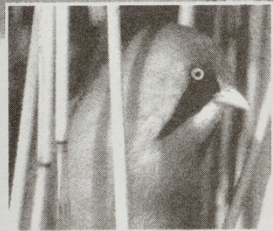


Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society




Sixth Annual Report
2008

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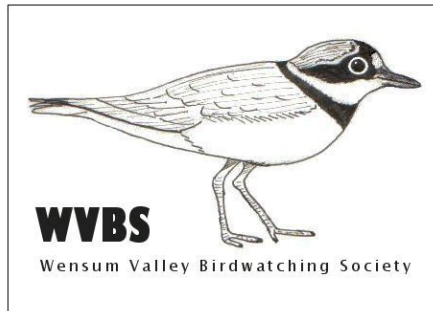
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Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

2008 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: Weston Longville Village Hall, third Thursday of each month.

Committee 2008

Officers:

Chairman	Alwyn Jackson
Minutes Secretary	Jacky Pett
Treasurer	Bill Shepherd/ Colin Fenn
Membership Secretary	John Horsman/Richard Norris
Publicity	Colin Wright
Newsletter Editor	Sue Gibney/David Knight
Recorder	Liz Waller
Programme Coordinator	Ray Gribble
Loan Library	Josh Leeder

Web Page: www.wvbs.co.uk

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to present the Sixth Annual Report of the Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society.

I hope you found plenty to interest you in the varied annual programme and felt that your membership was worthwhile.

This report wouldn't be possible of course without the enthusiasm of those members who compile articles or send in their records to our Recorder Liz Waller each month. The records continue to keep us informed of the birds in the valley and Liz does a great job in collating them and keeping us up to date on what has been seen.

Members have continued to receive their "newsy" newsletter each month and we are grateful to Sue Gibney and David Knight for putting it together for us. Again that wouldn't be possible without member's contributions so please keep them coming.

Membership numbers have continued to grow steadily and more people are learning about the activities of the Society thanks to the valiant efforts of our Publicity Officer, Colin Wright.

It was a year of changes as far as the Committee were concerned. Sue Gibney, John Horsman and Bill Shepherd stepped down and were replaced by David Knight, Richard Norris and Colin Fenn as Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary and Treasurer respectively. I would like to express my thanks to all the committee members for their hard work and their contribution to another successful year.

Through the year the Society maintained its links with Pensthorpe Conservation Trust, the Hawk and Owl Trust, Norfolk Ornithologist's Association, the Fakenham Area Conservation Team and Great Ryburgh Wildlife Group through its membership of the Wensum Valley Initiative. We met with representatives of each group at intervals through the year to discuss common issues.

In April I was proud to be invited to represent the Society at the 20th Anniversary celebration of the opening of Pensthorpe Reserve. The Duke of Edinburgh attended the event as a Trustee of the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust having performed the official opening ceremony in

July 1988. We attended the WIS very successful Wild About the Wensum conservation event at Pensthorpe in May. A new departure for the Society in June was a first Member's Weekend in Yorkshire. It proved to be a great success thanks to Ray Gribble who led and organised the trip. Several volunteers enabled us to participate again in the Wild About Norfolk two day conservation fair held at Notcutts, Norwich in September. A lot of interest was shown in membership of the Society and it was beneficial to be present during the weekend with so many other County conservation groups.

My report would not be complete without expressing my thanks to all members who make our indoor meetings such an enjoyable experience. A special thank you to the ladies, who with such little apparent effort, provide us with refreshments at half time and to Derek and Rosemary for organising the raffle which continues to be a valuable source of income.

It was an extremely busy but successful year for the Society and - look forward to the forthcoming year with keen anticipation. In the meantime enjoy your birdwatching.

Alwyn Jackson.

WVBS Programme 2008

Sun Jan 6 th	Winter Bird Count
Thurs Jan 17 th	Indoor; Speaker Dr Gavin Siriwardena BTO "Winter Feeding of Farmland Birds"
Sun Jan 27 th	RSPB Strumpshaw & Buckenham Marshes for Corvid Roost. Leader Glenn Collier
Thurs Feb 21 st	Indoor; Speaker Barrie Sullivan "An Artist Looks at Wildlife"
Sun Feb 24 th	Snettisham Pits & Beach followed by Royston Common raptor roost.
Thurs Mar 20 th	Indoor; Speaker Julia Burton "Coffee, Crocs and Quetzals" Wildlife of Costa Rica.
Sat Mar 29 th	Lyndford Arboretum. Leader Colin Fenn
Thurs Apr 17 th	Indoor; AGM Speaker Sophie Barker (NOA) "Spring at Long Point, Canada"
Sun April 27 th	Foxley Wood. Leader Alwyn Jackson
Sun May 4 th	Dawn Chorus + Bacon Butties at Sparham Pools. Leader Ray Gribble
Thurs May 15 th	Indoor; Speaker Dawn Balmer (BTO staff) "BTO Atlas 2007-2111"
Sat May 17 th	Wild About the Wensum - Pensthorpe
Sat/Sun June 7 th /8 th	Members Weekend - RSPB Bempton Cliffs NR & Forge Valley NNR, Yorks.
Thurs June 19 th	Nightjar Evening Marsham Heath. Leader Josh Leeder
Sat July 5 th	Moth Morning at Sparham Hall Farm followed by visit to Tern Raft Lake. Leader Ray Gribble
Thurs July 17 th	Members' Summer Social BBQ

Sat/Sun July 19 th /20 th	Ringing demo Leaders Ray Gribble & Allan Hale
Sun July 27 th	Minsmere. Leader Bill Shepherd
Thurs Aug 21 st	Indoor; Speaker Steve Lovell (RSPB) "British Birds of Prey"
Sun Aug 24 th	Breydon Water/Berney Levels. Leader Josh Leeder
Sat/Sun Sept 6/7 th	Wild About Norfolk, Notcutts, Norwich
Thurs Sept 18 th	Indoor; Speaker Prof. Fred Cooke " Seawatching"
Sun Sept 28 th	Seawatching at NOA Holme NR. Leader Bill Shepherd
Thurs Oct 16 th	Indoor; Speaker Tim Loseby "A Bird Photographer's Garden"
Sun Oct 26 th	N Norfolk coast. Leader Josh Leeder
Thurs Nov 20 th	Indoor; Speaker Mike Edgecombe "Extreme Birding from the Roof"
Sun Nov 23 rd	Rockingham Forest for Red Kites. Leader Ray Gribble
Thurs Dec 11 th	Xmas Social

Diary of events for 2008

January

The indoor presentation was given by Dr Siriwardina of the British Trust for Ornithology who spoke about 'The Winter Feeding of Farmland Birds', part of an ongoing suite of projects focusing on the decline of British farmland birds. The study involved a large number of scientific organisations which included the RSPB and the UEA and was also supported by DEFRA who have made a strong commitment to reversing the decline of farmland birds by 2020.

Many of the BTO projects rely on data provided by volunteers and Dr Siriwardina paid tribute to the thousands of volunteers of all ages and all walks of life, whose work is a vital contribution to bird conservation.

A field trip led by Glen Collier of the RSPB visited the RSPB reserve at Strumpshaw Fen and then Buckenham Marshes. Glen, ably assisted by seasoned birders from our club, helped the "novices" identify over 70 species from a multitude of birds both on the ground and in the air. Some of the highlights were a Hen Harrier, a Chinese Water Deer, flocks of Golden Plover in flight and a Barn Owl pausing on a gatepost. Finally, at dusk, the group watched as tens of thousands of rooks and jackdaws flew in to one of Europe's largest and most spectacular corvid roosts. A fantastic sight and sound, to end the day.

