

# Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

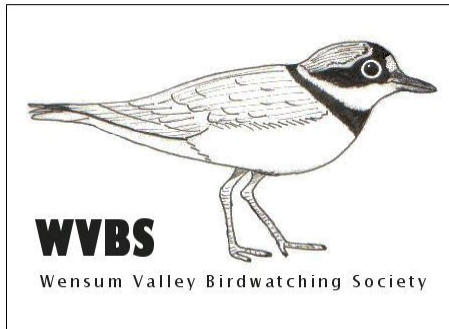


Fifth Annual Report  
2007

## Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

### 2007 Annual Report

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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.

Meeting venue: Lenwade Village Hall, third Thursday of each month.

## **Committee 2007**

**Officers:**

Chairman

Alwyn Jackson

Secretary

Liz Waller

Treasurer

Bill Shepherd

Membership Secretary

John Horsman

Publicity

Colin Wright

Committee:

Ray Gribble

Rosemary Harvey

Josh Leeder

Web Page: [www.wvbs.co.uk](http://www.wvbs.co.uk)

## Chairman's Report

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

2007 proved to be another successful year for the Society. The membership, which remained in excess of 100 enjoyed access to a programme of 14 outdoor and 10 indoor meetings through the year. Attendance at our meetings remains consistently high and reflects the high standard of speakers and the enjoyment gained from our outdoor trips. I would like to thank Colin Fenn, David Pelling, Charles and Fran Neale, Josh Leeder and Ray Gribble for taking the time to lead our outdoor meetings so ably.

The Society was also represented at the "Wild About the Wensum" event held at Pensthorpe in May and the two day "Wild About Norfolk" event held at Notcutts Garden Centre, Norwich in September. These occasions gave committee and volunteer members a chance to tell interested people about our Society and encourage them to join us. My thanks to all those who helped in any way at these events.

It wasn't such a successful year for the Society's Tern Raft Project as wet weather swamped the raft and destroyed all the nests. The raft also developed a leak and sank onto the underlying island. Remedial work had to wait until the water levels dropped but it is hoped to have everything in place for the 2008 breeding season.

It was another busy year for the committee so I would like to offer them grateful thanks for the time they devote to making the Society such a success.

Throughout the year I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing the indoor and outdoor meetings with members and would like to thank you all for your good humoured company on these occasions.

I hope you enjoyed your membership of the Society through the year and again I look forward to talking "birds" with you at future meetings.

Alwyn Jackson

## WVBS Programme 2007

### INDOOR MEETINGS

Thursday Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	Florida 2006	David Pelling
Thursday Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Shetland Wildlife	Jon Clifton
Thursday Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fighting Wildlife Crime	Nicholas Crampton
Thursday Apr 19 <sup>th</sup>	AGM followed by "Pilanesberg Paradise" A South African wildlife reserve	Ray Kimber
Thursday May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ethiopia	Steve Cale
Thursday July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Pensthorpe	Andrew Reeve
Thursday Aug 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tigers before Ten	Allan Hale
Thursday Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	NOA Holme Birdwatching Observatory	Jed Andrews
Thursday Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	Trinidad & Tobago	Allan Hale
Thursday Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	East Anglian Wildlife	Mike Linley
Thursday Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Social	

### OUTDOOR MEETINGS

Sunday Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Bird Count	
Saturday Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	Ouse Washes & WWT Welney	Colin Fenn
Sunday Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	Hickling NR & Stubbs Mill raptor roost	Alwyn Jackson
Saturday Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	Snettisham	David Pelling
Sunday May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dawn Chorus	Alwyn Jackson
Sat/Sun Jun 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>	Summer Bird Count	
Thursday Jun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Nightjar evening Marsham Heath	Ray Gribble
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Evening walk in the Wensum Valley	Charles Neale
Saturday Jul 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pensthorpe	Alwyn Jackson
July 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Ringing Demonstration	Ray Gribble & Allan Hale
Sunday Aug 19 <sup>th</sup>	Minsmere RSPB reserve	Bill Shepherd
Sunday Sep 30 <sup>th</sup>	Holme NOA reserve	Josh Leeder
Saturday Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	East Norfolk	Alwyn Jackson
Sunday Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	North Norfolk Coast	Ray Gribble

## 2007 Outdoor Meetings Summary

Despite the gloomy weather 22 members making up 9 teams took part in the annual Winter Bird Count on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January**. In total 83 species were recorded.

Some of the more notable records were

4 Little Egrets near Lenwade, 5 Goosander at Sparham Pools NR, a male Hen Harrier in the Kettlestone area, 3 Common Buzzard at Bittering, 1 at Great Ryburgh Raptor Watch point, 2 at Raynham Hall and 1 at Colkirk, 3 flocks of Golden Plover including 250+ at Mattishall, 20+ Snipe at Dereham Sewage Works, a Little Owl at Bylaugh, 2 Willow Tit at Sculthorpe Moor NR with 1 at Hempton Marsh, 6+ Tree Sparrow at Fulmodeston, 1 Brambling at Sculthorpe with 1 at Worthing railway crossing and 20+ Redpoll at Sparham barns.

Judging by the banter in the bar at the Bridge everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day even though they may not have seen as many species as other teams. The three teams who recorded the highest count of species were Bob Bradley and Jenny Evans with 71 species, Barry Pummell, David Knight and Ian Doble with 69 species and Ian Brittain and Paul Riley with 68 species and a Peacock!

On **Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>** members visited the RSPB Ouse Washes and the WWT Welney reserves. To start the day they stopped at Denver Sluice and a Bittern was spotted in a patch of reeds by the sluice. Normally difficult to see, this one decided to break cover, take to the air and fly past within feet. Welney's new eco-friendly visitor centre was well worth a visit to watch the daily feeding of thousands of swans, ducks and other water birds all observed from the centrally heated hide.

On **Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup>** there was a good turn out for the field trip to NWT's Hickling Broad NR and Stubb Mill. Members walked from Potter Heigham Church to the south side of the broad along Weaver's Way footpath. After lunch they went to the raptor roost watchpoint at Stubb Mill where they had fine views of Marsh Harriers and Common Crane

coming in to roost in the reed beds. In all a good day with about 50 species seen.

On **Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>** members visited the RSPB Snettisham NR. Unfortunately no report was made of the visit.

The annual Dawn Chorus on **Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>** was described as "a peaceful walk in the tranquil setting of Sparham Pools with several experts on hand to separate the myriad of sounds (with some polite disagreement) and at the end of it all an agreeably priced high cholesterol bacon buttie. (*Colin Wright*)

On **Saturday & Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** we held the annual Summer Bird Count. So it was disappointing that only 3 teams entered. In total 93 species were recorded with everyone seeing such good birds as Marsh Harrier, Hobby, Common Buzzard, Turtle Dove, Kingfisher, Grey Partridge, Spotted Flycatcher, Woodcock and Nightjar. Other special birds were Teal, Wigeon & Shoveler (all drakes) at West Raynham. A male Honey Buzzard was seen well when it glided in front of the trees at Great Ryburgh Raptor Watch Point and elsewhere a Little Ringed Plover was observed as it sat on its nest. One team also recorded a rufous phase Cuckoo. Those who took part had a great day's birding.

On **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June** 25 members met up at the Marsham Arms for some wholesome pub cuisine, a chat and some fortification before setting out for Marsham Heath. At the heath they walked a short distance from the car park to the edge of a clearing where the midges were waiting for them in the gathering dusk. It was eerily quiet and still with the exception of an occasional Woodcock silhouetted against the late evening sky. Then the unmistakable churring sound of the Nightjar was heard, soon to be followed by fleeting glances of the bird in noiseless, erratic flight occasionally hovering in front of the group as if checking them out. The white markings of the male were clearly visible even in the rapidly fading light. Several birds were spotted and there was no need



for binoculars as they appeared and disappeared all around the watching members until darkness brought the proceedings to a halt.

The forecast hadn't seemed too bad but as 7.30 approached the sky darkened and the rain began falling. Nevertheless ten stoical members joined together for a summer evening's stroll around Swanton Morley Gravel Pits on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July**. Understandably birdwatching was a challenge as the smaller birds skulked silently in the undergrowth but happily the water birds continued with their activities despite the weather. A Great Crested Grebe was observed squatting on its nest possibly hoping the water levels would not rise any further. A large creche of 61 Greylag Geese accompanied by two adults formed a large flotilla gliding across the pit. A very active female Pochard was undeterred as she dived continuously in search of food items. Very briefly a Little Egret flew into the upper branches of a tree but unfortunately only one of the party managed to see it despite efforts to attract everyone's attention. The Common Swifts were sweeping low overhead in search of their insect food, a difficult task in such weather. A party of Long-tailed Tit moved through the willow trees constantly calling. So, despite the heavy rain the members did see some birds. Typical waterside flowers were admired, but nothing was seen of the hoped-for damselflies & dragonflies that should have been about on a summer's evening.

The evening was enhanced by Bernie Marsham sharing his knowledge of the area's history and the group's camaraderie more than made up for the abysmal weather conditions.

The ringing demo on Whitwell on the evening of **Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup>** and the early morning of **Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>** went particularly well. The members who came along to see what ringing entailed enjoyed the experience, especially the opportunity to see the birds at such close quarters and hold them before they were released.

In total 93 different birds were "processed", 86 of which were new birds and 7 retrapped birds from previous years.

Perhaps the most interesting birds captured were Marsh Tit, Reed Bunting, and Reed Warbler which were originally ringed in July 2004. The Marsh Tit and Reed Bunting will fairly certainly not have travelled far from the Common in the intervening period but the Reed Warbler will have travelled to sub-Saharan Africa and back 3 times.

Other birds of interest caught were Jay, Kingfisher, Long-tailed Tit 15, Bullfinch 4, Goldcrest (a superb male), Chiffchaff 5, Willow Warbler 2, Blackcap 7, Whitethroat 7, Sedge Warbler 4 and Reed Warbler 3. Altogether 20 different species were recorded.

Twelve members enjoyed a guided visit to Pensthorpe Conservation Area on **Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup>** led by Andrew Reeve, Manager of the site. Andrew was able to explain the changes that had taken place at Pensthorpe over recent years. He emphasized the valuable conservation work of the Trust in partnership with other groups like the RSPB and the Wildlife and Wetland Trust. He explained that Pensthorpe has to attract visitors so that this work can be sustained and that they had increased the visitor numbers over recent years but more were needed to reach a break even point.

Members had a chance to view various species of Crane at close quarters as well as Corncrake, both species being reared for re-introduction programmes.

After lunch there was an opportunity to wander round the reserve and enjoy the birds to be seen on the excellent scrape. The highlights were a passing Kingfisher and a Common Sandpiper but the reported Green Sandpipers proved elusive. The day was informative and enjoyable.

On **Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup>** members visited the RSPB'S Minsmere NR but unfortunately no record was made of the visit.

On **Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup>** the weather was perfect for a visit to the NOA's Holme Bird Observatory with Wardens Jed Andrews and Sophie Barker. Members visited the hide overlooking Broad Water, did a sea watch and watched a demonstration of ringing which is carried out in

impressive numbers at the observatory. Highlights were a Yellow-browed Warbler, a Barred Warbler and several Gannets.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October** was cool, breezy overcast day and 19 members set out from Horsey Mill car park to explore the area between the Broad and the sea.

No sooner had they emerged from their cars when they were overflown by a large group of Greylag Geese, amongst which was hiding one solitary Snow Goose. Then they were surrounded by Long-tailed Tits, accompanied by the odd Chaffinch and Goldfinch. They noted Meadow Pipit and Skylark in the fields nearby and good views were had of a Stonechat that characteristically perched high on the bramble bushes. In the distance they were able to watch a Peregrine being mobbed by Corvids and a Marsh Harrier being treated in the same manner. Skeins of Pink-footed and Greylag Geese passed overhead. They moved on to Horsey Gap and emerging from between the concrete walls slicing through the dunes, got a fine view of a Red-throated Diver, first inshore, then quickly moving left, then out to sea. Gannets and auks were spotted flying in the distance.

They left the Gap to wander along the path at the foot of the dunes and walked west noting four Sanderling and a few more gulls. As they progressed they were treated to the sight of large groups of Pink-footed Geese flying in to the fields. A walk through Horsey village added more woodpeckers, finches and jackdaws to their daily tally.

After lunch they had a look at the open water of Horsey Mere before moving off. Nothing of real note was observed although they did see several Marsh Harriers and a Stonechat hawking for insects.

On their return to the car park Josh Leeder discovered a Black Redstart sitting on the windmill and members enjoyed excellent views of the bird. They moved to Waxham where they did some seawatching. On the boulder reef just offshore they added Turnstone and Purple Sandpiper to their day's list.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was brought to a close and members returned home feeling satisfied with the day's birdwatching they had shared.

On **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November** the cold and breezy weather conditions did not deter ten hardy members meeting to share a day's birding on the North Norfolk coast. They visited Salthouse beach first and had excellent views of Lapland Buntings and Snow Buntings feeding on the marsh a few feet away. The next stop was Walsey Hills and the East Bank of Cley Reserve where they observed a Pomarine Skua feeding on the carcass of a Pike which had been a victim of the recent stormy weather.

After visiting the new Cley Visitor's Centre members went on the reserve and had excellent prolonged views of a Water Rail immediately in front of a hide. At the beach car park they enjoyed watching of a flock of 40+ Snow Buntings. After searching through the birds on North Scrape members decided to call it a day.

