

WENSUM VALLEY  
BIRDWATCHING  
SOCIETY



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
2003

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## Chairman's Report

As Chairman of the Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society it gives me great pleasure to present our first Annual Bird Report.

This Report has been made possible through the hard work of our Recorder, Bill Shepherd and the efforts of a small band of members who have regularly submitted their sightings. It provides a snapshot of birds recorded in the valley and I hope you will find it of interest. Of course there are many gaps in our knowledge about the birds in the valley and so there is a greater need for as many members as possible to contribute their observations. For instance there is scope for more records about:-

- the existence or otherwise of heronries in the valley besides the one which is counted each year at Great Witchingham
- the location of rookeries and the number of active nests in them
- the first and last dates of migrant species sightings
- the number of breeding Mute Swan in the valley, etc

I could continue but must emphasise that whatever you feel is of significance is worthy of recording.

So do please send in your observations to our Recorder, Bill Shepherd at Lorna Doone, Fustyweed, Elsing, Dereham NR20 3EN each month so that next year we will be able to produce an even better, more comprehensive report for members.

The first year of any new society is bound to be an interesting one and ours is no exception. Within the first twelve months much has been achieved thanks largely to our willing and enthusiastic committee and you, the members. Our membership has grown rapidly and now stands at 89, which indicates the high level of interest in birdwatching in the area. We have had a full programme of indoor meetings which have been well attended due I am sure to the high quality of the speakers and the wide range of interesting topics. The monthly outdoor meetings have been enjoyed and appreciated by all those who have attended and our quarterly newsletter, edited by David Pelling has kept members informed

and in touch. The e-group, established by David Pelling has kept members informed and in touch. The e-group, established by Ray Gribble, has also been a useful channel for the exchange of news and opinions. The Society's presence at the "Wild About Norfolk" Conservation Fair at Fakenham in October helped in raising the profile of the group in the locality and John Horsman's display stand was instrumental in the success of this venture.

I would like to acknowledge the very generous help and support given to the Society by Robin Goolden and Louisa Lloyd, Project Officers of the Wensum Valley Project. They have provided us with a tremendous amount of advice and guidance as well as assisting generously with the start-up costs leaving us in a good position to move forward in the future. I must also express our gratitude to Mick Battams, the proprietor of Lenwade News who donated many raffle prizes and organised the raffle during our initial meetings. There are many more people, too numerous to mention, who have assisted in many ways. To all of you I would like to offer a great big thank you.

It has been an exciting first year in what I hope will be the long life of the Society. I hope you have enjoyed being a member over the past year and if you do happen to meet people with a similar interest please do encourage them to join the friendly group that is the Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society.

Enjoy your birdwatching and thank you for being a member.

Alwyn Jackson

## WVBS Systematic List 2003

Records were received from 32 tetrads (2km square on the Ordnance Survey map) of the 67 covered by our recording area.

A total of 118 species were recorded during 2003.

The figures in the brackets refer to the coordinates of the south-west (bottom left) corner of the 2km tetrad where the sighting was made. The reference given is not the exact point of the sighting.

### **Little Grebe** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

*Mainly winter visitor, probably breeding in small numbers*

- 2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.
- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003.
- 1 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 29/06/2003.
- 1 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 16/07/2003.
- 2 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 04/08/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003. (also on the 26<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/11/2003.
- 6 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 6 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 24/11/2003.

### **Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*)

*Breeding resident on most pits in Valley, many departing for winter months*

- 2 at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) on 14/10/2003.
- 1 at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) on 05/11/2003.
- 1 at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) on 26/11/2003.
- 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 01/06/2003. (with 4 young).
- 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 03/12/2003.
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (also on the 26<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/05/2003. (also 6 on 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/06/2003. (3 on the 12<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 11/08/2003. (also on the 19<sup>th</sup>).
- 5 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003. (also 3 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/11/2003.
- 6 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 26/04/2003. (3 pairs breeding).

**Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

*Present all year in increasing numbers, no proof of breeding*

- 15 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 20/10/2003. (flying east).
- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 20/09/2003.
- 4 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.

**Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*)

*Present all year. Breeding resident with colony at Gt Witchingham Wildlife Centre with 40 active nests in 2003.*

- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 1 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 05/08/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 07/08/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 12/06/2003.
- 1 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.b
- 1 at Taverham (1614) on 19/04/2003.

**Black-crowned Night-heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

*All records believed to be feral birds from colony at Great Witchingham Wildlife Centre*

- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 21/06/2003.
- 1 again at Lenwade (0818) on 19/07/2003. (Juvenile).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/04/2003. (escapee from Wildlife Park !).

**Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*)

*Winter visitor to the Valley in variable numbers*

- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 22/12/2003. Found in a small reed bed on the east side of the pond, by Bob Bradley.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 29/12/2003. In the same reed bed as on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, seen by Janet & Bill Shepherd.

**Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

*An increasing but scarce visitor to the Valley*

- 1 at West Raynham (8624) on 19/05/2003. (male).

**Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)**

*Fairly common breeding resident*

- 2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (also on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 26/05/2003. (with 8 young cygnets, subsequently lost 1 by the end of the month).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/06/2003. (with 5 cygnets).
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 20/12/2003.
- 14 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)**

*Rare winter visitor to the Valley, mainly from Iceland*

- 27 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 05/12/2003.
- 1 at North Elmham (9820) on 07/08/2003. (very early record for this species).

**Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)**

*Winter visitor, most records are of "fly-overs"*

- 130 at Costessey (1610) on 19/10/2003. (flying NW).
- 220 at Costessey (1610) on 30/11/2003. (flying NW).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (with flock of Greylag Geese).

**Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)**

*Long-established and increasing feral population in the Valley*

- c.150 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 29/10/2003. (flying east in three skeins).
- c.300 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 26/11/2003.
- 125 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 05/08/2003.
- 250 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 04/08/2003.
- 21 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003.
- c.40 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- c.400 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/11/2003. On gravel pits.
- 7 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 6 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003. (+ one brood of young).

**Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)**

*Introduced resident, possibly declining*

- 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 02/06/2003. (with 3 young).
- 60 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 05/08/2003.
- 6 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 04/08/2003.
- c.30 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 1 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 25 at Taverham (1614) on 10/06/2003.
- 4 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)**

*The Valley is quite a stronghold for this long-established feral resident*

- c.40 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 27 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 05/08/2003.
- 2 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 01/11/2003.
- 6 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (2 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/06/2003. (20 on the 12<sup>th</sup>).
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/08/2003.
- 12 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003. (13 on the 20<sup>th</sup>).
- c.35 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 29/06/2003.
- 7 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 1 at Taverham (1614) on 08/07/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)**

*Scarce visitor to the Valley, probably breeds*

- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/05/2003. (also 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- 4 at West Raynham (8624) on 16/05/2003.

**Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)**

*Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers*

- 6 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 25/10/2003.



**Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*)

*Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers*

- 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 08/05/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003. (also 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 6 on the 25<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 09/11/2003. (also 2 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 9 on the 17<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/12/2003. (also 4 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8 on the 28<sup>th</sup>).
- 3 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 4 at West Raynham (8624) on 08/05/2003.

**Teal** (*Anas crecca*)

*Passage migrant and common winter visitor; possibly breeds*

- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003.
- 10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/11/2003. (3 on the 25<sup>th</sup>).
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 28/12/2003.

**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

*Widespread breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor*

- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003.
- c.20 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- c.100 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003.
- 47 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 12 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003

**Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*)

*Passage migrant, summer and winter visitor in small numbers*

- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003. (also 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 5 on the 26<sup>th</sup>).
- 15 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 09/11/2003. 6 male.
- 20 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 13/11/2003. 10 male.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/11/2003. Pair.
- 1 at West Raynham (8624) on 16/05/2003.

**Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*)

*Passage migrant and winter visitor, may breed*

- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 26/10/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/11/2003. Pair.
- c.40 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 28/12/2003.
- 52 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 29/12/2003.
- 48 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 30/12/2003. (23 male).
- 3 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 4 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 07/12/2003.

**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*)

*Summer breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor*

- 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 08/05/2003.
- 10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 08/04/2003. (20 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/05/2003. (12+ on 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- 8 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/06/2003.
- 7 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003.
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/11/2003. (also 2 on the 9<sup>th</sup>).
- 6 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/12/2003. 1 male & 5 female.
- 8 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 08/12/2003.
- 12 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 9 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 24/11/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Goldeneye** (*Bucephala clangula*)

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to the Valley*

- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 30/12/2003. On the new pit.

**Goosander** (*Mergus merganser*)

*Winter visitor and passage migrant, most abundant in severe winters.*

*Sparham Pools is its mid-Norfolk stronghold*

- 11 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 13/12/2003. 4 male, 7 female.
- 10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 14/12/2003. 3 male, 7 female.
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 15/12/2003. (1 female).
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 26/12/2003. 1 male & 2 female.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 30/12/2003. 1 male & 1 female.

**Honey Buzzard** (*Pernis apivorus*)

*Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant. GRRWP is the best place to see this species in Norfolk*

1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 16/05/2003.

1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 13/06/2003.

**Red Kite** (*Milvus milvus*)

*Increasing visitor mainly from reintroduction projects*

1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 13/06/2003.

**Marsh Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*)

*Summer visitor to the Valley breeding in small numbers*

1 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.

1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 16/05/2003.

4 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 13/06/2003. (2 male, 2 female).

1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 01/05/2003.

1 at New Costessey (1810) on 07/05/2003. (Flying west).

**Hen Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*)

*Scarce winter visitor to the Valley*

1 at New Costessey (1810) on 12/10/2003. (Ring tail).

**Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter nisus*)

*Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

1 at Elsing (0416) on 13/11/2003.

1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 15/12/2003.

1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 19/05/2003.

1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 13/06/2003.

1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.

1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 28/09/2003.

1 at Lenwade (0818) on 09/07/2003.

1 at Lenwade (0818) on 03/12/2003. Male.

1 at Little Ryburgh (9628) on 16/12/2003.

1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 04/05/2003.

1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 15/06/2003.

1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 18/06/2003.

1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 25/07/2003. (male).

1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 15/10/2003. (& on the 24<sup>th</sup>).

(continues)

**Sparrowhawk** (continued)

- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 01/11/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 23/06/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/08/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/11/2003.
- 1 at Taverham (1614) on 26/08/2003.

**Common Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*)

*Small but increasing breeding population in the Valley*

- 1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 13/06/2003.
- 1 at New Costessey (1810) on 13/03/2003.
- 1 at New Costessey (1810) on 21/06/2003.

**Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*)

*Resident breeder and passage migrant*

- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 15/10/2003. (also on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>).
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 25/11/2003.
- 1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 16/05/2003.
- 4 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 26/06/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 01/10/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 01/10/2003. (with up to 2 all month in the Pound Lane area).
- 1 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 04/08/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/05/2003. (also on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*)

*Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to the Valley*

- 1 at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) on 20/11/2003.

**Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*)

*Scarce but increasing migratory breeder and passage migrant throughout the Valley*

- 1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 13/06/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 10/06/2003. (over the Charity Pits).
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 28/06/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 01/07/2003. (also on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>).
- Seen at New Costessey (1810) (no dates given, 2 in June, 1 in July, 5 in August and 2 in September).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 15/07/2003. (also on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Red-legged Partridge** (*Alectoris rufa*)

*Common introduced resident*

- 16 at Elsing (0416) on 16/10/2003. (in Bawdeswell Road).
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.
- 4 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 23/09/2003.
- 8 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 20/10/2003. (seen in D Pelling's garden).
- 26 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 08/11/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Grey Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*)

*Resident breeder in small numbers*

- 10 at Billingford (0020) on 01/10/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 20/06/2003.
- 6 at Swannington Manor (1218) on 05/12/2003.
- 6 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 05/12/2003.
- 4 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*)

*Common introduced resident*

- 2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 2 at Bylaugh (0218) on 15/10/2003. (males).
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 4 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*)

*Common resident; immigrants in autumn*

3 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 4 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).

2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003.

7 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.

**Coot** (*Fulica atra*)

*Common resident and winter visitor*

Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.

27 at Great Witchingham (1018) on 20/10/2003.

1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003.

8 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).

8 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/06/2003.

83 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.

**Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

*Mainly a breeding visitor to the Valley, absent in mid-winter*

1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 09/11/2003.

2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 01/05/2003.

1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 12/06/2003.

1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).

4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/05/2003. (also 6 on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

*Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor*

c.250 at Lenwade (0818) on 03/11/2003.

1 at New Costessey (1810) on 06/08/2003.

19 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 08/11/2003.

**Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*)

*Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant in small numbers*

1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (also on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).

2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (also 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> & 2 on 10<sup>th</sup>).

1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 12/06/2003. (also on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*)

*Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder*

- 10 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- c.50 at Lenwade (0818) on 03/11/2003.
- 300 at Lenwade (0818) on 16/12/2003.
- 22 at Little Ryburgh (9628) on 16/12/2003.
- 37 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 15/10/2003. (in the Pound Lane area).
- 2 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 29/06/2003. (1 adult and 1 juvenile).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 11/08/2003. (13 on the 17<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 24/11/2003.
- 18 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 24/11/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*)

*Passage migrant and winter visitor; no breeding reported in 2003*

- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 23/08/2003.

**Jack Snipe** (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)

*Rare passage migrant and winter visitor*

- 1 at New Costessey (1810) on 10/01/2003.

**Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*)

*Passage migrant and winter visitor; no evidence of breeding in the Valley*

- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 18/08/2003. (first of autumn in the WVBS area).

**Redshank** (*Tringa totanus*)

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, again no evidence of breeding in the Valley*

- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 31/08/2003.

**Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*)

*Double passage migrant, most in autumn; small numbers over-winter*

- 1 at Guist (9824) on 31/12/2003.
- 1 at New Costessey (1810) on 19/04/2003.
- 2 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 16/07/2003.
- 2 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 04/08/2003.
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 18/04/2003.
- 5 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 20/04/2003. (Sayers Lower Pit).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/08/2003. (also 1 on the 31<sup>st</sup>).
- 1 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 07/09/2003.

**Common Sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*)

*Passage migrant in spring and autumn*

- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 07/05/2003. (feeding under the bridge).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 04/05/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/08/2003.
- 1 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 07/09/2003.

**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*)

*Common visitor to the Valley with many immigrants from Eastern Europe in the winter*

- 21 at Great Witchingham (1018) on 20/10/2003.
- 3 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 04/05/2003.
- 11 at Taverham (1614) on 29/09/2003.

**Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

*Scarce passage migrant to the Valley*

- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 18/07/2003. (seen flying over the new pond by Charles Sayer).



**Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)**

*Migratory breeder and passage migrant to the Valley. Breeding at Sparham Pools was unsuccessful in 2003*

- 3 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 21/04/2003.
- 6 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (also 8 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 17 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 16 on 14<sup>th</sup>).
- 24 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/06/2003.
- 5 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 05/06/2003. (the c8 pairs which started breeding, appeared to have ceased on or about the 5<sup>th</sup> June, possibly due to predation).
- 5 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/06/2003. (still no signs of breeding this year).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 11/08/2003. (also 4 on the 19<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 07/09/2003.

**Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)**

*Sedentary resident*

- 16 at Guist (9824) on 31/12/2003.
- 2 at Weston Longville (1016) on 17/08/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)**

*Abundant resident*

- 3 at Bylaugh (0218) on 15/10/2003.
- c.60 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 03/11/2003.
- 10 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 25 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 10 on the 28<sup>th</sup>).
- 4 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.
- 69 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 18/11/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 4 at Taverham (1614) on 03/04/2003. (nesting in garden).
- 6 at Taverham (1614) on 02/09/2003.
- 17 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)**

*Migratory breeder and passage migrant; evidence of recent decline*

- 1 at Great Witchingham (1018) on 22/07/2003.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 27/06/2003. (Cherry Tree Farm).
- 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 13/08/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 29/05/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 11/06/2003. (also on the 17<sup>th</sup>).
- 3 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 03/07/2003. (also 7 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- 2 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 29/06/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/04/2003.
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 10/05/2003.
- 2 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 26/04/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**

*First bred in Britain at Cromer in 1955, now widespread and common resident*

- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 20/09/2003.
- 3 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003. (also 13 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 21<sup>st</sup>).
- 42 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 14/10/2003. (feeding in wheat field in the Pound Lane area).
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 6 at Taverham (1614) on 03/04/2003.
- 6 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)**

*Migratory breeder and passage migrant, in decline*

- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 16/05/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 09/05/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 24/05/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 10/06/2003. (Charity Pits).
- 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 18/04/2003. (also on the 24<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 24/05/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 01/05/2003. Male.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 10/05/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 09/07/2003. (heard calling by J Shepherd).

### **Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)**

*This schedule 1 resident is particularly well represented in the Valley*

- 1 at Bylaugh (0218) on 25/06/2003.
- 1 at Bylaugh (0218) on 04/08/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 27/12/2003.
- 1 at Fakenham (0024) on 20/06/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 30/05/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 15/09/2003.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 14/05/2003. (near the turkey sheds).
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 02/06/2003. (near Collin Green).
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 10/07/2003.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 04/09/2003.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 03/12/2003.
- 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 02/06/2003. (also on the 15<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 05/08/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 19/05/2003. (quartering over meadow at 9 am).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 23/12/2003.
- 1 at New Costessey (1810) on 20/04/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 30/10/2003.
- 2 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 01/11/2003. (also 1 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 16/12/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 30/12/2003.

### **Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)**

*Widespread resident*

- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 14/05/2003. (on road having just caught a young rabbit, which was still alive).
  - 1 at Elsing (0416) on 05/11/2003.
  - 2 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 05/08/2003.
  - 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 01/05/2003. (hatched two owlets which were later found to have died due to bad weather).
  - 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 10/07/2003.
  - 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 15/11/2003.
  - 3 at Lyng (0616) on 04/09/2003. (2 males and 1 female).
  - 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 02/06/2003.
  - 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 15/07/2003.
- (continues)

**Tawny Owl** (continued)

- 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 05/08/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 25/06/2003.

**Little Owl** (*Athene noctua*)

*Introduced resident*

- 1 at Bylaugh (0218) on 25/06/2003. (with young).
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 14/05/2003. (also on the 31<sup>st</sup>).
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 19/05/2003. (in Hall Road).
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 01/06/2003. (also seen on the 25<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Elsing (0416) on 18/06/2003. (one dead).
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 15/07/2003. (also on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 04/10/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 11/12/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 16/05/2003.
- 1 at Guist (9824) on 31/12/2003.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 01/06/2003.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 13/06/2003. (also seen on the 27<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mowles Manor (0214) on 14/06/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 31/05/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 06/06/2003. (also seen on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- 2 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 15/07/2003. (also 2 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 15/10/2003.

**Short-eared Owl** (*Asio flammeus*)

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor in fluctuating numbers*

- 1 at New Costessey (1810) on 20/10/2003.

**Swift** (*Apus apus*)

*Common migratory breeder and passage migrant*

- c.10 at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) on 14/05/2003.
  - 3 at Cadders Hill, Lyng (0616) on 17/08/2003.
  - 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 24/08/2003.
  - 1 at Great Ryburgh (9426) on 05/09/2003.
  - c.7 at Lenwade (0818) on 04/05/2003.
  - c.40 at Lenwade (0818) on 01/07/2003. (most of the month).
  - 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 18/08/2003. (also 1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- (continues)

**Swift** (continued)

- 4 at Lyng (0616) on 26/04/2003.
- 5 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 28/04/2003.
- 14 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 27/07/2003.
- 5 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 8 at Taverham (1614) on 13/07/2003. (5 seen on the 5<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis*)

*Resident, numbers fluctuating in response to severity of winters*

- 1 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 1 at Costessey Pits (1612) on 23/06/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 27/04/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 08/05/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 17/08/2003. (found dead - road traffic casualty).
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 19/11/2003. From the bridge.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 16/06/2003. (seen from the bridge).
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 04/09/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 03/11/2003. (1 on the 26<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at New Costessey (1810) on 30/03/2003. (attempted breeding).
- 2 at New Costessey (1810) on 20/04/2003. (attempted breeding).
- 1 at Pockthorpe (0618) on 13/07/2003. (seen flying along the small stream).
- 1 at Pockthorpe (0618) on 09/08/2003.
- 3 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 29/06/2003. (possibly adult(s) with Juvenile(s) ).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 08/04/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 12/06/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 18/06/2003. (also on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/08/2003. (also 1 on the 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos minor*)

*Declining scarce local resident*

- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 05/07/2003. (seen in an Alder tree).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (also on the 24<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos major*)

*Common resident*

- 1 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 14/05/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 18/10/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 01/08/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 03/10/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 02/12/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 13/12/2003. Feeding on nuts.
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 01/05/2003. (both seen at the nest site).
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 12/06/2003.
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 01/08/2003.
- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 17/08/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 03/12/2003.
- 4 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 07/07/2003. (2 adult & 2 juvenile to the end of the month).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 13/10/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 03/11/2003. (seen all month).
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 11/11/2003. (1 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 24/04/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (also 2 on the 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.
- 4 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Green Woodpecker** (*Picus viridis*)