February

A presentation by Barrie Sullivan, augmented with amusing literary commentary by Francis Sullivan, gave us an entertaining insight into the mind of an artist. Keen on nature since childhood, Barrie and Francis became hooked on nature and wildlife when they went to an RSPB open day at Strumpshaw Fen. Starting with a 'spot the bird' slide Barrie emphasised the importance of developing an artist's attention to detail. He then showed examples of his work which seeks to capture the feel of the subject using a minimal technique of drawing a few lines to pick out

the important detail and keeping the background to a minimum. "If you want accuracy, take a photograph". It all looked so easy.

Our field trip to West Norfolk led by Ray Gribble started at Snettisham and then moved on to Dersingham Bog, Sandringham and finally Roydon Common. Over 70 species were recorded including a Peregrine and a Red-throated Diver whose behaviour suggested that it may have been suffering from oil contamination. Those who stayed the course were able to see Hen Harriers at the Raptor Roost.

March

Following our indoor meeting Derek Harvey wrote:-

At our indoor meeting over 50 members turned up to listen to 'Coffee, Crocs and Quetzal' by Julia Burton. Julia dramatically transported the audience to Costa Rica. Her amazing photos showed wild life, exotic beyond description. Ten thousand different species of plants growing in tangled profusion. Palms, tree ferns, lianas, tropical flowering trees and fruits, epiphytic orchids, the list is endless. Now add eight thousand species of moths and butterflies, plus countless insects, spiders, lizards, tree frogs, snakes, howler monkeys, bats, squirrels, sloth, turtles and crocodiles. Lots of birds of course, including toucans, parrots, humming birds, quetzals, fly catchers, king fishers and lakeside waders.

Julia also reminded us that the jungle is a very hostile place, with deadly poisonous snakes, arrow tip frogs, agonising spider bites, plants with poisonous sap and vicious thorns. Any area of water spells danger, hidden crocodiles could suddenly rear up and have you for lunch. A magic unforgettable evening.

Colin Fenn led our field trip to Lyndford Arboretum where, in addition to all the wildlife, there are 200 different species of trees, many of them planted in the 1950s when the Lynford Estate was a forester training school. We managed to see 50 species of birds but not the elusive Hawfinch which inhabits this area. We then moved on to NWT's reserve at Weeting Heath, famous for its rare Breckland flora and even rarer

summer visitor, the Stone Curlew, which only breeds in parts of Norfolk and on Salisbury Plain. With the help of some keen-eyed observers and some nifty optics, *Burhinus oedicanus* was easily spotted.

April

Our Indoor meeting started with the Society's AGM. Chairman Alwyn Jackson gave a short review of the of the year's activities and thanked the members of the committee and all those who helped make the society run smoothly.

Following the AGM Sophie Barker, the Assistant Warden at the NOA's reserve at Holme, talked about her trip to Long Point in Canada. Long Point attracts large numbers of migratory birds who rest and feed before continuing their journey, offering an opportunity to count and monitor many species as they fly north in spring and south in autumn. The different species processed were too numerous to remember but included, Northern Cardinal, Mourning Dove, lots of different warblers including the White Crowned Sparrow.

May

Our dawn visit led by Ray Gribble Chorus at NWT Sparham Pools Nature Reserve proved to be a very successful event. Not only did we see or hear around 60 species of bird, which included Reed Warbler, Oystercatcher, Treecreeper, Cuckoo, Reed Bunting and Blackcap but we also encountered fox, two Roe Deer and, a first for many of those present, three wild Otters. We finished the morning with a titanic hot bacon bap and were back home in time for breakfast.

We had a stand at the Wild About The Wensum Day in its second successful year at the Pensthorpe Nature Reserve near Fakenham. As with last year the event turned out to be an excellent day for the Society and the organisers.

At our indoor meeting guest speaker Dawn Balmer gave us a fascinating insight into the work of the BTO staff dealing with thousands of records

for the Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011 which, over the next four years, will build a comprehensive picture of bird distribution throughout the UK. With some impressive charts we were able to see changes in bird distribution throughout the UK going back several years. With the help of thousands of volunteer birdwatchers, both in providing records and raising funds, this is the most ambitious project ever undertaken by the BTO.

June

The Nightjar Evening led by Josh Leeder at Marsham Heath attracted 35 members and on a perfect Summer's evening we were rewarded with excellent sightings of Nightjars even some captured in 'scopes perching in trees. Also seen were several Woodcock and a Tawny Owl.

During the month Ray Gribble led our first ever members week-end in Yorkshire. On Saturday the group visited Bempton Cliffs where Razorbill, Guillemot (including Bridled Guillemot), Puffin, Fulmar, Kittiwake and Corn Bunting were noted. On Sunday visits were made to Forge Valley National Nature Reserve and Raincliffe Woods where Lesser Whitethroat, Treecreeper, Honey Buzzard, a distant Fulmar and two Red Kites were recorded before the members returned home to the uninterrupted skies of Norfolk.

July

Over 50 members turned up for our summer barbeque cooked by the 1st Taverham Scouts. A relaxed evening, a glass of wine and a short presentation about the Society's Tern Raft Project by Allan Hale made the evening a success.

Rosy Footman, Mottled Beauty, Burnished Brass, Cream Bordered Green Pea and Sandy Carpet, are some of the amazing names of moths seen by members of the society who visited Sparham Hall for a Moth Morning by kind permission of Charles Sayer. They watched Charles open traps to reveal a surprising number and variety of moths caught in just one night.

Later in the month we made our now traditional visit to the RSPB Minsmere Reserve. Led by Bill Shepherd we spotted over 70 species at this premier site before moving on to Dunwich Heath to look for, and find Dartford Warbler.

August

The RSPB's Eastern Region Community Talks Officer Steve Lovell gave a talk entitled 'Save our Birds of Prey'. In subject guaranteed to be contentious Steve spoke about the work going on to halt the decline in numbers of birds of prey. Birds of prey have been legally protected since the 1950s but, as Steve showed with some distressing pictures, this has not prevented birds being killed by trapping, shooting, poisoning and nest destruction, often blamed on those with sporting interests and the management of game birds. The bottom line for preservation of these majestic birds was for reasons of biodiversity. They also act as environmental indicators (alert to chemicals such as DDT) and, love them or hate them, birds of prey have always been part of our heritage and are here to stay.

Our August field trip started with a train journey on the Norwich to Yarmouth line. We alighted at a small railway station in the middle of nowhere, described by the rail company as NOT having the following facilities: a ticket office, waiting room, staff, a café, phone, toilets, bus link, taxi rank or even access by road. In fact the only thing we saw, as we stood on the small wooden platform under a vast Norfolk sky, was a sign that said 'Berney Arms Station'. A wonderfully remote place to start a bird walk. From here we followed Weaver's Way to the river Yare then walked along the flood bank of Breydon Water, finishing several hours later at Great Yarmouth Station for the return journey to Norwich. Over 40 species seen, including Whimbrel, Wheatear, Common Buzzard and three species of wagtail, Pied, Grey and Yellow who obligingly gathered together to give us a master class in identification. An excellent walk ably led by Josh Leeder.

September

At our indoor meeting the president of the American Ornithological Union, Professor Fred Cooke gave a very entertaining talk on the more specialised pursuit of sea-watching. Addressing the question of when to sea-watch Prof Cooke said that it is generally thought the best time is early morning, however, experience has shown that, apart from late afternoons, the number of birds seen per hour is remarkably similar throughout the day. The direction and speed of the wind also has an influence, the highest numbers appearing when the wind is from the north west. The Professor said that sea-watching is important for surveys and there is much more to be learned about seabirds. It can be fun and relaxing but many watchers find it the hardest form of birdwatching - which we put to the test on our field trip to.....