## WVBS Systematic List 2007

Ray Gribble

Thank you to all the members who have sent in their records and thus enabling the compilation of this report. I must also thank Andrew Brown, Alwyn Jackson & Liz Waller for entering the records in the Society's database.

The British Ornithological Union's (BOU) revised systematic order has been retained but as the BOU name changes have not been universally adopted I have reverted to the well known common names which the membership have now been asked to use for submission of records.

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 continue to 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.

Finally this is a summary of the 3,000+ records received during 2007. 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 – lead by David Knight
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 Attlebridge, Guist Common, Lenwade Mill, Sparham Pools.

Significant flocks were 50+ seen regularly during Jan/Feb at Wensum Valley GC, Taverham (B&MS), 20 Ringland 19<sup>th</sup> Jan (R&DH) and 25+ on Bylaugh Marshes on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb (BB/JE).

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

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

14 over Dereham on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb (IB) then records were returning birds to winter 9 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct; 5 on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct; 3 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov over Tud Valley, New Costessey (AG).

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

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

The only records for the beginning of the year were 20 Sparham Pools on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb (JP), 1 HBW on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb (DK) and 2 Coxford 19<sup>th</sup> Mar (DA).

Earliest autumn records were 25 Mileham 16<sup>th</sup> Sept and 2 days later 31 Dereham (IB). The main influx of birds heading for their wintering grounds in NW Norfolk started passing over from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct when 150 Worthing (DK) and 1000-1500 Drayton (LW) with the same number over Drayton again on 10<sup>th</sup> (AB).

Movements continued to at least 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 370 Sparham 30<sup>th</sup> Oct where regularly noted as flyovers, 100 Bittering 8<sup>th</sup> Nov (NarVOS), 200 W 14<sup>th</sup> Nov & 190 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec New Costessey (AG).

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

*Common resident & passage migrant.*

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

Maximum counts at key sites: 54 Hoe Bird Walk 19<sup>th</sup> Aug (DK), 545 Swanton Morley GP 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 400 Sparham Hall Farm.

A Greylag / Canada Goose hybrid was reported from Beetley GP 4<sup>th</sup> June and Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> Aug (DA).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

*Common introduced resident.*

Less common than the larger Greylag and possibly declining at the expense of its gains.

Maximum counts: 81 Swanton Morley GP on 14<sup>th</sup> July (DA), 34 Lenwade Mill 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Nov (JP), 30 Beetley GP 4<sup>th</sup> June (RG), 25 HBW 16<sup>th</sup> Dec (DK).

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

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

A surprising 11 were at Swanton Morley GP 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Singles Gt Ryburgh Wildlife Group's Scrape 3<sup>rd</sup> June (S&BG), Beetley GP 4<sup>th</sup> June and Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> Aug (DA).

**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.

Max counts of 20 West Raynham 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE), 7 Beetley GP 4<sup>th</sup> June (RG), 34 Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> June (DA), 32 Sparham Pools 21<sup>st</sup> July (DA), 2 Costessey Pits 25<sup>th</sup> July (D&RH), 9 Attlebridge 24<sup>th</sup> Aug (WO), 21 Worthing 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct (DK), 14 HBW 21<sup>st</sup> Oct (DK), 6 Lenwade Mill 25<sup>th</sup> Nov (JP) and 15 Hoe 26<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Mainly a breeding visitor to the valley arriving early in the year but departing to moult in July. Very few records. 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan Sparham Pools (S&BG) where 1 pr bred "A sharp decline" (CS). Up to 3 at Bittering from 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE). 1pr with 9 young West Raynham on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (S&BG) and a single Attlebridge 30<sup>th</sup> Aug (WO).

In autumn 3 NW over New Costessey 10<sup>th</sup> Oct (AG).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

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

The only significant count was on flooded marshes at Bylaugh where 100+ during Oct (CS) and 50 on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov (B&BP). Sparham Pools held up to 4 in Jan, 1 at Mill Fm Gt Witchingham 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 12+ Bittering 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. one at Swanton Morley GP during Oct / Nov.

A single on West Raynham Hall lake on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (JL/RG) was the only summer record.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

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

Only proof of breeding was at Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> June (DA).

Max counts of 20 Bittering GP 14<sup>th</sup> Jan (NS/MS), 35 Sparham Pools 10<sup>th</sup> Feb (BB/JE) and 30 Swanton Morley 27<sup>th</sup> Dec (B&BP).

Elsewhere: Coxford Heath 3 and West Raynham 4 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, Gt Witchingham Mill Farm 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, HBW 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. Beetley GP 1pr June.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

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

No breeding records. Max counts: 14 Sparham Pools 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 20 Hall Farm, Attlebridge 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, 40 Bylaugh 17<sup>th</sup> Nov and 20 over Swanton Morley GP 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. Elsewhere single figure records from New & Old Costessey, Coxford Heath, Fakenham, Guist, Gt Witchingham Manor Farm and HBW.



**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

*Common resident & winter visitor.*

So common that often numbers go unrecorded but 3 figure counts: 150 Hall Farm, Attlebridge 29<sup>th</sup> Aug (WO), 150 Bittering GP 12 Oct (IB) and 110 Mileham 11<sup>th</sup> Dec (RG).

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

*Scarce winter visitor and migrant. Amber listed.*

1 Swanton Morley GP 27<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2 Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Sept and 1 fem on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. (DA).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

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

6 at West Raynham Lake (S&BG) and 2 Coxford Heath (BB/JE) on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan then 2 W Raynham on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&BP, BB/JE). 3 on 11<sup>th</sup> & 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb then 1pr at Swanton Morley on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr (DA). 1pr New Costessey 24<sup>th</sup> Feb (AB).

2 males were on W Raynham Lake on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (JL/RG) – were there females on eggs?

Swanton Morley was again host to 1 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept and 2 on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov (B&BP). Sparham Pools had 8 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (BB/JE) while Bylaugh had 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov (B&BP).

**Pochard** *Aythya farina*

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

No proof of breeding but 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June then 3 22<sup>nd</sup> July at Swanton Morley GP. Numbers were much higher in the autumn period than the start of the year. Early year max counts were: 15 Bittering GP 14<sup>th</sup> Jan (NS/MS), 14 Lenwade Bridge Lake 19<sup>th</sup> Feb (S&BG), 25 Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Feb (BB/JE). The year ended with 65 at Swanton Morley GP on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec (DA).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

*Summer breeder also common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

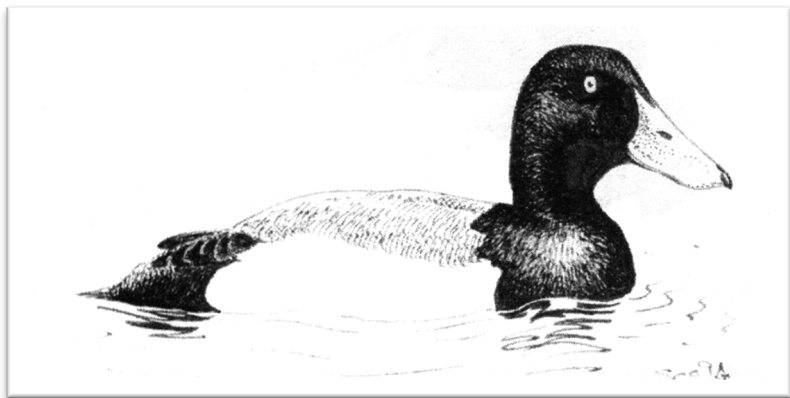
Breeding season records: 3 Beetley GP on 4<sup>th</sup> June (RG), Sparham Pools 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July (AJ/RG/JP) and 30 Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> June (DA) (B&BP).

Max counts in first winter period 50 Sparham Pools 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb (BB/JE), 100 Swanton Morley GP 6<sup>th</sup> Apr (DA). During second winter period 94 Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, 27 Sparham Pools 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

*Rare winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.*

1 first winter male Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> Nov & 21<sup>st</sup> Dec (DA).



*Scaup, by Steve Cale*

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

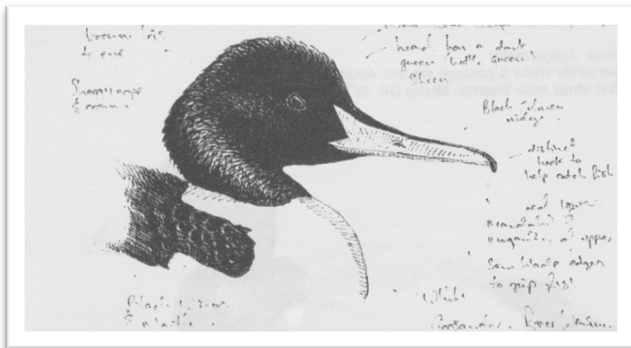
*Scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.*

At the beginning of the year 2 Sparham Pools 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan then 1 on 25<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE). 1 Swanton Morley GP 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (DA). There was 1 on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov then 2 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at the latter site (DA) and 2 Three Bridges Lake, Elsing on 29<sup>th</sup> Dec (C&FN).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser**Winter visitor & passage migrant.*

Most records came from Sparham Pools NR with the max counts of 4 in Jan (JP), 15 in Feb (CS,B&BP,BB/JE) and 11 on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar (BB/JE) which was the last record until 13<sup>th</sup> Nov when 3 females had returned (BB/JE). Then to end year there were only 1 or 2 reported again at Sparham Pools NR.

Elsewhere: 1 Bittering GP 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (IB,PR), Attlebridge 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Feb (WO), 2 flew west Mileham 8<sup>th</sup> Dec (RG).



*Goosander, by Steve Cale*

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis**Uncommon decreasing introduced resident.*

1 Bittering GP 14<sup>th</sup> Jan (NS/MS) was the only record. Perhaps the national culling of this species is taking effect!

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix**Scarce summer visitor and breeder. **Red listed.***

1 Mill Fm, Gt Witchingham 12<sup>th</sup> May (AJ), 1 WVRWP 12<sup>th</sup> June (RBA).

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

*Common introduced resident.*

Many estates breed and release this species for shooting.

Max counts: 9 Whissonsett 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, 12 Old Costessey 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 4 Sparham Hall Farm 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2 HBW 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2 Swanton Morley GP 11<sup>th</sup> Mar, 20 Twyford 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2 N Tuddenham 26<sup>th</sup> May, 6 Beetley GP 4<sup>th</sup> June, 9 Hoe 26<sup>th</sup> Dec and 2 Worthing Church.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

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

Max counts: 2 Horningtoft 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (A&CJ/JH), 3 Lyng (MS) and 3 Whissonsett (B&BP) 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1 Costessey Mill 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 3 Ringland 30<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&MS), 2 Old Costessey 10<sup>th</sup> Feb (AB), 2 Attlebridge 24<sup>th</sup> Feb (WO), 2 N Tuddenham 5<sup>th</sup> Mar (B&BP), 3 HBW 15<sup>th</sup> Apr (DK), 4 Colkirk/Gt Ryburgh 3<sup>rd</sup> June (S&BG, JL/RG), 2 Sculthorpe 3<sup>rd</sup> June (B&BP/DK), 2 Daffy Green 17<sup>th</sup> Aug & 10<sup>th</sup> Sept (IB), covey of 15 Sparham Hall Farm late Sept (CS), 6 Gressenhall 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (IB) and 12 Mill Farm, Great Witchingham 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (AJ).

7 pairs bred Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

*Common introduced resident.*

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

**Little Grebe** *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Breeding proven at Beetley GP 2pr (6 young) and Billingford 1 pr. Elsewhere recorded from Hall Farm, Attlebridge 1, Costessey Mill 2, HBW 4, Sparham Pools 6, Swanton Morley GP 8.

**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. Swanton Morley GP held the largest concentration with a max count of 20 on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar (DA).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Recorded every month except May & July. Maximum counts 65 Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE) and 28 Sparham Pools 19<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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

First winter bird Swanton Morley GP 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (DA).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

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

Sightings continue to increase. Recorded all months except Apr.

Max counts: 4 Lenwade 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (JL) and 5 Hall Farm Attlebridge 5<sup>th</sup> Sept (WO). Other sightings were of 1 or 2 from Drayton, Fakenham, Guist Common, Lenwade Common & Marriott's Way, New & Old Costessey, North Elmham (County School), Pensthorpe, Sculthorpe, Sparham Pools, Swannington, Swanton Morley GP.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

*Common resident throughout the valley, present all year.*

The colony at Gt. Witchingham Wildlife Centre had 29 active nests, Norfolk's largest colony (AJ / RG).

Other birds were reported throughout the year from Attlebridge 6, Beetley GP 2, Dereham SW 3, Guist Common, HBW 4, Lenwade 2, Mattishall, N Elmham (County School) 2, Old Costessey 12, Sparham Pools 4, Swanton Morley GP 2.

### **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

*Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant. Amber listed.*

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

First record 1 flying north over Sparham Pools on 4<sup>th</sup> May (DA) then 1 from Pensthorpe/WVRWP 17<sup>th</sup> May (CF, BS,AJ). 1 at SNRWP on 20<sup>th</sup> May (RBA).

