, but almost all of these birds return to Iceland to breed. They became extinct as breeding birds in England as far back as the 1800s, because of habitat loss caused by drainage of the wetlands. Currently there are fewer than 50 pairs in the country, 90% of which are at the Nene Washes. At nearby Ouse Washes they were down to 3 pairs in 2015, and this area has a problem with the increasing frequency of spring floods. New land has been acquired adjacent to Ouse Washes to provide a safe nesting area.

Project Godwit aims to secure a stable and sustainable breeding population in the 5 years of its funding. To do this they need to stop the downward trend in breeding productivity and maintain it at 0.5 chicks per pair at least. Predation has been identified as a major risk, and studies have identified Red Kites and foxes as significant factors. A major tool in the armoury is 'headstarting', which involves hand rearing of chicks to be

released in the new habitat. Eggs are collected from early nests so that the birds have a chance to re-lay, and the hatchlings progress through aviaries until at 30 days they are ready to be released.

Saturday 23rd March

Field Trip to Waveney Forest – Coordinator Sue Gale

A small group of members met up in Asda Car Park, Great Yarmouth, not for their weekly shop but to explore Braydon Water at high tide. A few species were seen from the Car Park including Common, Herring, Black Headed and Lesser Black Backed Gulls, Goldfinches, Pied Wagtail and two Linnets flying over.

The walk took us under the main bridge for approx. 300 yards to scan the water and marshes. Some of the highlights seen were several Snipe feeding in the water's edge, Avocet, Little Egret, Curlew, Pintail, Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting, Yellowhammer, Shelduck, Black Tailed Godwits and Buzzards. After exhausting the area, the eager birders made their way back to their cars to travel further along the estuary to Burgh Castle. No luck with Bittern, but male and female Marsh Harrier, Sparrow Hawk, Kestrel, Water Rail (heard only), Cormorant, Common Sandpiper, a distant Greenshank was heard calling and we heard and saw our first Chiffchaffs of the Spring. A total of 63 species was recorded.

Saturday 13th April

Woodcock Walk Sculthorpe Moor HOT – Coordinator Mary Walker

Twenty members enjoyed what was as much a social event as birding. It started with soup being served in the Whitwell hide before Nigel Middleton, the warden, lead the group the part of the reserve where 2 pairs of Woodcock are thought to breed. Two males gave exceptional views when they circled above the group.

Thursday 18th April

AGM followed by – There's a Tapir at the Door – Green Birding Adventures - Speaker Gary Prescott.

As usual the AGM business was efficiently dispensed with to be followed by a very different evening from our usual talks! Gary is the UK's most famous 'Biking Birder', having cycled around all of the RSPB and WWT reserves in a single year. He has raised thousands of pounds for charity. He is very much the 'Entertainer' as well as a birder, and at one point he had us all singing! He even provided the words to 'Bring me Sunshine'. I don't think it was our strong point though. His talk was illustrated with pictures of the people he met in the UK and those he works with in Peru, as well as the usual birds from both countries.

Sunday 28th April

A Field Trip to Cantley Beet Factory- Coordinated by Mary Walker.

Despite intermittent rain 17 members enjoyed recording 58 species with highlights of the breeding Peregrines and 6 Whimbrel feeding on the nearby marsh.

Saturday 11th May

Dawn Chorus at Pensthorpe – Coordinated by Ray Gribble.

Leaders – Glenn Collier and Lucy Topsom

It was a cool, damp and cloudy 6am when a couple of dozen club members assembled in the staff car park at Pensthorpe, to begin the annual Dawn Chorus walk (a little later than usual as staff members had to be present for insurance purposes). We took the route around the park familiar to those of us that conduct the regular monitoring sessions there, stopping off along the way to look out from the hides. The gravel paths proved challenging as the noise from our footsteps tended to mask the sound of birdsong, but with regular stops to listen quietly, and thanks to the brilliant ears of Glen and Lucy, we gradually built up a decent list of 74 species, and we were all able to revise and learn our bird songs and calls. Thankfully, the rain held off until we were finally walking back to the

café, where the kitchen staff served us a lovely cooked breakfast – a great end to a lovely birding walk.

Thursday 16th May

RSPB Berney Marshes – Mark Smart

Mark is manager of RSPB Berney Marshes but believes in Landscape Scale Management and works with many of the local landowners to create a much larger area of wetland habitat covering nearly 4000 hectares. This includes Breydon Water and Halvergate Marshes. Berney Marshes has 120 pairs of Lapwing, 120 pairs of Common Redshank, 60 pairs of Avocet, and some Oystercatchers breeding while Breydon Water is wintering habitat to 30,000 Golden Plover (he once mistook these for an oil slick, until he looked more closely with binoculars!) 2,500 Lapwing, 2,500 Wigeon, 16,000 Pink-footed Geese and 6-700 Avocet.

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May

Norfolk Bird and Wildlife Fair – Coordinated by Keith Walker

Nineteen members supported the weekend event at Pensthorpe by manning the club stand and acting as guides in the hides. Those manning the stand enrolled 13 new members and made £300 for the Society through the sale of donated books. The guides managed to find two Knot in breeding plumage, a Sanderling and a Garganey, amongst other more common sightings

Thursday 20th June

Dragonflies and other Wildlife of Norfolk – Dr Pam Taylor

Pam is the dragonfly recorder for Norfolk and a prominent member (as in ex-president) of the British Dragonfly Society (BDS) so she really knows her stuff. She started her talk with some handy ID tips: Dragonflies perch with their wings outspread, while damselflies fold them along their backs: Besides damselflies, the three main types of dragonfly are:- Hawkers - the really big ones up to 4 inches long; Chasers and Skimmers – the short fat ones; and Darters – the small fat ones! She went on to give detail on ID, habitat and sites in Norfolk.

Saturday 29th June

Field Trip to Holme NWT then Dersingham Bog for Nightjars – Coordinator Alan Hughes

Twelve members birded Holme NWT reserve and the surrounding area recording 54 species of birds including Mediterranean Gull, Grasshopper Warbler and Turtle Dove before retiring for a fish and chip supper. Some members retired at this point while 8 went on to Dersingham Bog where excellent views were had of Nightjar flying low overhead. Woodcock and Raven were also sighted.

Saturday 6th July

Field Trip to Upton Broad – Dr Pam Taylor

Well attended follow up to indoor meeting of 20th June. 31 Bird species complemented sightings of a good range of Odonata & Lepidoptera on a damp day.

Thursday 18th July

Our Place – Mark Cocker

Mark gave a highly entertaining talk on the philosophy and importance of nature conservation in England today. It ranged from science, the study of life, SSSI's; Writing, Poets, Creative people; Spiritual health to Health - quicker recovery, recreation, walking and cycling etc. England is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and brings issues farming and food supply v wildlife conservation. Fish & chips and members' divine desserts were also on the menu.

Thursday 8th August

Summer Social

This was held in and outside Great Witchingham Village Hall and attended by more than 40 people who enjoyed an evening of good food, drink and convivial conversation. To add to this a Rose-ringed Parakeet (still a scarce bird in Norfolk) flew past.

Saturday 24th August

A Field Trip to RSPB Frampton Marsh Reserve – Coordinated by Alan Hughes

A dozen members ventured across the border into Lincolnshire to this magnificent reserve on the western edge of the Wash. Among the 69 species of bird recorded were two American waders – Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher. An added bonus was a Wasp Spider which was at the time the most northerly sighting in Britain.

Thursday 19th September

A Taste of Oz – Speaker Allan Hale.

Allan produced yet another entertaining and informative talk with an account of his visit starting in Darwin and surrounds then on to Alice Springs, Uluru and on to Cairns visiting the compulsory sewerage works en route. He regaled us with excellent photos and many anecdotes.

Sunday 29th September

A Field Trip to Breydon Water & Strumpshaw Fen – Coordinator Ray Gribble

Ten brave souls met at ASDA car park in Great Yarmouth on a blustery morning at high tide when the waders were amassing on the other side of the bridge. Eight species of wader were seen but it was not the number of species but the sheer number of birds that impressed. A Hobby sat on a stump giving excellent views before the rain started and we adjourned to ASDA café. The intention had been to bird Yarmouth cemetery but due to the rain a quick change of plan was called for and the group went to RSPB Strumpshaw where 41 species were recorded including Red Kite, Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Kingfisher and Cetti's Warbler.

Thursday 17th October

Norfolk Bat Project – Speaker Stuart Newson

Stuart's Norfolk bat survey has mushroomed into a national and even international survey, all based on sound recordings of bats. He started by giving us a quick run-down of the bats that we might expect to find in

Norfolk including the Barbastelle which is a Norfolk speciality that goes quiet as it approaches moths, its prey. He set up centres across the county where people can book online to borrow a bat detector, while also recording the area they wish to survey. This started in 2013, and over 2 million records have been submitted so far, covering 30% of Norfolk. Stuart soon realised that people were recording creatures other than bats, and there is now great data available about Bush Crickets in particular!

Saturday 26th October

Cley NWT – Coordinator Martin Spriggs

Unfortunately this trip had to be cancelled due to extremely poor weather.

Thursday 21st November

BTO Garden Bird and Wildlife Surveys – Speaker David White

The Garden Birdwatch scheme, run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), has now been running for 25 years, during which time over 11000 members have submitted over 250,000 records. Norfolk is the county with most members. The weekly returns cover not only birds but mammals, insects etc seen in gardens, but most records are of birds. The most commonly seen birds are Blackbird, Robin, Blue Tit and Woodpigeon, in that order. The sad part is that many species are declining, Greenfinches and Song Thrushes amongst them. The latter are now only found in 20% of gardens when they used to be in almost all of them. The survey allows trends to be recorded, but also looks at seasonal changes.

Sunday 24th November

Horsey Mill then Raptors and Cranes at Stubbs Mill – Coordinator David Gibbons

It was a dull grey day when 12 members gathered at Horsey Mill to bird the edge of Horsey Mere and along to Brograve Mill and back by the village. Officially the path was closed for dredging works but as it was a Sunday and no activity the group continued seeing Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff, Fieldfares, Redwing and several commoner species of bird. The highlight however 12 Red Deer out on the marsh. The group then

moved on to Stubbs Mill at Hickling where they were joined by a further 6 members. En route to the watchpoint 2 Cranes gave good views. A dozen Marsh Harriers came in to roost while a Barn Owl quartered in front of the watchpoint. Pink-footed Geese were heard calling overhead as the group returned to their cars in the dark.

Thursday 12th 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.

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 Ray Gribble. The Systematic List has then been edited 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

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Common naturalised resident. Thousands are released annually.

Recorded in all months and from 30 sites with 1 to 22 birds.