Holme Birdwatching Observatory. It is one thing to sit in a warm village hall listening to the theory but the practice started at 7.0 am on a Sunday morning at Holme Dunes. Sadly the wind was non-existent and an early morning mist limited the exercise, but patience was rewarded and several species were seen including Auks and Gannets. We finished the day at Titchwell where a Yellow-browed Warbler made an unexpected appearance.

As one of the newer organisations our stand at Wild About Norfolk held at Notcutts, Norwich attracted lots of interest. We signed up new members and the children enjoyed making their Kestrel flyers under the supervision of our gallant volunteers.

October

At our last indoor meeting of the year Photographer Tim Loseby presented 'A Bird Photographers Garden'. Tim lived in Kent for a number of years before moving to North Norfolk but his talk was centred on his, wildlife friendly, Kent garden. Consisting of mature oak trees and a pond, the garden provided a perfect backdrop to photograph over 90 species of garden visitors. The razor sharp pictures were presented in season

order which allowed us to identify all the common garden birds and some less common visitors such as the Hawfinch, Tree Pipit, Treecreeper and Spotted Flycatcher. Other wildlife was also captured on film, frogs, a Fox, an Adder and a Grey Squirrel with which a constant battle of wits was waged for access to the bird feeders.

The second half of the talk (after tea and biscuits and me winning the raffle!) revisited many of the same species as fledglings, showing the different ways plumage changes as a bird matures. This was amply demonstrated with pictures of fledgling Blackbird, Robin, Spotted Woodpecker and Bullfinch. For the expert birders there was probably nothing new in the presentation, but the quality of the photographs and commentary made it an interesting and informative talk and a good schooling in bird identification for the 'I'm gradually getting the hang of it', school of birdwatchers like myself.

Field Trip: Back again to North Norfolk. We started the day with 16 members at Choseley Barns near Titchwell where we saw Tree Sparrows, Brambling and Corn Bunting. Then, in improving weather, on to Titchwell where there was a good selection of waders including a Purple Sandpiper. After lunch on to Holkham, Lady Ann's Drive, and the Jordan Hide. Then, in the setting sun, a walk along the beach of the largest coastal nature reserve in Britain and the best beach in Europe. A fitting and poetic end to our yearly programme.

November

Over 50 members turned up to hear local dentist Mike Edgecombe give a talk entitled "Extreme Birding from the Roof." Mike, wearing his other hat as Council Member of the Oriental Bird Club, spoke about the OBC's expedition to the high Tibetan Plateau of Qinghai province, a two hour flight from Beijing. The trip started at Heimahe near the Qinghai Lake then through a cold, sparsely populated and remote landscape down to Yushu and the Yangtze. During the trip over 200 species were seen, ranging from the more familiar names such as Shore Lark, Snow Finch and Redstart through to the more exotic Kessler's Thrush, Himalayan

Ruby Throat, Gansu Leaf Warbler and White Browed Tit and, to make my note taking even more difficult, many species were named after the early Russian travellers to the area such as Prevalski's Rosefinch, Kozlov's Babax and Przevalski's Redstart. The still pictures (slides in the old days) were interspersed with short video clips of particular birds such as the Henderson's Ground Jay and we were able to appreciate the curious dance of a Hume's Ground-pecker. The talk ended with a picture of the vivid blue plumage of a Grandala. Throughout the trip it was hoped to catch a glimpse of a Snow Leopard, but this particular species remained elusive and out of sight. A professional and polished talk which provided an excellent evening's entertainment.

Note: All the above birds can be seen on 'Google Images' and to further get the feel of the area look down on it by satellite view on www.maps.live.com

December

Xmas party: Beating all previous records our Christmas knees-up was the best attended event of the year. On offer was a choice of leaded or unleaded punch on arrival then lots to eat and drink, a quiz or two and a splendiferous raffle. A great success - next year's is already pencilled in.

Colin Wright

WVBS Systematic List 2008

Editor Ray Gribble

Thank you to Colin Fenn, Alwyn Jackson and David Knight who helped with the compilation of this report thus enabling its timely publication. This inevitably has led to slight differences in style but I hope this does not distract from the content.

Also a big thank you to all the members who have contributed their records without which there would be no report and to Steve Cale who produced the line drawings that greatly enhance it.

The British Ornithological Union's (BOU) revised systematic order has been retained but as the BOU name changes have not been universally adopted we have reverted to the well known common names which the membership have now been asked to use for the 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 the certain escapes have been put in a separate section.

Finally this is a summary of the 6000+ records received during 2000. 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 and in all months.

Proof of breeding only received from Guist Common, Lenwade Mill and Sparham Pools.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus colombianus bewicki*

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

About 50 birds heading North over Old Costessey on 6th Feb were considered to be Bewick's rather than Whooper (AB).

40 flew West over Lyng on 18th Nov (NM).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

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

13 "bugling" birds flew over Worthing on 16th Jan (DK).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

A significant movement was recorded up the valley during Jan to their winter feeding grounds in NW Norfolk. On 2nd AB recorded several thousand over Old Costessey at 08.00hrs and 150 went over New Costessey (AG). On 5th 150 went NW over Bawdeswell (DA) and next day 80 were recorded over Sculthorpe Moor (AH). 300 on 8th and 2300 on 14th Jan went over Old Costessey (AB) and 200+ flew over Sparham Pools on 21st Jan (BB/JE).

A first winter bird was with the Greylag Geese at Swanton Morley on 29th Mar (DA) and 4th Apr (B&BP).

In the 2nd winter period passage began on 2nd Nov with 200 over Lyng (NM) followed by 80+ over nearby Sparham Pools on 3rd (BB/JE) then the following night AG heard them calling as they passed over New Costessey.

80 went over Lyng on 14th Nov and 350 on 21st Nov (NM). On 29th Nov 70+ flew over Hindolveston (G&AJ). (continues)

Pink-footed Goose (continued)

In Dec 80+ on 3rd (BB/JE) and 85 in 3 or 4 groups on 7th (JP) over Sparham Pools, 45 Taverham on 20th (NS). Then on 22nd Dec a more significant movement occurred with 1 flock heard at 09.35 and 110 at 09.40 over Thorpe Marriott (MMcC), c.1500 Drayton in 4 large & 2 small flocks (AB), 400 Sparham Hall Farm with birds over all week increasing in numbers and frequency (CS).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Rare winter visitor to WVBS area or, more probably, an escape.

2 Bittering GP on 28th – 29th Nov (IB).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common resident & passage migrant.

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

Maximum counts, over 20, by site: Beetley 43 on 15th May (RG), Bittering 70 on 28th Nov (IB), Hoe Bird Walk 50 on 15th June (DK), Lenwade Mill 24 on 6th Sept (JP), 89 Sparham Pools on 18th Dec (JP) and 50+ Swanton Morley GP on 23rd May (AH/AJ/DP/RG).

A Greylag x Canada Goose was at Swanton Morley GP 8th Mar (DA).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common introduced resident.

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

Maximum double figure counts by site: Hoe Bird Walk 24 on 20th July and 50 Hoe (Worthing Rd) on 6th Oct (DK), 28 Lenwade Mill on both 18th Sept & 9th Nov (JP), Sparham Pools NR 26 on 16th Aug (AJ) and 10 Swanton Morley GP 24th Mar (B&BP).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

A rare winter visitor to the Valley. Amber listed.

A single record of one at Swanton Morley GP on 10th Feb (BB/JE). Whilst the possibility of this being an escape cannot be ruled out the date coincides with the thousands wintering in North Norfolk.

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.