Singles regularly seen from WVRWP with 2 seen on 12<sup>th</sup> June & 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Away from the main sites 1 Swanton Morley 22<sup>nd</sup> July (DA).

### **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

*Increasing visitor mainly from reintroduction projects. Amber listed.*

One or 2 birds were in the area from Jan to Aug. *Mid-Jan to mid-Feb* Wellingham (IB); *Mar* - Little Snoring 8<sup>th</sup>, WVRWP 11<sup>th</sup>; *Apr* - SNRWP 18<sup>th</sup> & 2 on 24<sup>th</sup>, East Barsham 2, Sparham Pools 22<sup>nd</sup>, WVRWP 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>; *May* - Guist 7<sup>th</sup>, Honingham 8<sup>th</sup>, East Barsham 14<sup>th</sup>, WVRWP 19<sup>th</sup>; *June* - Hindringham 1<sup>st</sup>, Bintree 9<sup>th</sup>; *Aug* - Sparham Pools 9<sup>th</sup>.



*Red Kite,  
by Steve Cale*

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

*An increasing vagrant*

One Great Ryburgh 20<sup>th</sup> May (PR).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

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

This species is becoming more established.

Records from 27<sup>th</sup> Jan Swanton Morley (DA) to 21<sup>st</sup> Oct N Tuddenham (B&BP). Breeding was successful at at least 2 sites 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 a male Kettlestone 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&BP).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

*Rare passage migrant and winter visitor to valley.*

An easily overlooked secretive species.

1 flew over Ringland 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 2 SNRWP 18<sup>th</sup> Apr (RBA), 1 in the Valley 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> Apr and 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

*Widespread fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

The most common raptor in the WVBS area with many reports of birds visiting garden feeding stations. Only proof of breeding recorded was fledged young calling Lenwade.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

*Small but increasing breeding population in the valley.*

1 - 6 recorded in every month over the whole area. Although no proven breeding records were received it is suspected from several areas.

**Osprey** *Pandion halaetus*

Scarce passage migrant, increasing in frequency in recent years.

**Amber listed.**

Only 4 records – over Sparham Pools 6<sup>th</sup> May (RBA), Guist Common 12<sup>th</sup> May, Worthing Church 12<sup>th</sup> May (DK) and WVRWP 19<sup>th</sup> July. The first 3 records probably refer to the same bird on spring migration. The last record is early for a returning post nesting bird.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder and passage. **Amber listed.**

Increased reporting led to records from over 30 locations. Proof of breeding only from Daffy Green & Sparham Hall Farm (2pr).

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

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

Two Dec reports – a female chasing a blackbird Fustyweed, Elsing 14<sup>th</sup> (BS) and 1 Clippings Green, Mattishall 24<sup>th</sup> (B&BP).

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant throughout the valley.

Earliest record 1 Sparham Pools 30<sup>th</sup> Apr (CS) and the last was 3 on the late date 10<sup>th</sup> Nov Lyng (BB/JE).



Multiple sightings were 2 Sparham Pools, 3 Lyng 3 & 6 WVRWP.

*Hobby, by Steve Cale*



**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

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

3 records from Sparham Pools 4<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Mar (RBA) & 25<sup>th</sup> Mar (DA).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquatus*

Uncommon resident and winter visitor. **Amber listed.**

During first winter period birds recorded from Swanton Morley GP 1 on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2 on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar, Whitwell Common 1 on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr (all DA) and Dereham SW 4 on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

The first of the second winter period was 1 Guist Common 10<sup>th</sup> Oct (RG,AH,DP), 3 Swanton Morley 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, then singles 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, 26<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB), 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (DA). Elsewhere singles Sparham Pools 6<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Nov (BB/JE), Hempton Marsh & Sculthorpe Moor both 30<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*.

Common resident. Widespread throughout valley supplemented by autumn immigrants.

Double figure counts 15 Swanton Morley GP 25<sup>th</sup> Nov (B&BP), 11 Lenwade Mill 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec (JP).

**Coot** *Falica atra*.

Common resident and winter visitor.

Max counts of 15 Sparham Pools 10<sup>th</sup> Feb (BB/JE), 73 Swanton Morley GP 24<sup>th</sup> Nov (DA).

**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. **Amber listed.**

One or 2 "wild" Cranes were reported joining free flying birds from Pensthorpe in Feb and May.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Mainly a breeding visitor to the valley, absent in mid-winter. **Amber listed.**

First returning birds 2 Sparham Pools 17<sup>th</sup> Feb (BB/JE) where 2 pr bred. Birds also reported from Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge, Beetley GP, Daffy Green, Dereham SW, Fustyweed, Great Ryburgh, Guist, HBW, Lenwade, Swanton Morley GP, Twyford.

Last record 1<sup>st</sup> Sept Fustyweed, Elsing.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadris dubius*

*Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor in small numbers.*

First bird was seen on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr (AJ) at Sparham Pools but failed to breed as this site has become too overgrown. Proof of breeding was received from nearby Lyng Easthaugh (JL/RG). Also reported from Beetley GP, Pensthorpe and WVRWP (Sennowe Park).

**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 the main flock was at N Tuddenham peaking at 1000 on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&BP). Elsewhere counts of 300 Hoe, 250 Mattishall, 60 Bawdeswell, 45 Dereham SW, 40 Etling Green, 32 Lenwade 32 and 16 Bittering.

The first returning birds were 1 over Swanton Morley 12<sup>th</sup> Aug and 2 flying over Sparham Pools 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. From then max counts were 300 at Hockering /Lenwade, 300 Scarning /Daffy Green, 250 at Sparham Pools, 250 at Mileham, 130 at N Tuddenham, 80 at Coxford, 80 at Swanton Morley, 75 at Wendling, 50 at Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham, 35 at Hoe and 35 at Twyford.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

The highest counts during the first winter period were 500 at Dereham SW, 250 at Bintree, 200 at Gressenhall, 150 at Sparham Pools, 100 at Fustyweed, Elsing, 100 on HBW, 90 at Swanton Morley and 70 at Sculthorpe.

Returning birds from early July 34 at WVRWP then the max counts during second winter period 800 at Mill Farm, Great Witchingham, 275 at Scarning /Daffy Green, 250 at Hoe, 210 at Dereham SW, 200 at N Tuddenham, 150 at Daffy Green, 100 at Foxley, 75 at Lenwade, 70 at Sculthorpe, 40 at Old Farm Attlebridge, 35 at Swanton Morley, 30 at Beetley, 28 at Gressenhall and 20 at Bylaugh.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Sparham 1-2 and Bylaugh (CS).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

The highest counts in the first winter period came from Old Costessey Marshes when 25 in mid-Jan & 40 – 45 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Feb (AB). Also 20 Dereham SW on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (IB), 4 Costessey Mill and singles at Drayton, Scarning, Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley.

Swanton Morley 28+ on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug rising to 50 by 9<sup>th</sup> Sept (DA). Other max counts in second winter period 8 at Dereham SW, 8 at N Tuddenham, 7 at Old Costessey, 7 at Sparham Pools and 1 on HBW.

In the valley at Sparham “High water table provided ideal condition in autumn on wet meadows. Impossible to count without walking them up. This would yield 40 – 50 in a mile.” (CS).

**Woodcock** *Scotopax rusticola*

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

Records of 1 – 2 wintering birds from Bintree Wood, Costessey Mill, Daffy Green, Dereham SW, Hockering Wood, Lenwade Common, N Elmham, Old Costessey, Scarning, Sculthorpe Moor, Whitwell Common.

The only breeding season record was 2 or 3 roding on Marsham Heath 2<sup>nd</sup> June (RG).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

*Rare passage migrant to WVBS area. Mainly fly-overs. Amber listed.*

Single bird Swanton Morley 3<sup>rd</sup> May (DA).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

*Scarce passage migrant to WVBS area. Mainly fly-overs. Amber listed.*

A fly over Swanton Morley GP 12<sup>th</sup> August (DA).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

*Scarce passage migrant to WVBS area. Mainly fly-overs. Amber listed.*

2 Dereham 27<sup>th</sup> July (IB) and 1 N Tuddenham, Mill Farm 19<sup>th</sup> Aug & 19<sup>th</sup> Sept (BP).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.

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

A single record 1 Lyng 9<sup>th</sup> Nov (BB/JE).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

*Scarce passage migrant.*

Singles Swanton Morley GP 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> Aug (DA). 2 reported heard 31<sup>st</sup> Aug Sparham pools (NS).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

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

Recorded all months other than June & July. Max counts of 9 at Swanton Morley, 3 at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge, 2 at Sparham Pools and 1 at Elsing.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

*Passage migrant, widespread.*

Singles in spring from 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Sparham Pools & Swanton Morley GP. In autumn a significant count of 7 – 8 on 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> Aug at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge (WO) and singles again from Sparham & Swanton Morley

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

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

Present throughout the year. Significant counts: 100+ Dereham SW, Mattishall & Ringland (B&MS) 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 310 Swanton Morley 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1000+ Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge 20<sup>th</sup> July reducing to 400 5<sup>th</sup> Aug (WO) and 350 Sparham Pools 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.

Autumn passage along R Tud at New Costessey from 27<sup>th</sup> Sept to 9<sup>th</sup> Dec gave a total of 1061 with 209 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 266 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct & 474 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (AG).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

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

Recorded in relatively small numbers in most months. Max counts of 77 over R Tud, New Costessey 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (AG), 75 Swanton Morley 27<sup>th</sup> Dec (DA), 12 Lenwade Mill 11<sup>th</sup> Nov (JP).

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

*Passage migrant with some birds remaining throughout the year.*

**Amber listed.**

Most significant counts made over R Tud valley, New Costessey by AG: 324 on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept, 224 on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, 388 on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 238 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct & 133 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov.

Also 25 Swanton Morley 4<sup>th</sup> May, 60 Sparham Pools 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept and 13 Felthorpe 20<sup>th</sup> Nov (MS/NS).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

*Passage migrant with some birds remaining throughout the year.*

**Amber listed.**

50 on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and 300+ 29<sup>th</sup> Aug Hall Farm, Attlebridge (WO). Otherwise very small numbers recorded.

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

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

Very small numbers recorded. Highest count 12 R Tud, New Costessey 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov where also 4 on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct & 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Elsewhere 1 Syderstone Common 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2 Felthorpe 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, 6 Old Costessey 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2 HBW on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept & 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

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

First record 2 Sparham Pools 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr (DA). Recorded from Costessey to Gt Ryburgh in the valley with max of 21 Sparham Pools 20<sup>th</sup> June (NS). Disaster struck the Society's new tern raft on Sparham Hall Farm fishing lake adjacent to NWT Sparham Pools NR when it sank during heavy rains that flooded the valley in June.

Nearby at NWT Sparham Pools NR nesting was again hampered by weed growth on the island. Best estimate is 6 pairs bred but breeding success was hard to determine.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

3 Lyng Easthaugh GP 18<sup>th</sup> Apr (CS).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage migrant.

1 Sparham 30<sup>th</sup> May (CS).

**Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia*

Feral resident, associated with human habitation.

Only two records received of 2 at Taverham 24<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Aug (D&RH).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

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

Only 2 double figure counts of 10 HBW 21<sup>st</sup> Oct (DK) and 11 Hoe 26<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB). Elsewhere Beetley GP, Bintree Wood, Swanton Morley GP, Twyford, West Raynham.

**Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident throughout valley.

Normally the commonest bird species on any atlas bird survey in the valley.

AG recorded 2600 flying over R Tud valley between 19<sup>th</sup> Oct and 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. Peak passage was between 29<sup>th</sup> Oct & 6<sup>th</sup> Nov with 2122 passing with a max of 785 on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.

No other counts exceeded 100.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident, associated with human habitation.

Are numbers declining? No record above 4 (Lenwade & Attlebridge) was received.

### **Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

*Decreasing migratory breeder and passage migrant. Red listed.*

First reported on 2<sup>nd</sup> May Lenwade (NS).

3 singing males Bintree Wood 9<sup>th</sup> June & 5 Swanton Morley 24<sup>th</sup> June (DA). Elsewhere 1 – 2 birds Beetley GP, Guist, HBW, Lenwade, New Costessey, Sculthorpe, Sparham Pools, Syderstone Common, Weston Green.

Last record 9<sup>th</sup> Sept Swanton Morley GP (B&BP).

### **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

*Migratory breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed.*

First reported at Swanton Morley on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr (DA).

Also recorded from Beetley, Bintree Wood, Costessey, Dereham SW, Guist Common (3), HBW, Lenwade Common, N Elmham (County School), Sparham Pools, Worthing.

Latest record was as early as 28<sup>th</sup> July Bintree Wood (DA).

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

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

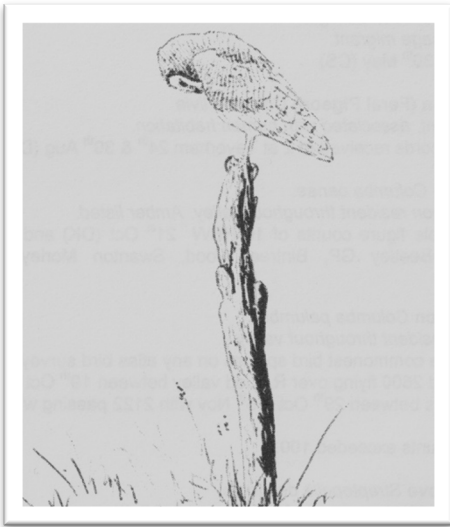
This exciting species is the most recorded species.