*Fairly common resident which suffers in hard winters. Numbers are currently high*

- 1 at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) on 28/07/2003.
- 1 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 12/07/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 05/08/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 28/11/2003.
- 1 at Guist (9824) on 31/12/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 15/07/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 17/08/2003. (1 juvenile on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 11/11/2003.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 04/09/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 12/10/2003. (male feeding on nuts 25ft from kitchen window).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 09/11/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (also on the 24<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. ( also on the 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/11/2003. (also on the 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 04/12/2003. (also 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup>).
- 3 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*)

*Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

- 1 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (2 on the 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 13 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)**

*Migratory breeder in the sand quarries, preferring fresh faces. Also common passage migrant*

- 1 at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) on 15/05/2003.
- 12 at Billingford (0020) on 12/04/2003.
- 10 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 12/04/2003.
- c.150 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 11/06/2003.
- 0 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 04/08/2003. (zero most of the month).
- 15 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 15/05/2003.
- c.75 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)**

*Common migratory breeder and passage migrant*

- 2 at Billingford (0020) on 12/04/2003.
- 10 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- c.50 at Lyng (0616) on 04/09/2003.
- c.60 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 05/08/2003.
- 6 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 18/04/2003.
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (also 9 on the 4<sup>th</sup>).
- 6 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)**

*Common migratory breeder and passage migrant*

- c.40 at 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) on 14/05/2003.
- 11 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 3 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003.
- c.250 at Lenwade (0818) on 13/09/2003. (gathering on the telegraph wires, 200 gathered on the 14<sup>th</sup> and between 7am and 7.30am on the 15<sup>th</sup> there were zero).
- 2 at Lyng (0616) on 15/04/2003. (6 on the 21<sup>st</sup>).
- 3 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 18/04/2003.
- 4 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 27/07/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 5 at Taverham (1614) on 13/07/2003.
- 6 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.



**Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)**

*Scarce breeder and passage migrant with highest numbers in winter*

1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/11/2003.

**Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)**

*Common breeding resident and passage migrant*

1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 15/11/2003.

12 at Lyng (0616) on 17/08/2003. (on the playing field).

1 at Taverham (1614) on 10/05/2003.

2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)**

*The Valley is a stronghold in Norfolk for this lover of fast streams. Local breeder mainly at mills but more widespread in winter.*

2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.

1 at Lenwade (0818) on 01/09/2003. (either juvenile or female in garden).

2 at Lyng (0616) on 07/05/2003. (1 male & 1 female, the female carrying food).

3 at Lyng (0616) on 10/05/2003. (2 adult and 1 juvenile. From adults activity, about to start a second brood).

1 at Lyng (0616) on 16/06/2003. (seen from the bridge).

1 at Lyng (0616) on 23/07/2003.

1 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 29/06/2003. (juvenile).

2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 12/06/2003.

**Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)**

*Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor*

1 at New Costessey (1810) on 25/10/2003.

**Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

*Abundant, mainly sedentary resident*

- 4 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 22/11/2003.
- 3 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 12/06/2003.
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.
- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 1 on the 20<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 20/10/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/11/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 16 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Dunnock** (*Prunella modularis*)

*Common sedentary resident*

- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 1 on the 20<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003. (1 on the 15<sup>th</sup>).
- 7 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*)

*Common resident. Numbers may be augmented by passage migrant, especially in autumn*

- 3 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 3 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 1 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup>).
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 1 at Taverham (1614) on 10/09/2003.
- 7 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Nightingale** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)

*Scarce migratory breeder and very scarce passage migrant*

- 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 04/05/2003. (also on the 11<sup>th</sup>).

**Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*)

*Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

- 4 at Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.
- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 15/10/2003.
- 4 at Taverham (1614) on 03/04/2003. (nesting in garden).
- 15 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*)

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor*

- c.30 at Bylaugh (0218) on 21/10/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 22/04/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 13/11/2003.
- 1 at Great Witchingham (1018) on 20/10/2003.
- 12 at Guist (9824) on 31/12/2003.
- c.90 at Lyng (0616) on 28/10/2003.
- c.70 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 08/04/2003.
- 700 at New Costessey (1810) on 26/10/2003. (flying west).
- 30 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 28/10/2003. (in the Pound Lane area).
- 15 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 01/11/2003. (also 35 on the 5<sup>th</sup>).
- c.50 at Primrose Green, Lyng (0616) on 21/10/2003.
- c.20 at Primrose Green, Lyng (0616) on 30/11/2003.
- 10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003. (50 on the 18<sup>th</sup>).
- 6 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 02/12/2003.
- 10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/12/2003.
- 5 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.

**Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*)

*Common passage migrant with smaller numbers in winter*

- 14 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 15/10/2003.
  - c.20 at Elsing (0416) on 15/04/2003.
  - c.20 at Great Witchingham (1018) on 20/10/2003.
  - 10 at Guist (9824) on 31/12/2003.
  - 8 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 08/04/2003.
  - 25 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 05/10/2003. (flying west).
  - 380 at New Costessey (1810) on 02/02/2003.
  - 50 at New Costessey (1810) on 03/03/2003. (flying east).
  - c.400 at New Costessey (1810) on 05/10/2003. (first significant arrival).
  - 3100 at New Costessey (1810) on 12/12/2003. (Amazing westerly movement through the valley, birds generally high in light south-east winds, movement carried on all day. The count of 3,100 relates to movement between 0700 and 1200 hours).
  - 8 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 01/11/2003. (19 on the 5<sup>th</sup>).
  - c.17 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 08/04/2003.
- (continues)

**Redwing** (continued)

- 5 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 19/10/2003.
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/12/2003.
- c.12 at Swannington Manor (1218) on 29/12/2003.
- 11 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 19/10/2003.