Recorded from the following sites with maximum numbers: Attlebridge, Old Hall Farm (9), Beetley GP (15), Bylaugh (13), Dereham SW (6), Hoe Bird Walk (11), Lenwade, Clayhall Farm (4), Lenwade Common (4), Lenwade Mill (2), Sculthorpe Mill (3), Sparham Pools (14), Swanton Morley GP (4) and West Raynham Lake (17).

One was dead under power lines at Lenwade Mill on 19th Feb (JP).

1 – 2 Egyptian Goose x Mallard were in the Bylaugh / Swanton Morley area from 27th Jan to 5th Apr (DA).

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.

First birds of the year were singles at Sparham Pools on 14th (BB) and 24th Feb (DA). Two were at Bylaugh 22nd Mar (IB) then 2 Rudham Common 5th Apr (NarVOS) and 2 Gt Ryburgh 6th Apr (PR). In May 2pr Mileham on 2nd (RG), 6 at Gt Ryburgh on 18th (IB) and 1pr West Raynham Lake on 23rd (AJ/AH/DP/RG). The 1 – 2pr on Sparham Hall Farm in June were a decline (CS).

There were two unusual winter records – 5 Lyng GP on 24th Nov (CS) and 10 Bittering GP on 30th Dec (IB).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Birds were heard calling from the marsh at Sculthorpe Mill (PR) on 9th Feb where 6 were present on 17th Feb (P&AB) on which date 2 were at Sparham Pools. In Mar 2 at Sparham Pools on 1st (BB/JE) then 8 dropped in to Sennowe Park on 9th and 2 were at Swanton Morley on 24th (both DA).

The first returning autumn bird was recorded at Sparham Pools on 24th Sept rising to 4 next day, followed by 1 on 9th Oct, 2 on 14th Nov and 1 16th Dec (all BB/JE). Finally 6 at Swanton Morley GP on 31st Dec (C&JF).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Resident, passage & migrant winter visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded in all months except June & Aug from the following sites: Beetley GP, Bittering, Costessey Marshes, Dereham SW, Gt Witchingham (Manor Farm), HBW, Lenwade (Old Hall Lakes), Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley and West Raynham Lake.

The only proof of breeding was 3pr with 2 young at West Raynham Lake on 25th May (AH/AJ/DP/RG).

Highest double figure monthly counts: Jan 32 Swanton Morley on 19th (DA), 35 Sparham Pools (BB/JE), 75 Bittering on 6th (AH); Feb 14 Swanton Morley (DA); Mar 12 Swanton Morley on 29th (DA); Apr 16 West Raynham Lake on 5th (NarVOS). In Dec 110 at Sparham Pools on 31st was an "exceptionally high count" (CS).

Teal *Anas crecca*

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

Recorded Jan to 4th Apr and from 6th Oct to year end.

The only double figure counts at the beginning of the year were 10 on 19th Jan at Costessey (AB), 14 on 2nd Feb at Sparham Pools (BB/JE),
(continues)

Teal (continued)

14 on 16th Mar HBW (DK) and 21 on 24th Mar at Swanton Morley GP (DA) then in the last 2 months 14 Old Costessey on 29th Nov (AB), 12 Sparham Pools on 18th Dec (JP) with 21 here on 31st Dec (BB/JE) and massive 70 at Bittering on 30th Dec (IB). Also recorded from Gt Witchingham (Manor Farm).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident & winter visitor.

Highest counts by site: Attlebridge (Old Hall Farm) 50 on 13th Nov (WO), Bittering 100 on both 29th Nov & 30th Dec (IB), Lenwade Common 45 on 16th Dec (RG), Mileham 34pr on 2nd May (RG), Sparham Pools 92 on 31st Dec (BB/JE) and Swanton Morley GP 20 on 31st Dec (C&JF).

One or two Mallard x Egyptian Goose were in the Bylaugh / Swanton Morley area from Jan to Apr (DA).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

A winter visitor, and rare breeder. Amber listed.

During early part of year 4 males & 5 females Costessey 12th Jan (AB), 1 Sparham Pools 15th Jan (BB), 3 Swanton Morley 19th Jan (DA) where 2 on 10th Feb (BB/JE), 4 males & 1 female Old Costessey on 15th with a pair remaining on 29th Feb (AB), 8 West Raynham Lake on 5th Apr (NarVOS) and 2 Sparham Pools 9th May (BB/JE).

Returning birds from 6th Oct when 2 Sparham Pools (BB/JE) followed by 4 on the following dates 17th, 29th & 31st Oct then 9th Nov (BB/JE/JP) and finally 10 Swanton Morley GP on 31st Dec (C&JF).

Pochard *Aythya farina*

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

Recorded Jan to Apr and Nov & Dec. Max counts by site: Bittering 6 on 29th Nov (IB), Lenwade, Old Hall Lakes 1 on 6th Feb, Old Costessey Shallowbrooks 1 on 19th Feb (AB), Sparham Pools 35 on 3rd Mar (BB/JE) and 65 Swanton Morley GP on 2nd Feb (DA).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Summer breeder also Common passage migrant & winter visitor.

Recorded every month of the year. Max counts by site: Beetley GP 8 on 15th May (RG), Fustyweed 3m + 5f on 5th Jan (BS), HBW 8 on 17th Feb (DK), Lenwade Common 26 on 30th Nov (RG), Sparham Pools 62 in Jan (BB/JE), Swanton Morley GP 55 on 1st Jan (DA) and 8 West Raynham Lake on 5th Apr (NarVOS).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.

A male at Sparham Pools on 6th Jan (A&CJ, JH, JP) stayed until at least 17th (BB/JE). A male was again at this site on 2nd Apr (BB/JE). 1 at Swanton Morley GP on 24th Mar (DA). On 6th Apr 6 flew over WVRWP (IB) and 2 were at Sennowe (PR), possibly the same birds.

There were a few autumn records of singles at Sparham Pools including 1 on 20th Nov (CS).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Winter visitor & passage migrant.

Present from 1st Jan to 25th Mar and from 23rd Oct to year end. On 19th Jan a male was on the river at Lenwade Common. In Jan at Sparham Pools there were up to 8 birds, 5m & 3 redheads (A&CJ) but peaked at 11, 3m, 8 redheads on 10th Feb (BS, BB/JE).

On 23rd Oct 2m and 3 redheads were at Sparham Pools where the peak was 6 including 4 m in Dec. 1 redhead was on Lenwade Old Hall Lakes on 11th Dec then 2m on 17th (RG) and 1 redhead on 28th (LB). At Swanton Morley GP there were 2 or 3 from 29th Nov to year end (BB/JE, DK, C&JF, IB).

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

A single record - one
Foxley on 18th Aug (IB).

Quail, by Steve Cale



Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*
Common introduced resident.

Recorded throughout the year. The largest counts came from the Dunton area and surely refer to birds released by the local landowners for game shooting: 40+ on 17th Feb and again on 9th Mar then 30+ on 6th Apr (P&AB).

33 in Worthing on 26th Nov were "Largest group of red legs I've ever seen" according to David Knight who then recorded 32 nearby 5 days later. 28 on 6th Jan and 26 on 17th Oct near Windsor Park, Dereham (C&JF) then 12 at Bintree on 12th Jan was the only other double figure record (B&BP).

Recorded elsewhere from Beetley 4pr (RG), Fustyweed 2 (BS), HBW 3 (DK), N Tuddenham 5 (B&BP) and Taverham 5 (LW).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

Maximum count was 14 on Mill Farm, Gt Witchingham on 14th Jan (AJ) while at the other end of the year JP record 12 at Kerdiston while doing her BTO Atlas timed survey of TG0624. There were no other double figure records.