Recorded from –

Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge (2), Beetley (2), Bintree 2, Bittering, Brisley, Bylaugh, Daffy Green, Dereham SW, Dereham, Drayton, Elsing (3 sites), Etling Green, Felthorpe, Great Ryburgh 2, Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham, WVRWP, Guist Common, Hindolveston, HBW (2), Hockering, Longham, Lenwade (2 sites), Little Ryburgh, Lyng, Mileham, N Elmham, N Tuddenham (3 sites), Old Costessey, Pensthorpe, Ringland, Scarning (2), Sculthorpe, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Hall Farm, Sparham Pools NR, Swanton Morley, Swanton Novers, Tattersett, Twyford, Weston Longville, Whitwell Common, Worthing (3 sites).

Proof of breeding Sparham Hall Farm (2 pairs), Scarning.





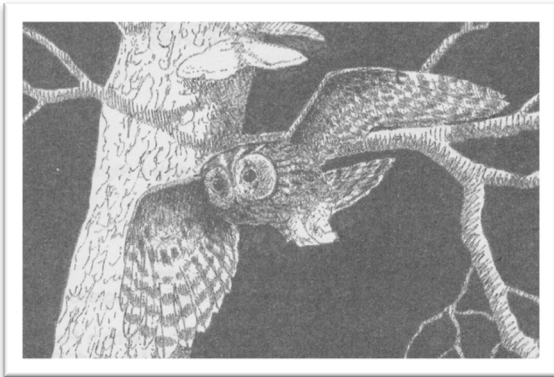
*Barn Owl, by Steve Cale*

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

*Introduced resident. Fairly common in the WVBS area.*

Reported throughout the year from Attlebridge, Bawdeswell, Bittering, Bintree, Bintree Wood, Bylaugh Hall, Daffy Green, Dereham SW, Elsing Heath, Fakenham, WVRWP, Gressenhall, Guist Common, Hockering, Lenwade, Lyng, Lyng Easthaugh, Mileham, N Tuddenham (4 sites), Scarning (3), Sparham Hall, Swanton Morley, Themelthorpe, Worthing Church.

Confirmed breeding records from Dereham (1B) and Sparham Hall Farm 2, possibly 3 pr (CS).



*Tawny Owl,*  
*by Steve Cale*

**Tawny Owl**  
*Strix aluco*  
Widespread  
resident.

Recorded from Attlebridge, Bawdeswell, Bintree Wood, Bylaugh SW, Daffy Green, Dereham, Dereham SW (3), Elsing Bridge, Foxley Wood, Guist Common, Hockering, Hockering Wood, Lenwade (3), Lyng, Marsham Heath, Mattishall, New & Old Costessey, N Elmham (County School), N Tuddenham, Ringland, Scarning, Sparham Hall Farm, Sparham Pools NR, Swanton Morley, Taverham.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*  
Scarce migratory breeder. **Red listed.**

3 Marsham Heath (R&CG) 2<sup>nd</sup> June and again during Society's Nightjar evening 21<sup>st</sup> June. Also 1 Felthorpe 21<sup>st</sup> June (R&CG).

*Nightjar, by Steve Cale*



**Swift** *Apus apus*

*Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.*

Numbers lower than 2006 but more in line with previous years.

First record 4 Swanton Morley 21<sup>st</sup> Apr (DA) with the major immigration just over a week later.

Double figure sightings – 50 Swanton Morley 5<sup>th</sup> May, 50 Sparham Pools 7<sup>th</sup> May where 16 on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10 Worthing 12<sup>th</sup> May, 12 Bylaugh 19<sup>th</sup> May and 20 Taverham 22<sup>nd</sup> May & 5<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Last record 2 to SW 5<sup>th</sup> Sept Taverham (NS) although NS noted on 5<sup>th</sup> Aug “All our ‘local’ Swifts departed today, which is at least a week earlier than I can recollect over about the last 20 years”.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

*Common resident in the valley. Amber listed.*

A very well reported species. Mainly 1s & 2s reported throughout the year from – Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge, Costessey Mill, Dereham, Dereham SW, Elsing, Fakenham, HBW, Lenwade (3 sites), N Elmham, New & Old Costessey, Pensthorpe, Scarning, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools (2 pr), Swanton Morley GP.

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

*Vagrant from southern Europe.*

A report of one at Gateley 13<sup>th</sup> May (RBA).

**Green Woodpecker** *Picis viridis*

*Fairly common resident. Amber listed.*

Most records are of singles. Attlebridge Hall Fm, Beetley GP, Costessey, Dereham SW, Drayton, Elsing (5), Elsing, Mill St, HBW, Lenwade 2, N Tuddenham Common 2, Pensthorpe, Scarning, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley 4, Taverham, Wensum Valley GC 3, Whitwell Common.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

*Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders.*

A regular visitor to garden feeding stations.

1 to 4 recorded throughout the year from 18 locations.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

*Scarce resident. Occasionally visiting garden feeders. Red listed.*

Only 3 records received – Gunton Lane Park, Costessey 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar (AB), 1 N Tuddenham Common 10<sup>th</sup> July (B&BP) and 1 Sculthorpe Moor 28<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB).



*Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, by Steve Cale*

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

*Rare, but increasing, resident breeder. Red listed.*

One pair recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> June in suitable breeding habitat (RG/JL).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

*Fairly common resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Red listed.**

Maximum counts 42 pairs breeding on Sparham Hall Farm with a wintering flock of 65 in Dec (CS), 20 pr Drayton/Costessey in May (AB) and 43 Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (AJ). A total of 70 were recorded flying over the R Tud valley, New Costessey between 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept and 17<sup>th</sup> Nov with a max of 16 on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

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

First report was 3 Swanton Morley GP 17<sup>th</sup> Mar (DA). Breeding was recorded at Beetley GP, Lyng Easthaugh and Pensthorpe.

At Beetley only 17 nest holes were occupied as fox predation is a major problem at this site.

Latest record was 4 Worthing 18<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

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

First report was 1 Pensthorpe 4<sup>th</sup> Apr (AG) followed by 1 at Swanton Morley GP 2 days later on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr (DA).

There were no double figure records until 28<sup>th</sup> May when 12 Lenwade Common (JP) then 20 Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge 1<sup>st</sup> July (WO), 40 HBW 10<sup>th</sup> Aug and 35 Worthing 18<sup>th</sup> Aug (DK).

The roost at Guist Common in Aug had 100 birds on 1<sup>st</sup>, 200 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 130 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 35 on 29<sup>th</sup> then 40 on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

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

Numbers are down on 2006 with no 3 figure records.

The first arrival 2 Swanton Morley 21<sup>st</sup> Apr (DA) building to 20 by 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Other May records 10 Sparham Pools 14<sup>th</sup> (JP), 2 nest building N Tuddenham 26<sup>th</sup> (B&BP), 16 Lenwade 28<sup>th</sup> (JP) and 30 "landing in field and possibly feeding on grit" Costessey 30<sup>th</sup> (AB).

Double figure counts during Aug of 10 at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge on 28<sup>th</sup> (WO), 30 at Sparham Pools on 24<sup>th</sup> & 45 on 31<sup>st</sup> (NS) & 50 at Worthing on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sept records of 10 on 4<sup>th</sup> at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge (WO), 17 on 5<sup>th</sup> & 11 on 14<sup>th</sup> at Taverham (NS), 5 on 16<sup>th</sup> HBW, 19 on 18<sup>th</sup> at Sparham Pools NR (NS) and finally 15 on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept at Guist Common (RG).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

*Rare breeder & passage migrant. Amber listed.*

2 Swanton Morley GP 9<sup>th</sup> Sept (BP).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

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

Recorded from 12 sites with highest (double figure) site counts – 20 Bylaugh 6<sup>th</sup> Jan (AJ), 17 Old Costessey 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 25 Sparham Pools 10<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Feb (BB/JE), 10 Dereham SW 9<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB) and 20 Swanton Morley GP 27<sup>th</sup> Dec (B&BP).

A total of 88 were recorded over R Tud at New Costessey between 27<sup>th</sup> Sept & 16<sup>th</sup> Nov with 10 on 13<sup>th</sup> & 11 on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**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.

1 or 2 reported from Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge (5), Bylaugh SW, Costessey Mill & Pits, Daffy Green, Mill St, Elsing, Guist, HBW, Hockering, Lenwade Common & Mill, Lyng Mill, New Costessey, N Tuddenham, Scarning, Sculthorpe Mill, Sparham Pools (6), Swanton Morley and Worthing.

Evidence of breeding: Costessey Mill & Pits, Dereham SW, Lyng and Swanton Morley.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

*Common breeding resident and passage migrant.*

The roost at Guist Common held 45 from mid-Aug rising to 300+ end Sept to mid Oct and dropping to 70 on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov (RG). 2 birds of the 89 ringed were considered to be White Wagtails, the nominate species *alba alba*.

Dereham SW roost had 20 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, 115 on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 50 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB).

Other gatherings of note Swanton Morley 30 on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (DA), 38 on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb (IB) & 31 on 22<sup>nd</sup> July (DA), Bylaugh 26 on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan (AJ), Mileham 12 on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

*Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor. Rare in valley.*

50 flew south over E Rudham 30<sup>th</sup> Nov (NarVOS).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

*Abundant, mainly sedentary resident.*

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

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. **Amber listed.**

No significant records received.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

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

No records of particular significance were received for this ubiquitous species.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Rare summer visitor to WVBS area. **Amber listed.**

Up to 4 singing males Ringland Common during May (AB), where 1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (B&BP, DK). Singing male Lenwade Common 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

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

1 or 2 birds at Sparham Hall Farm fishing lake Pools from 6<sup>th</sup> Oct to end of year (BB/JE, CS, DA).



Stonechat, by Steve Cale



**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

*Scarce passage migrant to the valley.*

All records were of singles in May. Great Ryburgh 4<sup>th</sup> (PR), Swanton Morley 9<sup>th</sup> (DA), Old Costessey 22<sup>nd</sup> (AB).

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquata*

*Scarce passage migrant to the valley. Red listed.*

Swanton Morley 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Apr (DA), Beeston 1 female 1<sup>st</sup> May (RG) and 1 between Lenwade & Sparham Pools 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May (CS, DA).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

*Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

R Tud valley, New Costessey 211 moved largely to W/SW between 13<sup>th</sup> Oct and 20<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

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

Double figure counts during the early winter period: **Jan** - 40 Marriott's Way, Lenwade & 10 Syderstone Common 1<sup>st</sup>, 35 Worthing Church 6<sup>th</sup>, 30 Sparham Pools & 50 Whissonsett 7<sup>th</sup>, 50 Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham 23<sup>rd</sup>, 15 Reepham 25<sup>th</sup> and 32 Cawston 28<sup>th</sup>, **Feb** - 50 Old Costessey & 80 Swanton Morley 17<sup>th</sup>, **Mar** - 100 Worthing Church 3<sup>rd</sup>, 80 N Tuddenham Common 4<sup>th</sup>, 40 Cawston 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 Badley Moor, Dereham 18<sup>th</sup> & finally 30 Bintree Mill 24<sup>th</sup>.

Returning birds from **Oct** 3<sup>rd</sup> when 15 Worthing, then 100+ Sparham Pools 18<sup>th</sup>, 21 HBW & 20 Dereham SW 21<sup>st</sup> & 80 Swanton Morley 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. In **Nov** 100 at Swanton Morley 4<sup>th</sup>, 25+ Sparham Pools 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 21 HBW 18<sup>th</sup> and 12 N Tuddenham 24<sup>th</sup> then in **Dec** 36 Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham 17<sup>th</sup> & 75 Hoe 26<sup>th</sup>.

R Tud valley, New Costessey 4,604 moved largely to W/SW between 7<sup>th</sup> Oct and 25<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG) with max counts of 2,927 on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct & 665 next day.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelus*

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

Many records of mainly 1 or 2 from 20 locations with a max of 7 at Dereham on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.

AG recorded 255 moving mainly W/SW from 28<sup>th</sup> Sept to 21<sup>st</sup> Nov with a peak of 32 on 14<sup>th</sup> 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 19 locations. Notable counts: 60 Lenwade & 50 Old Costessey 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 35 Drayton 16<sup>th</sup> Feb & 50 Old Costessey 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 105 W New Costessey 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar where there were 100 on 13<sup>th</sup> Mar, 30 Cawston 9<sup>th</sup> Mar.

Last spring records 20 Whitwell Common (DA) & 4 Mill St, Elsing 6<sup>th</sup> Apr. (A&CJ).

The first autumn report was 41 over New Costessey on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept (AG). Then in Oct 20 Swanton Morley on 7<sup>th</sup>, 20+ Guist Common on 10<sup>th</sup>, 40 Dereham SW on 21<sup>st</sup> and 100 Swanton Morley on 27<sup>th</sup>. Only single figure reports in Nov but in Dec 10 Hoe on 26<sup>th</sup> & 60 Swanton Morley on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.