**Song Thrush** (*Turdus philomelos*)

*Common resident and passage migrant; recently decreasing*

- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 24/04/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 21/10/2003. (also 2 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 12/12/2003.
- 3 at Guist (9824) on 31/12/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/05/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Mistle Thrush** (*Turdus viscivorus*)

*Common resident and partial migrant*

- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 15/10/2003.
- 2 at Elsing (0416) on 21/11/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 12/11/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Cetti's Warbler** (*Cettia cetti*)

*Broads breeding population established since 1974. This probably the first record for the Valley*

- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 08/04/2003. (male singing all month).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (stayed all month, also seen at the Lyng Bowls Club).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 08/06/2003. (There all month).

**Grasshopper Warbler** (*Locustella naevia*)

*Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant*

- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 10/07/2003. (singing from scrub on river bank).

**Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

*Common summer breeder and passage migrant*

- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 20/04/2003.

**Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

*Common summer breeder and passage migrant*

- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 24/04/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 04/05/2003. (also on the 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/06/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/07/2003. (males singing, heard by Janet Shepherd).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 18/08/2003.

**Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

*Common summer breeder and passage migrant; winters in very small numbers*

- 1 at Easton College (1200) on 22/04/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 13/04/2003.
- 1 at New Costessey (1810) on 07/03/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003.
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (1 on the 26<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 12/06/2003.
- 6 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Garden Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*)

*Summer breeder and passage migrant. Less common than Blackcap*

- 1 at Bylaugh (0218) on 14/07/2003. (at Hall Farm).
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 04/05/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 23/04/2003. (2 on the 27<sup>th</sup>).
- c.10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (6 on the 4<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at West Raynham (8624) on 16/05/2003.
- 1 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Whitethroat** (*Sylvia communis*)

*Common summer breeder and passage migrant*

- 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 27/04/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 31/05/2003.
- 1 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 13/06/2003.
- 2 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 22/06/2003. (then 1-4 seen daily to the end of the month).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 24/04/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (2 on the 4<sup>th</sup>).
- 12 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003. (one nest found).

**Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia curruca*)

*Scarce summer breeder and passage migrant*

1 at Cadders Hill, Lyng (0616) on 25/05/2003.

1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 27/04/2003.

2 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 30/04/2003.

**Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

*Common summer breeder and passage migrant, declining*

2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.

1 at Costessey Pits (1612) on 03/04/2003.

1 at Lenwade (0818) on 08/05/2003.

1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 13/04/2003.

1 at New Costessey (1810) on 29/03/2003.

1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/04/2003. (also 2 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>).

c.10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (all month).

2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

*Common summer breeder, passage migrant and scarce winter visitor*

1 at Elsing (0416) on 12/04/2003.

1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 01/08/2003.

1 at Great Witchingham (1018) on 22/07/2003.

1 at Lenwade (0818) on 01/08/2003. (singing in garden most of the month).

1 at Lyng (0616) on 04/09/2003.

4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 08/04/2003. (3 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup>).

c.10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (all month).

2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Goldcrest** (*Regulus regulus*)

*Summer breeder in conifers, more widespread and augmented with passage migrants in winter*

1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 15/11/2003.

2 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 22/06/2003.

2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/11/2003.

2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 02/12/2003.

3 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)**

*Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant*

- 2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 06/10/2003. (late record for this species).
- 1 at Great Witchingham (1018) on 13/05/2003.
- 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 21/06/2003. (with 5 pulli ringed).
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 31/07/2003.
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 11/05/2003.
- 2 at Lyng (0616) on 27/06/2003. (at Yew Tree Farm + nest with 4 young).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 11/05/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 04/06/2003.
- 4 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 07/07/2003. (seen by A Jackson in his garden).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 26/05/2003.

**Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)**

*Common resident breeder*

- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 23/09/2003.
- 9 at Lenwade (0818) on 03/12/2003.
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003. (also 7 on the 21<sup>st</sup>).
- 11 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 22/11/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 20/04/2003. (pair breeding).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- 12 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/11/2003.
- 14 at Swanton Morley Lakes (0018) on 24/11/2003.

**Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*)**

*Breeding resident, declining*

- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 11/11/2003. On peanut feeder.
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 12/06/2003.
- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.
- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 1 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 1 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 29/06/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003.

**Coal Tit (*Parus ater*)**

*Common, sedentary breeding resident in conifers*

- 2 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 11/11/2003. (1 on the 15<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 05/11/2003.
- 2 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 22/11/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/11/2003.

**Great Tit (*Parus major*)**

*Very common breeding resident*

- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 12/06/2003.
- 19 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.
- 14 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 12 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 9 on the 28<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 15/10/2003.
- 1 at Taverham (1614) on 02/09/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)**

*Abundant breeding resident*

- 2 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 01/05/2003. (nested in box in garden, all 7 chicks were found dead at the end of the month).
- 3 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>).
- 5 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 01/05/2003.
- 4 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)**

*Breeding resident, possibly in decline*

- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 3 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 2 on the 28<sup>th</sup>).
- 3 at Lenwade (0818) on 01/08/2003. (in the common area for most of the month).
- 2 at Lenwade (0818) on 09/09/2003. (calling in a garden).
- 1 at Lyng (0616) on 14/06/2003.
- 2 at New Costessey (1810) on 15/06/2003.