Other records Beetley 2 (RG), Bintree 5 (B&SG), Colkirk 8 (A&CJ,JP,JH), Daffy Green 5 (IB), Fakenham 2 (AH), Fakenham/Shereford 1+ heard (PR), Gt Witchingham 1pr (AB), Longham 1 (IB), Mileham 3 (RG), N Tuddenham 4 (B&BP), Scarning 3 (IB), Sparham Hall Farm 2pr – “ a sharp decline from 8pr 2 years ago” (CS) and Whissonsett 1pr (RG,AJ,AH,DP).

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. An indication of density can be got from the 106 counted in 2 hrs during a BTO Atlas survey in a 2x2km tetrad (TG0624) at Kerdiston on 5th Dec (JP). As this is over half way through the shooting season one would anticipate many more at the beginning of Oct!

Great Northern Diver *Gavia Immer*

Rare visitor to WVBS area.

One was on Blickling Lake from 16th to 28th Feb (RBA).

Little Grebe *Trachybaptus ruficollis*

Mainly a winter visitor uncommon resident. Breeds in small numbers

Present throughout the year. There was only 1 double figure count - 10 Fustyweed on 26th Feb (BS). Attlebridge 2 (WO), Beetley GP at least 1pr bred (RG), Costessey, R Tud 1 (AB), Doughton 1 (NarVOS), Gt Witchingham, Manor Farm 1pr all Mar (AB), HBW 3 (DK), Lenwade Common 1 (RG), Sparham Pools 5 (BB/JE *et al*), Swanton Morley GP 5 (IB) and W Raynham Lake 2 (NarVOS).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Present in every month of the year. Confirmed breeding only received from Lenwade Common, Lyng GP, Sparham Pools (5pr) and Swanton Morley GP.

Also reported from Beetley GP, HBW, Lenwade and Old Hall Lake.

An unusual report from Fustyweed on 19th Jan: "Adult found dead on road next to pond. First time seen species as road kill" (BS). Interestingly this is the exact spot where a luckier Great Crested Grebe was found on the road by AJ on 2nd June 2003 after a severe thunder storm the previous night. That bird was ringed then safely returned to the nearby lake. Presumably both birds had mistaken the wet road for a waterway.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Present in every month, other than June.

Maximum counts (as reported) by site were Attlebridge 2 in Jan & Feb (WO), Costessey Pits 1 on 28th Jan (D&RH), HBW 11 on 16th Nov (DK), Lenwade Mill 16 on 27th Jan (JP), Sparham Pools 60 in Jan (BB), Swanton Morley GP 65 on 17th Feb (DA) and Tatterford 2 on 5th Apr (NarVOS).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Scarce visitor. Red listed.

A single record of one on the unlikely dates of 16th – 17th Aug at Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce but increasing non-breeding resident. Amber listed.

Reported in all months in singles unless stated otherwise. Recorded from: Attlebridge (WO), Bawdeswell (DA), Beetley (IB), Bintree Mill (PR,BB/JE), Dereham SW (IB), Elsing Mill 2 (AJ *et al*), Fustyweed (BS), Guist Common 4 on 17th May (IB), Hindolveston (G&AJ), HBW (DK), Lenwade Mill 4 on 23rd Jan (JP), N Tuddenham, Mill Farm (B&BP), New Costessey, R Tud (PS), Reepham (AJ), Scarning 2 (IB), Sculthorpe Moor (DA), Sparham Pools 2 (BB,CS), Swanton Morley GP (DA,LB,CA) and Twyford (A&CJ,CG).

How long will it be before proof of breeding is received from WVBS area?

Great White Egret

Ardea alba.

Rare but increasing visitor.

Reports of singles from Bintree Mill 16th - 17th Mar (RBA) and Guist Common 5th Apr (IB).



Great White Egret, by Steve Cale

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Common resident throughout the valley, present all year

The Grey Heron colony at The Ark (formerly Gt Witchingham Wildlife Centre) was not surveyed. Reported throughout the year from Attlebridge 3, Beetley 2, Dereham S/W, Dereham, Windsor Park, Gressenhall 2, HBW 4, Lenwade Mill 18 (mainly fly-overs), Lyng, Scarning, Sculthorpe Mill, Sparham Pools 4, Swanton Morley GP, Taverham & Whitwell Common.

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 2 over WVRWP on 18th May (IB) and 2 on 29th June again at WVRWP (IB). Then singles at Guist Marsh on 28th June (IB), WVRWP on 5th July (IB) & 18th July (BB/JE). Also seen at SNRWP where 2 on 13th July (IB) & singles there on 20th July & 3rd Aug. The maximum number were 6 seen on 14th Sept. at Lyng and Lyng Easthaugh moving south with Common Buzzard and Osprey between 09.30 and 10.30 (NM)

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Increasing visitor mainly from reintroduction projects. Amber listed.

Single birds seen all over the Valley from Apr to July. Guist on 2nd to 8th Apr inclusive (PR,DA,Narvos,IB,J&CF,BB/JE) and 13th Apr at Foxley (NM). In May there were singles at WVRWP on 18th (IB) & Lyng on 31st (CS). On 2nd June at Lyng (NM), 28th & 29th June they were seen at Beetley (IB) and WVRWP (IB). July saw singles on 4th at Sparham (CS), 5th at WVRWP (IB) and Mileham on the 8th (JB).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Getting more common in the valley. Reported sightings from 17th Mar through to Oct. Guist was a popular site for the species with singles, many pairs, lots of 4, 5, and even 6 at a time seen (PB,Narvos,IB, J&CF,BB/JE,RG,AH,AJ,DP). Both males and females present so breeding was very likely but not proven. Others areas include Beetley, Bintree, Dereham, Great Ryburgh, Lyng, Sparham, Swanton Morley, Swanton Novers, West Raynham & Worthing (IB,DA,NM,CS,BB/JE,DK) and, of course, Sculthorpe Moor where the much publicised nest yielded young (P&AB,Narvos,PR,CF,DA). Another positive breeding success was reported (RG) where 4 young were raised.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

Only 1 record on 27th Jan at Swanton Morley (DA).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor to valley.

An easily overlooked secretive species.

At Guist a female on 7th Apr (DN), WVRWP 1 on 17th May (IB) and Lyng 1 on 2nd June (NM).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Widespread fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

North Tuddenham 1 on 19th Feb, 6th and 10th Oct & 7th Nov (B&BP). Seen elsewhere throughout the valley from the 1st Feb right through to 30th Dec. at the following sites; Attlebridge, Beetley, Bintree, Bittering, Brisley, Costessey, Dereham, Elsing, Guist, HBW, Lenwade, Lyng, Scarning, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham, Swanton Novers, Taverham Worthing and WVRW (WO,J&CF,DA,IB,AB,CJ,Narvos,PR,DK,B&SG, JP,NM,BB/JE, CS,BS,LW,NS). A pair of chicks were bred near Lenwade Common as 2 adults and 2 juvs seen (RG) on 31st Oct.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Small but increasing breeding population in the valley.

1-5 recorded from Feb to Sept at Guist, Bintree, Bylaugh, Sennowe, Scarning, Sculthorpe, Sparham, Swanton Novers, Beetley, Lyng, N.Tuddenham and Tatterford. (DA,Narvos,RG,HBW,NS,C&JF,BB/JE, PR,B&BP). Also SNRWP where 12 were seen on 9th Mar (IB).

Rough-legged Buzzard

Buteo lagopus

Rare winter visitor.

One recorded on 2nd Apr at Gressenhall (IB) could have been in the area from 7th Feb (RBA).



Rough-legged Buzzard, by Steve Cale

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

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

Three sightings, 1 on 6th May at Lyng (CS), 1 on 14th Sept at Lyng Easthaugh moving south with Honey & Common Buzzards (NM), 1 on 22nd Sept at Sparham Pools (BB/JE).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder and passage. Amber listed.