In addition AG recorded 9,220 moving mainly W/SW over New Costessey from 27<sup>th</sup> Sept to 15<sup>th</sup> Dec with the peak movement of 4,532 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 1,048 on 19<sup>th</sup> & 616 on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

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

Recorded from 15 sites. No post breeding flocks were reported.

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

*Rare resident expanding its range through valley.*

Recorded from 6 locations within the valley from 11<sup>th</sup> Mar to 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.

No proof of breeding but present at 4 sites during the breeding season.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

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

2 singing males Costessey Fish Farm meadows 19<sup>th</sup> Apr (AG).

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant.*

Earliest record 9<sup>th</sup> Apr at Swanton Morley (DA) where up to 10 singing on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr.

Also recorded from Costessey, Guist Common where 1 adult & 18 juveniles were caught & ringed in Aug, Lenwade Common & Bridge Lake, Sparham Pools, and Whitwell Common where 6 adults caught & ringed.

Latest record 18<sup>th</sup> Aug Guist Common.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

*Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant.*

Earliest record 27<sup>th</sup> Apr Sparham Pools and latest 2 Swanton Morley 1<sup>st</sup> Sept (DA).

Also recorded from Guist Common where 17 adult & 24 juveniles were caught & ringed in Aug, Lenwade, N Elmham, Scarning and Whitwell Common where 4 adult & 2 juveniles were caught & ringed.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

*Scarce summer resident and passage migrant.*

First recorded 19<sup>th</sup> Apr R Tud Valley, New Costessey (AG) then 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr Sparham Pools (DA), 9<sup>th</sup> June Swanton Morley with young (DA), 11<sup>th</sup> June Dereham SW (IB), 18<sup>th</sup> June Dereham (IB) and finally 6 Swanton Morley 1<sup>st</sup> Sept (DA).

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

*Very common summer resident.*

As in 2006 the first bird was recorded on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr in Costessey (AG). Sparham Hall Farm 4 pairs bred “a decrease on last year” (CS). At Whitwell Common where 7 adults and 9 juvs were caught & ringed in July. At Guist Common where the habitat is less suitable 5 juvs were caught in Aug. Last record 1<sup>st</sup> Sept Swanton Morley (DA).

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant. Less common than Blackcap.*

First record 27<sup>th</sup> Apr Swanton Morley where as many as 15 were recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> May (DA).

Recorded from 9 sites with breeding proof from Guist Common, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley & Guist Common.

Last record 10<sup>th</sup> Aug Guist Common.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

The first spring record was 7<sup>th</sup> Apr Alderford Common (A&CJ) followed by 5 at Swanton Morley the next day.

5 adults and 6 juvs were caught & ringed on Whitwell Common in July and 5 adults and 15 juvs were caught & ringed on Guist Common in Aug.

Last record Sparham Pools 25<sup>th</sup> Sept (DA).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

*Common summer resident, passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.*

The first record of the year was from Sparham Pools, a singing male from 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb (DA,NS,BB/JE). Was this an over wintering bird or an early summer visitor?

The main spring influx started 9<sup>th</sup> Mar rising to a peak of 13 on 31<sup>st</sup> at Swanton Morley. By 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 20 were recorded at this site.

9 were ringed on Guist Common & 15 on Whitwell Common.

The latest record was the surprisingly early date of 27<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sculthorpe Moor (AJ).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

Earliest and latest records Sparham Pools 5<sup>th</sup> Apr (DA) and 30<sup>th</sup> Aug (JP).

Records were also received from Foxley Wood, Guist Common, HBW, Lenwade (3 sites), New Costessey, Swanton Morley GP, and Whitwell Common.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

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

Reported from 18 locations and in all months with proof of breeding of this delightful little bird from Lenwade and Whitwell Common.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

*Uncommon and declining summer resident. Red listed.*

First recorded 24<sup>th</sup> May Worthing (DK) and Mill St Elsing (C&FN).

Last recorded 1<sup>st</sup> Sept Fustyweed (BS).

Reported from 10 sites Bintree Wood, Elsing Mill St, Fustyweed, Lenwade Mill & Morse Close, Sculthorpe Mill, Sparham Hall Farm, Swannington 2pr, Swanton Morley and Worthing 2pr.

**Bearded Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

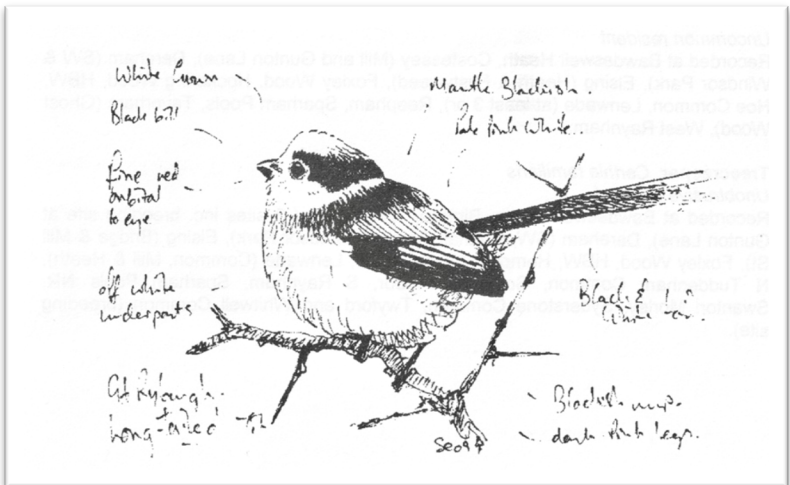
Vagrant to WVBS area. **Amber listed.**

1+ heard calling New Costessey 21<sup>st</sup> Oct (AG).

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

Common resident.

This species continues to thrive with high survival rates through the mild winters. Recorded from 24 localities with many double figure records. The highest being a massive 45 Lenwade Mill on 21<sup>st</sup> Aug (JP). Other locations with over 20 were Taverham 21 on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct (R&DH) and Derehan SW 22 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov & 20 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB).



*Long-tailed Tit, by Steve Cale*

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*

*Uncommon and declining resident. Red listed.*

Due to the difficulty in separating this and the Willow Tit the potential for confusion must be recognised.

Recorded in 1s and 2s from Bittering, Dereham, Dereham SW, Foxley Wood, Fustyweed, HBW, Hempton Marsh (bred), Lenwade (Common, Heath, Norwich Rd & Walcis Hill), Mileham, Old Costessey, Pensthorpe, Sculthorpe Moor (3), Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley, Twyford and Whitwell Common (bred).

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

*Uncommon declining resident. Red listed.*

A much rarer, and more rapidly declining species than Marsh Tit.

Recorded at Bintree Woods (DA), Fustyweed (Elsing) (BS), HBW (DK), Hempton Marsh (B&BP, IB), Ringland (heard) and Sculthorpe Moor (A&CJ, S&BG, BB/JE, MS, NS, IB).

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

*Common resident.*

Recorded from Costessey, Dereham (Windsor Park), Fustyweed (Elsing), Hockering Wood, Lenwade (6 in one garden, 13 ringed in another, also bred), N Tuddenham Common, Reepham, Sculthorpe Moor.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

*Common resident.*

Common throughout the area.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

*Common resident.*

Common throughout the area.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

*Uncommon resident.*

Recorded at Bawdeswell Heath, Costessey (Mill and Gunton Lane), Dereham (SW & Windsor Park), Elsing (Heath & Fustyweed), Foxley Wood, Hockering Wood, HBW, Hoe Common, Lenwade (at least 3 pr), Reepham, Sparham Pools, Taverham (Ghost Wood), West Raynham.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

*Unobtrusive resident.*

Recorded at Bawdeswell Heath, Bintree, Costessey (3 sites inc. breeding site at Gunton Lane), Dereham (SW, Northall Green & Windsor Park), Elsing (Bridge & Mill St), Foxley Wood, HBW, Hempton Marsh, Lenwade (Common, Mill & Heath), N Tuddenham Common, Sculthorpe Moor, S Raynham, Sparham Pools NR, Swanton Morley, Syderstone Common, Twyford and Whitwell Common (breeding site).



*Treecreeper, by Steve Cale*



**Jay** *Garrulus monedula*

*Common resident and winter visitor.*

1 to 4 recorded from 12 locations.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

*Common resident.*

11 Felthorpe 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (MS/NS) and 33 Swanton Morley 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (DA) were the largest flocks recorded.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

*Common resident.*

300 Mill St Elsing 17<sup>th</sup> Jan (A&CJ), 40 Costessey Mill during both Jan & Feb (AB), 45 Lyng 11<sup>th</sup> July (JP) were the largest flocks recorded.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

*Common resident.*

200 Bittering 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE), 500+ flying over to roost Attlebridge during Feb (WO), 650 to S over New Costessey 14<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG) and 150 Sparham Pools 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (DA) were the largest flocks reported.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

*Common resident.*

Under recorded. Largest flock / family party two reports of 8 Sparham Pools 13<sup>th</sup> Feb & 11<sup>th</sup> July (JP).

**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 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and 18<sup>th</sup> Nov of 39,139 birds. Counts over 1,000 were 2,398 on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 2,050 on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 3,030 on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov and an amazing 25,977 on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.

(continues)

**Starling** (continued)

Elsewhere counts of 100 or more in first winter period of 140 Old Costessey on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan (AB), 100 Bittering on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE), 100 N Tuddenham on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, and 250 N Tuddenham on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb (B&BP).

In the second winter period 1000+ Ringland on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept (AB), 200 N Tuddenham on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov (B&BP) and 4,000 Dereham SW on 24<sup>th</sup> 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: 100 Mattishall Burgh Jan (B&MS), 40 Dereham July (IB), 40+ Daffy Green Aug (IB), 30 Swanton Morley GP Sept (B&BP) and 15 Worthing Oct (DK).

Also reported from Attlebridge, Guist, Lenwade, Lyng, Old Costessey, Reepham, Ringland, Taverham & Thorpe Marriott.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

*Uncommon declining resident. Red listed.*

Again a very poor year with no flocks reported.

Only reported from 3 sites: 1 at Fustyweed, Elsing on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan (AJ), 7 on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan & 5 on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb (BS); 6+ at Fulmodeston on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (IB/PR), 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (IB) & 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (B&BP/RG/JL); 2 at Thorpe Marriott on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan (JP).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

*Abundant widespread resident and winter visitor.*

It would seem that there are no large flocks wintering in the WVBS area. Other than 111 Church Lane, Felthorpe 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (P&AS) the only other significant counts came from AG at New Costessey. He recorded 14,111 between 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and 25<sup>th</sup> Nov but with only 2 days of 100 or above: 100 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 110 on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.*

Most first winter period records were of birds coming to garden feeding stations: 1 Lenwade 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 18<sup>th</sup> Feb (S&BG), 1 Sculthorpe on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE), 1 male Fustyweed, Elsing on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan (BS), 3 Lyng Easthaugh on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan (NM), 3 Sculthorpe on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan (IB), 1 Worthing on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&BP), 1 Mill St, Elsing on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb (C&FN), 1 Sparham Pools on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb (DA).

The latest spring record was 7<sup>th</sup> Apr when 1 Bintree Woods (DA).

Earliest returning record was 1 over New Costessey 29<sup>th</sup> Sept where in total 47 were recorded by 14<sup>th</sup> Nov with a max of 9 on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG). Other records to year end: 1 Bintree Woods on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct (DA), 1 Swanton Morley between 27<sup>th</sup> Oct & 30<sup>th</sup> Dec (DA), 1 Lenwade Common on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 20 Eastgate, Cawston on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov (GN), 2m 3f Elsing on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec (BS), 40 Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (AJ), 30 Elsing on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec (A&CJ), 34 Sculthorpe Moor on 28<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB), 20 Bintree Woods (DA) and 2 Stanfield on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB).

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

*Common resident.*

Numbers were surprisingly low with a max of 30 in the spring at Costessey on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb (R&DH) then 60 at Bylaugh 16<sup>th</sup> Dec (DP). At New Costessey a total of 356 was recorded between 14<sup>th</sup> Oct & 24<sup>th</sup> Nov with a daily max of only 24 on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

*Common resident.*

This species continues to adapt to garden feeding where nyjer seed and sunflower hearts are provided. A garden in Lenwade had 20 through Jan (S&BG).

Max counts of 50 Hempton Marsh on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&BP), 20 Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan (RG), 30 Sparham Pools on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb (BB/JE) and 15 Dereham on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct & 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (IB).

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

*Winter visitor in varying numbers.*

Very few records in the first winter period: 5 Pensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan (RG) followed by 2 Foxley Wood on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar (DA) were the only records.

Not surprising there were no reports of breeding.

First report in the second winter period was 1 Foxley Wood on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept (DA) then 1 Lenwade Mill on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct (JP).

In the second winter period numbers increased towards the year end due to the failure of tree seeds throughout Europe.

5 Dereham on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct increased to 30 by 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (IB);

6 Dereham SW on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, then 15 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec, just 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec & finally 70 on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB);

3 Sparham Pools on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov rose to a max of 120 by 10<sup>th</sup> Nov (BB) then finishing with 50+ on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (DA);

6 Swanton Morley on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, rose to 25 on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, then just 16 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov (DA), and finally 12 on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec (IB);

Elsewhere

15 Worthing on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct (DA); 30 Lenwade Common on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov; 20+ Hempton Marsh on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec (NarVOS); 60 Whitwell Common on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec (AG); 1 Twyford on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec;

At New Costessey 104 passed over between 29<sup>th</sup> Sept & 25<sup>th</sup> Nov with the highest daily count of 16 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (AG).