**Treecreeper** (*Certhia familiaris*)

*Widespread woodland resident*

- 1 at Lyng Easthaugh (0818) on 22/04/2003. (2 on the 24<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 15/11/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/04/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/11/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 25/12/2003

**Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*)

*Common resident*

- 2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 5 at Costessey Pits (1612) on 12/08/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 01/05/2003. (both seen at nest site).
- 3 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.
- 2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.
- 2 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 03/08/2003.
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 20/12/2003.
- 1 at Taverham (1614) on 23/04/2003.
- 3 at Taverham (1614) on 23/08/2003.
- 2 at Taverham (1614) on 07/09/2003. (also 1 on the 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Magpie** (*Pica pica*)

*Common resident, much increased*

- 3 at Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003. (also 1 on the 15<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003. (this is the first garden record for A Jackson since he started keeping records in 1977).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 12/06/2003.
- 4 at Taverham (1614) on 02/09/2003.
- 6 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Jackdaw** (*Corvus monedula*)

*Common resident*

- 20 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- c.300 at Elsing (0416) on 15/10/2003. (going to roost with Rooks at Elsing Hall, growing in numbers all month).
- c.10 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003.
- c.100 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 21/12/2003.
- 3 at Taverham (1614) on 02/09/2003.
- 6 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Rook** (*Corvus frugilegus*)

*Common resident. The colony at Great Witchingham Wildlife Centre had 270 nests in 2003. Counts of other colonies would be welcomed*

- 2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 1 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 20/09/2003.
- 5 at Taverham (1614) on 02/09/2003. (also c55 on the 13<sup>th</sup>).
- c.60 at Taverham (1614) on 03/12/2003.
- c.300 at Taverham (1614) on 14/12/2003.
- 27 at Taverham (1614) on 16/12/2003.
- c.150 at Taverham (1614) on 17/12/2003.

**Carrion Crow** (*Corvus corone corone*)

*Increasing resident*

- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.
- 2 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.
- 4 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

*Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor, declining*

- c.140 at Lyng (0616) on 14/11/2003.
- 16 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 15/10/2003. (also about 100 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- 53 at Taverham (1614) on 22/08/2003. (roosting on roof tops).
- 58 at Taverham (1614) on 10/12/2003.
- 7 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*)

*Common but declining resident*

9 at Attlebridge (1216) on 25/08/2003.

1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 17/11/2003. (only the 2<sup>nd</sup> record in 3 years).

2 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 12/06/2003.

6 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/10/2003.

c.20 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 01/07/2003. (all month).

c.30 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 14/10/2003. (in the Pound Lane area all month).

12 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*)

*Scarce sedentary resident*

2 at Lyng (0616) on 25/05/2003. (Cherry Tree Farm and 1 seen at Collin's Green Farm "0816" on the same date).

2 at Primrose Green, Lyng (0616) on 30/11/2003.

**Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*)

*Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

7 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.

15 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 09/09/2003. (also 10 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup>).

19 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

*Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers*

1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 15/11/2003. Female.

1 at Lyng (0616) on 27/04/2003. (female with Chaffinches in garden).

1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 06/11/2003. (concussed from flying into window, recovered and flew off).

17 at New Costessey (1810) on 05/01/2003.

8 at New Costessey (1810) on 02/02/2003.

10 at New Costessey (1810) on 25/10/2003.

1 at Twyford (0024) on 07/12/2003. With tit flock.

**Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*)

*Common resident and passage migrant*

- 7 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 30/10/2003.
- 8 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 21/11/2003.
- 41 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 07/11/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Siskin** (*Carduelis spinus*)

*Passage migrant and winter visitor; small numbers may breed*

- 2 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 02/11/2003. (10 on the 26<sup>th</sup>).
- c.40 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 30/12/2003.
- 3 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 29/10/2003.
- c.70 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 17/11/2003. In two flocks.
- c.40 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 20/12/2003.

**Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

*Common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor*

- 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing (0418) on 15/11/2003.
- 6 at Hempton Marsh (9028) on 06/08/2003.
- c.30 at Lenwade (0818) on 03/11/2003.
- 35 at Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) on 16/07/2003.
- 2 at Taverham (1614) on 28/04/2003.
- c.15 at Taverham (1614) on 13/09/2003.

**Linnet** (*Carduelis cannabina*)

*Common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor*

- 4 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

*Sedentary resident*

- 2 at Bintree Mill (9824) on 11/09/2003.
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 02/06/2003. (pair).
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 05/08/2003. (male).
- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 22/10/2003. (at Etling Green).
- 3 at Guist (9824) on 31/12/2003.
- 1 at Lenwade (0818) on 02/06/2003. (pair).
- 1 at Mill Street, Elsing (0416) on 14/05/2003.

(continues)

**Bullfinch** (continued)

- 1 at Mowles Manor (0214) on 01/11/2003.
- 2 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 22/10/2003. (1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 4 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 24/04/2003. (2 male, 2 female).
- 2 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 10/11/2003. (3 on the 19<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 04/12/2003. Male.
- 4 at Uppgate Common (1416) on 29/12/2003. 2 male, 2 female.

