

Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society



Fourth Annual Report
2006

The Natural Centre of Norfolk



**An award winning attraction full of
birdlife, nature and the outdoors**



- Experience beautiful nature trails
- Hundreds of species of wildlife
- Purpose built hides
- 170 recorded species of wild birds
- Breeding programmes for the Common Crane, Corncrake and other endangered species
- Free access to enjoy great wholesome food in our Courtyard Caf and visit our Gift Shop, one of Norfolk's finest

Pensthorpe
closer to nature

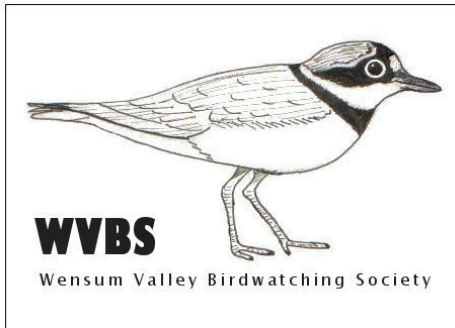
Open Daily 1 mile from Fakenham on the A1067
t: 01328 851465 www.pensthorpe.com

Visit our website for our year round programme, exhibitions and current events. Guide Dogs only.

Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

2006 Annual Report

	Page
	Contents
Introducing the WVBS	4
Chairman's Report	6
2006 Programme	8
2006 Summary of outdoor meetings	9
Systematic list - edited by Ray Gribble	18
List of Contributors	60
Locations and Grid References	61
Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants	63
Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors	64
2006 WVBS Ringing Report – Allan Hale	65
First Impressions of the Wensum Valley – Jacky Pett	71
An Unexpected Garden Visitor – John & Brenda Palmer	73
Dances with Cranes – Pensthorpe Conservation Trust	75
Hempton Marsh – Jed Andrews & Sophie Barker	76
2006 Weather Summary	79



Covering the Wensum Valley from Norwich to Fakenham and beyond.

Formed in March 2003, our aim is 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.

Indoor meetings are held at Lenwade Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month.

Committee 2006

Officers:

Chairman	Alwyn Jackson
Secretary	Liz Waller
Treasurer	Bill Shepherd
Membership Secretary	Ray Gribble
Publicity & Website Manager	Colin Wright
Programme Secretary	Colin Fenn
Recorder	Ray Gribble
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Shapcott
Newsletter Distribution	Margaret Shapcott
	Bill Shepherd
Committee:	Rosemary Harvey
	Josh Leeder

Web Page: www.wvbs.co.uk

Chairman's Report

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

2006 was another good year for the Society and its members. Attendance at our meetings was consistently high throughout the year. We had ten excellent guest speakers covering many aspects of birds and birdwatching. Topics included the basics of bird identification, research into the breeding habits of Redshanks, bird migration, the complexities of creating a wetland habitat from carrot fields at Lakenheath and farmland birds. We were also introduced to the wildlife of wild places on the north Norfolk coast, the Australian outback, South Africa, western Australia and Kenya. We organised fourteen outdoor meetings throughout Norfolk and Suffolk when we were able to share some excellent birdwatching together. Our thanks are extended to the trip leaders who took great pains to ensure we all got good views of the birds as well as sharing their knowledge and to the helpers who organise the refreshments at our indoor meetings.

On Thursday 30th March seven members of WVBS along with Bill Jordan (Chairman, Jordan's Cereals), Mark Noble (Marketing Manager, Pensthorpe) and Eric Bishop (Cox's Boatyard) launched a tern raft on a pit at Sparham Hall Farm. The WVBS was given a significant amount of money by Jordan's Cereals as part of their Wensum Valley Initiative and this enabled us to carry out the project. There are several people and organisations that have contributed to this project and we are very grateful for all their support and interest. Firstly Bill Jordan who sponsored the project, Charles Sayer who made the pit available for the siting of the raft, Cox's Boatyard for making such a splendid raft, member John Horsman who arranged the anchors and finally Ray Gribble who co-ordinated the project on behalf the Society. On Tuesday 4th April shingle was spread on the surface of the raft. We are grateful to those members who turned up at short notice to bag up the shingle and row it across the pit to the raft. All this effort paid off because subsequently 7

pairs of Common Tern nested on the raft in 2006 and fledged we think 9 young.

During 2006 the Society also took part in Wild About Norfolk Conservation Fair held at Notcutts in Norwich during September. This proved to be a worthwhile event and I would like to extend my thanks to all those who contributed in any way.

As you it can gather it was another busy year for the committee, so I would also like to say a great big thank you to them all for their sterling efforts and the time they have devoted to the Society's activities during 2006.

I hope you have all enjoyed your membership of the Society during the year and I look forward to continue meeting with you and talking "birds".

Alwyn Jackson

WVBS Programme 2006

INDOOR MEETINGS

January 19 th	The Basics of Bird Identification	David Brooks
February 16 th	Time to Fly - Bird Migration	Graham Appleton
March 16 th	East Anglian Breeding Redshanks	Jen Smart
April 20 th	AGM followed by Lakenheath Fen, The First Ten Years	Norman Sills
May 18 th	Wildlife in Wild Places on the North Norfolk Coast	David North
July 20 th	Farmland Birds	Nick Carter
August 17 th	Birds of the Australian Outback	John Lovett
September 21 st	Zululand, South Africa	Charles Fox
October 19 th	Birds & Wildlife of Western Australia	Mike Linley
November 16 th	A Kenyan Safari	Allan Hale
December 14 th	Christmas Social	

OUTDOOR MEETINGS

January 8 th	Winter Bird Count	
January 28 th	Hickling NR & Stubb Mill	Alwyn Jackson
February 26 th	Snettisham Pits & NR	Bill Shepherd
April 1 st	Blickling Park	Alwyn Jackson
May 7 th	Dawn Chorus	Alwyn Jackson
May 20 th	Great Ryburgh RWP	Charles Neale
June 3 rd / 4 th	Summer Bird Count	
June 15 th	Nightjar Evening, Marsham Heath	Ray Gribble
July 1 st	Weeting Heath & Lakenheath NR	Ray Gribble & Alwyn Jackson
July 30 th	Minsmere RSPB NR	Ray Gribble
August 26 th	North Norfolk Coast	Josh Leeder
September 9 th	Wild About Norfolk	
October 1 st	Swanton Morley GP	Alwyn Jackson
October 29 th	North Norfolk Coast	Alwyn Jackson
November 26 th	Sparham Hall Farm	Charles Sayer

2006 Outdoor Meetings Summary

This summary was compiled by Alwyn Jackson using extracts from newsletter articles contributed by Jacquie Fenn, Josh Leeder and Sue Gibney as well as his own notes and memory.

The Winter Bird Count on **Sunday 8th January** attracted thirty members making up nine teams for what proved once again to be a thoroughly enjoyable day. Some members managed to find Little Egret, Cetti's Warbler and Green Sandpiper in the valley. The day was rounded off with a log call and a drink at The Bridge, Lenwade.

Thirty brave and stalwart birders met at Potter Heigham church on **Saturday 20th January** to visit **NWT Hickling Broad Reserve** and the raptor watchpoint at **Stubb Mill**. On this very bright but startlingly bitter morning we set out from the church to the southern side of Hickling Broad and along Weaver's Way to the Watch tower which overlooks fields and fenland.

Birding was sparse to begin with. We collected mixed flocks of Golden Plover and Lapwings in the ploughed fields and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker and Treecreeper in the woodland. There was a small flock of Siskins which darted about in the alders and Black-headed and Common Gulls squabbled in the stubble. The watch tower was an interesting triangular structure which swayed noticeably by the time you reached the top platform. We had good views over the farmland and fenland and could hear the tantalising calls of the Cranes which were spotted several hundred yards away, their heads just visible over the reeds.

Retracing our route, we stopped to look over the mere at a large group of Teal and smaller number of Wigeon, Shoveler and a Hen Harrier. The group met up again at the N.W.T. Hickling Broad Reserve where we refuelled with much needed sandwiches and hot drinks before braving the lowering temperature of the afternoon. Although the walk to Stubb Mill was not very productive with Mistle Thrush, Fieldfares and

Redwings being the highlights, we were all motivated by the thought of views of the Cranes coming to roost. Thanks to a man and his dog, the group of feeding Cranes was disturbed and a formation of 25 Cranes glided in front of us in perfect light.

We were then treated to displays of Marsh Harriers in pursuit of a Bittern, Harris Hawk, and not one, but three Barn Owls hunting simultaneously over the reed beds in the orange glow of late afternoon. Those hardy members of the group who stayed even later into the evening were reward with views of a Merlin and Hen Harriers. (Jacquie Fenn)

On **Sunday 26th February** eight members wrapped up and braved the cold N.E. wind to visit the **RSPB Snettisham Reserve** and were rewarded with some superb bird watching. On the walk through the fresh water / brackish lakes and ponds we saw White-fronted, Canadian & Barnacle Geese, Scaup, Goldeneye, Wigeon and Little Grebe amongst the commoner birds like Mallard, Moorhen, Coot and Greylag Geese. When we got to the coastline of the Wash big flocks of birds were feeding at the water's edge so we had to wait for the tide before we could see them close up. We looked closer at the mud-flats in front of us and saw lots of birds like Redshank, Sanderling, Dunlin, Shelduck, Black-tailed Godwit, Golden and Grey Plover, Curlew & Oystercatcher. As we walked along to the hides, we saw amongst the pebbles and seaweed a flock of 30 Snow Buntings, a stunning visitor to our winter shores. At the hides we looked out over the mud-flats and back lake, where we saw at least three male Goldeneye in full black & white breeding plumage looking splendid. A Merlin flew across the lake and along the far bank, holding a small bird in its talons. Some Brent Geese & Pink-footed Geese flew overhead and out on the lake and islands we saw Pochard, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Wigeon, Turnstone, Cormorant, a few gulls, Lapwing and Ringed Plover. By now the tide was well up pushing the flocks of waders and other birds quickly along the mud-flats. Every now and again thousands & thousands of Knot, Plovers and Dunlin took to the air, like a

dance, back and forth up and down. It's amazing how they never collide doing their aerial acrobatic display.

The tide quickly filled the mud-flats, lots of birds now on the sea, hundreds of Shelduck, large rafts of Wigeon close by and Scoter further out. In amongst the masses of birds a couple of Pintail were spotted. The Oystercatchers and other waders were pushed further and further along the Wash, some moving to the shores and the lakes.

We left the hide and walked back against a cold biting wind. We didn't really mind though after a superb afternoon in which we saw 47 species and experienced a wonderful natural spectacle any birder loves to watch. (Josh Leeder)

On **Saturday 1st April** fourteen members met to take a walkabout round the lake and woodlands of Blickling Park. This is a time when winter visitors have departed and summer arrivals yet to come, nevertheless we saw over 25 species including the first Sand Martins and Swallow of the year for many of those present. The weather conditions did not encourage the woodland species to be active but it proved to be a very enjoyable walk and as always there was an opportunity to meet and talk to other club members.

On **Sunday 23rd April** we met for a joint field trip with members of the Nar Valley Ornithological Society to **East Norfolk**. We met at Horsey Mill on a dry but cloudy day and made our way along the dyke to the east of Horsey Mere. En route we heard number of Willow, Sedge and Reed warblers plus Cetti's and Grasshopper with most people getting a very darting view as it flashed from perch to perch. Wheatears were to be found on the meadow areas with Skylarks overhead. There was excitement at the possibility of a Purple Heron in the distance but after a trek towards the drainage ditch into which it had disappeared the bird turned out to be an odd coloured Grey Heron. We did keep a look out for the Cranes at all times but unfortunately saw no sign of them although they were heard. Finally on our way back to the car park two sightings of Cuckoo meant that spring must really have arrived.

After a quick snack break we headed for Horsey Corner and a walk north to Waxham Sands Caravan Park, which at first sight seemed somewhat desolate. This was far from the truth as we notched up 50+ Yellow Wagtails, 4 Ring Ouzels showing very smart bibbed outfits, Tree Pipit and a mystery bird which had everyone searching their field guides for confirmation. Could it have been a Woodlark or even Short-toed Lark? We headed further north until we reached a collection of large rusting pipes encircled by wire fencing, just the environment for a female Black Redstart.

After a late lunch back at the cars the group broke up and some members headed home while others added a few more species to the day list by walking south along the dunes towards Winterton. Teal, Gadwall and Pintail were all spotted on a small lake, as well as Ringed Plover on the beach bringing the final total for the day to 75 species.
(Jacquie Fenn)

Unfortunately our annual Dawn Chorus meeting on **Sunday May 7th** at **NWT Sparham Pools Reserve** had to be cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions. This was a bitter disappointment especially as there seemed to be a passage of Ospreys through the county on the 6th.

On **Saturday May 20th** we spent a few hours at the **Great Ryburgh Raptor Watchpoint** and enjoyed views of Common Buzzard, Hobby, Little Egret and a Honey Buzzard briefly. We then went on to Guist Common where using the nettles as a hide we observed Common Buzzard, 2 Little Egrets, a female Marsh Harrier, a Sparrowhawk and Common Terns as well as other more common species. A good morning's birding in the valley.

On **Saturday and Sunday 3rd and 4th June** we held our annual Summer Bird Count. Sue Gibney picks up the story:-

"On a beautiful summer evening walking down Marriotts Way at Lenwade we were pleasantly surprised at the number of small birds singing and giving good views even with the heavy tree canopy, and the first ten birds

included a Cetti's Warbler, Turtle Dove and a pair of Bullfinches. We hoped this was a good omen for the following day. We continued our walk around Lenwade Common and the river path, adding Goldcrest and Nightingale to our growing list. Time was getting on so headed home to collect the car and coats before heading off to a nearby heath to await dusk. A patient wait was awarded with a wonderful sight of a large number of Woodcock, a Kestrel and Barn Owl. The final encore was the sound and then the sight of several Nightjars flying overhead just a few metres away.

Saturday morning saw an early start with a clear bright sky as we headed out towards Sparham Pools and the first bird of the day was a male Yellowhammer echoing the sunny day, followed by a Lesser Whitethroat sat on the top of a bush singing away. Lyng Bridge provided us with Grey Wagtails, but the pools were a little disappointing with a scant supply of water and woodland birds.

On to Swanton Morley Pools, a long walk only produced a pair of Shelduck, Little Grebe and a hunting Sparrowhawk. Time for us to take a break and some sustenance to lift our flagging spirits.

The Raptor Point Great Ryburgh was also a meeting point for our club members plus birders from elsewhere. During the rest of the day slowly and surely more species were added to our count for the day, including Little Egret, Shoveler and Spotted Flycatcher.

The count proved a most enjoyable and educational experience and we ended the twenty-four hours with a respectable number of species recorded."

Our **Nightjar Evening** was held on **Thursday 15th June** starting at the Marsham Arms for some refreshments and a "mardle". This was followed later by a visit to the heath nearby so that we could observe roding Woodcock, Nightjar and Barn Owl. An excellent way to round off a convivial evening.