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

*Declining resident. Red listed.*

Flocks during the first winter period: 11 at Sculthorpe on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (S&BG), 6 at Bittering on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan when 100+ Sparham Hall Farm (RG/CH/KC) and again on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan (BB/JE), 30 Worthing also on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan (B&BP), 12 Old Costessey 28<sup>th</sup> Feb (AB).

17 pair bred on Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

Flocks during the second winter period: 25 at Old Costessey on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept & then 60 on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct (AB); 120 on Sparham Hall Farm in Dec (CS).

**Lesser Redpoll (Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret***

*Scarce and declining resident and winter visitor. Amber listed.*

The following records are assumed to be all of this species.

In first winter period: 20 at Sparham Pools on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (S&BG), then 7 on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan (JP), 1 on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb; 2 at Swanton Morley on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr (DA).

In the second winter period: 2 at Swanton Morley on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, also on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov and then 4 on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov (DA); 3 at Dereham on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (IB); 1 at Dereham SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec (IB), 20 at Sparham Pools on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec (PM); 1 at Whitwell Common on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (DA). Singles over New Costessey 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Oct & 17<sup>th</sup> Nov (AG).

**Common (Mealy) Redpoll *Carduelis flammea***

*Rare winter visitor. Amber listed.*

2 Old Costessey 5<sup>th</sup> Jan (AB) and 7 Pensthorpe 13<sup>th</sup> Jan (RG) were the only reports of this species.

**Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

*Very rare resident breeder following eruptions.*

1 Bintree Wood 20<sup>th</sup> Oct (DA).

**Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

*Declining resident. Red listed.*

Recorded in all months. Recorded from the following locations with maximum for each in brackets. Bawdeswell (1), Bintree Wood (4), Costessey (4), Coxford Heath, Daffy Green, Dereham (3), Dereham SW (5), Elsing (6), Foxley Wood (5), Gateley, Hockering, Great Witchingham, Guist Common (2), HBW (4), Hoe (1), Lenwade (3), Mileham, N Tuddenham, Ringland Common, Scarning (2), Sculthorpe Moor (2), S Raynham (3), Sparham Hall Farm (3pr), Sparham Pools (6), Swanton Morley (11), Syderstone Common, West Raynham (2) and Whitwell Common (5). In addition 3 flying W high over New Costessey 27<sup>th</sup> Oct were considered to be migrating (AG).

A male visiting a black sunflower seed feeder in Lenwade in June was unusual (S&BG).

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare resident. **Amber listed.**

A report of 1 heard 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr Old Costessey (AB).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Declining common resident. **Red listed.**

Reported from 18 locations with double figure counts of 47 Easton Estate 14<sup>th</sup> Jan (AG), 8-10 pr at Costessey May (AB), 15 at Daffy Green 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct (IB), 15 at Hill Farm, Gressenhall 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (IB), 12 at Dereham SW 24<sup>th</sup> Nov (IB) and 45 at Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham, 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (AJ).

12 pr bred Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Uncommon resident. **Red listed.**

No significant wintering flocks noted at either end of the year. Breeding season records from Attlebridge (2), Costessey Mill (2), Dereham (2), Dereham SW (4), Foxley Wood (singing male), Guist Common (16 ringed Aug / Sept with only 2 juveniles), N Elmham County School and Whitwell Common (4 ringed, 1 juv). Clearly a very poor breeding season due to the torrential rains in June.

Recorded outside the breeding season from Bylaugh SW, Old Costessey (4), Pensthorpe, Sparham Hall Farm (5), Sparham Pools (2) and Swanton Morley GP (10).

## 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.

**Blue-winged Goose** *Cyanochen cyanopterus*

*Endemic to Ethiopian mountains*

1 Swanton Morley GP Apr to Oct (DA).

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

*Eastern Europe, Asia & N Africa.*

3 Swanton Morley GP 1<sup>st</sup> Sept (DA).

**Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix*

*Southern South America & Falkland Islands*

One Swanton Morley GP 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar (DA).

**Rosybill** *Netta peposaca*

*Central lowland South America*

One Swanton Morley GP 7<sup>th</sup> Oct (DA).

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

*Central and South America*

One Swanton Morley GP during Jan & Feb (DA).

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

*Patchy distribution across mid- / southern Europe & Asia, Africa and Americas. It is assumed all records are from the colony at Gt Witchingham Wildlife Centre.*

Two Sparham Pools 4<sup>th</sup> May flew over from direction of Gt Witchingham Wildlife Centre (DA).

## Contributors to the Systematic List

D Appleton	R&D Harvey	W Oram
J Baker	Hawk & Owl Trust	B&J Palmer
P Banson	G Hemmings	D&D Pelling
B Bradley	C Hill	J Pett
I Brittain	J Horsman	B&B Pummell
A Brown	A&C Jackson	Rare Bird Alert
A&B Dalton	D Knight	P Riley
D Dowsett	P Lambley	C Sayer
J Evans	J Leeder	B&M Shapcott
C&J Fenn	B Marsham	B Shepherd
T Forster	P Milford	P&A Smith
A Gardiner	N Mears	M Spriggs
S&B Gibney	Nar Valley Ornithological Society	N Street
R&C Gribble	C&F Neale	L Waller
D&J Gurney	G Neville	L Wilkinson
A Hale	G&R Northall	

**Thanks to all the above for submitting their records.**



## Locations and their Grid References

The grid references refer to the co-ordinates 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.

Site	Grid ref	Site	Grid ref
Alderford Common	TG1218	East Barsham	TF3234
Attlebridge	TG1216	Eastgate, Cawston	TG1422
Badley Moor, Dereham	TG0212	Easton College	TG1210
Bawdeswell	TG0402	East Rudham	TF8226
Beetley GP	TG9818	Elsing	TG0416
Billingford	TG0020	Elsing Mill	TG0416
Billingford Common	TG0018	Etling Green	TG0012
Billingford Pits	TG0018	Fakenham	TF9228
Bintree Mill	TF9824	Felthorpe	TG1618
Bintree Wood	TG0020	Foxley	TG0220
Bittering	TF9216	Fustyweed, Elsing	TG0418
Broom Green	TF9824	Gateley	TF9624
Bridge Lake, Lenwade	TG1018	Great Ryburgh	TF9426
Briston	TG0632	Great Ryburgh Raptor Watchpoint	TF9624
Bylaugh	TG0218	Great Witchingham Wildlife Centre	TG0818
Bylaugh Hall	TG0218	Gressenhall	TF9616
Bylaugh Marshes	TG0218	Guist	TF9824
Bylaugh Sewage Works	TG0218	Guist Common	TF9824
Cadders Hill, Lyng	TG0616	Hindelveston	TG0228
Clippings Green, Mattishall	TG0412	Hempton Marsh	TF9028
Costessey	TG1610	Hockering	TG0612
Costessey Mill	TG1612	Hall Farm, Attlebridge	TG1214
Costessey Pits	TG1612	Hoe	TF9816
Coxford	TF8428	Hoe Common	TF9816
Coxford Heath	TF8230	Horningtoft	TF9222
Drayton	TG1812	Kettlestone	TF9630
Dunton	TF8830	Lenwade Common	TG0818

Lenwade	TG0818	Sculthorpe Fen	TF9828/30
Lenwade Bridge	TG1018	Sculthorpe Mill	TF8830
Little Ryburgh	TF9628	South Raynham	TF8624
Little Snoring	TF3294	Sparham Hall Farm	TG0618
Longham	TF9414	Sparham Holes	TG0418
Lyng	TG0616	Sparham Pools NR	TG0616
Lyng Easthaugh	TG0818	Swanton Morley	TG0016
Manor Farm, Great Witchingham	TG1020	Swanton Morley GP	TG0018
Marsham Heath	TG1622	Swanton Novers Raptor Watchpoint	TG0030
Marriot's Way, Lenwade	TG1018	Taverham	TG1614
Mattishall Burgh	TG0410	Themelthorpe	TG0422
Mileham	TF9018	Thorpe Marriot	TG1614
Mill Street, Elsing	TG0416	Three Bridges Farm, Elsing	TG0418
Mill Farm, Great Witchingham	TG0820	Twyford	TG0024
Morton-on-the Hill	TG1612	Union Farm, Gressenhall	TF9616
New Costessey	TG1810	Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng Easthaugh	TG0816
North Elmham	TF9820	Wendling	TF9212
North Tuddenham	TG0214	Wensum Valley Golf Club	
Old Costessey	TG1610	West Raynham	TG1412
Pensthorpe	TF9428	Weston Green	TF8624
Pockthorpe	TG0618	Weston Longville	TG1014
Pudding Norton	TF2692	Whissonsett	TG1016
Ringland	TG1412	Whitwell	TF9422
Ringland Common	TG1212	Whitwell Common	TG0820
Roosting Hills, Beetley	TF9816	Worthing	TG0820
Sennowe Park, Guist	TF9824	Worthing Church	TF9818
Sculthorpe Airfield	TF8630	Worthing GP	TF9818

### **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](http://www.bto.org),  
write to BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU,  
telephone 01842 - 750050  
or e-mail: [info@bto.org](mailto:info@bto.org)

## Earliest & Latest dates of Summer Migrants

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs	Latest	Location	Obs
Little Ringed Plover	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools NR	AJ			
Common Tern	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools	DA			
Turtle Dove	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Lenwade	NS	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Swanton Morley GP	B&BP
Cuckoo	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Swanton Morley	DA	28 <sup>th</sup> July	Bintree Wood	DA
Swift	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Swanton Morley	DA	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Taverham	NS
Sand Martin	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Swanton Morley	DA	18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Worthing	DK
Barn Swallow	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Pensthorpe	AG	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Guist Common	RG
House Martin	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Swanton Morley	DA	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Guist Common	RG
Nightingale						
Sedge Warbler	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Santon Morley	DA	18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Guist Common	RG
Reed Warbler	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools NR	DA	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Swanton Morley	DA
Lesser Whitethroat	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	New Costessey	AG	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Swanton Morley	DA
Common Whitethroat	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Costessey	AG	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Swanton Morley	DA
Garden Warbler	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Swanton Morley	DA	10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Guist Common	RG
Blackcap	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Alderford Common	A&C J	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sparham Pools	DA
Chiffchaff	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Sparham Pools (wintering bird or early migrant?)	DA, NSB, B&JE	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sculthorpe Moor	AJ
Willow Warbler	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sparham Pools	DA	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Sparham Pools	JP
Spotted Flycatcher	24 <sup>th</sup> May	Worthing Elsing, Mill Street	DK C&F N	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Elsing, Fustyweed	BS

## Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors

Species	Latest	Location	Obs	Earliest	Location	Obs
Fieldfare	24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Bintree Mill		3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Worthing	DK
Redwing	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Whitwell Common, Elsing, Mill Street	DA, A&C J	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	New Costessey	AG
Brambling	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Bintree Wood	DA	29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	New Costessey	AG
Siskin	11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Foxley Wood	DA	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Foxley Wood	DA

## **WVBS Ringing Report for 2007 - Allan Hale**

The following paragraphs appeared in each years 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 in 400 for Willow Warbler.

A total of 1,534 birds of 40 species were ringed in the WVBS study area during 2007. The most ringed species was Swallow with 221, followed by Blue Tit with 197 and Great Tit with 176. Of the scarcer birds, a Firecrest stands out.

The highlight amongst the recoveries was a Swallow from Guist Common to Italy and a Brambling from East Barsham to Norway. The first was particularly interesting in that it was only the 20<sup>th</sup> British-ringed Swallow to be found in Italy from more than 1.6 million ringed. Finally a "thank you" to all the ringers that operated in the WVBS study area during 2007 for access to their records.

### **Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2007**

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

#### *Age when ringed*

Pullus (= nestling)

Fully grown, year of hatching unknown

Hatched during calendar year of ringling

Hatched before calendar year of ringling, but exact year unknown

Hatched during previous calendar year

Hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown

Hatched two calendar years before ringling

Hatched more than two calendar years before ringling

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 a ringer

B Caught and released by a ringer (nesting)

RR Ring or colour marks read in the field

**Barn Owl**

- 1            06.07.06 Pudding Norton, Fakenham  
 XF         06.12.06 Bridgewater, Somerset (326 km SW)

Of well over 60 Barn Owl movements concerning the whole of Norfolk, this was by far the most distant. Only 3% of British Barn Owls travel more than 100 km, let alone more than 300 km. As in this case, long-distance movements are normally a feature of birds in their first year.

**Sand Martin**

- 3            19.07.06 Beetley Gravel Pit, near East Dereham  
 R            17.06.06 Guist Common (7 km N)

Doubtless bred at Beetley, this bird joined a Swallow roost at Guist Common just a few weeks later. Small numbers of Sand Martins are usually present within reedbed Swallow roosts.

**Swallow**

- 3            07.08.05 Guist Common, Fakenham  
 R            08.05.06 Canton Magistris, Verbania, Italy (937 km SE)

- 3            07.09.07 Boughton Fen  
 R            17.09.07 Guist Common (37km NE)

The first is an unusual movement as most British-bred Swallows go south through Iberia to Africa. Very few venture this far east and this one represents only the 20th British-ringed Swallow to be recovered in Italy out of more than 1.6 million ringed. The second shown decided to change roosts during September. Both Ray Gribble and Allan Hale were present at both captures!