Seen in 1's & 2's every month of the year with over 64 sightings. Only evidence of breeding at Dereham on 1st Apr (IB) and 16th July when pair seen feeding young at Sparham (CS).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Three records, all singles. 1 on 21st Feb at Elsing (BS), then 1 at Guist on 19th Apr (IB) and 1 on the same day at Sparham Pools (BB/JE), probably the same bird.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant throughout the valley.

Widely reported from Apr to end Sept. A lot of 1's & 2's but max 4 on 27th May at Sparham (CS) and Guist Bridge on 24th Aug (B&BP).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Only two records. 1 on 12th Jan at Swanton Morley (DA) and 1 on 8th Apr at Guist Bridge (BB/JE).

Water Rail *Rallus aquatus*

Uncommon resident and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Three most popular areas were Sculthorpe Moor (max 3) on 24th Feb; 5th, 6th, 24th Mar and 22nd Nov (DK,Narvos,B&SG,BB/JE,DA); Swanton Morley (max 4) on 1st, 12th & 27th Jan, 8th Mar and 24th Dec(DA,IB) and Scarning/Dereham Sewage Works, 1 on 19th Jan, 1st Apr, 12th Oct & 29th Nov (IB).

Also singles sighted at Drayton on 12th Feb (AG) and Costessey on 29th Mar (AG).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

Common resident. Widespread throughout valley supplemented by autumn immigrants.

In double figures on a number of occasions at Lenwade Mill (JP) but max counts of 40 on 17th Feb & 22 on 21st Dec (both HBW).

Coot *Falica atra*.

Common resident and winter visitor.

Sparham Pools was the place to see this species with several double figure sightings (JP) and an astonishing count of 70 on 27th Jan (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.

3 on 2nd May flying over Mileham (RG) and 3 on 17th May over WVRWP (IB).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

Recordings submitted are for 1's & 2's at Sparham Pools on 13th Feb, 23rd Feb & 2nd Apr (BB,BB/JE). Also pairs at Beetley, Bintree, Costessey, Gt Witchingham, HBW, Lenwade Mill, Scarning, Sculthorpe, Sparham, Swanton Morley, West Raynham and Worthing (RG,PR,AB,DK,JP,IB, P&AB,CF,B&SG,NS,BB/JE,LB&CA).

A nest with eggs was seen at Beetley on 15th May (RG) and mating witnessed at Dunton on 23rd May (RG,AJ,AH,DP)

Little Ringed Plover *Charadris dubius*

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor in small numbers.

1 seen on 21st Apr at Beetley with 2 (pair) at same site on 15th May (RG). A pair were nesting at Swanton Morley GP from 22nd Apr - 25th May but no report of nesting success (DA,IB). For the first time in twenty years none were seen in the Lyng/Sparham area (CS)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.

The WVBS area remains a popular wintering area for this species. The highest counts during the first winter period were a number of sightings in excess of 400 at North Tuddenham (BS) but a much bigger flock estimated at 3000 was seen regularly in a field to the West of Hoe from 23rd Jan (DK). Returning birds were 4 on 17th Aug again at North Tuddenham (B&BP). During the second winter period many flocks of 200+ were recorded but bigger flocks of 2500 and 2000 were seen on 14th and 16th Nov at Lt Witchingham (AB) and HBW respectively.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

The first winter period highest counts were several flocks of 250 on 19th Jan at Sparham Pools (DA), 300 at a field west of Hoe on 24th Jan (DK) and 200 at Gressenhall on 3rd Feb (IB). The first returning birds were 44 at WVRWP (IB) on 5th July and 150 at Guist Bridge on 24th Aug (B&BP) and then max counts during the second winter period of 128 on 22nd Oct at Coxford (A&CJ), 120 at Lt Witchingham on 3rd Nov (AB), 150 at Gressenhall on 14th Dec (IB), 200 on 18th Dec at Hoe (C&JF) and 450 at Hoe on 19th Dec (DK).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Scarce passage migrant. Red listed.

A summer plumage bird at Sparham Pools on 27th Apr was the only record (DA, BB/JE).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Only two records. 2 on 1st Jan at Sparham Meadows (CS) and 1 on 13th Jan at Swanton Morley GP (NM).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

Widely recorded in large numbers. In the first winter period there were several counts in double figures with the highest of 21 on 17th Feb at Swanton Morley (DA). There were no sightings at all between 27th Apr and 24th Sept when the second winter period yielded huge numbers with 80 on 19th Oct at Costessey Marshes (AB), 44 on 28th Oct again at Costessey Marshes (AB).

The highest count was 92 on 15th Nov at Costessey Marshes (AB) and a mere 30 at Sparham Meadows at the end of the year (CS).

Woodcock *Scotopax rusticola*

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

Mostly winter sightings from Feb to Mar and then again Nov and Dec. Mainly singles but, 7 on 9th & 10th Feb at Sculthorpe Mill and Shereford (PR,IB) and 14 on 15th Dec at Sparham Woods (CS). Also 3 on 22nd Dec at Lenwade Common (RG).

The only breeding season records are 1 on 4th Apr at Bintree Woods (DA) and 2 on 12th Apr at Costessey Marriotts Way (AB).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

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

5 flew W over Lyng Easthaugh on 24th Apr (NM).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

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

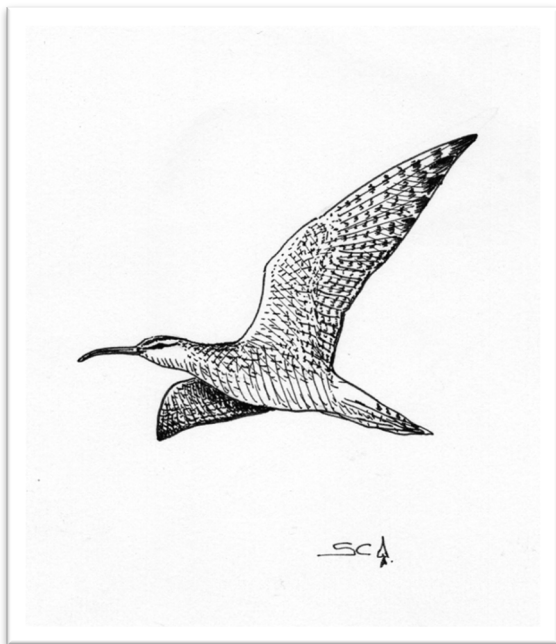
A single record of 82 on 20th Apr flying low overhead near Hoe Common on the Hoe Bird Walk (DK). This species is normally associated with the coast but co-incidentally there was a big movement of this species over the Nene Washes on this particular morning.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Fly-overs of single birds on 2nd May at Mileham, 26th Jul and 31st Aug both at Lenwade (RG). Also 1 on 25th Jul at Taverham (LW) and 27th Jul at Lyng (NM).

Whimbrel, by Steve Cale



Curlew *Numenius arquata*

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

1 on 21st Apr at Sparham Pools (BB/JE), 2 on 29th Jun at Lyng (NM) and 1 on 18th Jul at WVRWP (BB/JE).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

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

Only one record of 1 on 19th Jul at Sparham Pools (BB/JE).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce passage migrant.

1 on 12th Sept at Ringland (MMc)

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

1 on 21st Apr & 2nd Jul at Beetley GP (RG), 1 at Scarning on 7 Aug, 1 on 23rd Nov & 22nd Dec at Dereham SW and 1 at Longham Hall on 29th Nov (IB) also 1 on 22nd Apr at Swanton Morley (DA). Longest stayers of 2 max was at Sparham Pools from 19th Apr to 16th Aug (BB/JE).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Passage migrant, widespread.