Saturday 1st July was a hot summer's day for our visit to **NWT Weeting Heath** and the **RSPB Lakenheath Fen Reserves**. The weather seemed to have an adverse effect upon the birds as they were hard to find. We did not manage to find a Stone Curlew at Weeting but enjoyed good views of Woodlark in front of one of the hides. Birds were also hard to come by at Lakenheath but thanks to some knowledgeable members we enjoyed viewing the many dragonfly and butterfly species present.

We made our annual visit to the **RSPB Minsmere Reserve** on **Sunday 30th July** and the hot dry conditions during the summer meant that the scrapes had dried out so there were very few waders on the reserve. Despite this the nineteen members who attended enjoyed good views of a Bittern as it appeared close to one of the hides.

On **Saturday 26th August** the **RSPB Titchwell Reserve** on the north Norfolk coast was the starting point for a day's birding for seven members in the area. We saw many of the exciting species that are to be found there including Marsh Harriers, Sparrowhawk, Little Egrets, Bearded Tits, Spoonbills, Mediterranean Gull and Water Rail. Waders were present in both numbers and variety - Avocet, Bar- and Black-tailed Godwits, Common Curlew and Green Sandpipers, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Whimbrel and the diminutive Little Stint among others.

Our arrival on the beach proved both exciting and frustrating as it coincided with the Bomb Squad moving everyone off the beach while they blew up some World War II shells that had been found the previous day! We still managed to record a few new species before being ushered away. The resultant explosion sent every bird in the area into the air in alarm.

After a bite of lunch we went to Holme which was a wise decision! At Holme we saw Common & Sandwich Terns, Arctic Skuas, Gannet, Sanderling & Knot. As the tide was way out the views were distant. A possible Black Tern gave quite a bit of debate but it was too distant to be certain of its ID. A Ruddy Duck on Broadwater and a Kingfisher added

further interest. 87 species in total were seen including no less than 23 species of wader.

An eager group of twenty members met on **Sunday 1st October** at **Swanton Morley Gravel Pits**. As we progressed small birds seemed to elude us and though we heard Wren, Blue Tits, Great Tits and Chiffchaff we didn't get good views of them despite the woodland and ample scrubby cover around the fishing lakes. However there was still a lot of insect life brought out by the sunshine. Migrant Hawkets, Common Darters and Common Blue Damselflies hunted over the long grasses and Common Blues, Small Coppers and Red Admirals were plentiful as the sun seemed to bring them out in a last surge to feed on the wild flowers.

We looked through scopes to see a Kingfisher posing mockingly on the tip of a fisherman's rod wedged into the bank of the lake. Overhead, but high into the clouds a Marsh Harrier flew ever higher and off into the ether.

Ducks seen included Wigeon, Gadwall, Mallard, Tufted and Teal though not in any great numbers. We witnessed an adult Great Crested Grebe still feeding its offspring with an impossibly big fish which it seemed to consume with great ease. Little Grebes were spotted around the edge of the fishing lakes skirting the banks while over head the less favoured Canada Geese flew in formation.

One lonely Green Sandpiper fed along the sandy beach of a small spit but that was unfortunately the only wader we saw. Herons on the other hand were quite numerous. One Green Woodpecker was seen flying and the call was heard several times along with the screeching of irate Jays in the woodland.

The walk was very enjoyable and a lot of people were introduced to the extent of land accessible to the public previously unrealised. (Jacque Fenn.)

Eighteen determined members headed for the shingle ridge at **Cley** on **Sunday 29th October** and looked hopefully seaward. We were soon rewarded with views of some distant adult and immature Gannets, Red-throated Divers and small groups of Razorbills and Guillemots passed in front of us flying west. Drifts of Brent Geese flew over along with Wigeon and Pintail. Cormorants, Bar-tailed Godwits, Greater Black-backed and Common Gulls were also being blown along the coast. Two Common Scoters were spotted quite a way off and just before we left one Black-throated Diver presented itself very close to the shore

We left the beach and headed for the N.W.T. Centre but the area was full to bursting point so we decided to take a walk along the East Bank which produced views of Marsh Harrier, Brent and Canada Geese, Lapwing, Curlew and Greylags.

A large group of Wigeon were to the east of the bank, accompanied by a good number of Shelduck and Teal. In amongst the grazing cattle a flock of 100+ Starlings could be seen circling and landing. Scattered around the wet fields were 6 Black-tailed Godwits, 1 Pink-footed Goose and 1 Spotted Redshank in winter plumage. Meadow Pipits, Skylarks and Pied Wagtails were feeding in the grasses as well as Snipe in the watery pools. Our second sea watch was not as fruitful as the first but we added 20 Cormorants, Black Backed, Herring Gulls and 15 Kittiwakes to our list.

Walking back from the beach we had good views of a Kestrel perched on top of a post and a possible Merlin which flew so low and fast over the water meadows. Two people heard a Cetti's Warbler calling and counted a flock of over 500 Golden Plover at Cley Reserve before we turned back to look for White-rumped Sandpiper and luckily saw 2 from Dawkes Hide along with 30+ Dunlin, 2 Little Stint, a female Garganey and over 100 Wigeon. As we left to walk back to the cars we were treated to a great view of a hunting Barn Owl which quartered the field just behind the hide and along the edge of the reed bed. Looking back inland we were just in time to see huge flocks of Pink Feet landing. We had good day for October and managed to see 58 species by the end of the trip. (Jacquie Fenn)

The final field trip of the year was to **Sparham Hall Farm** on **Sunday 26th November** with Charles Sayer as our guide. As Charles led the 29 members present around his farm he illustrated how a farmer can balance running a business and its environmental impact with the help of the governments agri-environment schemes. All the members left wishing that all farms in the UK were managed by farmers like Charles.

WVBS Systematic List 2006

Ray Gribble

Thank you to all the members who have sent in their records and thus enabling the compilation of this report. I must congratulate Adrian Gardiner on an outstanding series of records of migration through the River Tud valley from 2nd Oct to 17th Dec. If only I had the dedication, discipline and ability. Well done Adrian - an example to us all. Thanks also to Jason Cork who kindly produced the line drawings.

As in 2005 the British Ornithological Union's (BOU) revised systematic order has been adopted. The BOU has also made many changes to the common names of birds, mainly to put them in a worldwide context. For example Wigeon has become Eurasian Wigeon to clearly differentiate it from American and Chiloe Wigeons. To ease the transition where changes have been made the following sequence has been followed:

New Name (Old Name) *Scientific name*

e.g. Eurasian Wigeon (Wigeon) *Anas penelope*

After the name is a general view of the species' status in the WVBS area. Where the species is of conservation concern it is noted i.e. **Red** or **Amber listed**. This means the species is of major or significant conservation concern respectively.

I would still urge all contributors to supply evidence of breeding where relevant. Such evidence is: singing male, nest building, nest & eggs or young, adult carrying food or faecal sac, recently fledged young.

Dealing with escapes and feral birds is always tricky but for this report I have put the certain escapes in a separate section. For the first time no records were received of Black-crowned Night-heron. Has the Great Witchingham Wildlife Centre colony died out?

Finally this is a summary of the 3,000+ records received during 2006. My apologies to anyone if a record has been missed from the report or not correctly acknowledged.

The following abbreviations have been used:

GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
HBW	Hoe Bird Walk
NarVOS	Nar Valley Ornithological Society
NBMR	Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report
RBA	Rare Bird Alert
SNRWP	Swanton Novers Raptor Watchpoint
WVRWP	Wensum Valley Raptor Watchpoint (Great Ryburgh)

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common breeding resident. Amber listed.

Reported the length of the valley.

Proof of breeding from Old Costessey, Sparham Pools and Taverham.

Largest flock was 50+ seen regularly during Jan/Feb at Wensum Valley GC, Taverham (BS).

Tundra Swan (Bewick's Swan) *Cygnus colombianus*

Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed.

"Fly-overs" in Feb of birds departing from their Welney wintering area to their breeding grounds in the Russian Tundra – 60 Mill Street, Elsing (AJ) and 50 Sparham (CS) on 14th; 180 E over Ringland and 20 Sparham on 16th (NM); 59 E over Tud Valley, New Costessey on 18th (AG) - give a clear indication of their emigration times.

First returning birds to winter were 1 on 29th Oct; 4 on 2nd Nov; 18 on 10th Nov over Tud Valley, New Costessey (AG) followed by 55 East Rudham on 28th Nov (NarVOS).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

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

A single record 12 to S over Briston on 1st Feb (RBA).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

There were two very different records in the early winter period: 1100 NW over Fakenham on 7th Jan (NBMR) and next day 1 with Greylags at Swanton Morley GP on 8th Jan (PL, AG, IB).

Birds heading for their wintering grounds in NW Norfolk started passing over from 12th Oct when 21 Scarning (IB) followed by 75 New Costessey on 16th (AG) and 150 Reepham on 24th (BB). In Nov 350 went over Reepham on 22nd and a further 250 on 28th (BB).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common resident & passage migrant.

Common throughout the valley with long established & increasing feral population.

Proof of breeding from Beetley, Gressenhall, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley GP.

Maximum counts at key sites: c.200 Hoe Bird Walk 18th Dec (DK), 500 Swanton Morley GP 6th Jan (PR), 150 W over Hoe Rough on 7th Mar (LL), 125 Beetley GP on 29th Jan (C&JF), 80 Attlebridge in Feb (WO) and 150 Sparham Pools on 11th Oct (NS).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common introduced resident

Seen at many sites within the valley but surprisingly only breeding records are from Beetley GP and Gressenhall.

Maximum counts: 100 Swanton Morley GP on 8th Jan (PL,AG,IBu), 39 Beetley GP 27th June (RG), 13 Sparham Pools 9th Aug (NS) and 12 Gressenhall 25th May (LL).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Mainly feral but possibly a scarce winter visitor. Amber listed.

Singles Fustyweed 8th Jan (PR,IB,TF,JB) and Swanton Morley GP 4th June (AJ,LW,JH)

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Introduced resident, locally common

The Wensum Valley has a long established resident and increasing feral population and it is becoming quite a stronghold.

Breeding only recorded at Taverham (R&DH), Sparham Pools (NS) and Ringland where a pair lost 7 young within a week (NM).

Maximum counts: 63 Bittering GP 26th Aug (IB), 58 Sennowe Park (NBMR), 20 Swanton Morley GP 30th July (B&BP), 17 Mack's Lane, Taverham 3rd Apr (NS), 12 Sparham Pools 23rd July and 9th Aug (NS) and 11 Hall Farm, Attlebridge 11th Mar (WO).

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A scarce visitor to the valley- increasing? Amber listed.

Mainly a breeding visitor to the valley arriving early in the year but departing to moult in July. Breeding records from Mileham (1pr + 7 young) 26th June (RG), West Raynham (1 pr + 5 young) 4th June (AJ, LW,JH), Sparham Pools (1pr) (CS).

Also recorded Bittering 5 18th Feb (PR), Coxford 1 4th June (BB/JE), Sparham Pools 2pr 13th Mar (RG), Swanton Morley GP 1 on 8th Jan (PR,IB,TF,JB) was first of year, 2 on 11th Feb and 3 on 18th Feb (G&RN),

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

A rare introduction.

Sennowe park 13th July (NBMR).

Eurasian Wigeon (Wigeon) *Anas penelope*

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

Recorded as follows: Hall Farm, Attlebridge 8 – 10 through Feb, Bittering GP 2 8th Jan and 10 26th Feb, Bylaugh 6 8th Jan, Sparham Pools 1pr 25th Apr. 2nd winter period records Sparham Pools 3 1st Oct, 4 4th Nov, 2 26th & 29th Nov, 2 28th Dec, HBW 5 19th Nov.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Resident, passage & migrant winter visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded in all months except June, Aug & Sept. No proof of breeding received.

Maximum counts 150 Bittering GP Feb (NBMR) 8 Sparham Pools Dec (CS). Other maxima: Beetley 1, Costessey 2, Haveringland 18, HBW 2, Lenwade 2, Swanton Morley GP 42.

Eurasian Teal (Teal) *Anas crecca*

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

No breeding records. Maximum counts: Costessey 2 1st – 7th Apr, HBW 12 15th Jan, Sparham Pools 8 29th Nov, Swanton Morley GP 18 11th Feb, Sweet Briar Marshes 22 18th – 23rd Feb and singles from Scarning and West Raynham.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident & winter visitor.

So common that often numbers go unrecorded but 50 Swanton Morley GP and 45 Sparham Pools both on 19th Nov, 30 Attlebridge 11th Mar, 20 Scarning 16th Nov with 18 Ringland 10th Mar.

Northern Pintail (Pintail) *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor and migrant. Amber listed.

4 SW over Tud Valley, New Costessey 12th Oct (AG)

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare passage migrant & possible breeder. Amber listed.

1 Pensthorpe Apr/May (NBMR).

Northern Shoveler (Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

A winter visitor, and rare breeder. Amber listed.

In first winter period 10 Coxford 8th Jan (PL,AG,IBu) and 2 West Raynham (A&CJ,LW,JH) on same day. 1pr Sparham Pools 13th Mar (RG) and 2pr 3rd Apr reducing to 1pr next day at Costessey (AB).

During second winter period 2 on 24th Nov Old Costessey (AB) and 5 Sparham Pools 29th Nov (BB/JE).

Common Pochard (Pochard) *Aythya farina*

Common passage migrant & winter visitor, rare breeder. Amber listed.

No proof of breeding. Highest counts 53 Sparham Pools 13th Mar (RG), 40 Swanton Morley GP 8th Jan (J&CF, A&BD). Elsewhere 4 Bridge Lake, Lenwade Feb/Mar (NS), 1 Dillington Carr

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Summer breeder also Common passage migrant & winter visitor.

No proof of breeding recorded but breeding season records from Beetley GP 15 27th June (RG), Sparham Pools 6 17th June (NS) and Swanton Morley GP 20 7th May (B&BP).

Maxima in first part of year 50 Swanton Morley GP 26th Mar (G&RN), 50 Sparham Pools 13th Mar (RG), 15 Catch 22, Lyng Easthaugh 15th Apr (RG) and 12 Dillington Carr 17th Mar (LL). During last quarter 60 Sparham Pools 26th Nov on a WVBS Field Trip and 19 Lenwade Common 25th Nov.

Greater Scaup (Scaup) *Aythya marila*

Rare winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.

5th Mar Bittering GP (NarVOS), singles 13th – 29th Apr Sennowe Park Lake & 22nd Apr Swanton Morley GP (NBMR).

Common Goldeneye (Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula*

Scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.

At the beginning of the year 1 fem/juv Billingford Common 8th Jan (B&MS/JL/RG), 30 5th Mar & 11 12th Mar Sennowe Park (NBMR) and then 1 Swanton Morley GP 10th Dec (B&BP)

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Winter visitor & passage migrant.