Highest count of 22 was in Lyng on 12th Oct (NE), soon after the release of most birds

*Red-legged Partridge,
taken by Steve Connor*

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Scarce resident, declined in recent years. Red listed.

Recorded from 17 sites compared with 10 in 2018, probably due to better coverage.

Most records of 1 to 5 but 13 at Mill Farm, N Tuddenham on 1st Jan (BP) and 8 at Guist on 15th Jan (DN).



Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce summer visitor.

Amber listed.

Two records, both on 18th June from Worthing and North Elmham (SCo). The latter continued to 26th June.

Quail, by Steve Cale



Pheasant*Phasianus colchicus*

Very common naturalised resident. Thousands are released annually.

This ubiquitous species was recorded in all months and from 36 sites. Max count was 30 at Lyng on 25th Oct (NE) soon after the release of birds for shooting.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis**Common naturalised resident.*

Recorded from 22 sites throughout the year. Counts over 50: Bittering 51 on 2nd Oct (BH), Sparham Pools 67 on 11th Aug (DL) and Earham Marshes 69 on 8th Feb (MW).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

Recorded from 9 sites with the bulk of the records from Pensthorpe where they breed. Max counts per month at Pensthorpe; Jan 11, Feb 0, Mar 225, Apr 56, May c100, June 92, July 202, Aug 79, Sept 5, Oct 9, Nov 2, Dec 0.

Also recorded in 1's and 2's from Beetley, Bittering, Elsing, Gt Ryburgh, Sparham, Swanton Morley, West Raynham and Worthing.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser**Common naturalised resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

Recorded throughout the valley in all months with several counts in excessive of 100.

Roosting Hills, Beetley 150 on 19th Feb; Sparham Pools NR c150 on 18th Sept; Gt Ryburgh 154 on 16th Mar; Longham 200+ on 5th Dec; Bittering 300+ on 3rd Nov; Pensthorpe c250 on 27th July, 380 on 22nd Aug, 338 on 3rd Sept, c250 on 26th Nov and 210 on 9th Dec.

Proof of breeding was reported from Bittering, Longham, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley GP.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

Most counts of 100+ were flyovers. During the first winter period there were 17 records. Movements in Jan included 600 Pensthorpe to W, 48 Scarning Water Meadows to NW, 80 Sparham Hall Farm, 400 Bittering to E, 35 Sculthorpe Airfield to S, 16 Worthing to W. 45 were with Greylags at Sparham Hall Farm and 120 Old Costessey. Single figure counts then until 4th May with 4 at Gt Ryburgh (DN).

The first record of the autumn was several skeins totalling 670 heading N or NW over Cawston Heath on 16th Oct (SCh). There were 4 more flyover records of 100+ in Oct, Five records in Nov inc. 600 over Costessey, with a further 7 records to year end.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Very scarce winter visitor. Red listed.

There were 9 single figure records in the first winter period from Beetley, Coxford, Fustyweed, Gt Ryburgh on 3rd Mar last of year (DN), Lyng, Pensthorpe and Sparham.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common breeding resident. Amber listed.

Recorded from 24 sites with max count 40 Bittering GP 6th Jan.

Proof of breeding received from East Bilney, Haveringland Hall, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley GP.

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus colombianus

Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed.

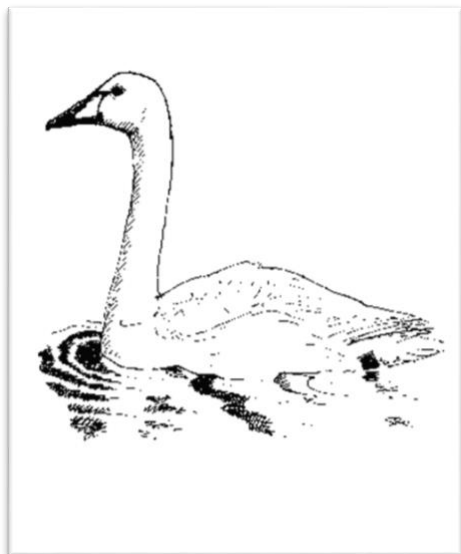
A single record: 26 Honingham on 1st Jan (IB).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed.

One Bittering GP 5th to 7th Jan, one Sparham Pools 4th to 10th Jan, possibly the same bird Mill St, Elsing 22nd Feb.

18 Dereham 29th Jan (BH)

*Whooper Swan,
by Steve Cale*



Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*
Naturalised resident, locally common.

Recorded from 22 sites with max 120 at Pensthorpe in Sept.

Proof of breeding received from East Bilney, Pensthorpe and West Lexham.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
A scarce visitor to the valley. Amber listed.

Recorded from 12 sites with max 13 at Pensthorpe on 29th Apr. Proof of breeding received from East Bilney and Pensthorpe.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
Vagrant and possible escapee.

A bird of unknown origin at Gateley 16th Mar, Pensthorpe 29th Aug, 3rd & 9th Sept and Gt Ryburgh 2nd Dec.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Very scarce naturalised resident.

Recorded in most months from Guist, Pensthorpe, Sparham and Swanton Morley with a max of 6.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Singles recorded from Bintree Mill, Haveringland Hall and Sparham Pools between 26th Mar and 16th Apr.

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

A winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.

Recorded in all months from 13 sites. Highest counts: Bintree Mill 24 on 16th Mar, Haveringland Hall 43 on 29th Oct, Pensthorpe 38 on 11th Mar. The only proof of breeding was a female with young at Pensthorpe on 9th July (SCh, DN).

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded throughout the year from 16 sites. Highest counts were c140 Roosting Hills, Beetley on 1st Jan, 111 Pensthorpe on 9th Dec, 80 Creaking Gate Lake, Bittering on 9th Feb.

Proof of breeding solely from Pensthorpe.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

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

Recorded from 8 locations in the first winter period until 11th Apr when 26 at Bintree Mill then from 19th Sept when 3 at Pensthorpe.

Counts over 50 came from Bintree Mill 125 on 27th Feb, Bittering GP's 100 on 3rd Feb, Pensthorpe 71 on 16th Dec, Guist Common 70 on 22nd Dec.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 29 sites. Highest counts were 370 Bittering GP on 3rd Feb and Pensthorpe 242 on 9th Sept.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Only recorded from Pensthorpe with max of 3, Sennowe Park 1 on 17th Feb and Sparham Pools 27th Mar to 2nd Apr.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Fairly scarce winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber listed.

Recorded throughout the year from 24 sites. Highest counts were 365 Bittering GP on 5th Feb, 353 Pensthorpe on 23rd Dec, 300 Sennowe Park on 5th Jan, 136 Rawhall Wood on 1st Jan and 105 Guist Common on 22nd Dec.

There was no proof of breeding.

Pochard *Aythya farina*

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

Recorded from only 6 sites with max counts at Pensthorpe of 34 on 3rd Jan and 26 on 23rd Dec. 1 to 3 birds also recorded from Bittering GPs, Costessey Pits, Haveringland Hall Park, Rawhall Lane GP, Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley GPs.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 20 sites. Highest counts were 165 Sparham Pools in Jan and 86 Pensthorpe on 21st Oct.

Proof of breeding solely from Pensthorpe.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Very scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.

Recorded from only 4 sites up until 9th Apr and from 1st Nov. Most sightings were from Pensthorpe but there must be some doubt as to whether all are genuine wild birds, though 16 on 6th Jan and 9 on 1st Mar surely included wild birds. Elsewhere singles were recorded from Costessey Pits, Guist Common and Swanton Morley GP.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Very rare winter visitor. Amber listed.

A single record of 3 at Pensthorpe on 6th Jan may refer to “tame” birds

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Green listed.

Reported in the first winter period until 10th Mar from only Sparham Pools (2 on 10th Jan) and Swanton Morley GP where possibly the same female was present from 4th Jan to 5th Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Very scarce winter visitor. Green listed.

A single record at Pensthorpe on 12th Feb.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor. Amber listed.

4+ recorded during May from Marsham Heath.

Swift *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

The first record was from Honingham on 2nd May (DL).

Recorded from 25 sites with max double figure counts from Reepham 50 on 16th July, Swanton Morley GP 50 on 9th May, Dereham 24 on 8th July, Haveringland Hall Park 16 on 9th May, Pensthorpe 33 on 9th July, Brisley 25 on 11th July, HBW 25 on 16th June, N Elmham 26 on 16th July and Alderford 10+ on 20th May. (continues)

Swift (continued)

Breeding only from Potters Fen and this comment from an observer in Worthing “Swifts few and far between this summer”.

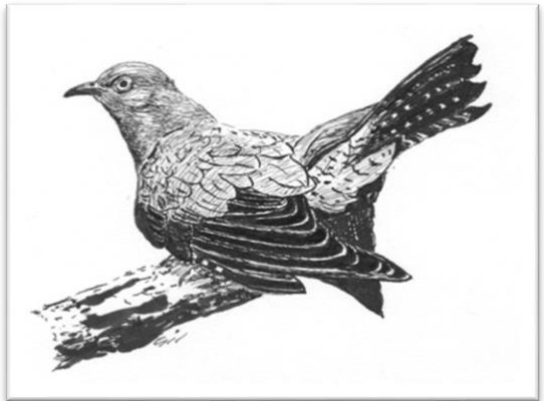
Last recorded 26th Sept Scarning (IB).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

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

The first record was from Sparham Pools on 16th April (SCh). Recorded from 16 sites in 1's and 2's. Last recorded at Pensthorpe on 16th July (SCo, CH).

*Cuckoo,
by Gil Brooking*



Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)

Columba livia

Common resident.

Green listed.

Recorded from 8 sites with max double figure counts Dereham 65 on 7th June, Raynham Hall 30 on 6th Jan, Pensthorpe 40 on 29th Aug.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded throughout the year from 34 sites mainly in single figures but double figure counts were from Bittering, Castle Acre, Haveringland Hall Park, HBW (51 on 15th Dec max count of year), Longham, Lyng, N Tuddenham Common and Pensthorpe. Several reports of coming to feeder stations.

Only proof of breeding came from Swanton Morley.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident. Green listed.

100+ counts of this ubiquitous species, all in autumn / winter came from Costessey, Dereham, HBW, N Elmham, Pensthorpe, Swanton Morley with the max N Tuddenham 300 on 28th Oct.



Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red listed.

1 to 4 recorded from 6 sites with a max of 11 reported from an undisclosed site.

Proof of breeding was received from 2 sites.

*Turtle Dove,
taken by Steve Connor*

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

Fairly common resident associated with human habitation. Green listed.