**Blackcap**

- 4F 31.07.06 Whitwell Common, near Lenwade  
 R 02.08.07 Guist Common (13km NW)
- 3J 14.06.05 Shereford, near Fakenham  
 R 26.04.07 Kettlestone, near Fakenham (10km E)
- 3 10.07.05 Shereford, near Fakenham  
 R 26.04.07 Kettlestone, near Fakenham (10 km E)

On the face of it only short movements, but these birds had made the round trip to Africa five times between them during the intervening years. Note that the two Shereford birds were ringed within a month of a each other and then caught again on the same day some two years later.

**Brambling**

- 5M 01.04.06 East Barsham  
 R 07.05.06 Drevdalen, Trysil, Hedmark, Norway (1,185 km NE)

Norway is the breeding ground for many of Norfolk's wintering Brambling.

**Greenfinch**

- 3 06.09.06 Lenwade  
 X 02.07.07 Bawdeswell (7km NW)

This road casualty represents a normal movement for a Greenfinch. It is possible that this bird was bred near Bawdeswell and was at Lenwade as a result of post-juvenile dispersal.

**Reed Bunting**

- 3 21.08.05 Guist Common  
 R 31.07.07 Pensthorpe (5km NW)

This bird was originally caught whilst ringing the Swallow roost at Guist Common.

**WVBS ringing totals for 2007**

Black-headed Gull	1	Goldcrest	14
Woodpigeon	4	Firecrest	1
Collared Dove	1	Spotted Flycatcher	2
Barn Owl	2	Long-tailed Tit	57
Kingfisher	7	Marsh Tit	29
Sand Martin	3	Coal Tit	29
Swallow	221	Blue Tit	197
Pied Wagtail	89	Great Tit	176
Wren	70	Treecreeper	8
Dunnock	46	Nuthatch	2
Robin	41	Jay	11
Blackbird	36	House Sparrow	1
Sedge Warbler	1	Chaffinch	28
Redwing	26	Brambling	3
Reed Warbler	47	Greenfinch	76
Blackcap	91	Goldfinch	24
Garden Warbler	14	Siskin	1
Whitethroat	32	Linnet	1
Chiffchaff	57	Bullfinch	28
Willow Warbler	36	Reed Bunting	21

## **A New Restaurant in Town**

*An account of the birds in the first year of my garden*

**Jacky Pett**

The garden of the house I moved into in March 2007 consisted of a fairly large square of grass, neatly bordered at the reed and wood fences by eighteen inches of weed suppressant fabric covered with gravel and a few small clumps of equally small bushes squashed together, and couple of young trees. An ash tree bordered the garden at the end, with a fir tree beyond, and with rivers not far away on both sides themselves bordered by trees. I could hear loads of birds, but the garden itself was deserted.

So I put out a ground feeder and all seasons seed mix and waited to see what happened.

The first visitor, checking out the small trees, was a Long-tailed Tit. Some time later I went out to investigate the calls on the roof and found Grey Wagtails jumping around. A Jay paused on his way through, but went on, and a Blackbird hesitantly flew down, very alert, wondering what this food was doing here. Looking around, flicking his tail warily, as if to say 'where are the cats?', he cautiously advanced and decided that if food was there, he might as well eat it. Later that day two Blue Tits decided to give it a go too. It wasn't until the next week that the Wood Pigeons spotted this new opportunity, and as Wood Pigeons do, they proceeded to gather as much as possible into their crops, and then some more.

A week later put up a seed feeder, with black sunflower seeds. It took a Greenfinch one day to discover it, and two days to tell his friends - three that week, four the next, five the week after. The Chaffinch had also discovered this new restaurant in town, along with a couple of Great Tits, Goldfinches and an occasional Dunnock. A nyjer seed feeder went up for the Goldfinches, which relieved the squabbles on the sunflower feeder a little. Things were looking up.

Tired of feeding the local pigeon population, I invested in a wire guard for the ground feeder, and watched as the pigeons circled it for hours trying to work out whether they could reach the food. The Blackbirds

mastered the technique of getting through in short order, and after a couple of frustrated attempts, a hungry Magpie decided that he could get in and out if he really tried, but this only occurred a couple of times in the whole year, so it obviously wasn't worth the effort. Wood Pigeons, however, have continued to walk round, sometimes wearing a daily path in the grass, and risking dislocation of their necks through trying to reach through the bars for a small helping at a time.

Despite being surrounded by rivers, it seemed that the birdbath was as much an attraction as the feeders. A Mistle Thrush found the water highly attractive for both bathing and drinking, and not only in the sunny weather we had late in the spring before the deluge started in May. Even with floods around, the bird bath still attracted a wide variety of users. Just before the downpours, though, I finally got round to making my first proper border, planting out cuttings and bulbs I'd brought with me and gifts from friends. I hadn't finished or tidied away when the Robin arrived, and he (and his lady) have hardly left since. The border also attracted more Blackbirds, and the occasional Song Thrush, and the Wren started hopping over the fence to push about under the new leaves.

Something else hopped over the fence to investigate the comings and goings. A female Mallard perched on the fence looking around as if searching for a suitable nest site. She spotted a bush that looked promising, and moved to another fence for a better view. She then disappeared and came back with a male. I warned them that there was little hope of ducklings making a safe exit from the enclosed garden, and they obviously came to the same conclusion as they disappeared never to return. There was little cover for nesting that year unless you fancied a ground site.

By now there were at least eight Blackbirds regularly using the garden, 2 pairs with at least 2 youngsters each. This was reduced in June when early morning extreme alarm calls woke me up to witness a Sparrowhawk with a Blackbird under one of the small trees - a near miss three days earlier had not prevented her making a successful dawn raid that day.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> I thought I had a brief glimpse of a bird I'd never seen before (coming from the wrong part of the country) but on the 1<sup>st</sup> August there was no doubting that a Spotted Flycatcher had found the fences a convenient place to catch any manner of insects. However August also marked the reduction in bird numbers from their peak down to 2's and 3's, and the number of species themselves dropping remarkably, so that only seven stalwarts still visited. Swifts had arrived on 6<sup>th</sup> May and departed a little later in August than I was used to, the last being seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. By late September the Grey Wagtails were back on the roof, Greenfinch numbers back to 9, the Chaffinches to 6, a Marsh Tit was on the feeder, and a Tawny Owl was hooting in the mornings. October brought a regular Coal Tit, and rising numbers of visiting Starlings. A Siskin dropped in on the 7<sup>th</sup>, not to be seen again till the next February, and occasionally a Great Spotted Woodpecker could be seen on the trees behind the garden, until he eventually decided to try the feeders himself.

By December the numbers of small birds were up, parties of Long-tailed Tit (often 7), Greenfinches anything up to 12 at a time (hard to count unless they lined up on the fence, which they occasionally did), about 4 Goldfinch and Chaffinch, seven Blackbird, two Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Collared Dove (occasionally), Starling from 2 to 6, 4 Wood Pigeon, 1 or 2 Wrens and Robins and the occasional Dunnock.

In all the first year saw 48 species in my garden, with an average 14 species each week, and maximum in any one week of 23.

But only the Blackbird was there every week without fail. My first restaurant customer, and my most regular!

### **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](http://www.bto.org)

## **Tern Raft Project Report 2006-07**

In 2006 the Society received an invitation to develop a wetland conservation project in the valley as part of Jordan's Cereals 150<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. Bill and Debbie Jordan are owners of the Pensthorpe Reserve near Fakenham.

As a result a tern raft was installed on one of the Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes in March by kind permission of the landowner and WVBS member, Charles Sayer.

In 2006 five pairs of Common Tern bred on the raft and fledged an estimated 12 young which was considered to be successful outcome for the project.

In 2007 the first Common Tern was reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and gradually numbers increased. However on the 10<sup>th</sup> June a message was received from Charles Sayer indicating that the raft was being swamped due to rising water levels. Upon inspection from the shore it was discovered that the raft was completely submerged and had resulted in a total breeding failure for the terns.

It was decided to leave the raft in situ until water levels had dropped at which point it could be inspected. No action was possible by the end of 2007 so it was hoped that remedial work could be carried out early in 2008.

Alwyn Jackson

## **NOA Hempton Marsh Reserve Report 2007**

**Jed Andrews & Sophie Barker (Warden & Assistant Warden, NOA)**

Most of our members will be aware that in 2007 Hempton Marsh was formally opened to visitors for the first time since its purchase in 1999. The construction of the boardwalk, two hides and a viewing platform at the meander were completed a year ahead of schedule and we were able to invite people onto the reserve from Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007. Since that time the reserve has been regularly watched for birds, insects and mammals and this has given us our first full year of wildlife data for the site.

We would like to express our gratitude to all members who contributed to the reserve log books, but particularly to the many volunteers who came forward to man the reserve during the course of the year - their contribution quite exceeded our expectations.

Two log books were instated in the marsh and woodland hides respectively, and the regular information gave many surprises particularly in view of the fact that Hempton Marsh is, unlike the NOA's other reserves, an inland site with rather different habitats to the coastal scrub and marshes of our other reserves.

The marsh attracts a series of regular wetland species, such as Kingfisher, Mallard, Grey Heron and Moorhen, with other seasonal species such as Snipe (regular during winter), Little Egret, Oystercatcher and Lapwing (April/May) and Water Rail (November/December). Other single sightings of particular note were two Teal (December 18<sup>1</sup>), Green Sandpiper (April 13<sup>th</sup>), and Wood Sandpiper (April 24<sup>th</sup>). At the meander Little Grebe and Mute Swan were recorded on several occasions, and also Grey Wagtail (November 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Ruddy Duck (November 18<sup>th</sup>) were of note.

Barn Owl was a regular visitor to the marsh, and Marsh Harrier and Buzzard were also recorded on several dates. Two Peregrines were seen (April 25<sup>th</sup>).



In the woodland feeding station inevitably attracts a lot of Blue and Great Tits, and ringing shows us that many times more birds are using the site than the observations would suggest. Although through observation the highest single count of Great Tits was never more than 12, a single ringing session identified 29 individuals on just one date.

Marsh Tit and Willow Tit are special woodland attraction for many birdwatchers. Our recording showed that both species were present throughout 2007 with Marsh Tit breeding on the site and Willow Tit breeding, if not on site, then almost certainly close by. Again ringing was able to prove beyond doubt that both species occur regularly at Hempton, and backed up visual data which show that Marsh Tit was observed far more frequently, but that both species were seen regularly and usually to be found feeding on the tall alders just behind the feeding station, and can the feeding station. In 2007 5 Marsh Tits and 3 Willow Tits were ringed at Hempton, bringing to 17 and 5 the respective totals for each species ringed at the site in the last five years.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker is a species which is becoming incredibly scarce, but in 2003 at least two pairs were observed on several occasions in April and May when spoil from the newly created scrape was being dispersed by a band of volunteers over a period of three weeks. Sadly without regular sightings information there were no further reports, until 2007 when a single bird was observed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. It is possible given the date that this was a migratory bird, but we hope that long term monitoring of Hempton will provide more evidence of this threatened species.

Winter finch flocks have been recorded at Hempton in past years and notable numbers of Siskins were recorded in 2007 with 25+ on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. Two Redpolls were present on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October and Bramblings were recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of November. Siskins and Redpolls are often be observed from the woodland hide, while Bramblings will sometimes also venture onto the ground. Bullfinch records occur in small numbers throughout the year, although these tend to favour the willows beside the boardwalk and the meander rather than the centre of the woods.

Warblers can be found in good numbers at the site between spring and late summer, and include Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, and Sedge Warbler. Cuckoos are often active on the site during the early part of the breeding season. One or two unexpected species recorded at Hempton in 2007 include Cetti's Warbler (April 11<sup>th</sup>), Reed Warbler (singing on July 10<sup>th</sup>), and a Nightingale (May 26<sup>th</sup>).

In addition to the variety of bird species at the reserve, Hempton is also home to a wealth of insect life, as many will have seen from Adrian Riley's excellent write ups in former issues of this report. With the problems that dogged the insect transects in 2007 the butterfly data supplied in the logs is not a comparison for these, but does show that many species could still be observed even without venturing onto the marsh.

The first butterfly to appear in the logs is a Peacock on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, and the last is a Red Admiral on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Records of particular note include a Holly Blue seen near the feeding station on April 29<sup>th</sup> and three records of Painted Lady, two on the 13<sup>th</sup> June and one on the 15<sup>th</sup> with no other records of this species. These dates would seem to coincide with an influx of Painted Ladies which was also observed at the coast. A total of 11 Speckled Woods on the 7<sup>th</sup> August was the biggest single species count recorded during 2007, although most records consisted of species lists rather than counts. July provided by far the majority of overall records.

Some dragonfly data was also included in the logs, with the first Small Red Damselfly recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May and a Common Darter still present on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. July was the most productive month with 8 species reported including Four-spotted Chaser and Black-tailed Skimmer. Common Darter and Banded Demoiselle were the most commonly recorded species.