Apart from 5 to W over New Costessey on 10th Nov (AG) all records come from Attlebridge to Swanton Morley.

Maxima at Sparham Pools 5 Jan, 16 Feb, 9 Mar with latest spring record 1 26th Apr (BS). First returning birds at this site 5 26th Nov (BB/JE, RG) rising to 11 28th Dec (S&BG).

Swanton Morley GP 1 Jan, 1 Feb, 1 Mar with no records in second winter period.

Elsewhere: Attlebridge 1pr 22nd Mar (WO), Lenwade Common 1pr on river 3rd Mar (RG) and at Lyng 5 on 6th Feb (NBMR) & 2 on 21st Mar (NM).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Common introduced resident.

Many estates breed and release this species for shooting.

Recorded maxima: Attlebridge 2, Windsor Park, Dereham 13, Drayton 11, Haveringland 4, HBW 4, Hockering 9, Hoe Rough 2, Lenwade/ Hockering 30, Marsham 1 with day old chicks 18th June, N. Elmham 10, N Tuddenham 14, Old Costessey 9, Worthing 4.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

*Resident breeder in small numbers, declining in recent years. **Red listed.***

Recorded maxima: Beetley 2, Bittering GP 2, Daffy Green 7, Dereham SW 5, Elsing 2, Great Ryburgh 6, Haveringland 7, HBW 1, Hempton Common 2, Hoe 4, Lenwade Heath 1, N Tuddenham 3, Scarning 4, Sculthorpe Moor 7, Sparham Hall Farm 6-7 pairs bred but struggling, Worthing Church 4.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident.

Common throughout the valley. Many thousands of pheasants are bred & released for the shooting fraternity with lots of game management in the county.

Little Grebe *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

Mainly a winter visitor uncommon resident. Breeds in small numbers.

Breeding proven at Beetley GP 2 pr and Hoe 1 pr.

Elsewhere recorded from Hall Farm, Attlebridge 4, Costessey Mill 4, HBW 2, Hoe 2, Sparham Pools 2, Swanton Morley GP 14.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding residents on most pits & lakes in the valley, often departing to the coast in winter months.

Reports of nesting adults & adults with young from most lake & pit complexes during summer. A maximum of 20 Billingford Common / Swanton Morley GP on 18th Feb (G&RN).

Great Cormorant (Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common non-breeding resident. **Amber listed.**

Present other than May, June & July. Maximum count 35 Sparham Pools 27th Nov (BB/JE)

European Shag (Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Rare winter visitor to the valley. **Amber listed.**

One Swanton Morley GP 6th Jan (PR).

Great Bittern (Bittern) *Botaurus stellaris*

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

Singles Guist Common 5th Mar (NM) and Sparham Pools 26th Mar (CS).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce but increasing non-breeding resident. **Amber listed.**

Sightings continue to increase. Recorded all months except Apr, Oct & Nov.

Maximum count 8 at Clayhall Farm, Lenwade 29th Feb. Most sightings were of 1 or 2 from Bylaugh, Dereham SW, Elsing Bridge, Guist Common, Lyng, New & Old Costessey, Pensthorpe, Sculthorpe Moor, Swannington and WVRWP.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Common resident throughout the valley, present all year.

The colony at Gt. Witchingham Wildlife Centre had 43 active nests, Norfolk's largest colony. (AJ / RG).

Others were reported throughout the year from Attlebridge 3, Dereham SW 3, Windsor Park, Dereham, Fakenham 4, Gressenhall, Guist Common, HBW 3, Lenwade 2, Mattishall, N Tuddenham, Old Costessey 9, Scarning 2, Sculthorpe Moor 3, Sparham Pools 4, Swanton Morley GP 3, Sweet Briar Marshes and Taverham.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Escapee or rare vagrant

1 WVRWP 22nd May (RBA)

European Honey Buzzard (Honey Buzzard) *Pernis apivorus*

Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant. Amber listed.

Great Ryburgh Wensum Valley and Swanton Novers Raptor Watchpoints are the best places to observe this species in Norfolk.

First record 1 over Briston on 17th May (RBA) then 2 at GRWP the next day (PR). Max 4 seen at GRWP 20th May and 2 SNRWP 30th July (IB).

Regularly seen from both watchpoints during June / July.

Other sightings 1 N Elmham 29th May (PR), 2 Bintree 21st May (PR) and the last sighting of the year 1 Foxley 15th Sept (RBA).

2 pairs present in breeding areas but no proof of successful breeding.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Increasing visitor mainly from reintroduction projects. Amber listed.

Records were received from Feb to Nov and may all refer to a single bird. During late Feb/early Mar there were several sightings from the Colkirk / Great Ryburgh area (IB/NM/PR/RBA). Probably the same bird was at Sparham 26th Mar. There were no more records until May with 1 at Briston 17th (RBA), 1 Great Ryburgh 20th (IB) then Dereham 3rd June (IB), SNRWP 4th June (IB,J&CF,RG) and Sparham Hall 22nd June (CS).

In Sept 1 flew over A47 at Daffy Green 20th (IB). Sculthorpe Moor 28th Oct (PB) and finally 1 over Folgate Lane, Old Costessey 27th Nov (per AB).

Eurasian Marsh Harrier (Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*

Passage migrant and summer visitor to valley breeding in small numbers. Amber listed.

This species is becoming more established.

Records from 19th Mar to 20th Nov with sightings from an area covered by Sparham Pools, Mattishall, Brisley and Sculthorpe Moor. Breeding was successful at at least 1 site where 2 males and 3 females were present in the Spring.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

Single record from Great Ryburgh 19th Mar (IB).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Rare passage migrant to valley. Amber listed.

Female Great Ryburgh 25th May (NBMR).

Northern Goshawk (Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor to valley.

An easily overlooked secretive species.

A single record on 18th June (JF).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus*

Widespread fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Fairly certainly now the most common raptor in the WVBS area.

Interesting records include: "carving up a flock of Siskin" at Sparham Pools in Jan (NS), chasing Sand Martins at the Beetley GP colony and visiting WO's feeding station at Hall Farm, Attlebridge nearly every day in Feb, while in New Costessey IA recorded one sitting on top of his aviary "scaring the living daylights out of my Canaries".

Proof of breeding from Lenwade, Pensthorpe and Sparham Hall (2pr).

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Small but increasing breeding population in the valley.

Recorded every month except Apr. Sennowe Park remains the main location but they are being recorded over a wide area: Bintree, Colkirk, East Dereham, Easton College, Great Ryburgh (10 on 19th Mar (IB)), Gressinghall, Guist Common 3, Hockering Wood 4, Litcham 2, Marsham 4, Pensthorpe, Ringland, Scarning, Sennowe Park (8 on 25th Mar (NM)), Shereford, Sparham Pools 2, Stibbard and SNRWP 4.

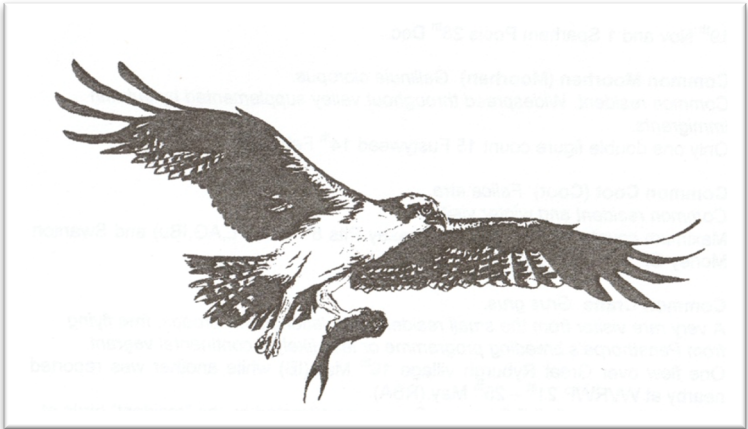
The high numbers in Mar could include birds returning to the continent.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant, increasing in frequency in recent years. Amber listed.

In the spring at Hempton 6th May, WVRWP 10th May and Sparham Pools 18th May (CS) followed by a "probable" flying NE over Lenwade 23rd June (S&BG).

In the autumn an Osprey was recorded from Lenwade, Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley GP 18th to 21st Sept (CS). Possibly the same bird was recorded over Pound Lane, N Tuddenham going towards Elsing on 1st Oct (DP). One WVRWP 25th Aug.



Osprey, by Jason Cork

Common Kestrel (Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*
Resident breeder and passage. Amber listed.

Increased reporting led to records from 35 locations (22 in 2005). Proof of breeding from East Dereham, Mileham, Scarning & Sparham Hall Farm (2pr).

Eurasian Hobby (Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*.

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant throughout the valley.

28 records received from our members over 14 locations is a reduction compared with 2005 (40 records from 18 locations). Earliest records were 25th Apr Sparham Hall Farm (CS) and 29th Apr Hockering Wood (B&BP) and the last 20th Sept Sparham Pools (PR).

The only evidence of breeding reported was an adult and juvenile at Scarning on 27th July. A few lucky members reported watching Hobbies catching hirundines and dragonflies during Aug / Sept.

Multiple sightings were East Dereham 2, Gressenhall 3, SNRWP 3, Sparham Pools 2 & WVRWP 2.

Water Rail *Rallus aquatus*

Uncommon resident and winter visitor. Amber listed.

During first winter period single birds recorded from HBW, Swanton Morley GP, Sweet Briar Marshes and Whitwell Common in Jan. No records were received for Feb but in Mar 1 – 2 Lenwade Common / Catch 22 area then 2 Dereham SW 29th Apr (IB).

The first of the second winter period was 1 Dereham SW 20th Oct and again on 22nd Dec. The only other records were 1 Lenwade Common 29th Nov, 1 HBW 19th Nov and 1 Sparham Pools 28th Dec.

Common Moorhen (Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*.

Common resident. Widespread throughout valley supplemented by autumn immigrants.

Only one double figure count 15 Fustyweed 14th Feb (BS).

Common Coot (Coot) *Falica atra*.

Common resident and winter visitor.

Maximum counts of 30 at both Costessey Pits 8th Jan (PL,AG,IBu) and Swanton Morley GP 5th Feb (B&BP).

Common Crane *Grus grus*.

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

One flew over Great Ryburgh village 19th Mar (IB) while another was reported nearby at WVRWP 21st – 25th May (RBA).

Possibly the same "wild" Common Crane was attracted by the "resident" birds at Pensthorpe throughout the summer until at least Sept (AR).

Eurasian Oystercatcher (Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*
Mainly a breeding visitor to the valley, absent in mid-winter. Amber listed.

Earliest recorded sighting was 1 Bittering GP 7th Mar. By the end of that month they were also recorded from HBW, Sparham Pools where 6 birds and 2 pr bred (CS/RG) and Swanton Morley GP 2 birds. Other records came from Dereham, Guist Common, Lenwade, New & Old Costessey and WVRWP (2). Latest record 2 Sparham Pools 31st July (NS).

Little Plover (Little Ringed Plover) *Charadris dubius*
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor in small numbers.

First birds were seen on 26th Mar (CS) at Sparham Pools. Exactly the same date and site as 2005. 2 at this site 16th Apr (AJ), 4 Pensthorpe 7th Apr, 1 Swanton Morley GP 17th Apr (IB), 1 Lyng Easthaugh 4th June (J&CF, RG) and the final sighting of the year 2 Swanton Morley GP 30th July (B&BP).

Proof of breeding was received from Pensthorpe (2 young fledged), East Tuddenham & Sennowe Park (NBMR).

European Golden Plover (Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*
Common passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.

The WVBS area remains a popular wintering area for this species. During the first winter period maximum counts, by site, were Mattishall 1,000 (B&MS), Weston Longville 800 (PL, AG, IBu), HBW 200 (DK), N Tuddenham 200 (B&BP), Worthing 200 (PR, IB, TF, JB), Hockering 150 (PR), Lenwade 150 (JL), Bittering 140 (NarVOS), Scarning 127 (IB), Daffy Green 120 (IB), Honingham 100 (JL) and the last Spring record Lyng 100 (NM). Other records below 3 figures came from Cawston, Dereham, Old Costessey and Sculthorpe.

(continues)

Golden Plover (continued)

500 were between Lenwade & Hockering 27th Sept (JL) then in Oct there were 1200 Sweet Briar Marshes, 40 Lyng and 16 Daffy Green. The Lenwade/Hockering flock fluctuated between 150 & 200 in Nov while 350 were at Erpingham 16th (PR) and 15 flew over Sparham Hall Farm 26th. Dec records: 2,500 Beetley, 2,500 Cawston and 800 – 1,000 Gressenhall 27th (IB).

Northern Lapwing (Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*.

Passage migrant and winter visitor, declining breeder. Amber listed.

The highest counts were during the Winter Bird Count on 8th Jan when 1,000 Sculthorpe Airfield (C&AJ, LW, JH), 500 flew over Sparham Pools (B&MS, JL, RG) and 300 Weston Longville (PL, AG, IBu). Other significant counts of 100+ in Jan 200 HBW 15th (DK), 150 Lenwade/Hockering 10th (PR), 150 Lenwade (fly-over) (NS), 150 Taverham 12th (R&DH), 123 Lenwade, Clayhall Farm 30th (MS) and 100 Mattishall 1st (BS). Feb was fairly lean with only 50 Mattishall 1st (BS), 30 N Tuddenham 25th (B&BP), 40 Swanton Morley 11th (G&RN).

During Mar there were 100 Mill Farm, N Tuddenham and 100 Bittering 19/3.

The only proof of breeding came from Manor Farm, Gt Witchingham 2pr (AB), Great Ryburgh 1pr and there was probable breeding near Bintree Mill.

During the post-breeding period records were few: 9 W over Lyng 24th June, then 20 Stibbard 12th Oct (IB), 70 Sparham Pools 23rd Oct followed by 30 20th Nov (BB/JE), 100 Gressenhall 2nd Nov (IB). Dec 60 over Scarning 10th, 20 N Elmham 16th 72 Gressenhall 27th, 30 Dereham SW and 44 Old Costessey on 29th (AB).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor to inland sites.

A single record 3 Sennowe Park 14th July (NBMR).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

First winter records Great Ryburgh, Kettlestone, Lyng Easthaugh GP and 18th – 23rd Feb Sweet Briar Marshes (CR). In Sept one was found dead below power lines at Sparham Pools (NBMR).

*Jack Snipe,
by Jason Cork*



Common Snipe (Snipe) *Gallinago gallinago*.

Passage migrant, particularly in autumn, and winter visitor. Amber listed.

8 Sculthorpe Mill (PL, AG, IBu) and 1 Dereham SW (PR, IB, TF, JB) on 8th Jan. Second half Feb was most productive 15 Sweet Briar Marshes from 18th (CR) dropping to 3 on 27th (LL) and 3+ Hall Farm, Attlebridge 28th(WO) with 3 remaining at the latter site on 13th Mar. 7 Clayhall Farm 14th – 18th Mar (JL/RG) and 4 Allotment Fields, Lenwade 29th Mar (JL), 8 HBW 19th Mar (DK).