Recorded throughout the year from 23 sites mainly in single figures but double figure counts from Dereham 19, Honingham 15, Lyng Easthaugh c50, N Tuddenham 40, Pensthorpe 10 and Sculthorpe Moor 12.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Very scarce resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Recorded from 14 sites in mainly 1's and 2's during the winter period with the only breeding period record from Swanton Morley GP on 24th July (BH). The highest count of 5 was reported from Lyng Eastaugh GP on 29th Jan (SCh).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

Common resident supplemented by autumn immigrants. Green listed.

Recorded throughout the year and the area. Max double figure counts were Haveringland Hall Park 10, Pensthorpe 32, Sparham Pools 15, Swanton Morley GP 23.

Proof of breeding came from Haveringland Hall Park, Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools NR and Swanton Morley GP.

Coot *Falica atra*.

Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Recorded throughout the year and the area. Max double figure counts were Bittering GP 10, Haveringland Hall Park 24, Pensthorpe 116, Sparham Pools 45, Swanton Morley GP 18.

Proof of breeding came from Pensthorpe and Taverham Mill.

*Coot,
by Gil Brooking*



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.**

6 flew over Sparham Hall Farm on 17th Apr (CS).

Little Grebe *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 23 sites in single figures except for 10 at Haveringland Hall park in Sept / Oct and 11 at Sparham Pools in Dec. Only indication of breeding (unproven) was from Bittering GP.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 14 sites mainly in single figures but double figure counts were recorded at Swanton Morley GP with a max of 18 in Feb.

Proof of breeding came from Costessey Pits, Gt Witchingham Common, Sparham Pools (4 pairs) and Swanton Morley GP.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Scarce summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Recorded between Feb and Aug with proof of breeding from Bittering (4 pairs), Pensthorpe (2 pairs) and Sparham Pools.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare summer visitor. **Amber listed.**

Recorded from 5 sites with breeding proven at Pensthorpe where a max of 15 adults at end Apr.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

Recorded throughout the year with several winter counts in excess of 100: Beetley 100, Bintree 180, Bittering 800, Costessey Showground 230, Dereham, Brick Kiln Farm c2000, Hoe c150, Longham 100+, Pensthorpe 300, Sennowe Park 300 and Swanton Novers 100.

Breeding at Bintree Mill 2 pairs, Coxford, Gateley, Pensthorpe, Swanton Novers, West Raynham and Whissonsett 4 pairs.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Recorded from 10 sites with max counts at Bittering 150, Easton 120 and Lyng 200.

Ringed Plover *Charadris hiaticula*

Scarce passage migrant. **Red listed.**

Two single records Rawhall GP on 27th Apr and Bittering on 16th May (DN).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadris dubius*

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

Recorded from 8 sites with breeding at 3 including Pensthorpe. Present from 24th Mar to 16th July.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Rare passage migrant. **Red listed.**

Four records of singles: Coxford 31st Mar, Shereford 15th Apr and Bittering 17th Apr and 2nd May.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Rare passage migrant. **Red listed.**

Seven records: Bittering 2nd Mar, South Acre 7 on 23rd Mar, N Tuddenham 26th Mar, West Raynham 8 on 11th Apr, Coxford 3 on 21st Apr and 4 over Honingham on 26th June.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

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

One Gt Ryburgh 2nd May (DN)

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Very rare passage migrant. **Red listed.**

Earham Marshes one between 11th and 14th Jan with 7 on 12th (MW) and 2 Pensthorpe 30th Apr (PR, MS).

Knot *Calidris canutus*

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

Two in full breeding plumage gave pleasure to many visitors to the Norfolk Bird and Wildlife Fair at Pensthorpe on 18th May. Possibly one of the two was present at the same site on 28th May (LB, AHu).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

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

Up to 25 were in pig fields at Edgefield during Jan / Feb (DN, SC), 4 Bintree 16th Apr (DN) and 4 Pensthorpe 16th July (SCo, CH).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

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

One Pensthorpe 18th May

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

Old Beetley 1 on 18th Mar, Bintree Mill 3 on 15th, 1 on 17th Apr, Bittering 2 on 18th Apr and 1 on 8th & 16th May.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

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

Recorded from 10 sites in 1's to 3. Roding birds recorded from Marsham Heath and SMHOT.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Recorded as follows: Beetley 2 in Jan, Feb & Dec, Bittering GP Jan, Buxton Heath Jan 1 or 2 Costessey Marshes in Feb & Mar.



Jack Snipe, by Steve Cale

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

Recorded from 20 sites Jan to Apr and Aug to Dec. Max double figure counts came from Beetley 20 in Mar, Buxton Heath c10 in Jan, Costessey Marshes 60 in Feb and c100 in Dec, Sparham Meadows 28 in Dec.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

Recorded 1-3 from 6 sites with the first being 2 at Litcham Road GP on 15th Mar. Also recorded from Castle Acre, Haveringland Hall Park, Pensthorpe, Rawhall Lane GP and Sparham Pools. Last record 3 at Haveringland Hall Park on 18th Sept.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded from 17 sites. During Jan & Feb singles were present at Potter's Fen, Dereham and Scarning.

Max counts during the main passage period were 8 at Pensthorpe in July and 8 at Castle Acre in Aug.

The latest record was Lyng on 18th Nov.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

A single record – 2 at Pensthorpe on 2nd Apr (PA, AHu)

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Four records of singles – Gt Ryburgh 2nd May, Pensthorpe 6th & 7th May, Brandiston to N on 29th July and Castle Acre a juv on 31st July.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Four records – Bintree Mill 16th & 17th Apr, Sparham Pools 2 on 19th Apr and 1 on 1st May, Pensthorpe 19th May and over Costessey on 27th July.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

The regular counts at Pensthorpe showed about 500 adults present at this breeding colony. Breeding also occurred at Sparham Pools with c80 pairs.

Surprisingly the only other report of 100+ birds was 130 at Neatherd Moor, Dereham on 5th Sept.

Little Gull *Chroicocephalus minutus*

Scarce passage migrant. **Green listed.**

There were 4 records all in Apr. 2 adults 1 juv Pensthorpe on 9th (SCh, DN), 2 Sparham Pools on 17th (CS), 3 Bittering on 18th (DN) and 1 Lyng GP on 22nd (CS).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyæetus melanocephalus*

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

2 – 3 Saxthorpe 24th & 26th Jan (DN, SCh). At Pensthorpe there were 6 on 20th Mar then in Apr 2 on 2nd & 9th rising to 4 on 17th, 2 on 29th and 24th May and 1 on 13th June.

Hopes of breeding were not realised.

Elsewhere there were 2 at Twyford on 17th Apr. Three flyovers followed Lyng Easthaugh on 18th Apr, Costessey on 21st Apr and Guist 21st May. There were 3 at Brandiston on 2nd Aug and the final record was a 2nd year bird at Guist Common on 27th Dec.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

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

Recorded in every month except June from 26 sites.

All counts over 50: 50 Worthing 17th Apr, 70 Dereham 24th Feb, 70+ Sculthorpe Fen 13th Jan, 83 West Raynham 6th Jan, c100 Hoe 6th Feb and a massive 800 Weasenham on 3rd Oct.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

1 – 3 recorded in most months with a max of 6, surprisingly in Aug, HBW.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 19 sites in single figures except for Pensthorpe where 30 in Apr, 10 in July & Aug, 12 in Nov, 16 in Dec.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce visitor

A near adult was at Edgefield on 24th Jan (DN).

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Scarce visitor

Two adults were at Edgefield 24th to 26th Jan (DN, SCh) and 2 3rd winter birds were at Gateley on 16th Mar (DN).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 24 sites in single figures except for 10 at Worthing, 30 at Potters Fen, 20 at N Tuddenham and 40 at Neatherd Moor, Dereham. Surely under recorded!

Nests on industrial roofs in Dereham area.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

The first report of the year was 3 at Swanton Morley GP on 5th Apr (DN).

Breeding records came from Pensthorpe, Sparham Pools 20 young ringed and Swanton Morley GP 4 nests.

Last report was 4 on 14th Aug at Pensthorpe (ID, BP).



Common Tern, by Steve Cale

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Only recorded from Sparham Pools, 2 on 16th (DN) and 1 on 17th Apr (CS, SCh).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Rare passage migrant. Green listed.

One Swanton Morley on 17th Apr (IB) followed by another 2 days later at Sparham Pools (CS, DN), then the next day at Colney GP (IB).

In May there were 4 at Lyng Easthaugh on 8th and the next day 2 at Swanton Morley GP (DN), then 5 Sparham Pools on 17th (CS).

There was one at Pensthorpe on 5th July (RS).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Recorded throughout the year in single figures except for Pensthorpe where 10 on 9th Sept and 11 on 6th Jan, 19th Sept and 16th Dec. 10 were seen on HBW on 16th June.

No proof of breeding was recorded.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Very scarce winter visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded at Pensthorpe on 3rd Jan (PA,RN), 28th Feb and 23rd Oct and at Sparham Pools on 15th Feb and 16th Sept (CS).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

Recorded throughout the year and area in single figures.
No proof of breeding was recorded.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Rare but increasing visitor.

Five records all from the Sparham Elsing area 9th & 16th Feb then 18th & 21st Nov and 30th Dec (CS,DL,DN,RG).

*Little Egret,
taken by Bryony Pearson*

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Very scarce resident.

Green listed.

Recorded throughout the year and area in single figures except 12 at Hoe on 22nd Dec (PR, IB).

No proof of breeding was recorded.

Interestingly the same number of records were received for this species as Grey Heron.



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

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

Amber listed.

Only five records all fly-overs in Sept. Sparham on 1st, 17th & 21st (CS), Lower Hellesdon on 10th (EL) and Swanton Morley GP on 18th (BH).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

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

Three records: Pensthorpe 5th July (MS, SCh), Buxton Heath 17th July (SB, MMcC) and Potters Fen 31st Aug (PA).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

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

Recorded in 1s and 2s throughout the year but 3 at Potters Fen on 16th Mar and 3 Pensthorpe on 9th July, 13th Oct and 26th Nov. Displaying noted at Cawston Heath, Pensthorpe, Potters Fen, SMHOT and Swanton Novers. Observed carrying food at Neatherd Moor, Dereham on 30th June (BH).



Sparrowhawk, taken by Jackie Pett

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Recorded from the Swanton Novers Watchpoint during Jan and Feb with 2 on 5th and 3 on 19th Feb (DN,SCh,PR). Also Dereham SW on 5th Jan (PJ), Weston Longville on 7th Feb (JL) and Sparham area during Apr and July when 2 present (NM,RF,NMi,CS).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Over 60 records of mainly singles between Sparham Pools and SMHOT. Possible breeding at SMHOT and 2 other sites. Recorded in all months.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

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

With over 150 records from 50 sites it shows how widespread this iconic species has become in the WVBS area. Most sightings are of singles but at the beginning of the year 20, and in Dec 28, went to roost in the Honingham area.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor.