**Yellowhammer** (*Emberiza citrinella*)

*Once common resident, currently in decline*

- 1 at Elsing (0416) on 05/08/2003. (male).
- 3 at Elsing (0416) on 16/10/2003.
- 3 at North Tuddenham (0214) on 26/10/2003. (in the Pound Lane area).
- 2 at Primrose Green, Lyng (0616) on 30/11/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (also on the 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 2 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

**Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

*Resident*

- 1 at Great Witchingham (1018) on 22/07/2003. (male).
- 1 at Pockthorpe (0618) on 17/07/2003.
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 03/05/2003. (also on the 10<sup>th</sup>).
- 1 at Sparham Pools (0616) on 09/11/2003.
- 1 at Worthing (9818) on 11/06/2003.

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My thanks to the above for submitting records

Bill Shepherd

Recorder

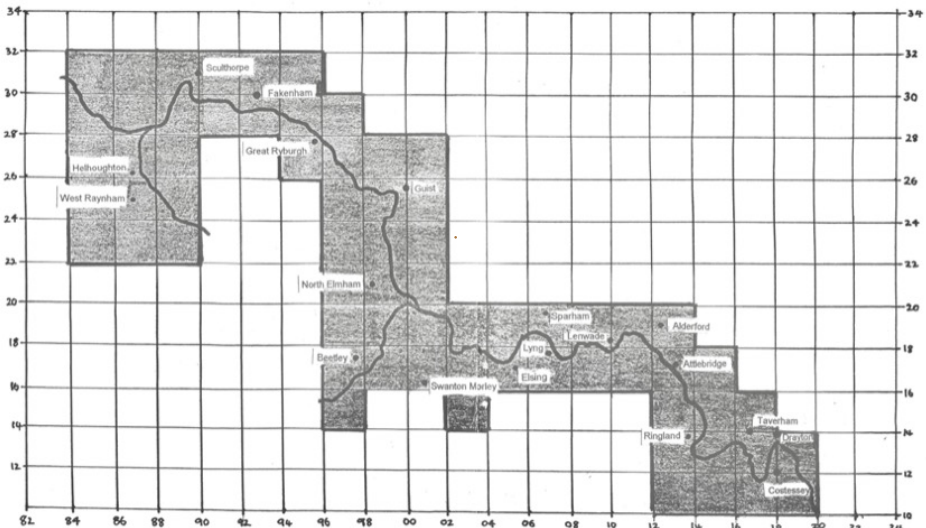
## Gazetteer

The provision of a grid reference does not give anyone the right to visit the site. Some of the sites listed are private, please respect landowner's wishes and follow the "Birdwatcher's Code".

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Bridges Farm Elsing (0618) | New Costessey (1810)           |
| Attlebridge (1216)           | North Elmham (9820)            |
| Billingford (0020)           | North Tuddenham (0214)         |
| Bintree Mill (9824)          | Old Costessey (1610)           |
| Broom Green (9824)           | Pensthorpe (9428)              |
| Bylaugh (0218)               | Pockthorpe (0618)              |
| Cadders Hill, Lyng (0616)    | Primrose Green, Lyng (0616)    |
| Costessey (1610)             | Ringland (1412)                |
| Costessey Pits (1612)        | Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816) |
| Easton College (1210)        | Sculthorpe Mill (8830)         |
| Elsing (0416)                | Sculthorpe Moor (9030)         |
| Fakenham (9228)              | South Raynham (8624)           |
| Fustyweed, Elsing (0418)     | Sparham Pools (0616)           |
| Great Ryburgh (9426)         | Sparhamhill (0818)             |
| Great Witchingham (1018)     | Swannington Manor (1218)       |
| Guist (9824)                 | Swanton Morley Lakes (0018)    |
| Hempton Marsh (9028)         | Taverham (1614)                |
| Lenwade (0818)               | Twyford (0024)                 |
| Little Ryburgh (9628)        | Uppgate Common (1416)          |
| Lyng (0616)                  | West Raynham (8624)            |
| Lyng Easthaugh (0818)        | Weston Longville (1016)        |
| Mill Street, Elsing (0416)   | Worthing (9818)                |
| Mowles Manor (0214)          |                                |

## Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society Recording Area (shaded)

Refer to Landranger OS Sheets 132/133 North West/East Norfolk for more detail.





**2021 PDF of the WVBS First Annual Report\_2003**1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Text changes

**Format changes**

| Where                            | Original text           | PDF text  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Contents</b>                  |                         | <b>Contents page added</b>  |
| <b>Systematic List</b>           |                         |   |
| Introduction                     | Ordinance Survey        | Ordnance Survey   |
| Wigeon                           | <i>Ana Penelope</i>     | <i>Anas penelope</i>  |
| Black-headed Gull                | <i>with with many</i>   | <i>with many</i>  |
| House Martin                     | 7.30am                  | 7.30am  |
| Willow Warbler                   | <i>migrant, decling</i> | <i>migrant, declining</i>   |
| Chaffinch                        | 10 on the 20            | 10 on the 20 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <b>Gazetteer</b>                 |                         | Changed to a table.<br>'Norfolk' deleted from each entry (1)      |
| <b>Map of the Recording Area</b> |                         | <b>Originally a centrefold, the map now follows the Gazetteer</b> |

(1) All sites are in Norfolk