Last sighting of spring 5 Dereham SW 29th Apr (IB).

The first autumn records were on 17th Sept when 2 HBW (DK) and 2 Scarning (IB). Dereham SW had 1 on 20th Oct rising to 9 28th (IB). 1 to 5 then recorded to end of year from Drayton, Old Costessey, Sparham Hall and HBW.

Eurasian Woodcock (Woodcock) *Scotopax rusticola*

Uncommon breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

1-2 during first winter period from Attlebridge, Daffy Green, Haveringland, Hoe, Lenwade Common, Mattishall, Sparham Hall Farm, Sweet Briar Marshes and Whitwell Common.

Roding was reported from Buxton Heath, Hockering Wood, Marsham Heath and Sculthorpe Moor.

Winter records from 15th Nov Dereham SW, Mill Farm Gt Whitchingham, Guist Common, Old Costessey, Scarning and Sparham Hall.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Rare passage migrant to WVBS area. Mainly fly-overs

15th July Sennowe Park (NBMR).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage migrant to WVBS area. Mainly fly-overs

21st Apr 7 E over Pensthorpe, 2nd May 3 Lyng (NM), 4th May 3 and 12th May 2 Sparham Hall Farm (CS). 1 Lenwade 5th Sept was the only autumn record.

Common Redshank (Redshank) *Tringa totanus*.

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

A single record 1 Swanton Morley GP 8th Jan (B&BP).

Common Greenshank (Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce passage migrant.

1- 2 regularly in July Sparham Pools (CS).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Passage migrant, regular but never numerous. Small numbers over winter. Amber listed.

1 – 2 birds recorded most months from Beetley GP, Dereham SW, Gressenhall, Mill Farm Gt Witchingham, Guist Common, Hoe, Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley GP.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage migrant to WVBS area

1 Sparham Pools 13th July.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Passage migrant, widespread.

First spring record Lyng Bridge 22nd Apr (S&BG) with “first of a thin spring passage” 27th Apr Sparham Pools (CS). 25 at the latter site on 3rd Aug was a site record (CS), then singles there 5th & 15th Aug.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage migrant.

1 Lyng GP 1st May (CS)

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Widespread and abundant non-breeding resident. More common in winter. Amber listed.

Present throughout the year. Significant counts: 300 Great Ryburgh 15th Apr (RG), 100 Sparham Pools 20th Oct (NS) with 200 there 14th Nov (BB/JE), 120 Gressenhall 27th Dec (IB), 100 Dereham SW 31st Dec (IB).

Along R Tud Valley at New Costessey AG recorded 127 7th Oct, 274 25th Oct and 209 5th Nov.

Mew Gull (Common Gull) *Larus canus*

Abundant and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded in relatively small numbers in most months. Max 54 over R Tud, New Costessey 5th Nov, c50 Clayhall Farm Lenwade on 14th Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Passage migrant with some birds remaining throughout the year. Amber listed.

Most significant counts made by AG R Tud, New Costessey 490 2nd Oct, 604 7th Oct. Also 65 Felthorpe 20th Nov (MS).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Passage migrant with some birds remaining throughout the year. Amber listed.

During Feb peaked at 200+ on 27th Hall Farm, Attlebridge (WO), 60 19th Aug and 367 20th Nov Felthorpe (MS). Otherwise very small numbers recorded.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Scarce but increasing late summer / autumn visitor

1-2 regularly in autumn Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Present throughout the year with winter visitors widespread but in small numbers.

Very small numbers. During Winter Bird Count 8th Jan 2 Sculthorpe Mill (PL, AG, IBu), 1 Lyng (BB, JE, CH). Singles HBW 16th Apr, 16th July, 20th Aug (DK). R Tud Valley 3 7th Oct, 7 25th Oct (AG). Sparham Pools 2 1st Oct (BB/JE) & 4 27th Dec (IB).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Migratory breeder and passage migrant in valley. Small breeding colony at Sparham Pools.

Recorded from Costessey to Gt Ryburgh in the Wensum Valley with max of 13 Sparham Pools 31st July (NS). First record 1 Lyng Easthaugh 23rd Apr (AJ).

2 were seen sitting on the new raft at Sparham Pools on 25th Apr where 6 pairs nested (5 on raft, 1 on platform). On 7th June the raft had 2 nests with 3 eggs, 1 with 2 eggs, and 1 with 1 egg plus 7 young. Also there was a nest with 3 eggs on one of the small platforms. 12 young were estimated to have fledged. Nearby at Sparham Pools NWT nesting was hampered by weed growth on the island leading to breeding success being hard to estimate.

Sennowe Park 8 – 9 pr, fledging unknown (NBMR).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce passage migrant. Amber listed.

Of 35+ terns at Lyng Easthaugh GP 1st May 20 – 30 were Arctic Terns; the remainder Common Terns (NM,CS).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage migrant.

2 Lyng GP 5th-6th May (NM,CS).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Only occurs after Northerly gales.

A single was found dead on A148 near Fakenham beginning Nov.

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Feral resident, associated with human habitation.

Very few records. 50 Ringland 8th Jan (PI, AG, IBu).

Stock Pigeon (Stock Dove) *Columba oenas*

Fairly common resident throughout valley. **Amber listed.**

Only single figure records received.

Common Wood Pigeon (Wood Pigeon) *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident throughout valley.

Significant counts 350 Hindolveston 21st Feb (PR) and 100 Taverham 3rd Apr (NS) but major movements R.Tud Valley with 6,600 birds moving between S and E 27th Oct to 17th Dec with peaks of 1,305 4th Nov, 670 6th Nov and 1,635 9th Dec (AG).

Eurasian Collared Dove (Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident, associated with human habitation.

Maximum count 40 Reepham 25 Nov (BB/JE).

European Turtle Dove (Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur*

Migratory breeder and passage migrant. **Red listed.**

First reported on 24th Apr Worthing Church (DK). Last record 25th Aug N Tuddenham (B&BP).

Other sites Beetley GP, Bintree, Gunton Lane Old Costessey, Guist Common, HBW, Lenwade, Lyng Easthaugh, N Tuddenham (5 on 20th Aug is only indication of successful breeding), Ringland, Sennowe Park, Sparham Pools (2), Swanton Morley GP, Weston Green (2), Weston Longville and WVRWP.

Common Cuckoo (Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus*

Migratory breeder and passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

First reported at Sparham Hall on 18th Apr (CS) where 3 calling simultaneously 17th June (NS).

Also recorded from Costessey, Dereham, Drayton, Gressenhall (2), Guist Common (3), Lenwade, Lyng Easthaugh, N Tuddenham (2), Taverham, Worthing Church and WVRWP.

Latest record was as early as 26th June Lyng Easthaugh (RG).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Resident breeder. Particularly well represented in the valley. Amber listed.

This exciting species continues to be well recorded.

Recorded from – Bawdswell Heath, Beeston, Beetley (2), Bintree, Brisley, Bylaugh, Colkirk, Costessey, Croxford, Daffy Green, Dereham SW, Dereham (3 sites), Drayton, Elsing, Etling Green, Felthorpe, Foulsham, Great Ryburgh, Guist Common, Hempton Common, HBW (2), Hoe Rough, Horningtoft, Lenwade (2 sites), Litcham, Lyng, Lyng Easthaugh, Mileham (2), N Elmham, N Tuddenham (3 sites), Pensthorpe, Ringland, Scarning (2), Sculthorpe Moor, Shereford, SNRWP, Sparham Hall & Pools, Sporle, Swannington (2), Swanton Morley, Wensum Valley GC, Weston Green (2), Weston Longville, Whitwell Common, Worthing Church.

Proof of breeding Dereham, Guist Common, Ringland, Sparham Hall Farm (3 pairs), Scarning.

4th Mar 9 counted between Fakenham and Themelthorpe during daylight, including one dead bird.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Introduced resident. Fairly common in the WVBS area.

Reported throughout the year from Bittering, Bintree, Bylaugh Hall, Brisley, Daffy Green, Dereham, Dereham SW, Elsing Bridge, Elsing Hall Lane, Felthorpe, Foxley, Guist Common, HBW, Hoe, Litcham, Lyng, Lyng Easthaugh, N Tuddenham (4 sites), Ringland, Scarning (3), Sparham Hall, Swannington (3 sites) and Swanton Morley.

Confirmed breeding records from Dereham (1B) and Sparham Hall Farm 1, possibly 2 pr (CS). 1 at Foxley 21st Mar was the first at this site for 7 years (NBMR).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Widespread resident.

Recorded from Attlebridge, Bylaugh SW, Dereham, Dereham SW (3), Elsing, Gt Witchingham Mill Farm, Lenwade (3), Lyng Easthaugh, Marsham Heath, Mattishall, Mileham, New & Old Costessey, N Tuddenham (2 sites), Scarning, Sparham Hall & Pools, Swannington, Taverham (3).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Rare resident and winter visitor.

Road traffic casualty Swanton Morley 6th Nov (IB). Probably a recent immigrant from the Continent meeting a sad end.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

Sculthorpe Airfield in 1st winter period.

European Nightjar (Nightjar) *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce migratory breeder. Red listed.

2 Buxton Heath (BB/JE) and 2 Marsham Heath (C&JF,RG) on 3rd June.

Common Swift (Swift) *Apus apus*

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.

First record 1 to NE over Taverham 17th Apr (NS) but major influx not until 7th May when 150 Swanton Morley GP (B&BP).

150 at N Tuddenham 4th July was rather early for a mass emigration and may have been a cold weather movement.

Last record 2 30th Aug Sparham pools (NS).

Common Kingfisher (Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis*

Common resident in the valley. Amber listed.

A very well reported species. Mainly singles but up to 3 reported throughout the year from – Billingford Common, Costessey, Dereham SW, Dereham Ted Ellis' Walk, Elsing Bridge, Haveringland, Hellesdon, Hoe, Lenwade 3 sites, Lyng Bridge, Lyng Easthaugh, N Tuddenham, New & Old Costessey, Pensthorpe, Scarning (2), Sculthorpe Mill, Sparham Pools (2 pr), Swanton Morley GP and Sweet Briar Marshes.

Breeding proved at Gunton Lake Park & Costessey Mill (AB) and Sparham Pools 2pr (CS).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Former breeder, now very rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

A single record Itteringham 17th Sept (RBA).

Green Woodpecker *Picis viridis*

Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Most records are of singles. Attlebridge Hall Farm, Beetley GP 3, Costessey, Costessey Mill, Costessey Pits, Dereham SW, Windsor Park Dereham, Drayton, Elsing Bridge, Felthorpe, Fustyweed, Gressenhall, HBW, Hoe Rough, Honingham, Lenwade 2, Mattishall 2, N Tuddenham, Pensthorpe, Scarning, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley GP, Sweet Briar Marshes, Taverham, Wensum Valley GC 3, Whitwell Common 2.

Proof of breeding from Beetley GP, Windsor Park Dereham & Whitwell Common.

Recorded eating apples at a garden feeding station Hall Farm Attlebridge.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders.

One to 4 recorded throughout the year from 26 locations.

Proof of breeding from Beetley, Old Costessey (AB), Windsor Park Dereham (C&JF), Gressenhall (LL), Lenwade (S&BG), Ringland (D&RH) & Weston Green (D&JG).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident. Occasionally visiting garden feeders. Red listed.

A good set of reports for this elusive species.

No reports of visiting garden feeding stations but singles 31st Jan between N Elmham & Guist (DMcN), Ringland 3rd Feb (NM), N Tuddenham Common 5th Feb, 14th & 30th Apr (B&BP), singing Beetley River Meadows 25th Mar (NarVOS), drumming Lenwade Common 4th May but no evidence it bred in area (RG) and 5th Oct Bintree (NM).

Also Foxley & New Costessey (NBMR).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Fairly common resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were 100 Worthing Church 8th Jan (B&MS, JL, RG), 50 Old Costessey 18th Jan (AB) and 38 N Tuddenham 15th Mar (B&BP) in the early winter. CS recorded 42 pairs breeding on Sparham Hall Farm. In the second winter period there were 30 max Drayton in Oct (AB), 50 Sparham Hall 14th Nov (CS, RG) and 50 Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham 12th Dec (AJ).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Migratory breeder in sand quarries, preferring fresh faces. Also passage migrant. Amber listed.

First report was 23 Beetley GP (NarVOS) and 2 Sparham Pools 27th Mar (BB/JE). Breeding was recorded at Beetley GP where 125 nest holes were occupied and Lyng Easthaugh where c. 25 pair nested. 163 new birds were ringed at Beetley and 52 at Lyng Easthaugh (RG). See ringing report for recoveries / controls.

Elsewhere 20 were recorded at Fustyweed on 28th Aug (BS).

Latest record was 6 Lyng 5th Sept (BS).

Barn Swallow (Swallow) *Hirundo rustica*

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant. Decreasing. Amber listed.

First reports were on 28th Mar when 1 Old Costessey (AB) “earliest by 2 1/2 weeks” and 3 Ringland (NM). There were no double figure records until 7th May when 20 Swanton Morley GP (B&BP) then 30 Lenwade 21st Aug (S&BG). No significant roosts were recorded.

28th Aug 1000 W Great Ryburgh between 10.30 and 1300 hrs (NBMR).

1 Taverham 14th Sept (NS) then 4th Dec Great Witchingham (NBMR).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed.

The first arrival was 1 Lyng 17th Apr (BB/JE) with a steady trickle over the next few weeks from Old Costessey to Dereham SW.

AB reported 100 (25% juvs) assembling at a muddy puddle on 28th July in Costessey. 120 were at Pound Farm N Tuddenham 6th Aug (B&BP) and 100 Worthing 19th Aug passed through very quickly (DK).

Return passage recorded at Great Ryburgh – 500 W 1st Aug, 400 W both 4th & 25th (NBMR).

Double figure counts came from Dereham, Windsor Park (20), Fustyweed (50), Lenwade (60), New Costessey (25), Sparham Pools (21), Taverham (20), Swanton Morley (10).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Rare breeder & passage migrant. Amber listed.

1 Syderstone Common 4th June (AJ, LW, JH).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Scarce breeder and passage migrant with highest numbers in the winter. *Amber listed.*

Highest counts were 30+ Lenwade in Mar, 10 Bylaugh SW 8th Jan (B&BP) and 10 Costessey 10th Mar (AB).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Rare summer migrant to the valley. **Amber listed.**

At last! A single reported Lenwade 25th Apr (NS).

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 outside the breeding season. Amber listed.

A well recorded species throughout the year.

Reported from Attlebridge (Hall Farm), Beetley GP, Bintree Mill, Bylaugh SW, Costessey Mill & Pits, Dereham (SW, Ted Ellis Walk, Windsor Park), Gt Witchingham (Eade's Mill), Gressenhall, Guist, Hoe, Hoe Rough, Lenwade, Lyng Mill, Lyng Easthaugh, Morton on the Hill, N Tuddenham & Common, Scarning, South Raynham, Sparham Pools, Taverham, Wensum Valley GC and Worthing.