Two sightings: A juvenile on 30th Jan Sculthorpe Airfield (DN) and one 30th Mar Sculthorpe (SCh).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Common resident and scarce passage migrant. Green listed.

This is now our most conspicuous raptor with around 350 sightings from over 80 sites. Most records were in single figures but Mar records of 14 N Elmham on 5th, 14 Pensthorpe on 20th and 18 Ringland on 5th may have included passage birds.

(continues)

Buzzard (continued)

Other significant counts were Pensthorpe 12 on 3rd Sept inc “7 in one kettle”, Sparham 20 on 6th Jan & 12 on 30th Sept and 17 HBW on 19th May.

A pale bird “resembling Rough-legged Buzzard” was in the SMHOT area in Apr (SCo).

Two pairs bred on Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

Recorded from 40 sites with breeding at Brandiston (SB), Sparham Hall Farm 3 pairs (SC), Swanton Morley 2 pairs (BM, RG), Themelthorpe (RG,SCh) and Twyford (SCo).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Our commonest owl but its nocturnal habits mean it was only recorded from 31 sites and breeding proven at Bylaugh (RG,ZS,PA).

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Fairly common naturalised resident.

Recorded from 19 sites with breeding at Brandiston (SB), Elsing where 2 young fledged (RG, PA, ZS), Swanton Morley 2 young fledged (BM), Weston Longville EC 4 young (RD, RG) and Worthing 2 pairs and 2 young from 1 of the nests (DK, RG).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident. Amber listed.

Recorded throughout the year from 16 sites in 1's and 2's but 4 at Pensthorpe in Sept.

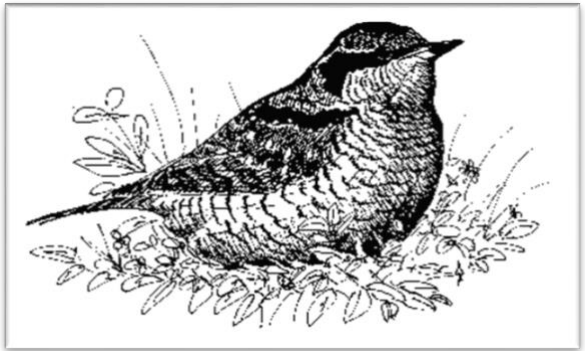
No proof of breeding was received.

Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

Vagrant to the area

Lucky members had one in their back gardens at Mill St, Elsing on 30th Aug (C&FN, A&CJ).



Wryneck, by Steve Cale

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

Rare resident. Red listed.

There were reports of a bird drumming in the Sparham / Lyng area on 4 dates between 25th Feb and 17th Mar but unfortunately the bird was never seen (CS).

The only other report was from SMHOT on 28th & 30th Mar (BS, DN).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders. Green listed.

Single figure counts were recorded throughout the year from 47 sites with breeding proven at Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Honingham, Lenwade, Pensthorpe 2 pairs and Twyford.

Green Woodpecker *Picis viridis*

Fairly common resident. Green listed.

More often heard than seen but recorded throughout the year from 33 sites with breeding proven in Honingham where a juv was recorded during July & Aug (DL).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Amber listed.

This widespread little raptor was recorded throughout the year from 60 sites with breeding proven at Bylaugh, raised 3 young (RG,PA,ZS), Neatherd Moor, Dereham 2 fledged young, Swanton Morley 5 eggs laid and at least 2 young fledged (BM) and Taverham Mill 5 young fledged (ZS,RG).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.

First recorded on 9th Apr at Pensthorpe (SC, DN) then from a further 15 sites until 16th Oct at Honingham (PA).

No proof of breeding received.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Green listed.

Bred on Norwich Cathedral (ZS) but also reported from 10 sites to Pensthorpe where one put up 20 Meadow Pipits on 20th March.

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

Rare naturalised resident or escape.

All records are from the Lower Hellesdon & Costessey area with a max on 10 on 4th Sept (LK).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Fairly common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Recorded from 46 sites throughout the whole area. Highest counts were 10 on HBW in Jan & Sept, 12 Haveringland Hall Park in Sept and 22 Cawston Heath in Mar.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded from 31 sites throughout the whole area. Highest counts were 18 Cawston Heath in Mar, 19 Neatherd Moor, Dereham in Nov, 10 Gt Witchingham Common in Jan, 11 Pensthorpe in Dec. Nesting reported from Potters Fen 4 pairs (PA) and Neatherd Moor, Dereham (BH).

Many reports from gardens, something that would never have happened in the author's youth!

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Becoming the most common corvid with 110 in N Elmham in June & Aug, 200 in Aug & 125 in Sept at Pensthorpe and a massive 5000 at Brisley in Feb (PJ).

Breeding reported from 6 sites, mainly in nest boxes erected for other species.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Many double figure counts from across the area but the only 100+ counts were 200 Lyng in Nov and 380 in Jan, 116 in June and 150 in Aug at Pensthorpe.

Large mixed flocks of Rook and Jackdaws were 400 in Worthing in Jan and 400+ at Longham in Dec.

Reports of breeding were 48 nests at Gateley 48 pairs (SCo), Hockering c20, Honingham c25 (PA) and Worthing 10 max (DK).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded from 23 sites throughout the whole area. Highest counts were 22 at Buxton Heath in Jan, 26 at Haveringland Hall Park in Oct and 100 on HBW in Dec.

The only reported breeding was of 6 pairs Potters Fen, Dereham (PA).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

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

In Jan there were 4 in Norwich on 1st (IB,PR) and 2 in Dereham on 15th (W&TB). On 31st Dec there were 2 in Colkirk (IB,PR).

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded from 23 sites throughout the whole area.

Proof of breeding came from Lenwade and Pensthorpe.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Recorded from 22 sites throughout the whole area. Highest counts were 5 Pensthorpe on 22nd Nov (SCh,SCo) and 5+ SMHOT on 24th Oct (LB).

Although reported from more sites than in 2018 CS reported a “worrying decline” at Sparham Hall Farm.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

The highest counts of the year were 37 at Pensthorpe on 24th Jan and c30 at Gt Witchingham Common on 31st Aug.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Highest count was 27 at Pensthorpe on 2nd Dec.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Rare visitor to the valley. **Green listed.**

A single record of 4 at SMHOT on 24th Oct (LB).

Woodlark

Lallula arborea

Scarce summer visitor.

Green listed.

Most records from the Buxton, Cawston, Marsham Heaths area with a max of 6 on 15th Feb (SCh *et al*). In the west of the area one Castle Acre on 19th Oct (SCo).



Woodlark, taken by Steve Chapman

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

Highest counts in the early part of the year were 40+ Lyng Easthaugh, 25 Bittering GP and 20+ Old Beetley in Jan then c25 Easton/Colton in Feb.

During the breeding season there were 18 singing males at Twyford (SCo) and probably 20 pairs on Sparham Hall Farm with "8 pairs on just one small hillside that they particularly like" (CS).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

The first record of the year was on 1st Mar at Rawhall GP (DN) without another until 1st Apr at Haveringland Hall Park (SCh) then numbers rose rapidly with 100 at Swanton Morley GP on 7th Apr (BH).

About 200 pairs bred at Lyng Easthaugh.

Last record of the year was 2 at Pensthorpe on 3rd Sept (SCh,PA).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

The first record of the year was 5 on 3rd Apr at Sparham Hall Farm.

Records of breeding were 3 pairs Lyng Easthaugh which all raised 3 broods, 8 pairs at Swanton Morley fledge at least 30 young and 5 pairs at Themelthorpe raised 46 young. There is a strong association with livestock.

Numbers were relatively low with no large roosts being recorded. Highest counts were 25 Lyng, 30+ Sparham Pools, 35 Pensthorpe and 40 Daffy Green.

Last record of the year was 3 at Castle Acre on 19th Oct (SCo).

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber listed.

The first record of the year was 1 on 6th Apr at Sparham Hall Farm.

Breeding records came from Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham 6pr, 4 of which had second broods (BP) and Potters Fen (PA).

Significant counts were c20 Honingham and 26 at Pensthorpe in July, 40 HBW and 22 Neatherd Moor, Dereham in Aug when 100+ Swanton Morley on 7th then 50 Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham on 11th Sept.

Last record of the year was 1 at Longham on 14th Oct (SP).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Rare resident expanding its range through valley. Green listed.

Recorded from 13 sites along the valley. The highest count was 7 at Pensthorpe on 9th Apr.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded from 42 sites throughout the whole area.

Highest counts were 44 at Pensthorpe on 6th Nov, 30 at Honingham on 27th June, 28 at Sparham Hall Farm on 6th Nov and 27 on HBW on 17th Nov. Proof of breeding was reported from Alderford, Pensthorpe, Swanton Morley, Syderstone Common and Twyford.



Long-tailed Tit, taken by Barry Pummell

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first record of the year was 1 on 5th Apr at Swanton Morley GP (DN).

Recorded from 19 sites with highest counts 15+ at Sparham Pools on 23rd Apr and 10 at Haveringland Hall Park on 12th Apr. Last record was at Deighton Hills, Taverham on 23rd Oct (NE).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Birds wintered at both Bylaugh and Dereham SWs in Jan & Feb. There was also 1 at Worthing on 17th Feb and another at Neatherd Moor, Dereham on 28th Feb. Another was at SMHOT on 4th Mar but the main influx started from 15th Mar.

Recorded from 48 sites with highest counts 13 Pensthorpe 30th Apr & 8th Aug, 13 Twyford 21st May and 12+ at Sparham Pools on 23rd Apr. Proof of breeding was received from Longham and Pensthorpe.

Final records of the year came from Pensthorpe when 2 on 1st Nov and 1 on 6th Nov.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Vagrant.

A single record – one at Pensthorpe on 6th May (DN).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

The first record of the year was 1 on 6th Apr at Earlham Park (MW). Recorded from 10 sites with the highest count 7 on 30th Apr at Pensthorpe (PR,MS).

The last record of the year was one on 21st Aug at SMHOT (DL).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

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

The first record of the year was 1 on 21st Apr at SMHOT (DN). Recorded from 9 sites with double figure counts of 15 at Bintree Mill on 18th July (SCo) and 15 at Pensthorpe on 5th July (MS,SCh).

Proof of breeding was received from Pensthorpe and Swanton Morley GP.

The last record of the year was 2 on 3rd Sept at Pensthorpe (SCh,PA).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red listed.