Ten species of mammal were recorded on Hempton during 2007. Grey Squirrel was the only species recorded in every month of the year. Other species commonly recorded at the feeding station were Brown Rat, Bank Vole and Wood Mouse. Water Voles were recorded in the spring and summer, usually on the meander, and Stoats were recorded

throughout summer and autumn. Hares occurred in the first three months of 2007, and both Muntjac and Roe Deer were seen throughout the year, although not in every month.

This report only scratches the surface of the wildlife that uses Hempton, but as a starting point It is possible to see a picture building of the variety and distribution of species the reserve supports. We hope that members will enjoy coming to the reserve to see Hempton's wildlife for themselves, and help us to understand more about this very special reserve.

## 2007 Monthly Weather Summary

### JANUARY

A very mild month, mean temperatures were 1.5°C above average in the northern isles to over 3.5°C above average across some central England areas making it the warmest January since 1916. Rainfall well above average across western Scotland whilst in parts of Eastern Scotland & southernmost areas of England lower than average rainfall was recorded. Sunshine generally above average except in Western Scotland.

*Capel Curig recorded 100mph gusts on the 18<sup>th</sup> with gales causing disruptions over much of England and Wales. Dyce (Aberdeen airport) recorded a temperature of 15°C on 12<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	8.7°C	3.2°C	6.0°C	51.8 hrs	153.4 mm
E. Anglia	9.9°C	4.1°C	7.0°C	64.7 hrs	65.1 mm
E. Anglia Average 1961-1990	6.2°C	0.7°C	3.4°C	52.5 hrs	51.3 mm

### FEBUARY

England Scotland and Wales generally 2°C to 3°C above average mean temperature, but Northern Ireland only 1°C to 1.5°C the average. Most places having above average rainfall with over double the average across parts of south west England, east Scotland and much of south east England. Sunshine levels across north east England were well above average but below average across northern Scotland.

*Altnaharra (Highlands) recorded a minimum of -10.7°C overnight 7/8<sup>th</sup> with Sunnybridge (Powys) recording a low a of -9.7°C overnight 6/7<sup>th</sup> Newry (County Down) recorded a temperature of 14.6°C on 27<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	8.1°C	2.2°C	5.2°C	67.4 hrs	110.2 mm
E. Anglia	9.2°C	2.7°C	6.0°C	63.5 hrs	65.4 mm
1961-90	6.5°C	0.6°C	3.5°C	67.9 hrs	37.2 mm

## MARCH

Overall a mild and sunny month. Mean temperatures generally around 1.5° to 2°c above average across the country with Northern Ireland about 1°c above. Rainfall generally close to average although some places in Northern England only got about 50% normal average rainfall. Sunshine levels generally well above average with many southern and eastern areas of England recording over 150% of average sunshine.

*Loch Glascarnoch (Highlands) recorded a low of -8.2°c on 21<sup>st</sup>. Herstmonceux (Sussex) recorded a temperature of 18.6°c on 27<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	10.1°c	2.6°c	6.3°c	142.8 hrs	88.7 mm
E. Anglia	11.8°c	3.2°c	7.5°c	168.7 hrs	38.9 mm
1961-90	9.3°c	1.9°c	5.6°c	107.0 hrs	45.9 mm

## APRIL

An exceptionally warm month with all areas setting new April records for max. &/or mean temperatures (Areal series back to 1914). Maximum temperature anomalies were over 5°c above 1961-90 average over much of Southern England and Eastern Scotland. Rainfall well below average some areas with Southeast England and East Anglia recording less than 3mm of rain in places. Sunshine also well above average across majority of the UK. with some areas having their sunniest April on record.

*Herstmonceux (Sussex) recorded a temperature of 26°c on 15<sup>th</sup> Record 24hr minimums for April were recorded at many places between 23-25<sup>th</sup>. St. James Park, London had a minimum of 14.5°c on 24/25<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	15.2°c	5.3°c	10.2°c	203.5 hrs	26.8 mm
E. Anglia	16.9°c	5.9°c	11.4°c	213.8 hrs	1.0 mm
1961-90	12.0°c	3.7°c	7.8°c	143.6 hrs	45.7 mm

## MAY

Mainly a wet month with new rainfall records in some areas. Well above average rainfall across most of the U.K. with East Anglia experiencing its wettest May (Areal series back to 1914); with over 200% normal May rainfall. Sunshine varying from above average over Scotland and Northern Ireland to below, across parts of Eastern England. Mean temperatures ranging from close to average in parts of Scotland to over 1°C above average across South and Eastern England.

*The day-time max. Temperature of 7.9°C at Heathrow on 28<sup>th</sup> was 2<sup>nd</sup> coolest for May (records back to 1949) the coldest being 7.5°C on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1979. St. Catherine's point (Isle of Wight) reported a 24hr rainfall total of 74.8mm 27<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	14.9°C	6.5°C	10.7 °C	175.1 hrs	113.8 mm
E. Anglia	16.8°C	8.2°C	12.5°C	138.0 hrs	118.1 mm
1961-90	15.9°C	6.6°C	11.2°C	194.5 hrs	47.0 mm

## JUNE

Generally mean temperatures about 1°C above average across the UK although maximum temperatures across eastern Scotland were over 1°C below average. Most of the UK having well above average rainfall with rainfall widely 300% over the average across Yorkshire. Some places having their wettest June on record. With all this rain about, parts of east Scotland & north east England had their dullest June on record. Sunshine levels generally below average across the U.K.

*Emley Moor, Bingley and Fylingdales all recorded over 400% their average June rainfall. East & North East England area having its wettest June, beating previous highest (June 1997) by around 30mm (Areal series back to 1914).*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	17.7°C	9.9°C	13.7°C	142.3 hrs	136.0 mm
E. Anglia	19.9°C	11.2°C	15.5°C	106.6 hrs	99.5 mm
1961-90	19.1°C	9.4°C	14.2°C	195.2 hrs	51.2 mm

## JULY

Mean temperatures were generally close to or slightly below average. Maximum temperatures were generally below and about 2°C below average across some south west areas of the U.K. Rainfall was well above average with England and Wales recording over double their average July rainfall. Some stations in the Worcestershire area recording over 4 times their average July rainfall. Sunshine totals were again well below averages, except western areas of Scotland and Northern Ireland being just slightly above average.

*Pershore College recorded 157.4mm and Brize Norton 127.8mm in the 48 hour period on 19/20<sup>th</sup>. Brize Norton recording 101mm of their total in just one seven hour period and Pershore College recorded 134.8mm of their total in a sixteen hour period.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	18.0°C	10.5°C	14.3°C	160.7 hrs	134.9 mm
E. Anglia	20.9°C	11.9°C	16.4°C	190.6 hrs	74.3 mm
1961-90	21.1°C	11.4°C	16.4°C	189.2 hrs	50.6 mm

## AUGUST

Mean temperatures generally close to average with most areas having their coolest August for over 10yrs. England had its coldest August since 1993. Sunshine generally below average across Northern Ireland and Scotland with some areas getting less than 80%. Levels in England and Wales were closer to or above average with some areas having 120% their average. Rainfall ranged from 150% of average across parts of north west Scotland to around 50% of average across central and northern areas of England.

*Tulloch Bridge recorded a minimum temperature of -0.9°C on 20<sup>th</sup>. London, Cambridge, Holbeach and Coningsby all recorded temperatures around 30°C on the 5<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	18.5°C	10.3°C	14.4°C	170.1 hrs	86.2 mm
E. Anglia	21.1°C	11.3°C	16.2°C	183.6 hrs	54.9 mm
1961-90	21.1°C	11.4°C	16.2°C	183.4 hrs	53.0 mm

## SEPTEMBER

Mean temperatures again generally close or slightly above average, however northern Scotland had its coldest September since 1994. Rainfall generally close to or below average. Southeast and central southern England only received about half the average rainfall for September. Sunshine levels ranged from well below across the northern isles to just above average across England and Wales particularly first half of the month.

*Saughall (Strathclyde) recorded a minimum temperature of -3.6°C on 27<sup>th</sup>. Lee on Solent (Hampshire) recorded a maximum of 25.4°C on the 6<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	16.5°C	8.8°C	12.7°C	130.1 hrs	66.9 mm
E. Anglia	19.1°C	10.1°C	14.7°C	162.0 hrs	34.0 mm
1961-90	18.5°C	9.6°C	14.1°C	144.0 hrs	51.2 mm

## OCTOBER

Most of the country dominated by high pressure for most of the month. Sunshine levels were generally above average across the U.K, although close to or below average across northern and western isles, East Anglia and south east England. Rainfall mostly well below average across the U.K except for a narrow band from Oxfordshire to the Wash which was slightly above average.

*Normanby Hill (Lincs) recorded a maximum of 20.0°C on 12<sup>th</sup>. Aboynne (Aberdeenshire) recorded a minimum temperature of -4.9°C on 25<sup>th</sup>. Brize Norton (Oxfordshire) recorded 64.8 mm of rain on the 16<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	13.9°C	6.7°C	10.3°C	101.9 hrs	65.0 mm
E. Anglia	14.8°C	7.1°C	11.0°C	99.3 hrs	52.5 mm
1961-90	14.6°C	7.7°C	11.2°C	107.8 hrs	52.8 mm



## NOVEMBER

Mean temperatures ranged from close to average across parts of East Anglia and Kent to well above average across Northern Ireland and Scotland. Rainfall ranged from about 60% of average across most of Wales to over 150% of average across north east Scotland. Sunshine was opposite as you would expect being well below average across Northern Ireland and north west Scotland and above average across majority of England.

*Wiggenholt (Sussex) recorded a temperature of 18.8°C on 1<sup>st</sup>. Newton Rig (Cumbria) recorded a temperature of -7.4°C on 12<sup>th</sup>. Sunnybridge (Powys) recorded 8cm of snowfall on 19<sup>th</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	9.9°C	3.9°C	6.9°C	58.8 hrs	101.2 mm
E. Anglia	10.5°C	3.5°C	7.0°C	77.5 hrs	41.1 mm
1961-90	9.5°C	3.4°C	6.5°C	66.8 hrs	59.4 mm

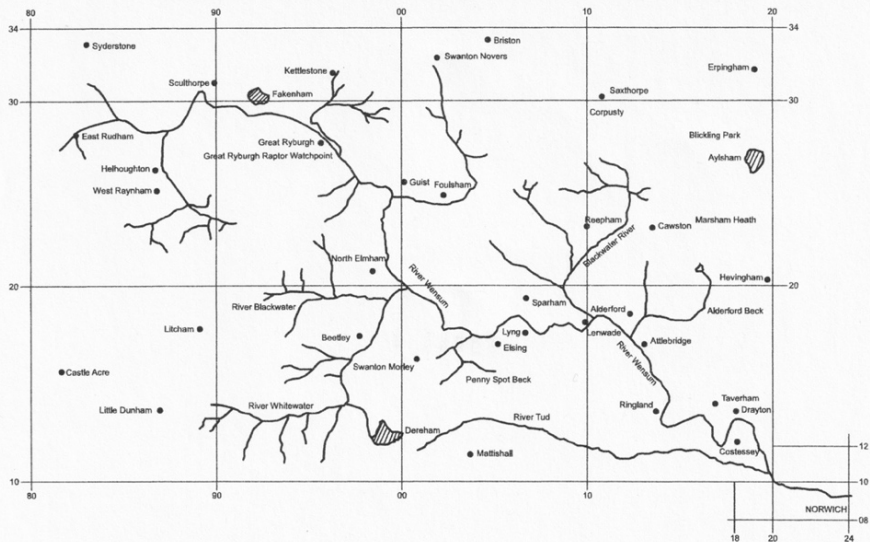
## DECEMBER

The coldest December since 2001 in parts of Scotland. Mean temperatures ranged from slightly below average across parts of East Scotland to around 1°C above average across Northern Ireland. Rainfall across U.K. generally close to average but some places across Northwest England recorded over 150% of average rainfall. Sunshine generally close to or above average across U.K. In Scotland parts of the north had over double the normal sunshine and had its sunniest December since Areal series records back to 1929.

*Longtown (Herefordshire) recorded a temperature of 16.5°C on 6<sup>th</sup>. Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) recorded a temperature of -13.0°C on 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	7.4°C	1.5°C	4.4°C	46.3 hrs	114.1 mm
E. Anglia	8.1°C	2.1°C	5.1°C	54.8 hrs	45.9 mm
1961-90	7.1°C	1.6°C	4.4°C	47.4 hrs	55.8 mm

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## Text changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
<b>Contents</b>	2006 Ringing Report	2007 Ringing Report
<b>Chairman's Report</b>	consistantly	consistently
<b>2007 Outdoor meetings:</b>		
November	meetingt	meeting
<b>Systematic List</b>		
Canada Goose	<i>Branta anadensis</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anus Penelope</i>	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Mallard & Pintail		
Kestrel	<i>Anus</i>	<i>Anas</i>
	Increased reporting lead to	Increased reporting led to
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<i>Larus ribidundus</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentus</i>	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto Alba</i>	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Whitethroat & Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia</i>	<i>Sylvia</i>
<b>A New Restaurant in Town</b>	into their croups	into their crops
<b>BTO Garden Birdwatch</b>	acess	access
<b>NOA Hempton Marsh Reserve Report</b>	regularly at usually	regularly and usually
<b>Weather:</b>		
May	a real series	Areal series