Evidence of breeding: Bintree Mill, Corpusty, Guist, 2 pairs in Lyng / Sparham area and a pair Worthing bridge.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

200 roosting Drayton Rd, Norwich and 72 Ted Ellis Walk, Dereham both on 1st Mar (IB) were the max counts for the year. Other gatherings included 25 – 35 going to roost Beetley GP end June to mid-July (AH/RG), 25 Bylaugh SW and 20 Dereham SW end Dec (IB).

Bohemian Waxwing (Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor. Rare in valley.

Two records – 2 on 1st and 1 still on 3rd Feb at Home Farm, Marsham (RBA), 1 River Meadows, Beetley singing on 24th Mar (NarVOS).

Winter Wren (Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant, mainly sedentary resident.

This ubiquitous species must be too common for our members to report as very few records.

Hedge Accentor (Dunnock) *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. Amber listed.

No significant records.

European Robin (Robin) *Erithacus rubecula*

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

No record of particular significance was received for this ubiquitous species.

Common Nightingale (Nightingale) *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Rare summer visitor to WVBS area. Amber listed.

Up to 4 singing males Ringland Common 22nd Apr until at least 5th May (AB). Singing male Lenwade Common 31st May and another along Marriott's Way, Lenwade 2nd June.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

Rare visitor to WVBS area. Amber listed.

1 New Costessey 7th Apr (per AB).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Scarce passage migrant to the valley. Amber listed.

2 Sparham 27th Aug (CS).

Northern Wheatear (Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Scarce passage migrant to the valley.

2 Worthing Church 24th Apr (DK), 1 Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham 25th Apr (AJ), 1 Ringland 2nd May (NM) and 1 in the autumn Foulsham 16th Sept (NM).

Common Blackbird (Blackbird) *Turdus merula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Maximum count 60 Marriorr's Way, Old Costessey 22nd Dec (AB).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

During the early winter period recorded until 19th Mar when 110 Bylaugh (NM). Counts of 100+: 700 Sennowe Park 12th Mar, 500 Mill Farm, N Tuddenham 20th Jan (B&BP), 150 Fustyweed 14th Feb & Bawdeswell 21st Feb, 100 Worthing Church 8th Jan, Elsing 3rd Feb, Colkirk & Sennowe both 25th Feb and N Tuddenham 15th Mar.

The first recorded returning birds were 5 25th Oct which was the start of a W – SW movement AG recorded over R Tud Valley, New Costessey which peaked with 2,632 on 1st Nov, 4,077 on 2nd, 1,921 on 3rd and gave a total of 9,648 by 19th Nov. A superb piece of recording.

Elsewhere 1000 W Bawdeswell 2nd Nov (NBMR), 360 Sparham Pools 1st Nov (NS), 50 Felthorpe 7th (MS), 150 Lenwade & 50 Brisley 9th Nov – all to SW. It is mindboggling to think how many Fieldfare flew over the WVBS area in the first 10 days of Nov.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Showing signs of recovery? Red listed.

Many records of 1 or 2 from 20 locations with a max of 7 at Dereham SW on 31st Dec (IB). Several comments indicated increased numbers in 2006.

AG recorded 193 moving mainly W/SW from 5th Oct to 12th Nov with a peak of 50 on 12th Oct, over New Costessey.

A few records of successful breeding were received.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Common passage migrant with smaller numbers in winter. Amber listed.

At the beginning of the year recorded from 12 locations. Significant counts: 50 Gressenhall 21st Feb (LL), 40 Fakenham 8th Jan (C&JF, A&BD) & 40 Sweet Briar Marshes 30th Mar.

Last bird of spring 1 Gressenhall 4th Apr (LL).

(continues)

Redwing (continued)

The autumn passage started on 5th Oct when 15 Bintree (NM) and 8 R Tud Valley, New Costessey where AG recorded 12,026 moving W/SW by 19th Nov with peaks of 5,138 on 26th Oct, 944 on 1st Nov 3,582 on 2nd Nov and 848 on 3rd Nov.

Records were received from another 10 sites with 100 Bawdeswell 2nd Nov and 25 at Old Costessey on 1st Dec (AB).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant. Amber listed.

Recorded from 20 sites. Post breeding flocks 14 Whitwell Common 31st Aug (RG) and 10 Old Costessey 1st Dec (AB).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Rare resident expanding its range through valley.

Recorded from 6 locations within the valley from 8th Jan to 30th Nov. No proof of breeding but present at 4 sites during the breeding season.

Common Grasshopper Warbler (Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer resident and passage migrant. Red listed.

Recorded from Costessey 28th May (AB), Sparham Pools 17th June to 9th Aug (CS, NS) and Sennowe Park (no date).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant.

Earliest record 16th Apr at Lyng Easthaugh (RG).

Also recorded from Costessey (13 territories), Guist Common, Lenwade Common & Bridge Lake, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley GP and Whitwell Common where 4 juvs caught on 10th Aug.

Eurasian Reed Warbler (Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus scirpaceous*
Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant.

Earliest record 16th Apr Costessey and latest 13th Aug Costessey Mill (AB).

Also recorded from Lenwade, Scarning, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley GP and Whitwell Common.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*
Scarce summer resident and passage migrant.

First recorded 23rd Apr R Tud Valley, New Costessey (AG) then 26th Apr East Rudham (NarVOS), 5th May Dereham (AB) and Sparham Hall Farm (CS) where 3 pairs bred.

Common Whitethroat (Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis*
Very common summer resident.

First bird 16th Apr Costessey (AB). Recorded from 9 sites. Sparham Hall Farm 10 pairs bred "a good year" (CS). Breeding was particularly successful at Whitwell Common where 2 adults and 19 juvs were caught & ringed on 30th / 31st July. A similar ringing session on 9th / 10th Aug produced only 2 juvs indicating that the main emigration occurred between these dates.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*
Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant. Less common than Blackcap.

First record 22nd Apr Sparham Pools (S&BG). An increase of records from 12 sites compared with 4 in 2005 is probably mainly due to better reporting.

Recorded from Costessey (3 sites), Elsing, HBW, Honingham, Lenwade (3 sites), Ringland Common, Sparham Hall Farm & Pools, Swanton Morley GP and Whitwell Common (a juv on 31st July which is latest record).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer resident and passage migrant; winters in very small numbers.

During first winter period 2 New Costessey and one Beetley (NBMR).

The first spring record was 1st Apr Old Costessey (AB).

Of significance 12 were recorded Sparham Pools 27th Apr (NS, MS) and 2 adults and 10 juvs were caught on Whitwell Common 30th / 31st July and only 2 juvs 9th / 10th Aug (RG) in 2 ringing sessions.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Very rare passage migrant.

Hellesdon 6th Aug (BH).

Common Chiffchaff (Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer resident, passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.

The first record of the year was from N Tuddenham Common 5th Feb (B&BP). It is interesting to speculate whether this bird overwintered or was an early summer visitor.

The main spring influx started 17th Mar (3 Sparham Pools (BB/JE) through to the first week of Apr.

Reported from 23 locations. It continues to be far commoner than Willow Warbler with more than twice as many records and 15 Chiffchaff caught to only 4 Willow Warbler at Whitwell Common.

There were several Chiffchaff recorded on 1st Oct then 1 Scarning 12th (IB) with the last record New Costessey 20th Oct (AG).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

Earliest record Sparham Pools 5th Apr (CS).

Records were also received from Dereham SW, Elsing (3 sites), HBW, Lenwade (3 sites), Swanton Morley GP, Taverham and Whitwell Common.

Latest record Windsor Park, Dereham 23rd Sept (C&JF).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

Reported from 13 locations and in all months with proof of breeding from Lenwade and Whitwell Common.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Uncommon and declining summer resident. **Red listed.**

First recorded 21st May HBW (DK) and last recorded 5th Aug Lenwade (RG).

Reported from 16 sites with proof of breeding from Beetley, Bintree Mill, Great Witchingham Church & Mill Farm, Horningtoft Malthouse Farm, Lenwade Walcis Farm, Reepham, Sparham Hall Farm, Swannington, Swanton Morley 2 pr. Also reported from Costessey Mill, HBW, Lenwade Common, Weston Park GC, West Raynham and Worthing.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident.

Recorded from 20 localities with many double figure records. The highest being 30 at Swanton Morley GP / Billingford Common on 18th Feb (G&RN) when one might expect the population to be approaching its minimum after winter mortality. 25 were at this site on 10th Dec and also in AB's garden New Costessey on 10th Aug (not the same flock!). Flocks of 20 were reported from Lenwade 16th June (S&BG), Taverham 29th July (R&DH) and Sparham Pools 27th Oct (NS).

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Uncommon and declining resident. Red listed.

Due to the difficulty in separating this and the next species the potential for confusion must be recognised.

Recorded in 1s and 2s from Bittering, Dereham SW, Dereham (Windsor Park), Elsing (Mill St), Fustyweed, Great Witchingham (Blackwater Farm), HBW, Hoe Rough, Lenwade (Common, Heath & Norwich Rd), Lyng, Ringland, Sculthorpe Moor (3) and Sparham Pools. CS reported that it is the first year he's not recorded one on Sparham Hall Farm. A sign of the decline.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Uncommon declining resident. Red listed.

See above re ID.

Only recorded from Sculthorpe Mill 8th Jan (PL, AG, IBu), Sculthorpe Moor 2nd (3) & 8th Jan (PR,IB,TF,JB), Hockering Wood 14th Apr (B&BP), Lenwade Common 16th June, family party (RG) and Ringland Common, family party 25th June (AB).

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident.

Reported far better than in 2005.

Recorded from Costessey (New, Old(bred) & Mill), Dereham (Windsor Park), Felthorpe, Fustyweed, HBW, Hockering Wood, Lenwade (8 in one garden, 15 ringed in another, also bred), Mattishall, N Tuddenham Common, Reepham, Sparham Pools, Sculthorpe Moor and Whitwell Common.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Common resident.

Common throughout the area. To give an indication of the population 202 were ringed in one Lenwade garden.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident.

Common throughout the area. To give an indication of the population 128 were ringed in one Lenwade garden

Wood Nuthatch (Nuthatch) *Sitta europaea*

Uncommon resident.

Far better coverage than 2005 and a possible increase. Recorded at Costessey (Mill, Longwater Woods and Gunton Lane 5 pr), Dereham (Windsor Park), Fustyweed, Hellesdon, Hockering Wood, Hoe Common, Honingham, Lenwade (at least 3 pr), Lyng 2pr, Ringland, Scarning, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley, Taverham (Ghost Wood), Weston Park GC, West Raynham, Whitwell Common.

Eurasian Treecreeper (Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*

Unobtrusive resident

Ones & twos recorded at Costessey Mill & Gunton Lane (bred), Dereham SW, Dereham (Windsor Park), HBW, Hoe, Hoe Common, Lenwade Common & Heath, N Tuddenham Common, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley, Weston park GC and Whitwell Common (bred).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Former breeder and very rare passage migrant

A pair Old Costessey 3rd June (AB). Once a common breeder but now perhaps the rarest find of the year in WVBS area.

Eurasian Jay (Jay) *Garrulus monedula*

Common resident and winter visitor

Recorded from 20 locations mainly 1 to 5 but 10 Lenwade 9th Nov and 22 HBW 17th Dec (DK).

Black-billed Magpie (Magpie) *Pica pica*

Common resident.

16 Felthorpe 20th Nov (MS) was the largest flock recorded.

Eurasian Jackdaw (Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula*

Common resident.

No significant counts reported. Largest flock was 59 Felthorpe 20th Nov (MS).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident.

Records of flocks going to roost; 800 over Hall Farm, Attlebridge Feb (WO), 300 Taverham in Jan (R&DH) and 350+ in Nov (NS). 100 Mill Farm, N Tuddenham 25th Feb (B&BP).

160 nests Stibbard (NBMR).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident.

Under recorded. Largest flock / family party 7 Sparham Pools 19th Nov (BB/JE).

Common Starling (Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident. **Red listed.**

AG's records for R Tud Valley, New Costessey are again impressive with a total migrating mainly W/NW between 12th Oct and 29th Nov of 18,018 birds. Counts over 1,000 were 4,660 3rd Nov, 4,224 4th Nov, 1,835 11th Nov, 1,920 16th Nov and 1,310 17th Nov.

Elsewhere counts over 100: 800 Ringland 8th Jan (PL,AG,IBu), 200 Taverham 4th Feb (NS), 300 Beetley GP 19th July (RG), and 1000+ Guist Common 17th Dec (IB).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common but declining resident. Red listed.

This is a species that is often ignored by those who have them locally. Double figure records 25 Lyng, 20 Old Costessey, 12 Felthorpe & Taverham, 10 Attlebridge & Mattishall. Otherwise only reported from Hockering.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

Uncommon declining resident. Red listed.

A very poor year with no flocks reported.

Bittering 2, Colkirk, Mill St, Elsing 4, East Tuddenham, Fulmodeston 10, Fustyweed 5, Litcham 1, Lyng 1, Mileham, Old Costessey 1. Breeding Dereham Manor Farm 3pr, Dereham Old Hall Farm 1pr and Sculthorpe 1pr (NBMR).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant widespread resident and winter visitor.

It would seem that there are no large flocks wintering in the WVBS area.

200 Sennowe Park Mar & 100 Mileham Feb then 50 Sparham Hall Farm 20th Dec, 20 HBW 17th Dec and 15 Drayton 26th Dec.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Most first winter period records were of 1-2 birds coming to garden feeding stations except for 10 between Mattishall and N Tuddenham: Bittering, Fustyweed, Lenwade and N Tuddenham. The latest spring record was 14th Apr when 1 or 2 were still visiting S&BG's garden, Lenwade.

Earliest returning record was 2 Bintree 22nd Sept, then recorded in gardens from 3rd Nov to year end at Dereham, Fustyweed, Lenwade, Old Costessey, Mill St Elsing. In addition 33 between 12th Oct and 17th Nov with max of 9 2nd Nov over R Tud Valley, New Costessey.

European Greenfinch (Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident.

In the first 6 months of the year 100 Beetley and 30 in Lenwade were the largest records. In the second half of the year 250 Foulsham, 200 Elsing (Pennyspot) 8th Oct, the flock on Sparham Hall Farm peaked at 100+ 26th Nov and 50 were at N Tuddenham (Pound Lane) 27th Oct.

European Goldfinch (Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident.

This species continues to adapt to garden feeding where nyjer seed and sunflower hearts are provided with 20 – 30 coming to gardens in Lenwade. Elsewhere GH reported "They are the second most numerous visitors to our feeding station but they have disappeared overnight without trace" on 25th July.