A single record – one was reeling at SMHOT on 27th Apr (DN).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

A male was in a Honingham garden on several dates from 22nd Jan to 6th Feb (DL) and a female in Costessey on 2nd Feb (AG). This was followed by a singing male at Potters Fen on 6th Mar and a non-singing male on 8th Mar at Honingham.

The main influx started on 28th Mar and records came from 39 sites with the highest counts of 10 on both HBW on 21st Apr and Alderford Common on 20th May 18 on 9th July at Pensthorpe.

Proof of breeding came from Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Honingham and Pensthorpe.

There were 3 Oct records then a male at Honingham on 9th Nov (DL), a female Old Costessey on 5th Dec (AB) and the last on 13th Dec in Dereham (BH).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green listed.

The first record was 2 at Swanton Morley on 17th Apr (IB). Records came from 16 sites with up to 4 birds.

The last record was from Pensthorpe on 29th Aug (AHu,SCo).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Vagrant.

A single record of one at Neatherd Moor, Dereham on 6th Sept (BH). It is not known whether this record was submitted to Norfolk Rarities Committee.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Scarce summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

The first record of the year was 1 on 26th Apr at Sparham Hall Farm (CS). Reported from 9 sites with “3 singing males, + a (family?) group of 4 together” at Twyford on 21st May (SCo).

The last record was 1 at Neatherd Moor, Dereham on 16th Sept (BH).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Common summer resident. Green listed.

The first record was from Bintree on 16th Apr (DN). Reported from 25 sites with breeding proven at Brandiston (SB) and N Elmham where 12 in 3 broods (BH).

The last record was of 2 at Castle Acre on 20th Sept (SCo).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

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

A single record – 1 Cawston Heath on 26th Apr (SB).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

Recorded throughout the year from 26 sites.

The highest count was 15 on St Faith’s Common on 24th Jan otherwise 1 – 6 from all other sites.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common resident. Green listed.

This ubiquitous species was recorded from 38 sites with max double figure counts from Pensthorpe 17, Twyford 12, Haveringland Hall Park 14 and Cawston Heath 25. All in Mar to May.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Up to 4 birds were recorded from 28 sites. The only proof of breeding came from the regular monitoring of Pensthorpe where there were 3 singing males on 9th Apr.



Nuthatch, by Gil Brooking

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Fairly common resident. **Green listed.**

Up to 6 birds were recorded from 20 sites. The only proof of breeding came from the regular monitoring of Pensthorpe.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident. **Red listed.**

Records were received from 30 sites but breeding noted only at Neatherd Moor and Potters Fen Dereham. There were only 2 counts in excess of 100: 2000 among pigs at Brick Kiln Farm, Dereham on 6th Feb (DN) and 130 at Neatherd Moor, Dereham on 1st Nov (BH).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Very rare passage migrant. **Red listed.**

A male was at Swanton Morley GP on 18th Apr then up to 3 birds were on Cawston Heath between 25th and 28th Apr (JH). Possibly one of these was still present on 5th May (SCh).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

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

Counts of 20 or more came from Gateley, Longham and Pensthorpe where the max was 31 on 24th Jan. A leucistic bird was at Scarning Water Meadows on 3rd Jan.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

During the first winter period there were several counts over 100. In Jan there were 300 at Sparham Hall Farm and c120 at both Beetley and Easton.

In Feb 125 were still at Sparham Hall Farm but there were then no significant counts until Apr when 120 at Beetley on 14th, then the last records of the spring 120 Bintree & 180 Sparham Hall Farm on 22nd.

The first returning birds were 2 on 3rd Oct over Costessey which had the highest autumn count of c170. The only other counts over 100 were 150 Pensthorpe on 6th Nov and 120 Gt Witchingham on 13th Dec.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

During the first winter period significant counts were c200 West Raynham on 6th Jan, 34 SMHOT on 26th Jan, 25 Pensthorpe on 12th Feb & 20th Mar and 50 Haveringland Hall Park on 23rd Mar.

Last record of the spring was 7 at Pensthorpe on 17th Apr.

The return passage started on 3rd Oct when 2 over Castle Acre and an impressive 511 were counted over Costessey between 7.00 and 7.30hrs. The next day 200+ were at Lyng, 280 went over Cawston Heath on 15th Oct followed by 126 next day. c300 were at Buxton Heath on 20th Oct, 150 were noted as "fog bound" at Sparham Hall Farm on 24th Oct. The only record of 50 or more after this was 50+ at Longham on 31st Dec.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Red listed.

Encouragingly reported from 46 sites, 32 of which were during the breeding season. Proof of breeding came from Honingham, Pensthorpe and Worthing. Highest count was 13 at Sparham Pools area on 29th Jan.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident. Red listed.

Recorded from 36 sites throughout the year and the area with highest counts 15 at Sparham Hall Farm on 17th Sept and 12 Pensthorpe on 3rd Oct.

Proof of breeding came from Worthing.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Fairly common but declining summer visitor. Red listed.

First recorded on 12th May at Honingham (DL) and Sparham Hall Farm (CS). Reported from 11 sites with proof of breeding from Gt Witchingham, Lyng (where unsuccessful), Reepham and Sparham Hall Farm.

Last record was on 19th Sept at Pensthorpe (ID,BP).

*Spotted Flycatcher,
taken by Steve Connor*



Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

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



This ubiquitous species was recorded from 36 sites with proof of successful breeding 6 sites.

Max double figure counts were 12 singing males Twyford on 21st May, 16 Haveringland Hall Park on 22nd Oct, 21 Pensthorpe on 17th Oct and 23 Cawston Heath on 19th March.

Robin, taken by Don Pearson

Pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Very scarce passage migrant. Red listed.

A single record 29th Aug in Honingham (DL).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

Two records Briston on 27th Mar (SCh, DN) and Norwich on 27th & 29th June (PR).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
Very scarce passage migrant.
Red listed.

At Neatherd Moor, Dereham there were 2 on 29th Aug then 3 on 2nd Sept (BH). 2 were at Castle Acre on 5th Sept (SCo).

Whinchat,
taken by Steve Connor



Stonechat

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

Recorded from 8 sites mainly in winter months but with breeding at one and 3 pairs at another.

Stonechat, taken by
Steve Chapman



Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe
Scarce passage migrant.

Green listed.

One at Whissonsett on 15th Apr was followed by singles at both Brandiston and Cawston Heath on 18th Apr then one at Sculthorpe Airfield on 6th May.

Wheatear, by Steve Cale



House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

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

Sites with 30 or more birds include Daffy Green 48, Longham 35, Lyng 40, N Tuddenham 40, Pensthorpe 50, and Potters Fen, Dereham 30.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded throughout the area with max of 11 at Pensthorpe in Jan & Mar. Proof of breeding was only reported from Dereham (BH) and Potters Fen (PA).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

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

Only 3 records and the first and last were fly-overs: Bintree Mill on 16th Apr (DN), Brandiston on 23rd May (SB) and Costessey 18th Aug (AG).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Recorded from 22 sites, primarily at mills on the rivers in the breeding season and sewage works in the winter.

Bred at Bintree and Sparham Hall Farm.

Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail) *Motacilla alba*

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

Recorded throughout the area and the year with gatherings at sewerage works of 30 Bylaugh in Jan & Feb, and 20 Dereham in Jan.

Significant roosts were 225 at Longwater, Costessey in Feb and at Guist Common 135 in Feb dropping to 40 to 50 in Mar & Apr. A male White Wagtail was at Old Beetley on 5th Apr.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

Recorded from 17 sites outside the breeding season. Double figure counts were Beetley 10, Castle Acre 18, Cawston Heath 20, Costessey Marshes 12, Neatherd Moor, Dereham 14, Guist 10, N Tuddenham 25, Pensthorpe 20, Pudding Norton Ham 18 and Sparham Hall Farm 25.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common resident. Green listed.

Recorded throughout the area and the year with the max count at Pensthorpe of 70 on 24th Jan.

Elsewhere there were 40 at Castle Acre on 15th Oct and 20 at Cawston Heath on 19th Mar.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Green listed.

Recorded from 17 sites in single figures except for 10 Litcham, 12 Brandiston & 50 Bintree in Jan and 30 Haveringland Hall park in Mar. The last first winter record was 13th Apr and first autumn record was 5th Oct both in a Lenwade garden.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Single figure records came from 29 sites and proof of breeding from Dereham, Honingham and SMHOT.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded from 27 sites in single figures except for 11 Taverham, 12 Dereham, 14 Honingham and 15 Pensthorpe. A comment on the scarcity of this species from CS at Sparham Hall Farm "2 That was my year max. Only saw Greenfinch on 3 days. Blimey!"

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Fairly common resident. **Red listed.**

Recorded from 32 sites throughout the year. There were several wintering flocks in excess of 100: Neatherd Moor Dereham 270 in Nov, Bintree 150 in Feb, Bittering 200 in Jan & 250 in Oct, Bylaugh 130 in Dec, Gt Witchingham c150 in Dec, Lyng 100 in Oct, Pensthorpe 225 in Nov and Sparham Hall Farm 150 in Sept.

Common Redpoll (Mealy Redpoll) *Acanthis flammea*

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

Five were in a mixed flock at Pensthorpe on 12th Feb (SCo,PA), then 2 at Ringland Common on 2nd Mar (SCh) and 2 at SMHOT on 28th Mar (BS).

Lesser Redpoll (Common Redpoll) *Acanthis cabaret*

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

Recorded from just 6 sites during Jan to Mar then Nov & Dec. Most records came from SMHOT where up to 8 in Feb.

Elsewhere there 3 at both Foxley Wood and Ringland Common in Jan, 20 at Pensthorpe in Feb and 3 at N Elmham in Mar.

One was at Pensthorpe in Nov and 3 at Ringland Common in Dec.

Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*

Very rare vagrant.

One was at SMHOT from 17th Feb to 28th Mar (DN *et al*).

Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

Very scarce resident and irruptive winter visitor. Green listed.

A pair were at St Faith's Common, Horsford on 24th Jan (DN,SCh).



Crossbill, by Gil Brooking

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident. Green listed.

Recorded from 32 sites throughout the area and the year with the max counts of 120 at Scarning in Jan and at Pensthorpe of 66 in Nov.

Proof of breeding came from Dereham, Honingham and Sparham Pools.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

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

Recorded from 17 sites, mainly in single figures, but during Jan there were 50 + at Gt Witchingham Common, 40 at Fakenham Common, 30 at both Costessey Pits and Pensthorpe and c10 at SMHOT.

During Oct c30 were at Haveringland Hall Park and 20 at Swanton Morley GP in Dec.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

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

Recorded from 38 sites throughout the area and the year, mainly in single figures, with the max count of 60 at N Tuddenham Church in Jan. Double figure counts came from another 11 sites.