Apart from sightings at Swanton Morley of 1 on 22nd & 26th Apr (DA) all the records come from Sparham Pools where a max of 2 were seen from 23rd Apr to 2nd Aug (CS, BB/JE, DA, RG).

Mediterranean Gull

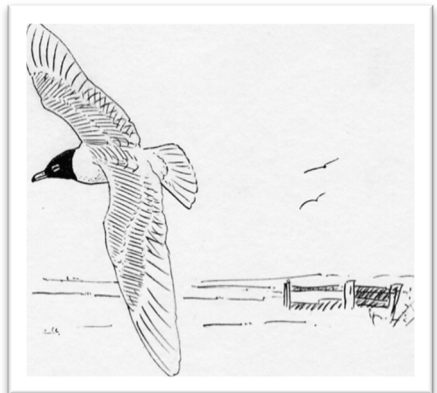
Larus melancephalus

Scarce visitor.

Amber listed.

4 in field with Black-headed Gulls at Brisley on 18th June then 1 over WVRWP on 29th June (both IB).

Mediterranean Gull,
by Steve Cale



Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Passage migrant in varying numbers, usually in spring

2 Swanton Morley GP on 22nd Apr (BB/JE)

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

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

There were 78 separate recorded sightings of this common species from all over the valley with many counts in the 50 -100 range.

There were counts of 200 on 2nd Feb at North Tuddenham (B&BP) and by far the biggest number of 440 at New Costessey on 27th Jan (AG).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

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

Recorded widely in the winter months from Jan to Mar and then Dec where the max counts recorded were 300 on 27th Jan at Bylaugh (DA) and 880 also on 27th Jan at New Costessey (AG).

Returning summer birds coming back inland after breeding were not as numerous with a max count of 105 at Worthing church on 20th Aug (DK).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

15 were at Bylaugh on 12th Oct (BB/JE) and 22 on 15th May at N Tuddenham (B&BP). Singles on 16th Mar, 18th May and 20th Jul (HBW). There were big numbers at Bylaugh (200) on 23rd Aug (NM) and 438 at New Costessey on 14th Oct (AG).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

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

First winter period recorded sightings at Sparham Pools and Worthing with a max of 6 on 1st Jan at Lenwade Mill (JP). Returning summer birds were seen on 5th Jul, 7th Aug and 31st Aug at Lenwade Mill and Sparham Pools. All sightings by (JP). The second winter period saw between 19th Oct to 26th Dec sightings at Lenwade Mill (max 8) and HBW (JP,DK).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Singles at HBW on 20th Apr, 20th Jul and 19th Oct with 3 there on 17th Aug (DK). Up to 2 on 10th Oct & 24th Dec at Lenwade Mill (JP).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

First sighting of 1 on 15th Apr at Lyng GP (CS). Small numbers seen all over the valley from Apr to Aug with 5 on 26th Apr at Costessey (AB) and 6 on 18th May at Gt Ryburgh (IB). Larger flocks of 11 on 23rd Apr at Lyng GP (CS), 13 on 2nd May at Sparham Pools (JP) with a max 15 on 22nd Apr at Swanton Morley Lakes (BB/JE) and 18 on 3rd Jul again at Sparham Pools (JP). Signs of breeding was evident with sightings of juveniles on 16th Jul (RG) and 23rd Aug (BB/JE) both at Sparham Pools. The last sighting was of 3 on 21st Aug at Three Bridges Farm, Lyng (BS).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce passage migrant. Amber listed.

One record of 1 on 23rd Apr at Lyng GP (CS).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Rare summer visitor to the valley. Amber listed.

A single at Lyng GP on 7th May was CS's first ever record for the area.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage migrant.

A large passage of this species occurred through Norfolk the early days of May with 15 seen on 4th May at Sparham GP (CS) and 23 also on 4th May at Swanton Morley GP (IB). A single straggler was seen the next day 5th May at Sparham Pools (BB/JE).

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Feral resident, associated with human habitation.

Only five records received, singles Beetley 15th May (RG), HBW 18th May (DK) and Sparham 2nd Oct with 6 on 16th & 3 on 9th Nov (JP).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Fairly common resident throughout valley. Amber listed.

Only three double figure counts of 12 Sparham Pools 25th Jan (DA), 24 HBW 15th Jun & 12 Guist 24th Aug (B&BP).

Elsewhere Beetley, Bylaugh, West Raynham & Worthing.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident throughout valley.

2222 counted New Costessey between 17th Oct & 17th Nov moving largely S to E with 1605 on 28th Oct (AG).

Other significant counts 500+ Attlebridge 13th Nov (WO), 500 Lyng Heath 30th Dec (A&CJ).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident, associated with human habitation.

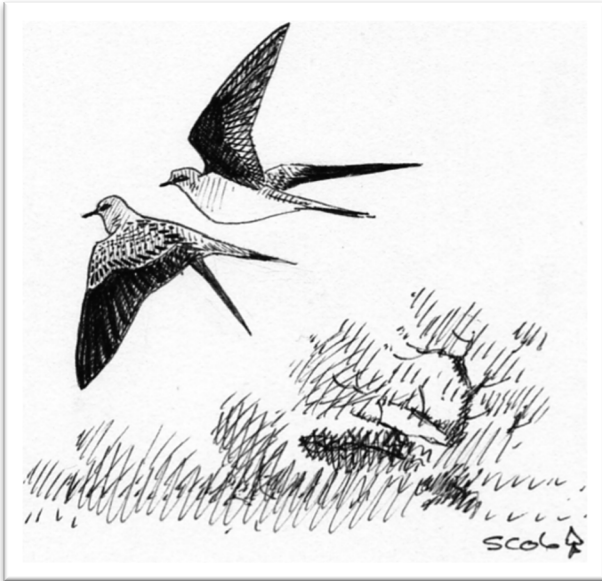
Most records of pairs but max count 7 Elsing 2nd Nov (A&CJ). Elsewhere Attlebridge, Dereham, Great Ryburgh, Lenwade & North Tuddenham.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Decreasing migratory breeder and passage migrant. Red listed.

First reported 27th Apr Reepham (NM). Last record 16th Aug Worthing (DK).

Other sites Beetley GP, HBW & Sparham Pools (2). No proof of breeding.



Turtle Doves, by Steve Cale

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Migratory breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed.

First report Sparham Hall Farm 22nd Apr (CS,NS).

Also recorded from Beetley, Bintree Wood, Costessey Marshes, Dunton, Guist Common, Gunton Lane New Costessey, HBW, Lenwade Common, Mileham, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools (2) & Whitwell Common.

Last report an early 1st Jun at Lenwade Mill (JP).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

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

This iconic species again well reported.

Recorded from:- Attlebridge, Billingford Common, Bintree Wood (2), Bradenham Hill, Brisley (3), Cawston, Colkirk, Costessey Marshes, Daffy Green, Dereham (3 sites), Dereham SW (3), East Rudham, Elsing, Elsing Hall, Etling Green, Fakenham, Fulmodeston, Great Ryburgh (2), Great Witchingham, Gressenhall, Guist, HBW (2), Hempton Marsh, Hockering, Hoe, Holme Hale (2), Horningtoff, Lyng Easthaugh, Mileham (6), New Costessey, North Elmham (2), North Tuddenham (2 sites), Old Costessey, Scarning (2), Sculthorpe Mill, Shereford (2), Sparham Pools, Swannington (4sites), Swanton Morley (3), Weasenham, Whitwell Common, Wood Norton, Worthing (2) & WVRWP.

Proof of breeding Lyng Easthaugh, Sculthorpe Moor & Sparham Hall Farm (2prs).

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Introduced resident. Fairly common in the WVBS area.