In the countryside 65 Sweet Briar Marshes 18th Feb (CR), 35 Billingford Common 12th Mar (NM), 24 Dereham SW 22nd Dec (IB).

Eurasian Siskin (Siskin) *Carduelis spinus*

Winter visitor in varying numbers.

Largest flocks were in the first winter period 80 Lenwade Common 18th Jan, 70 at both Sparham Pools 19th Jan (NS) and Sweet Briar Marshes 18th Feb (CR) then 100+ Sparham Pools 14th Feb (CS).

Proof of breeding came from Felthorpe – a family party of 9 on feeder 16th May (P&AS) and 4 Lyng 18th June (NM) suggests possible breeding in the area.

In the second half of the year numbers were very low with 2 New Costessey 20th Aug (per AB), 1 Lyng 2nd Oct (NM) and 15 Lenwade Common early to mid-Dec but 150 Fakenham 16th Dec (NBMR).

Common Linnet (Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina*

Declining resident. Red listed.

Several sizeable flocks during first winter period in Jan – 100 Lenwade 6th, 100 N Elmham, 50 Weston Green, 30 Helhoughton and 20 Worthing on 8th, 50 Old Costessey 18th then in Feb 30 at both Weston Airfield and Mill Farm, N Tuddenham on 26th.

Breeding reported from Beetley, Costessey, N Tuddenham, Ringland and Sparham Pools.

Flocks again formed from Aug when 130 Hall Lane, N Tuddenham on 25th. The flock at Sparham Hall Farm built from 20 in mid-Nov to 120 at the end Dec.

Lesser Redpoll (Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret*

Scarce and declining resident and winter visitor. Amber listed.

The following records are assumed to all be of this species. During the Bird Count on 8th Jan 1 Lenwade (PL,AG,IBu), 5 Weston Green (B&BP) & 20 Worthing Church (B&BP). In Feb 1 Sweet Briar Marshes 18th – 23rd (CR) and 6 HBW 19th (DK). In Mar 8 on Lenwade Common on 20th were half Lesser and half Common (RG). 4 Shallowbrooks, Old Costessey 30th (AB).

In early May singing males at Pensthorpe & Swanton Morley gave no further evidence of breeding (NBMR).

Common (i.e. Mealy) Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Rare winter visitor. Amber listed.

As well as the 4 mentioned above there were 40 Syderstone 12th Apr (NBMR) and 1 Sparham Pools 27th Dec (IB).

Common Crossbill (Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra*

Very rare resident breeder following eruptions.

1 Ringland on 29th Mar and 9th May (NM).

Common Bullfinch (Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Declining resident. Red listed.

Recorded in all months. Recorded from the following locations with maximum for each in brackets. Bintree (3), Costessey (6 pr), Coxford, Dereham SW (2), Dereham Windsor Park (2), Elsing (2), Fustyweed (1), Great Ryburgh (1) Gressenhall (6), HBW (5), Hoe (5), Lenwade (3), N Tuddenham (2), Oulton Street (1), Scarning (3), Sparham Pools (3), Swanton Morley (2), Sweet Briar Marshes (4) and Whitwell Common (6).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare resident. Red listed.

A report of 1 heard in Apr (AB).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Declining common resident. Red listed.

Reported from 22 locations. 100 Fakenham (NBMR), then double figure counts from Gressenhall 16 on 7th Feb (LL), Lyng 30 19th Mar (NM), N Tuddenham, Mill Farm 30 25th Feb (B&BP), Old Costessey 15 3rd Feb (AB), Scarning 22 24th Dec (IB), Sparham Hall Farm 30 20th Dec + 12 pairs bred (CS) and Weston Longville 20 8th Jan (PL, AG, IBu).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Uncommon resident. Red listed.

No significant wintering flocks noted at either end of the year. Recorded from Hall Farm Attlebridge (2), Bylaugh SW (3), Costessey (2), Drayton (6), Great Ryburgh, Guist Common (7 – bred), HBW (2), Lenwade (2), Mileham (1), Ringland (1), Scarning (1), Sennowe Park, Sparham Hall Farm (40) 20th Dec, Sparham Pools (3), and Swanton Morley GP (4).

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Rare resident. Red listed.

One Sparham Hall Farm 15th Apr, the first for 30 years!! (CS).

Escapes

These are species that have been recorded in the area but are clearly not native and have not reached Britain by their own efforts.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Eastern and SW Australia

One Beetley Water Meadows from at least 24th Jan to 24th Mar (NarVOS).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Eastern Europe, Asia & N Africa.

Present at Bittering GP in unknown numbers with species below (RBA).

South African Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

South Africa.

One Bittering GP at least from 6th Feb to 19th Mar (RBA,IB).

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

Widespread across Europe & Asia but not Britain.

3 interesting records: One on JC's garage roof at Foulsham on 10th Jan, 1 Swannington Church 1st July responding to a captive Eagle Owl 300 metres away and the escapee from Walcis Farm, Lenwade was still in the area 19th Nov (RG).

African Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

West and Central Africa

"One flying strongly West on a day of strong movement" 2nd Nov over R Tud Valley, New Costessey (AG).

Contributors to the Systematic List

I Afford	R&D Harvey	W Oram
J Baker	Hawk & Owl Trust	B&J Palmer
P Banson	G Hemmings	D&D Pelling
B Bradley	C Hill	Pensthorpe Log Book
I Brittain	J Horsman	B&B Pummell
A Brown	B Howe	Rare Bird Alert
I Burrows (IBu)	A&C Jackson	A Reeve
J Cator	D Knight	P Riley
A&B Dalton	P Lambley	C Robson
D Dowsett	J Leeder	C Sayer
J Evans	L Lloyd	B&M Shapcott
C&J Fenn	B Marsham	B Shepherd
T Forster	D McNeill	P&A Smith
A Gardiner	N Mears	M Spriggs
S&B Gibney	Nar Valley Ornithological Society	N Street
R&C Gribble	Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2006	L Waller
D&J Gurney	C&F Neale	M Youngman
A Hale	G&R Northall	

Thanks to all the above for submitting their records.

Locations and Grid References

The grid references refer to the coordinates of the bottom left hand corner of the 2km tetrad the site is located in.

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.

Alderford Common (1218)	Gateley (9624)
Attlebridge (1216)	Great Ryburgh (9426)
Bawdeswell (0420)	Great Ryburgh Watchpoint (9624)
Beetley GP (9818)	Great Witchingham Wildlife Centre (0818)
Billingford(0020)	Gressenhall (9616)
Billingford Common (0018)	Guist (9824)
Billingford Pits (0018)	Guist Common (9824)
Bintree Mill (9824)	Hempton Marsh (9028)
Broom Green (9824)	Hockering (0612)
Bridge Lake, Lenwade (1018)	Hoe (9816)
Briston (0632)	Hoe Common (9816)
Bylaugh (0218)	Kettlestone(9630)
Bylaugh Sewage Works (0218)	Lenwade Common (0818)
Caddes Hill, Lyng (0616)	Lenwade Heath (0818)
Costessey (1610)	Lenwade Station (1018)
Costessey Pits (1612)	Lenwade (0818)
Dayton (1812)	Lenwade Bridge (1018)
Dunton (8830)	Little Ryburgh (9628)
Easton College (1210)	Lyng (0616)
Elsing (0416)	Lyng Easthaugh (0818)
Elsing Mill (0416)	Marriott's Way, Lenwade (1018)
Fakenham (9228)	Mill Street, Elsing (0416)
Foxley (0220)	
Fustyweed, Elsing (0418)	

Marriott's Way, Lenwade (1018)	Sparham Hall Farm (0618)
Mill Street, Elsing (0416)	Sparham Holes (0418)
Morton-on-the-Hill(1612)	Sparham Pools (0616)
New Costessey (1810)	Swanton Morley (0016)
North Elmham (9820)	Swanton Morley GP (0018)
North Tuddenham (0214)	Taverham (1614)
Old Costessey (1610)	Three Bridges Farm, Elsing (0418)
Pensthorpe (9428)	Twyford (0024)
Pockthorpe (0618)	Union Farm, Gressenhall (9616)
Pudding Norton (2692)	Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng Easthaugh (0816)
Ringland (1412)	West Raynham (8624)
Roosting Hills, Beetley (9816)	Weston Longville (1016)
Sennowe Park near Guist (9824)	Whitwell (0820)
Sculthorpe Airfield (8630)	Worthing (9818)
Sculthorpe Fen (9828 & 9830)	Worthing GP (9818)
Sculthorpe Mill (8830)	
Sculthorpe Moor (9030)	
South Raynham (8624)	

Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs'ver	Latest	Location	Obs'ver
Little Ringed Plover	20 th Mar	Sparham Pools	CS	30 th July	Swanton Morley GP	B&BP
Common Tern	23 rd Apr	Lyng Easthaugh	AJ	NR		
Turtle Dove	24 th Apr	Worthing Church	DK	25 th Aug	N Tuddenham	B&BP
Cuckoo	18 th Apr	Sparham Hall	CS	26 th June	Lyng Easthaugh	RG
Swift	17 th Apr	Taverham	NS	30 th Aug	Sparham Pools	NS
Sand Martin	27 th Apr	Beetley GP Sparham Pools	NarVOS BB&JE	5 th Sept	Lyng	BS
Barn Swallow	28 th Mar	Ringland Old Cosstessey	NM AB	14 th Sept	Taverham Gt. Witchingham	NS NBMR
House Martin	17 th Apr	Lyng	BB&JE	25 th Aug	Gt. Ryburgh	NBMR
Nightingale	22 nd Apr	Ringland Common	AB	NR		
Sedge Warbler	16 th Apr	Lyng Easthaugh	RG	NR		
Reed Warbler	16 th Apr	Costessey	AB	13 th Aug	Costessey Mill	AB
Lesser Whitethroat	23 rd Apr	New Costessey	AB	NR		
Common Whitethroat	16 th Apr	Costessey	AB	NR		
Garden Warbler	22 nd Apr	Sparham Pools	S&BG	31 st July	Whitwell Common	RG
Blackcap	1 st Apr	Old Costessey	AB	10 th Aug	Whitwell Common	RG

NR = No relevant record

(continues)

Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants (continued)

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs'ver	Latest	Location	Obs'ver
Chiffchaff	5 th Apr	N. Tuddenham	B&BP	20 th Oct	New Costessey	AG
	17 th Mar	Sparham Pools	BB&JE			
Willow Warbler	5 th Apr	Sparham Pools	CS	23 rd Sept	Dereham	C&CF
Spotted Flycatcher	21 st May	HBW	DK	5 th Aug	Lenwade	RG

Latest and Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors

Species	Latest	Location	Obs'ver	Earliest	Location	Obs'ver
Fieldfare	19 th Apr	Bylaugh	NM	25 th Oct	New Costessey	AB
Redwing	4 th Apr	Gressenhall	LL	5 th Oct	New Costessey Bintree	AB NM
Brambling	14 th Apr	Lenwade	S&BG	22 nd Sept	Bintree	
Siskin	NR			NR		

NR = No relevant record

WVBS Ringing Report for 2006

Allan Hale

The following paragraphs appeared in last year's ringing report, but they are well worth repeating.

Why ring birds? Well, in the early days of the Bird Ringing Scheme, it was simply to find out where birds went, and this was achieved by attaching a small, uniquely numbered metal ring to a bird's leg, thus enabling it to be identified as an individual. We have learnt much from such ringing. We know for instance, that our Swallows winter in Southern Africa, and that many of our Starlings move out in spring to breed in Northern and Eastern Europe.

After ninety years of ringing there is still more to learn about migration routes and wintering areas, information which is often vital for conservation. However, the main purpose of the Ringing Scheme today is to monitor bird populations. Ringing allows us to study how many young birds leave the nest and survive to become adults each year, as well as how many adults survive the stress of breeding, migration and severe weather. Changes in these birth and death rates are important as they may provide an early warning that a particular species is starting to decline. Ringing allowed us to identify a decline in the survival rate of Sedge Warblers and to link this to the rainfall index in their wintering area in the Sahel desert in Africa. Ringing also lets us work out the stage in birds' lives which is being affected, and has demonstrated that the recent dramatic decline in the numbers of Song Thrushes has been caused by a reduction in the survival of young birds in their first two months of life.

Ringing is often an essential tool in the conservation of birds and British bird ringers are at the forefront of the research necessary to establish the facts that are so vital for effective conservation work. The British Trust for Ornithology administers the ringing scheme which marks around 800,000 birds a year. Of these, some 12,000 will be recovered but the rate varies enormously from 1 in 4 for Mute Swan to less than 1 in 400 for Willow Warbler.

A total of 1,598 birds of 45 species were ringed in the WWBS study area during 2006. The most ringed species was Sand Martin with 359 birds ringed, followed by Blue Tit with 281 and then Great Tit with 139. Of the scarcer birds there were ringing totals of 2 Little (Ringed) Plovers, 6 Kingfishers and 7 Spotted Flycatchers. The tern raft at Sparham was successful in its first season with 7 of the 7 nestlings being ringed.

There was much of interest amongst the recoveries, the highlights being two Blackcaps being found in France and a Blackbird in Finland. The latter became star in the local press. Finally a "thank you" to all the ringers that operated in the WBS study area during 2006 for access to their records.

WWBS ringing totals for 2006

Mute Swan	2	Garden Warbler	8
Common Kestrel	5	Blackcap	46
Eurasian Oystercatcher	4	Common Chiffchaff	40
Little Ringed Plover	2	Willow Warbler	16
Common Tern	7	Goldcrest	6
Wood Pigeon	3	Spotted Flycatcher	7
Eurasian Collared Dove	3	Long-tailed Tit	40
Common Swift	2	Coal Tit	15
Common Kingfisher	6	Blue Tit	281
Green Woodpecker	2	Great Tit	139
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	Nuthatch	16
Sand Martin	359	Eurasian Treecreeper	7
House Martin	14	Eurasian Jackdaw	3
Pied Wagtail	9	House Sparrow	1
Winter Wren	21	Chaffinch	65
Dunnock	40	European Greenfinch	65
European Robin	15	European Goldfinch	17
Common Blackbird	59	Eurasian Siskin	18
Song Thrush	4	Common Linnet	14
Com. Grasshopper Warbler	1	Common Bullfinch	7
Sedge Warbler	54	Yellowhammer	8
Eurasian Reed Warbler	96	Reed Bunting	30
Common Whitethroat	40		

Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2006

Ringling details are shown on the first line whilst recovery information is on the second.