Proof of breeding was only reported from Sparham Pools NR (DL).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded from 27 sites throughout the year in single figures except for 10 Upper Guist in March and in bird food strips on Sparham Hall Farm where 50 in Oct rose to 120 in Dec. A male came to a garden feeder in Lenwade from 21st Feb until 17th Mar.

Proof of breeding came from Pensthorpe and Swanton Morley GP.

Escapes

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

Harris Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Texas to S South America

One at Bintree on 26th Mar.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanus*

Himalayas

One at Colkirk on 17th Apr.

Contributors to Systematic List

Paul Adams	David Laurie
Sacha Barbato	Josh Leeder
Ian Black	Emily Leonard
Phil Borley	Bernie Marsham
Liz Bridge	Phil Matthews & Linda Trench
Ian Brittain	Mike McCarthy
Andrew Brown	Nigel Mears
Wendy & Trevor Brown	Nigel Middleton
Sue Bryan	Charles & Fran Neale
Steve Chapman (SCh)	Alan Nobbs
Steve Connor (SCo)	David Norgate
Rosie Dickens	Richard & Beryl Norris
Alan Dixon	Brenda & Seamus O'Dowd
Ian Doble	Steph Plaster
Nick Edwards	Barry Pummell
Alan Fordham	Paul Riley
Rob Fuller	Cath Robinson
Adrian Gardiner	Charles Sayer
David Gibbons	Jody Sayer
Ray & Chris Gribble	Bill Shepherd
Allan Hale	Zoe Smith
Philip Harvey	Tony & Marralyn Sneesby
Andrew Howard	Stewart South
Chris Hudson	Richard Spowage
Alan & Janet Hughes	Martin Spriggs
Bob Hunter	Chris Stone
Alwyn & Carole Jackson	Jeni Willis
Paul Jeffery	Mary Walker
Laura King	Alec Waller
David Knight	

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 2019

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Common Tern	5 th Apr	Swanton Morley GP	DN	14 th Aug	Pensthorpe	ID, BP
Turtle Dove	3 rd May	Gateley	SCo	16 th Sept	Site withheld	SCo
Cuckoo	16 th Apr	Sparham Pools	SCh	16 th July	Pensthorpe	SCo, CH
Swift	5 th May	Honingham	DL	26 th Sept	Scarning	IB
Hobby	9 th Apr	Pensthorpe	SCh, DN	16 th Oct	Honingham	PA
Sand Martin	1 st Mar	Rawhall GP	DN	3 rd Sept	Pensthorpe	SCh, PA
Swallow	3 rd Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	19 th Oct	Castle Acre	SCo
House Martin	6 th Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	14 th Oct	Longham	SP
Willow Warbler	5 th Apr	Swanton Morley GP	DN	23 rd Oct	Taverham	DE
Blackcap	6 th Mar	Potters Fen	PA	9 th Nov	Honingham	DL
Garden Warbler	17 th Apr	Swanton Morley GP	IB	29 th Aug	Pensthorpe	AHu, SCo
Lesser Whitethroat	26 th Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	16 th Sept	Neatherd Moor	BH
Whitethroat	16 th Apr	Bintree	DN	20 th Sept	Castle Acre	SCo
Sedge Warbler	6 th Apr	Norwich	MW	21 st Aug	SMHOT	DL

(continues)

Earliest & Latest dates of Summer Migrants 2017
(continued)

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Reed Warbler	21 st Apr	SMHOT	DN	3 rd Sept	Pensthorpe	SCh, PA
Spotted Flycatcher	12 th May	Honingham Sparham Hall Farm	DL CS	19 th Sept	Pensthorpe	ID, BP

Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors 2019

Species	Latest	Location	Obs.	Earliest	Location	Obs.
Goosander	10 th Mar	Sparham Pools	CS			
Golden Plover	11 th Apr	Bittering	DN	22 nd Sept	Cawston Heath	SCh
Fieldfare	22 nd Apr	Sparham Hall Farm Bintree Mill	CS DN	3 rd Oct	Costessey	AG
Redwing	17 th Apr	Pensthorpe	ID, BP	3 rd Oct	Costessey Castle Acre	AG SCo
Brambling	13 th Apr	Lenwade	RG	5 th Oct	Lenwade	RG

WVBS 2019 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 2019

My thanks to all the ringers that operated in the WVBS study area during 2019 for access to their records and the public for reporting ringed birds.

Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2019

Corncrake

First year male	17 - July - 2018	Gateley
Caught by ringer	18 - July - 2019	Gasthorpe (40km S)

First year male	30 - July - 2018	Gateley
Caught by ringer	24 - June - 2019	Wyndham (23km SSE)

These will be 2 of the Corncrakes bred at Pensthorpe and released in the Gateley area

Black-headed Gull

First year	30 - Dec - 1996	Norwich
Alive ring read	31 - Dec - 2019	Huizen, Noord - Holland, Netherlands (271km E)

This bird was recorded 15 times in Netherlands during subsequent winters after being ringed in Norwich. It is showing typical behaviour of a bird wintering further east, and closer to its breeding area, once adult. Note this bird was 23 years and 1 day between ringing and last recorded.

Marsh Tit

First year 9 - Feb - 2013 Kettlestone

Caught by ringer 24 - Nov - 2019 Kettlestone

This bird was retrapped every year between first and last captures showing strong site fidelity and at 6y 9m 15d it compares to the oldest recorded at 11y 3m.

Sand Martin

First year 08 - July - 2018 South Milton Ley, Devon

Caught by ringer 03 - July - 2019 Coxford (424km NE)

Sand Martins frequently change breeding colonies.

Cetti's Warbler

Adult Female 05 - May - 2016 Pensthorpe

Caught by ringer 18 - July - 2019 Pensthorpe

This bird was caught each year between first and last captures thus showing site fidelity.

Long-tailed Tit

Full grown 17 - Oct - 2014 Horsford Woods

Caught by ringer 13 - Nov - 2019 Horsford Woods

With 5 years and 27 days between first and last captures this compares with the longevity record of 8 years and 11 months.

Reed Warbler

Juvenile 31 - Aug - 2018 Pensthorpe

Caught by ringer 14 - Aug - 2019 Pett Level, Sussex (213km S)

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

Norfolk Ornithologists' Association – Hempton Marsh Report

Thanks to our grant from the Goldcrest Charitable Trust, it has been possible for Hempton Marsh to be monitored by an Assistant Warden throughout the year. 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.

BIRDS

The first visit in **January** occurred on the 1st, with three Teal, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard all making an appearance. Also present were Marsh Tit, Jay and a lone Brambling. The regular roost of corvids was seen on the 4th, with 300 Jackdaws and 40 Rooks noted flying over, while around the reserve finches were seen in good numbers – 130 Goldfinches, 15 Siskins, four Lesser Redpolls, 25 Chaffinches and a single Brambling were noted. Other interest included a Green Woodpecker, two Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Woodcock, Tawny Owl, 32 Blackbirds, Fieldfare, Mistle Thrush and eight Redwings. Three Jays were seen on the 10th, and birds on the 11th included 80 or more Goldfinches, 12 Siskins, 30 Chaffinches and four Redwings. The first Treecreeper of the year was noted on the 17th, and a further group of nine Redwings was seen on the 21st. A clear and bright day on the 26th produced four Buzzards and Sparrowhawk, while birds around the feeders included 71 Goldfinches, nine Siskins, four Bramblings, Greenfinch and 18 Chaffinches, with two Nuthatches also noted. Five Bramblings and a Red-legged Partridge were of interest on the 31st, bringing the month to a close.

February began quietly, but six Moorhens were seen on the 2nd, and the first Egyptian Geese were present on the 9th with two on the grazing marsh, and a Cormorant was seen overhead. A Grey Heron was present on the 14th, and six Buzzards were counted on the 21st, with Little Egret, Cormorant and two Common Gulls also present. Four Greylag Geese, Canada Goose, Grey Heron, Kingfisher and a single Siskin were noted

on the 23rd with four Siskins present on the 28th. Other interest then included 12 Goldfinches, a Redpoll sp., the first Reed Bunting of the year, Nuthatch and Sparrowhawk.

Wildfowl were still present at the start of **March** with three Mute Swans, four Greylag Geese, two Canada Geese, two Egyptian Geese and three Mallard present on the 1st, when the first Chiffchaff was heard singing. Interest on the 5th included Grey Heron, Little Egret, two Sparrowhawks, Chiffchaff, four Siskins, two Redpolls and two Bullfinches. A Green Woodpecker was heard on the 21st, Chiffchaff was seen or heard regularly to the end of the month with two present on the 23rd, and a Brambling and Green Woodpecker again were the highlights of a visit on the 30th.

The arrival of migrants was fairly slow moving into **April**, with three Chiffchaffs recorded on the 4th, but the first Blackcaps were not recorded until the 11th when two were present. Two Reed Buntings were also present on the 11th, and a Bullfinch on the 12th, when two Treecreepers and two Nuthatches were recorded. On the 13th, the first Red Kite and Marsh Harrier were recorded over the grazing marsh, with two Grey Herons also present, and two Collared Doves were unusual. Three Stock Doves were seen on the 18th, and the first Cuckoo was recorded on the 26th, but interest was otherwise rather limited towards the end of the month.

Two Blackcaps and three Chiffchaffs were present on the 2nd as **May** began, but the first Willow Warbler was not recorded until the 5th. A House Martin was seen on the 16th, and the first Whitethroat was seen on the 19th, when two Great Spotted Woodpeckers were present as well as a single Stock Dove. An Oystercatcher flew down river on the 23rd, when the first Swift of the year was noted; four Blackcaps and three Chiffchaffs were singing on the same date. Sedge Warbler and Mistle Thrush were noted on the 25th, and again on the 28th, when a pair of Reed Buntings were present on the edge of the grazing marsh.

A Sparrowhawk, three Black-headed Gulls, Herring Gull, Green Woodpecker, Blackcap and two Chiffchaffs were the best of **June** 1st. A Sedge Warbler was singing again on the 5th, when four Greylag Geese

and a Grey Heron were also seen. A Mistle Thrush was present again on the 5th, with five Swifts also of interest, and a Cuckoo was heard on the 7th. The first Garden Warbler was recorded on the 13th, and three Bullfinches were near the river on the 15th, with Reed Bunting, Nuthatch and four Swifts also seen. Two House Martins and a Cuckoo were seen on the 21st, when a Kestrel was hunting over the marsh and a Cetti's Warbler was heard from the meander, with Reed Warbler and Whitethroat also singing. A Garden Warbler was heard again on the 29th.