Age when ringed

- 1 Pullus (= nestling)
 - 2 Fully grown, year of hatching unknown
 - 3 Hatched during calendar year of ringing
 - 4 Hatched before calendar year of ringing, but exact year unknown
 - 5 Hatched during previous calendar year
 - 6 Hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown
 - 7 Hatched two calendar years before ringing
 - 8 Hatched more than two calendar years before ringing
- M = male F female J = distinctive juvenile plumage

Condition at Recovery

- X Found dead
- XF Found freshly dead or dying
- XL Found long dead
- + Shot or intentionally killed by man
- R Caught and released by ringer
- B Caught and released by a ringer (nesting)
- RR Ring or colour marks read in the field

Common Kestrel

- 1 26.06.06 Mileham, Dereham
- XF 21.07.06 Tyne & Wear (300km NNW)

This Kestrel, ringed as a nestling, was found dead in artificial water container 300km distant in Tyne & Wear only 25 days later. Most recoveries of young Kestrels are close to their hatching site. Long-distance dispersal is rare but some, like this example, do move much further afield, and rapidly too!

Barn Owl

- 1 15.06.05 Helhoughton, Fakenham
 X 03.09.05 Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire (40km W)

By Barn Owl standards, 40km is a long way. This represents a case of juvenile dispersal, ending up as over 80% of recovered Barn Owls do, by being the victim of a collision with a vehicle.

Sand Martin

- 3J 29.07.05 Beetley, Dereham
 R 11.07.06 Blackborough End, King's Lynn (31km W)

- 3J 12.08.05 Blackborough End, King's Lynn
 R 19.07.06 Beetley, Dereham (31 km E)

- 3 26.08.05 Hazelwood, Suffolk
 R 19.07.06 Beetley, Dereham (76km NNW)

- 3J 13.07.05 Easthaugh, Lyng
 R 20.08.06 Icklesham, Sussex (205km S)

The first two show colony interchanges, typical of Sand Martins. Several more colony interchanges (all less than 30km distant) also occurred within the area. The bird from Suffolk is likely to have already been on its southward migration when trapped there on 26th August, many breeding colonies being deserted by that time. Icklesham is a major ringing site in Sussex where tens of thousands of birds are ringed annually. The Sand Martin mentioned here and caught again at Icklesham was trapped at communal reedbed roost.

Common Blackbird

- 6F 29.03.06 Kettlestone, Fakenham
 R 23.04.06 Luuki, Espoo, Uusimaa, Finland (1,669km ENE)

This bird was a star in the local press, being only the 13th Norfolk-ringed Blackbird to be found in Finland, as well as completing the journey in only 23 days!

Sedge Warbler

- 3 17.08.04 Hollesley, Suffolk
 R 10.05.06 Kettlestone, Fakenham (95km NNW)

Probably a breeding adult at Kettlestone, this bird gives few clues to its natal area by being trapped in Suffolk on 17th August of its first year.

Blackcap

- 3J 19.06.04 Shereford, Fakenham
 R 10.09.04 Dune se Slack, Pas-de-Calais, France (235km SSE)

- 5M 26.04.06 near Kettlestone, Fakenham
 X 14.10.06 Ares, Gironde, France (911km S)

- 4F 10.07.05 Shereford, Fakenham
 R 11.05.06 near Burnham Market (17km NNW)

It is reasonable to assume that the first two Blackcaps were both hatched in Norfolk, yet their migration times were significantly different. The first was still in Southern England on 2nd October of its hatch year, yet the other was already in France on 10th September of its hatch year. The third shows a displacement of a mere 17km yet this bird will have travelled south to winter in southern Iberia or north Africa in the meanwhile.

Common Chiffchaff

- 3J 24.06.06 East Barsham, Fakenham
 R 15.08.06 Kettlestone, Fakenham (7km SE)

- 3 28.09.04 Dunwich, Suffolk
 R 14.04.06 Kettlestone, Fakenham (79km NW)

The first was a local movement, typical of a first-year bird. The second would have been on autumn passage when trapped at Dunwich.

Goldcrest

- 3M 15.10.05 Winterton Holmes, Great Yarmouth
X 07.12.05 Bawdeswell, Dereham (50 km WNW)

A passage migrant when ringed at Winterton, this bird chose to winter in the WVBS area where it was taken by a cat.

Great Tit

- 1 23.05.05 Swanton Great Wood, Fakenham
R 06.10.05 Horseshoe Common, Briston (6km ENE)

Ringed as a nestling, this bird's movement demonstrates a perfectly normal case of juvenile dispersal.

British Trust for Ornithology

The BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) is a partnership of birdwatchers and professional ornithologists, all keen to understand what is happening to birds within the United Kingdom.

By supporting the Trust financially and contributing to national surveys, members provide valuable information on Britain's birds and their habitats. Research that forms a basis for sound conservation.

Thousands of BTO members and other volunteer birdwatchers are involved in this monitoring work, coordinated by local volunteer organisers and scientists based in offices in Norfolk and Stirling.

For more information please visit the BTO website at www.bto.org, write to BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU, telephone 01842 - 750050 or e-mail: info@bto.org

First impressions of the Wensum Valley - Jacky Pett

Moving into a flat in Thorpe Marriott from a house in Essex, my first thoughts were that I would miss my garden birds. That was before the Great Spotted Woodpecker flew past my window into the mature oak outside as I had breakfast on my first Saturday. After that, it was just one long procession of birdlife, mostly of the titmice family, and I realised that had moved to birdwatchers' paradise.

Exploring Norfolk with the help of that excellent companion, 'Best birdwatching sites in Norfolk' (Glenn, 2006), I soon alighted in the car park at Sparham Pools. I had already spotted what was to become my new home on the river at Lenwade, so it was with hope that Sparham would become my new 'local patch' that I set off for the first time. A lovely little spot, I thought; not a long walk, easily covered in a spare half hour, lovely views over the first lake, and plenty of interesting things around. My first visit was on 16th September.

It wasn't long before I found the greatest difficulty covering Sparham in less than an hour and a half, the record to date being 2 hours 20 minutes! I find the longer you wait, the more birds come to you. It is impossible to leave the car park (under a stand of mature oaks and next to some lovely tangled undergrowth) without seeing at least three titmice, Robins, Wrens and Blackbirds. Strangely hardly ever see Dunnock. About twelve steps up the hill from the car park, the abundant food supply in the hedgerow - rosehips, elder, hawthorn, sloe, bramble and probably other things I can't identify means that simply waiting yields more and more. A wealth of tits turn up; I'm not sure about the Willow but certainly a Marsh tit or two turned up, to add to the flitting of the Blue, Great and Coal tits, and the peeping of large families of Long-tailed Tits, accompanied if lucky by Goldcrests and Treecreepers. Then the excellent outlook over the pool: spot the Great Crested Grebes before they dive out of sight; count the ducks, distinguish between female Mallards and Gadwalls (as I eventually found could), Tufted Duck, Teal, Wigeon, even Pochard. There have variously been gulls, Grey Herons, Cormorant and geese on the island, and I anticipate terns in the summer.

It was October before I spotted something I'd never seen before - Goosanders. As they were quite way off it took some time to determine the larger size, the beak shape, and helpfully, the presence of two females to help get the group sorted out. Four on the first occasion, the numbers fluctuated throughout the winter. The story of the swans is worth telling; two adults had obviously brought up two juveniles but in December one adult was seen tangled up dead in the branches at the side of the pool. The remaining adult was still there, and a second adult just after Christmas. On the final stretch of the circuit the view of the Wensum and its water meadows are said to be home to Grey Wagtail but I've not seen them yet. There have been some Fieldfare and Redwing on the holly and yew trees at the south of the pool though, and I regularly get views of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreeper and Bullfinch in the scrub before getting back to the car park. In all, I tallied 42 species there just in the last three months of 2006.

Venturing further, I marvelled at large flocks of plovers in fields nowhere near the tetrad had volunteered to cover for the BTO Plover Survey, where I had a 'nil return'! Near Weston Longville I estimated 1000 Lapwings on the ploughed field where the road to Hockering from Great Witchingham turns sharp left. In amongst them were about 200 Golden Plovers. And then I spotted that about one in ten of those had black armpits - Grey Plovers, another first for me. Closer to home, I found a surprisingly rich patch for birds in the open space in the middle of Thorpe Marriott, a few Tree Sparrows lurking in some bramble amidst some House Sparrows, Jays, Magpies, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, titmice again, oh, and Wood Pigeon. How easy it is to forget to count the ubiquitous Wood Pigeon, let alone Collared Doves, Jackdaws, Rooks, Carrion Crows and Pheasants! Some evenings in September a Tawny Owl would call from the cycle path, and quite a few times I saw Barn Owl and Tawny Owl in my headlights. Yes, think I have found my earthly paradise, and I look forward to exploring it for many years to come!

An unexpected garden visitor - John and Brenda Palmer

We moved to Reepham from Essex in 1996 and resumed our "birding" activities. These included converting a sparsely planted area into a bird-friendly garden, by judicious planting, plus the installation of a wildlife pond, a bird bath, a loggery and an array of hanging feeders.

In late 2006 we "downsized" but remained in Reepham, having clocked just over 40 species in our first garden. Although not claiming to be "birders" our new neighbours were clearly interested in birds but advised us that in fifteen years they could only recall seeing Wren, Blackbird, Robin and Blue Tit. The garden we inherited resembled the Somme and required not a little TLC. Several visits to the tip ensued, following which we repeated the planting, pond installation, bird feeders, etc, as per the earlier garden.

Eight months later we have recorded eighteen species, including Goldfinch, Goldcrest and Long-tailed Tit. However, would you believe that on 18th August, into the garden flew number nineteen a KINGFISHER!! Some readers will not be overly impressed or surprised by this revelation, but we found it unbelievably exciting, simple souls that we are. Although we remain delighted by the arrival of our totally unexpected visitor we remain somewhat puzzled, as the nearest water is at the Reepham Fisheries, half a mile away. Maybe this bird was enjoying a touring holiday or was he the victim of a malfunctioning SATNAV - we may never know.

The BTO/CJ Garden Birdwatch Project

The BTO/CJ Garden Birdwatch Project is the largest year-round study of garden birds anywhere in the World. It offers participants

- the chance to find out more about the different birds that visit their garden
- an opportunity to take part in an important national project and contribute valuable information that can be used to help conserve the birds of Britain and Ireland
- access to expert advice to help identify and look after the birds in your garden

You do not have to be an expert birdwatcher and you can take part in a major project without even leaving your armchair!

For more information contact Mike Toms, Garden Birdwatch, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU or visit the BTO website at www.bto.org



'Pond dipping' at Great Ryburgh,
courtesy of Steve Cale, Ryburgh Wildlife Group
(accompanies the following article)

Pensthorpe Conservation Trust, RSPB, WWT, Jordans Cereals "Dances with Cranes" - The Great Crane Project.

Cranes are venerated in almost every culture for their fidelity, constancy and committed parenting. In many European countries the crane is also the harbinger of spring; their bugling mating call heralding the coming of the warmer weather and the end of the dark days of winter.

The Great Crane Project, a joint initiative of Jordans Cereals, the RSPB, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust, aims to make the Crane a common sight in the British countryside, after an absence of over 500 years. How common the Crane once was can be seen all over Britain, in obvious place names like Cranfield, but also more obscure ones like Tranmere (from the Norse, Crane Lake) and Cornbrook (from the Old English Crane Brook). In fact, of all the place names derived from animals in Britain, those named after cranes are the commonest.

The Great Crane Project is currently at the feasibility stage, with the technical committee due to report on the release sites and captive breeding methodology later this Autumn. Work has been carried out on a number of shortlisted locations away from East Anglia into hazard risk, forage availability (including invertebrate sampling), potential for disturbance, current conservation management and a number of other factors that will combine to determine the optimum release location. Once the choice of site has been made, fundraising for the project will start in earnest. Discussions with authorities in Germany have also progressed in relation to the sourcing of eggs from the wild; alongside two visits to Wisconsin, the home of the International Crane Foundation, to gain direct experience of captive rearing of Cranes destined for wild release.

In the meantime, Lakenheath, the Humber Levels and the Wensum Valley have all seen significantly increased wild Crane activity, including breeding away from their current Broadland stronghold.

NOA Hempton Marsh Nature Reserve

Hempton Marsh Nature Reserve consists of 29 acres of ancient wet meadow and mature woodland, bordered by the River Wensum. It is an important site for both flora and fauna, supporting extensive areas of Southern Marsh Orchids and Yellow Rattle. Bird species of particular interest include Lapwing, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Woodcock, Water Rail, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Siskin and Redpoll. The site also supports a wide range of butterflies, moths, dragonflies and damselflies.

Since the purchase of the site through a Heritage Lottery Grant 1999, the NOA has focussed its efforts on the development of the habitat at the site, and the monitoring of the wildlife that the reserve supports, through bird ringing, census and transects. The Association applied for a further Lottery grant in April 2006 to give effective public access to the site without damage or disturbance to the habitat.

The NOA was awarded a grant of £50,000 in July 2006 for the building of its planned visitor facilities, and following the completion of building work ahead of schedule later in the year, the reserve will be opened to members daily from April 2007, with non-members admitted at weekends for the NOA's standard permit price (currently £3.00). With a number of volunteers having come forward to help with manning the reserve, Hempton is now wardened five or even six days a week, and is now producing extensive data through the contributions of volunteers, members and visitors. The reserve will still have an official opening in Spring 2008, which will also launch a special calendar of events to take place on the reserve.

Hempton Marsh lies immediately adjacent to the A1065 Fakenham bypass. This is a high-speed road and all visitors must use extreme care when accessing the reserve. A condition of planning permission for the reserve development was that, with the bypass so close, the NOA could not build its own car park at the reserve, so vehicles must be left nearby. The NOA would suggest leaving vehicles at a pull in on a side road

opposite the reserve entrance - *there is strictly no parking in front of the reserve entrance itself.*

To reach the pull in, follow the A1065 south from the roundabout between the A148 and A1065 in Fakenham. About three quarters of a mile down the A1065, just after the bridge over the river Wensum, take the first turning left towards Fakenham Garden Centre, and then immediately left again, before the Garden Centre itself, following a single track road. Follow this road (which has several bends and a number of pull-off places). The nearest pull-in to the reserve faces back towards the bypass, but is also used by local walkers and fishermen, so please park considerately. Visitors will need to cross the bypass on foot, which will bring them to the reserve entrance, directly opposite the pull-in on the other side of the A1065.

The NOA has liaised with the local highways authority to make this access as safe as possible, but members will need to be very careful and exercise patience in crossing this high speed road. Please access the reserve by going through the pedestrian gate on the left. The ground is wet and prone to damage, so please keep to the boardwalk at all times. There are two hides on the reserve, one a short distance into the wood which looks out over the marsh, and a second which looks over the feeding station in the middle of the wood. Hides will be open at weekends and can be accessed on weekdays with a standard member's key. There is also a viewing platform looking over the river meander.

The woodland area of the reserve is ideal for Marsh and Willow Tits, both of which have been ringed on the reserve already this year, and has also seen flocks of Redpolls and Siskins regularly in the last three years. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker has also been recorded at the site this year.

There is no access to the marsh itself - it is seasonally grazed and supports a great variety of plants including Yellow Rattle and Southern Marsh Orchid. Insects also thrive on the marsh and regular monitoring of butterflies and dragonflies has been taking place for the last few years, reported in the NOA's annual report. Visitors may occasionally see surveys taking place on the marsh.