In **July**, six Swifts, two Blackcaps and eight Chiffchaffs were noted on the 4th, and a Cetti's Warbler was heard again on the 6th. A vocal Green Woodpecker was present on the 11th, and regularly to the end of the month. Two Bullfinches were seen on the 12th and 13th, and three Jays on the 12th was the highest count for the month. On the 17th, at least ten Swifts, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and two Bullfinches were again of interest. Ten Swifts and two Stock Doves were seen on the 20th with a Red Kite also of note.

Two Marsh Harriers were the best of the 1st as **August** began, with two Swallows, four Chaffinches and two Bullfinches also seen around the reserve. Swallows continued to be seen feeding along the river and over the marsh throughout the month. Six Swallows on the 8th were joined by 30 or more Herring Gulls anting, and four Swallows on the 15th were joined by ten House Martins. Otherwise it was a quiet period, but two Collared Doves on the 24th were unusual, and three Chiffchaffs were seen on the 28th.

September started off similarly quiet, with six House Martins and a Stock Dove on the 5th providing the first interest. A Sparrowhawk, Buzzard and Moorhen were noted on the 12th, with Great Spotted Woodpecker and five Jays also recorded. A Cetti's Warbler was heard singing again on the 14th, with a single House Martin seen near the entrance, and a Grey Heron was seen on the 19th. A visit on the 25th saw Grey Heron, Green Woodpecker, House Martin, Cetti's Warbler and Marsh Tit recorded, and a Coal Tit was on the feeders on the 30th.

As **October** began, Little Grebe was heard along the river on the 3rd, a Grey Heron was on the marsh, and a Collared Dove was around the feeders. Two Great Spotted Woodpeckers were recorded on the 10th, and the first rise in finch numbers came on the 11th, when ten Goldfinches were noted in the canopy. Autumn remained stubbornly quiet on the reserve, and interest was largely restricted to Little Grebes, of which there were two on the 19th and 29th, Egyptian Geese with two on the 19th and 21st, and a Goldcrest heard on the 19th. Two Nuthatches were seen on most visits.

Two Greylags returned to the marsh on **November** 1st. Numbers of woodland species rose steadily throughout the month, with Nuthatches and Treecreepers seen on most visits. More interest arrived from the 5th, when a Little Egret was present on the marsh, and three Woodcock on the 8th were a good early winter count. A Kingfisher was seen on the 20th heading upriver with a Meadow Pipit flying over on the same date, and larger groups of Long-tailed Tits became more apparent. Thirty Redwings over on the 23rd were the first of the autumn. On the 29th, three Buzzards, at least eight Redwings, Mistle Thrush, two Coal Tits, two Jays, 60 Goldfinches and at least two Siskins were seen around the reserve.

The first visit of **December** (4th) produced two Red-legged Partridges, Grey Heron, a Pied Wagtail along the river and two Chaffinches. The following day, both Green Woodpecker and Tawny Owl were heard. Two Egyptian Geese were present on the 12th, and a single Redwing on the 16th. Little Grebe and Red Kite were of note on the 18th, while two Little Egrets and three Marsh Tits on the 28th were of interest. Seven Chaffinches were seen on the 29th, with Marsh Tit, Coal Tit, Nuthatch and Grey Heron also recorded. On the 31st, 12 Long-tailed Tits, Marsh Tit, Nuthatch, Jay, two Chaffinches, 14 Redwings, Green Woodpecker, two Woodcock, two Marsh Harriers and Cormorant were all of interest to finish the year.

INSECTS

March remained largely quiet for invertebrate records but the first butterflies of the year were noted on the 30th, with Small Tortoiseshell

(*Aglais urticae*), Peacock (*Inachis io*), Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*), Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) and Orange-tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) all seen on this date. The first Small White (*Pieris rapae*) was seen on **April** 18th, followed by Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegaria*) on the 26th.

Green-veined Whites (*Pieris napi*) made their first appearance on **May** 19th, with Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) out on the 23rd. Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) and Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*) had emerged by the 25th, and the first Comma (*Polytonia c-album*) was noted on the 30th.

Red Admirals (*Vanessa atalanta*) were noted from **June** 1st, with Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) arriving on the 21st, the latter species being seen frequently for the rest of the summer. The first Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) was noted on the 22nd, Broad-bodied Chaser (*Libellula depressa*) appeared on the 27th, and the first Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) was seen on the 29th.

A Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) was present on **July** 4th, and was followed on the 5th by the first records of Large White (*Pieris brassicae*), Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*), Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) and Large Skipper (*Ochlodes sylvanus*). Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*) was recorded from the 11th, and the first Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) of the year was seen on the 18th. Southern Hawkers (*Aeshna cyanea*) were recorded regularly from the 26th.

The last of the butterflies and dragonflies to emerge was Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*), first recorded on **August** 8th and finally seen on **October** 27th.

Another successful annual moth event was enjoyed on July 20th. The weather overnight and on the day wasn't ideal, but despite this there was an excellent catch of 546 moths of 107 species. Highlights included Purple Clay (*Diarsia brunnea*), ten Ruby Tigers (*Phragmatobia fuliginosa*), Garden Tiger (*Arctia caja*), ten Small Magpies (*Anania hortulata*), Black-neck (*Lygephila pastinum*), Minor Shoulder-Knot (*Brachylomia viminalis*), two Engraileds (*Ecroptis crepuscularia*) and Snout (*Hypona proboscidalis*). High counts included 75 Mother of Pearls

(*Patania ruralis*), 46 Dingy Footman (*Eilema griseola*), 20 Clouded Borders (*Lomaspilis marginata*), and 18 Poplar Hawkmoths (*Laothoe populi*).

MAMMALS

A more interesting year than 2018 for mammal records included a Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) on January 21st, with two noted on May 24th. Two Chinese Water Deer (*Hydropotes inermis*) were of interest on December 6th. After being absent last year, Bank Voles (*Myodes glareolus*) returned to the records from February 1st, and were seen fairly regularly thereafter. Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and Reeves's Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) were recorded on most visits with up to three of each seen, and a fawn of the latter was seen on April 4th. There were no records of Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*).

David Bratt
Assistant Warden

Pensthorpe Constant Effort Site

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

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

Data from Pensthorpe CES 2019

The number of new birds caught this year (219) was virtually identical to that of the previous year (217), but it was a significant drop on the number of new birds caught in 2017 (298). Similarly, when comparing the total of both new and re-trapped birds, the 2019 figure is again almost identical to that of 2018: 299 versus 304. Catching conditions in 2019 were generally good, and the fact we only managed ten visits this year, compared to eleven last year, made this a marginally better season.

To start on a positive note, those species up this year included Reed and Sedge Warblers which both showed a small but noticeable increase in numbers, while Chiffchaff, Greenfinch and Dunnock were double the number caught the previous year. Species showing a degree of stability included Wren, Blackbird and Cetti's Warbler, the last again breeding successfully at the site. On the downside, species showing a drop in number included Blackcap, with numbers a mere third of the total caught

the previous year. Both Reed Bunting and Garden Warbler numbers were halved, and Willow Warbler was down by a third. Owing to the small numbers of some species that are caught, comparisons must be made with a degree of caution.

A Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) was seen and heard in one of the reedbeds on May 6th, and the record was submitted for ratification.

An ongoing issue is the height of the vegetation at the ringing site, with the scheme allowing for a degree of habitat maintenance to maximize catching efficiency. The previous wet winter and spring unfortunately meant limited opportunities to access the area prior to the start of the CES sessions, with a similar problem in 2018. This is important as the vegetation gains height, and in many areas it has become taller than the nets, which means the birds then avoid them.

Comparison with Breeding Bird Survey Data 2019

The CES project relies on the input from sites across the country which are based in a variety of habitats and locations. In past years we have used these national CES data to try to put into context the changes we have experienced at Pensthorpe. Unfortunately, this year we are unable to do this, but a short extract below from the 2019 Breeding Bird Survey provides at least some support for our Willow Warbler data, and offers an explanation for the species' decline, although the result for Blackcap is more positive than the Pensthorpe data suggest.

The Breeding Survey comments that "Willow Warbler is part of the 'long distance migrant' group undergoing long-term decline, where changes to wintering and migration grounds are thought to be having a negative impact. In addition, egg-laying dates are a week earlier and changes in productivity vary across regions, with declines seen particularly in southern England and the Midlands, and increases revealed in Scotland. Likewise, between the 1960s and 2000s, the laying date for Blackcap has advanced by 18 days. Again, this is thought to be

influenced by climate change. Blackcap does not migrate nearly as far as Willow Warbler and has a varied diet, even taking advantage of garden feeding stations in colder spells. Blackcap continues to increase across the English regions.”

Second Site at Pensthorpe

As with previous years, extra nets were erected when time and manpower allowed, adjacent to the CES site. This resulted in a further 88 new birds being ringed and a total of 115 birds were processed when 27 re-traps are included. New birds ringed included 12 Reed Warblers and 12 Chiffchaff, plus singles of Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Bullfinch, Marsh Tit and Garden Warbler. Four Black-headed Gull and four Treecreeper nestlings (pulli) were also ringed.

Gary Elton
Assistant Warden

Reference: Harris, SJ, *et al*, 2020. The Breeding Bird Survey 2019. BTO Research Report 726. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.

Pensthorpe Natural Park 2019 Wildlife Report

The year started well with signs of a potentially good breeding season but deteriorated with flooding in June and later throughout the winter months. The biggest casualty of the flooding was the loss of two broods of Avocet which were unable to escape the sudden rise in water on the scrape making 2019 an unsuccessful year for this species.

In total we recorded 564 different species of flora and fauna this year (601 in 2018) including 135 species of bird (131 in 2018), 163 species of plant (165 in 2018), 123 species of moth (161 in 2018), 21 butterflies (23 in 2018), 18 Odonata (same as 2018).

Birds included our regular visitors but also a couple of unusual sightings. Little Gull was recorded on the scrape on the 9th April, Great Reed Warbler was seen briefly on the 6th May, Firecrest was seen calling on the drive on the 11th May (later family group seen), the 'bird fair' produced both a Sanderling and two Knot on the 18th May and a single Black Tern was seen on the scrape on the 5th July.

Arrival dates for some of our returning birds included Avocet on 6th March (9th March in 2018), Chiffchaff on 1st March (21st March in 2018), Swallow on 7th April (5th April in 2018), Willow Warbler on 10th April (9th April in 2018), Cuckoo on 22nd April (19th April in 2018) and Swift on 9th May (24th April in 2018).