Botanical walks and insect walks will be offered in 2008 as part of the Association's calendar of events for the reserve, giving members the opportunity to enjoy the wide variety of wildlife at Hempton. We also hope to be operating regular moth trapping, including moth days. When finalised, the calendar of events will be distributed and we will also keep full information at all our reserves and on our website. We hope that visitors will enjoy all the wildlife at Hempton Marsh and enjoy all the forthcoming events there. For more information visit www.noa.org.uk or call Holme Bird Observatory on 01485 525406.

Jed Andrews (Warden) & Sophie Barker (Assistant Warden)
NOA Holme Bird Observatory.

NORFOLK ORNITHOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

Established in 1970, the NOA is a Registered Charity, and the premier bird study group in Norfolk, managing a total of seven reserves. The Association has a lively and enthusiastic membership involved in a wide range of activities from bird ringing and census work to reserve management and fund raising. Members are entitled to dawn to dusk access to all reserves and Holme Beach.

Contact by mail: NOA
Broadwater Road
Holme-Next-Sea
Hunstanton
Norfolk
PE36 6LQ

Tel: 01485 525406 or Mobile: 07966 713053

E-Mail: www.noa.org.uk

Website: www.noa.org.uk

2006 Monthly Weather Summary - Josh Leeder

JANUARY

Generally a dry month, with rainfall well below average. The driest month since 1997 across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Out of the last 15 months, 13 have had below average rainfall across south/east and central/south England. Temperatures close to average across southern England but well above across the north and Scotland. Rainfall also above average for Scotland.

Changeable weather saw the beginning of the month have temperatures up to 13.9°C in Devon down to -3°C overnight in Coltishall (Norfolk). At the end of the month Scotland saw temperatures -12.6°C. Over Scotland 69mm of rain fell at Sloy, the wind gusted to 85mph at Lerwick and temperatures reached 14°C at Machrihanish.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	6.4°C	1.3°C	3.9°C	45.0 hrs	59.9 mm
E. Anglia	6.6°C	1.8°C	4.2°C	50.0 hrs	15.6 mm
E. Anglia Average 1961-1990	6.2°C	0.7°C	3.4°C	52.5 hrs	51.3 mm

FEBRUARY

Mean temperatures ranged from below average across S/W England to above across Scotland. S/E England and East Anglia experienced above average rainfall. The coldest February since 1996.

Grantown-on-Spey recorded -12.2°C, Aviemore -11.6°C on 1st, 24 hr maximum temperature at Leek was -2.3°C. Hastings got 31.2mm of rain in 24 hrs on 20th. Torquay recorded 8.8 hrs of sunshine on 25th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	6.3°C	0.7°C	3.5°C	67.9 hrs	65.1 mm
E. Anglia	6.5°C	1.3°C	3.9°C	65.1 hrs	38.0 mm
1961-90	6.5°C	0.6°C	3.5°C	67.9 hrs	37.2 mm

MARCH

A cold month, with wintry weather and below average temperatures, but in the last week the wind turned south/westerly and brought some milder, warmer conditions. Rainfall anomalies quite varied across the U.K. with some areas getting double the March average.

Altnaharra (highlands) recorded -16.4°C on the 2nd. Scampton (Lincolnshire) reached a high of 17.7°C on 26th. The first week saw snow falling to depths of 25 cm or more at Dyce, Wick, Glenlivet and Grantown-on-Spey.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	7.1°C	0.8°C	3.9°C	89.0 hrs	110.7 mm
E. Anglia	8.4°C	1.5°C	5.0°C	113.2 hrs	37.9 mm
1961-90	9.3°C	1.9°C	5.6°C	107.0 hrs	45.9 mm

APRIL

Quite a changeable month with Atlantic depressions bringing spells of rain, sleet and at times even hail and snow. The unsettled weather brought more benign periods, under the influence of high pressure ridges. Mean temperatures were close to normal for Scotland and Northern Ireland, but above across England and Wales. Rainfall ranged from well above average across N.W. Scotland to well below across S. W. England. Sunshine above average across most of the U.K.

Herstmonceux (East Sussex) recorded a temperature of 19.7°C on 21st and Staunton sands (Devon) 19.6°C on 20th. Tulloch Bridge (Highlands) recorded -6.9°C on 10th. Woburn (Bedfordshire) had 12.5 hrs of sunshine on 5th & Cromer (Norfolk) recorded 13 hrs of sunshine on the 30th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	11.3°C	3.5°C	7.4°C	164.2 hrs	67.5 mm
E. Anglia	13.1°C	4.4°C	8.8°C	152.5 hrs	34.2 mm
1961-90	12.0°C	3.7°C	7.8°C	143.6 hrs	45.7 mm

MAY

A very wet month, especially East Anglia and Wales where over double the average rainfall was recorded in some places. Notably warm at times but the closing days of the month were much cooler with some frosts. Some significant thunder storms in the south on the 10th. Sunshine was above average across the Shetlands to below average across southern England.

Central London recorded a maximum temperature of 27.7°C on the 4th. Lerwick recorded 75.6 hrs of sunshine in a six day period 21st - 26th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	15.0°C	6.5°C	10.7°C	179.6 hrs	112.2 mm
E. Anglia	17.2°C	8.3°C	12.7°C	159.7 hrs	81.3 mm
1961-90	15.9°C	6.6°C	11.2°C	194.5 hrs	47.0 mm

JUNE

A very warm, dry and sunny month across most of the U.K. Temperatures generally 1-2°C above average. Rainfall close to average western Scotland to exceptionally below average around the midlands. Southern England had sunshine levels well above average.

On the 12th central London recorded a maximum temperature of 32.4°C. Altnaharra recorded a minimum temperature of -1.4°C and Kinbrace -1.7°C on 26th (both highlands).

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	19.4°C	9.7°C	14.5°C	210.3 hrs	42.2 mm
E. Anglia	21.4°C	10.6°C	16.0°C	241.0 hrs	20.1 mm
1961-90	19.1°C	9.4°C	14.2°C	195.2 hrs	51.2 mm

JULY

A very warm, dry and sunny month again with some areas experiencing their warmest July since 1914. Sunshine also exceptionally above average, with the sunniest areas compared to average over N.E. England. Rainfall in general was below average, but there were some exceptions. The hot weather brought periods of heavy rain and thunder storms to several areas throughout the month.

Wisley recorded a temperature of 36.5°C on 19th setting a new U.K. July temperature record. On the same day Penhow recorded 34.2°C, setting a new Welsh record. Brize Norton (Oxfordshire) recorded 39 mm of rain in 1 hr on the 6th with 54 mm in 12 hrs.

July	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	23.3°C	12.5°C	17.8°C	253.3 hrs	53.4 mm
E. Anglia	26.7°C	14.3°C	20.5°C	287.2 hrs	29.7 mm
1961-90	21.1°C	11.4°C	16.4°C	189.2 hrs	50.6 mm

AUGUST

An unsettled month with some heavy thundery downpours, particularly in the second and third weeks. Mean temperatures were slightly above normal in most places. The monthly maximum temperatures were 5°C lower in the Midlands area than those recorded in July. East Anglia had rainfall exceptionally above average giving double the normal rainfall. Sunshine levels close to or below average.

Pershore recorded a temperature of 29.7°C on the 6th. Over 80 mm of rain fell in about six hours on the 13th in the Surrey area.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	18.8°C	11.2°C	15.0°C	137.9 hrs	92.3 mm
E. Anglia	20.9°C	12.3°C	16.6°C	152.6 hrs	107.3 mm
1961-90	21.1°C	11.4°C	16.2°C	183.4 hrs	53.0 mm

SEPTEMBER

The exceptionally warm weather returned with above average sunshine, with most regions having their warmest September since 1914. South West England and S. Wales having their driest conditions compared to average. Northern Ireland had one of the wettest compared to average. Sunshine levels above average across most of the U.K, but below average across the Shetlands.

Heathrow recorded a temperature of 30.2°C on 11th. Gusts of wind 60-70 mph over N. Ireland on 21st caused widespread tree damage and over 100,000 homes lost their power.

September	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	19.2°C	11.3°C	15.2°C	140.1 hrs	102.5 mm
E. Anglia	22.1°C	13.3°C	17.7°C	169.6 hrs	57.3 mm
1961-90	18.5°C	9.6°C	14.1°C	144.0 hrs	51.2 mm

OCTOBER

Temperatures exceptionally above average in places with above or well above average rainfall also for most areas. In N.E. Scotland rainfall was well above double the October average. Sunshine levels were generally close to normal levels.

Central London recorded 22.1°C on 9th. Grantown-on-Spey recorded a low temperature of -2.9°C on 26th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	14.9°C	8.5°C	11.7°C	86.6 hrs	143.5 mm
E. Anglia	17.2°C	10.2°C	13.6°C	112.9 hrs	66.5 mm
1961-90	14.6°C	7.7°C	11.2°C	107.8 hrs	52.8 mm

NOVEMBER

With temperatures above average again, makes this a record breaking autumn for warmth, the best since 1914. The rainfall was also above average across most places. Western Scotland districts saw well over double normal rainfall and their wettest November. Sunshine levels exceptional across much of the U.K. (except W. Scotland) setting some records for the sunniest November.

Sunnybridge (Powys) recorded -6.6°C on the 3rd. Glasgow Bishopton recorded a monthly rainfall of 301 mm. Bournemouth had a daytime maximum of 16.9°C on the 13th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	10.5°C	4.0°C	7.3°C	78.6 hrs	153.6 mm
E. Anglia	12.0°C	4.7°C	8.4°C	106.4 hrs	66.7 mm
1961-90	9.5°C	3.4°C	6.5°C	66.8 hrs	59.4 mm

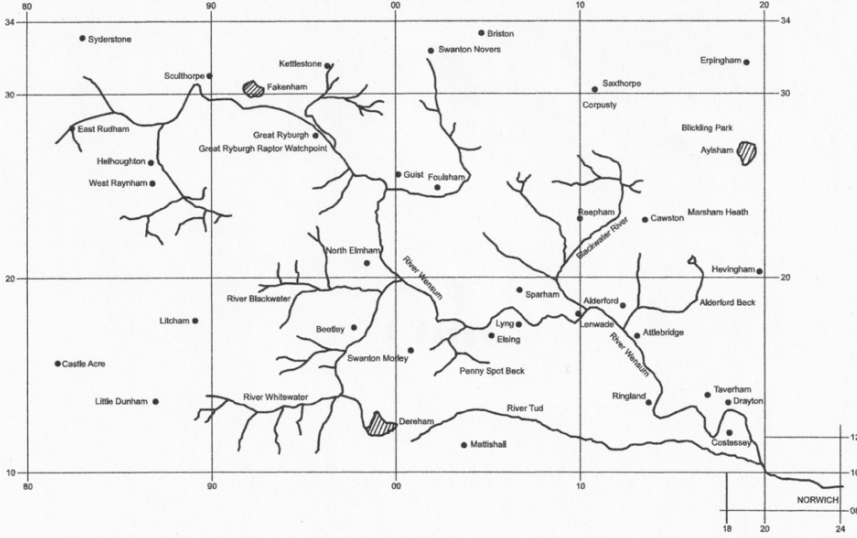
DECEMBER

A very wet and windy start and finish to the month, but mean temperatures were again 1 to 2°C above average. 2006 was confirmed the warmest year on record for most areas (Areal series records go back to 1914). Many parts of N.W. England, W. Scotland and N. Wales recorded over double average rainfall. In contrast some Eastern coastal areas recorded below average rainfall particularly Aberdeen area which was well below. Sunshine levels above normal across E. Scotland and N.E. England.

Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) recorded a temperature of -9.4°C on 25th Aberdeen airport smashed the December record for sunshine with 90 hrs being recorded, just over double December's average.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	8.2°C	2.9°C	5.5°C	43.3 hrs	173.1 mm
E. Anglia	9.2°C	3.4°C	6.3°C	44.9 hrs	55.3 mm
1961-90	7.1°C	1.6°C	4.4°C	47.4 hrs	55.8 mm

Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society Recording Area



BROADLAND LIFTING **SERVICES**

**SALES – SERVICING – REPAIRS – HIRE
& TESTING OF ALL LIFTING EQUIPMENT**
including
**Wire Rope, Webbing Slings, Shackles,
Chain Hoists & Jacks etc**

**GENERAL ELECTRICAL, ENGINEERING,
WELDING & FABRICATION Service**

Telephone: 01362 667222

Fax: 01362 667235

e-mail: les@tvandtheatreservices.com

Granary Buildings Eastgate Street
North Elmham Dereham
Norfolk NR20 5HF



GJL Animal Feeds Ltd

"all the feeds for all their needs!"

Suppliers of Quality Bird Seed & Feeders

Wild Bird Seed Peanuts Hemp Budgie
Black Sunflower Fat Balls Cockatiel
Niger Sunflower Hearts Foreign Finch
Cockatiel Pigeon Mixed Canary Parrot
Millet Sprays Mealworms
Suets Slabs



*Also a wide range of bird
feeders kept in stock*

Delivery Service Available

01328 851351

enquiries@gjlanimalfeeds.co.uk

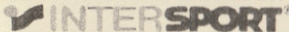
www.gjlanimalfeeds.co.uk

Enterprise Way, Commercial Park,
Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8SN



*There is no such thing as
bad weather...just the
wrong clothing*

BIRDS SPORT & OUTDOOR



4-8 Norwich Street, Dereham, Norfolk NR191BX
Tel 01362 692941 Fax 01362 851178

Email: mel@birds-sport.co.uk

Web: www.birds-sport.co.uk



RAMBLER DISCOUNTS
from the
OUTDOOR SPECIALISTS

2021 PDF of the WVBS Fourth Annual Report_2006

28th September 2021

Text changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
Contents	A Surprising Garden Visitor	An Unexpected Garden Visitor (1)
Chairman's Report	from carrot fields as well sharing	from carrot fields as well as sharing
Outdoor Meeting Summary	<i>contributed</i>	<i>contributed</i>
Diary, 29th October	Black Tailed Godwits, 1 Pinkfoot	Black-tailed Godwits, 1 Pink- footed Goose
Systematic List		
Introduction	(Wigeon) <i>Anus Penelope</i>	(Wigeon) <i>Anas penelope</i>
Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anus Penelope</i>	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Garganey & Shoveler	<i>Anus</i>	<i>Anas</i>
Kestrel	reporting lead to	reporting led to
Hobby	and and	and
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentus</i>	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto Alba</i>	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Fieldfare	<i>area the first</i>	<i>area in the first</i>
Whitethroat & Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia</i>	<i>Sylvia</i>
Goldfinch	niger seed	nyjer seed
First impressions of the Wensum Valley	cant	can't
BTO/CJ Garden Birdwatch Project	access	access
NOA Hempton Marsh Nature Reserve	liased with Association's	laised with Association's

(1) this is the article title