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

Yellowhammer (breeding)	2017	4 singing birds
	2018	4 singing birds
	2019	3 singing birds
Avocet (breeding)	2017	5 broods produced 13 yng
	2018	7 broods produced 16 yng
	2019	2 sat, 2 broods produced 0 yng (flooded)

Lapwing (breeding)	2017	3 sat, 3 broods produced 5 yng
	2018	3 sat, 2 broods produced 4 yng
	2019	4 sat, 2 broods produced 3 yng
Linnet (winter)	2017	no records of flocks
	2018	max count 55 on 18 th Oct
	2019	max count 120 on 20 th Dec

Other wildlife records of note included first record of Norfolk Hawker but no record of Small Red-eyed Damselfly. A single Wasp Spider was also found on the 22nd July and several new plants were recorded including Common Broomrape and Pyramidal Orchid as well as one new mammal, Chinese Water Deer seen in one of the meadows.



Wasp Spider, taken by Richard Spowage

As reported in 2018 Water Vole numbers remained low, in spring five records of single animals were recorded on the Wensum looking hopeful for a recovery but reports stopped late May, just prior to the return of flooding, continuing to raise questions regarding river level heights. Work did begin with the approval of

Natural England to lower some of the gravel glides created previously to help lower levels, and further work is hopefully planned.

For further information on specific species please contact Pensthorpe Natural Park

The Weather Report for 2019

January

Initially mild, with the first 16 days experiencing only a single air frost. Thereafter it became colder with the first snow of the winter falling on the 17th. A further snowfall on the 30th provided a thin covering in many areas.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	5	0	0	0	0	0	6	14	5

February

Norfolk in common with the rest of the United Kingdom enjoyed a very nice and dry month. A very unusual late winter 'heat wave' developed from 25th – 27th inclusive. The maximum of 18.9c on the 26th just exceeded the local February record of 18.6c recorded in 2012. The southerly wind that brought this warmth also carried dust from the Sahara.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

March

Devoid of air frost and warmer than an average April since the beginning of the 20th century the only other March months devoid of frost in Norfolk were 1912, 1927, 1959 and 2017.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	0	0	0	2	6	12	9	1

April

This was a dry 'easterly, month but still rather mild. Six air frosts and eleven ground frosts prevented spring growth from becoming prematurely advanced. There was slight snowfall on the 13th.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

May

By the end of the month the rainfall total for 2019 was only 73% of the long term average and signs of impending drought were widespread. Norfolk was spared damage due to late spring frost.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	1	4	1	3	0	10	8	3

June

This was a wet month with over double the average rainfall. Although a maximum 29.4c was attained on the 29th the record breaking heat encompassing much of continental Europe barely affected our region. Thunder was heard on the 10th and 19th.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

July

An intense heatwave gripped Norfolk from the 22nd to the 25th inclusive with each day attaining a maximum in excess of 30^oc. On the 25th the reading of 38.7^oc at the Cambridge Botanical Gardens was the all time record for the United Kingdom. A dry month in spite of thunder storms occurring on five days. The storm on the 25th provided a dramatic display of sheet lightning with over 21,000 lightning strikes over East Anglia.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	0	1	1	4	5	11	5	2

August

This was the warmest August in Norfolk since 2003 with the mean maximum temperature of 24.2^oc over 3^oc above normal. Maximum temperatures exceeded 30 ^oc on the 25th, 26th and 27th. Rainfall was only marginally above half the average with thunder heard on 2 days

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

September

Summer conditions ended on an unusually hot day, the 22nd when the maximum reached 26.5^oc. Thereafter the dry conditions yielded to early autumn rains with Briston measuring an exceptional monthly total of 209.3 mm. Thunder was heard on two days.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	1	2	5	7	9	6	0

October

With nearly double the normal monthly rainfall, it was the wettest October since 1993. The first ground frost of autumn was delayed until the 23rd and many areas escaped an air frost.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

November

This was a wet month with rain measured on twenty-three days concluding an autumn with a rainfall excess averaging 70%. There were frequent ground frosts and a notably late leaf-fall.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

December

A dreary month largely dominated by a series of depressions spreading off the Atlantic Ocean. There were ground frosts on thirteen nights but another snowless December.

Wind Direction Summary at 0900 hrs

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

Monthly Summaries for 2019

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	37.7	65	12	17	3.8	- 0.2	3.9
February	34.5	80	12	16	6.6	+2.8	4.0
March	64.1	95	0	6	8.5	+2.6	6.2
April	17.4	36	7	11	9.1	+1.5	7.5
May	40.8	89	0	3	11.9	+0.5	10.8
June	116.9	219	0	0	15.5	+1.2	14.6
July	27.0	48	0	0	18.9	+2.4	16.3
August	29.4	57	0	0	18.6	+2.2	15.4
September	97.5	179	0	0	15.0	+0.7	12.2
October	117.2	199	0	5	10.5	- 0.5	9.5
November	90.8	129	4	12	6.5	- 0.3	5.6
December	79.0	130	5	13	5.9	+1.1	4.6

Annual Summary for 2019

Total Rainfall	752.5 mm (29.62inches) 110% of average	Wettest Day	41.8mm (1.73inches) (10 th June)
Days with rain recorded	176	Days with thunder	13
Wet Days	136		
Lowest maximum	-1.8c (35.2F) (31st January)	Lowest minimum	- 5.5c (22.1F) (20 th January)
Lowest grass minimum	-6.6c (20.1F) (20 th January)		
Air frosts	40	Ground frosts	78
Days with sleet or snow	5	Days with snow lying	1
		Total snow depth	1 cms
Days with hail	10	Mean cloud cover at 0900hrs	63%
Highest Maximum	34.5c (94.1F) (25 th July)	Highest minimum	26.0c (68.0F) (24 th July)
Days with gales	0	Days with fog	12

Longest period without any measurable rainfall: 15 days – 18th March – 1st April

Annual mean maximum: 15.1c

Annual mean minimum: 6.6c

Annual mean: 10.9c

Average mean soil temperature at 10cm depth: 9.2c

Wind Direction Summary at 0900hrs.

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	18	14	22	31	43	59	82	59	37

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

Norman Brooks (Fellow Royal Meteorological Society)

Membership subscriptions

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

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

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

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

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

Submission of Records for 2020 Report

All observers are requested to **submit records on a monthly basis** as this helps considerably with managing the workload and speeding up production of the Report. If it is not possible to submit records until the end of the year, this should be done **by the 31st Jan 2021**. Late records cause considerable problems in drafting the Systematic List and their inclusion cannot be guaranteed if received after this deadline. Where possible, observers are also asked to **submit records by email using the Society's records sheet**. This will enable records to be imported straight into the main spreadsheet thus reducing the work load.

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

National and County Rarities

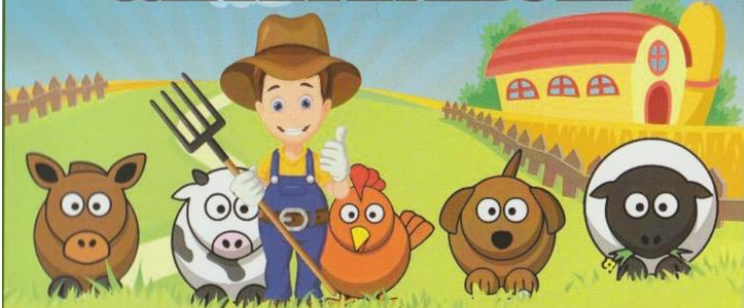
National rarities are dealt with by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC). A full list of species and forms considered by BBRC as well as full details of requirements, procedures and a downloadable reporting form are available on the BBRC website www.bbrc.org.uk

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

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

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

GJL ANIMAL FEEDS LTD



CLIPBUSH BUSINESS PARK

FAKENHAM NR21 8SX

info@gjlanimalfeeds.co.uk

www.gjlanimalfeeds.co.uk

**Call now for me to
come & deliver to your
door, stable, farm or
paddock!**

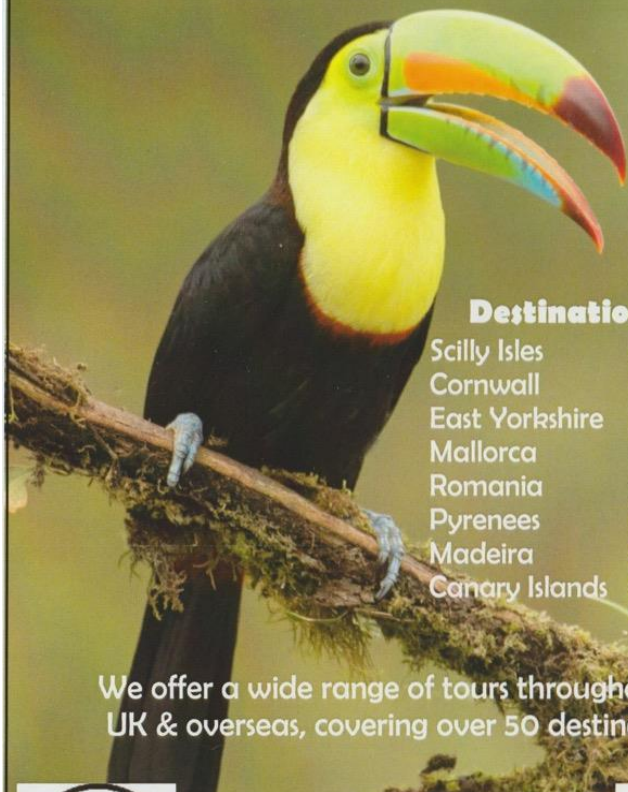
**CALL NOW
01328 851351**



find us on facebook & follow us on twitter for all the latest offers & news

ORIOLE BIRDING

Small group birding & wildlife tours



Destinations include:-

Silly Isles	Costa Rica
Cornwall	Brazil
East Yorkshire	Panama
Mallorca	Uganda
Romania	Georgia
Pyrenees	Morocco
Madeira	Shetland
Canary Islands	Orkney

We offer a wide range of tours throughout the UK & overseas, covering over 50 destinations!



Call or email us for details

FREEPHONE 0800 999 3036

info@oriolebirding.com

www.oriolebirding.com



2021 PDF of the WVBS Seventeenth Annual Report_201912th October 2021

Text changes

Format changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
Diary 29 th June 24 th November	Med Gull Pinkfeet	Mediterranean Gull Pink-footed Geese
Systematic List Grey Partridge Whooper Swan Mediterranean Gull Ring-necked Parakeet Swallow Blackcap & Song Thrush Fieldfare	cf. <i>Cygnus Cygnus</i> <i>Ichthyaetus melancephalus</i> Hopes breeding Rose-ringed Parakeet fledge at least Honinham SPF	compared with <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i> Hopes of breeding Ring-necked (Rose-ringed) Parakeet fledged at least Honingham Sparham Hall Farm
Earliest and Latest Summer Migrants	dates	Reported Dates
Weather		Annual Summary changed to a table