Reported throughout the year from Bylaugh (2), Daffy Green (2), Elsing Hall, Longham, North Tuddenham (3 sites), Raynham Camp, Scarning, Sculthorpe Mill, Sparham Hall Farm (prob 2pr), Sparham Pools, Taverham (2), Whissonsett, Worthing (3 sites) & WVRWP.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Widespread resident.

Recorded From Bawdeswell, Bintree Wood, Costessey, Dereham (2), Dereham SW (2), East Rudham, Foxley Wood, Fustyweed, Gressenhall, Hindolveston, Hoe (2), Lenwade (2), Lenwade Common (2), New Costessey, North Elmham, Old Costessey, Scarning (2), Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Hall Farm (prob 2pr), Sparham Pools (3), Swanton Morley GP, Taverham (2), Whitwell Common & Worthing.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Rare resident and winter visitor.

1 Hempton 22nd Jan (CSt), 1 heard 17th Feb west end Hoe Rough, 2 heard again same area 16th Nov on HBW (DK).

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce migratory breeder. Red listed.

“Several” were seen on 19th Jun when WVBS had its annual field trip to Marsham Heath (C&JF, JL, et al).

Swift *Apus apus*

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.

First record 13 Swanton Morley GP 26th Apr (DA,IB). Double figure sightings 10 Sparham 24th Apr, with 20 on 29th & 12 on 4th May, 15 Lenwade Mill 15th May, 30 Worthing 19th May & 25 Taverham 21st/22nd Jul. Last records 20th Aug 2 Lyng (BB/JE) & 10 Guist Common (RG).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Common resident in the valley. Amber listed.

Mainly singles but up to 3 reported throughout the year from – Attlebridge, Bintree Mill, Costessey (3 sites), Dereham (3), Dereham SW, Elsing Mill, Guist, HBW, Lenwade (3 sites), New Costessey (2), Scarning, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley GP (2), West Raynham Lake.

Breeding proved at Bintree Mill (RG et al) & Sparham Pools 2prs (CS).

Green Woodpecker *Picis viridis*

Fairly common resident. Amber listed.

Reported throughout the year, most records are of singles. Alderford Common, Attlebridge, Bintree Wood, Beetley GP, Elsing Fustyweed, HBW (3), Hindolveston, Lenwade (3 sites) (2), North Tuddenham, Scarning, Sparham Pools (3), Swanton Morley GP, Taverham, Whitwell Common & Worthing.

Proof of breeding from Sparham Pools & Taverham.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders.

1 to 4 recorded throughout the year from 21 locations.

Proof of breeding from Hindolveston (JJ), Lenwade (JP) & Worthing (DK).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident. Occasionally visiting garden feeders. Red listed.

Records of singles 6th Jan at Great Ryburgh (AH), 9th Jan Fustyweed (BS), 10th Feb Old Costessey (AB), 14th Apr Taverham (AB) & 20th Apr Foxley Wood (AJ).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

In the first winter period there were counts of 30 Sparham Pools 1st Jan (BB), 30 New Costessey 1st Jan (AB), 40 Great Witchingham 14th Jan (AJ) & 30 Costessey 22nd Mar (AB).

CS recorded 38prs breeding at Sparham Hall Farm. In the second winter period there were 35 max Old Costessey in Oct rising to 50 max in Dec (AB) & 44 Scarning 11th Dec (IB).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

First report 4 Swanton Morley GP 24th Mar (B&BP/DA). Only breeding records from Beetley GP where fox predation still a problem.

Elsewhere 80 Swanton Morley GP 5th Apr (DA/NM).

Last report 40 HBW 17th Aug (DK).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

First arrival 1 New Costessey 29th Mar (AG).

Only double figure counts apart from Guist Common where 221 were ringed in Aug (RG) were 12 Sparham Pools 7th Apr (BB/JE) & 12 Lenwade Mill 16th Jun (JP).

Last report 1 New Costessey 11th Oct (AG).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed.

The first arrival 1 Sparham Pools 7th Apr (BB/JE), other spring records 12 North Tuddenham 24th May (B&BP) & 20 Worthing 25th May (DK).

Double figure counts in Aug include 45 Worthing 7th with 140 next day (DK), 30 Guist Common 20th (RG). Sept records 40 Sparham pool 6th (JP), 20 Elsing 16th (A&CJ).

Latest record 3 over Norfolk Showground 4th Oct (NS).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Rare breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed.

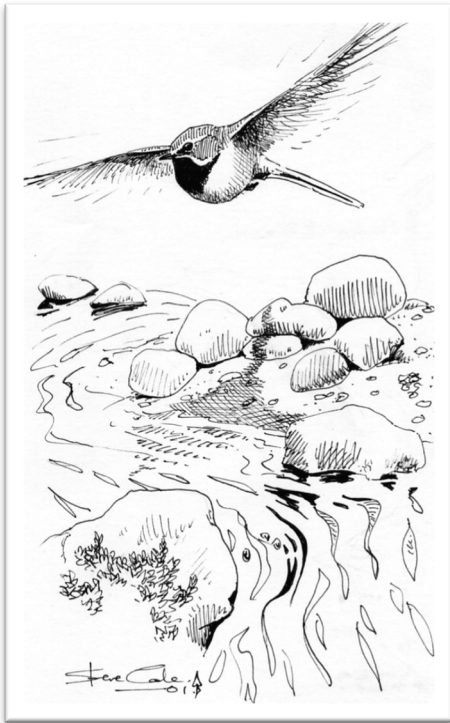
A bird singing at Guist during Jun (CS).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

Recorded from 7 sites with highest (double figure) site counts max 12 New Costessey Jan (AB), 40 Swanton Morley GP 24th Mar (B&BP), 26 Sparham Pools 25th Mar (BB/JE), 30 Old Costessey 1st Oct (AB), 30 Costessey Marshes 15th Nov (AB) & 20 Dereham SW 22nd Dec (IB).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*



Grey Wagtail, by Steve Cale

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 reported species throughout the year.

1 or 2 reported from Attlebridge, Bylaugh SW (8), Dereham SW, Great Witchingham, Hindolveston, New Costessey, North Tuddenham Common, Old Costessey (2 sites), Swanton Morley GP (3), Taverham.

Evidence of breeding: Bintree Mill, Hellhoughton, Lenwade Mill, Lyng Mill, Dereham SW, Sculthorpe Mill, Sparham Hall Farm, Sparham Pools & Worthing Mill.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

The roost at Longwater, Costessey held 200+ from end Mar with still 150+ present on 25th Apr. In the autumn period there were up to 450 in Aug peaking at 1200 by end of Sep then dropping to 750 by early Oct (AB). (continues)

Pied Wagtail (continued)

Other gatherings of note 25 Bylaugh SW 9th Mar & 20 Swanton Morley GP 24th Mar (B&BP), 30 Guist Common 20th Aug (RG) & 50 Dereham SW 6th Dec (IB).

2 White Wagtails, *M alba alba* were reported from Bylaugh 29th Mar (DA).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous*

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor. Rare in valley.

4 Old Costessey 18th Nov (AB), 9 Lyng 24th Nov flew towards Sparham village (BB/JE).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant, mainly sedentary resident.

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

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.

An increase in records with mainly singles reported from Swanton Morley GP 11th Apr (LB,CA), 3rd, 4th & 5th May (DK,IB,B&BP), Ringland Common 2 on 25th Apr (AB) with 4 on 4th May (B&BP) & Sparham Pools 11th May (B&BP), 6th Jun (JP).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Rare summer visitor to WVBS area.

A single at Old Costessey 19th Sep (AB).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Scarce winter visitor to the valley. Amber listed.

An increase in records from last year with 1 or 2 reported from Costessey Marshes, Coxford, Dereham SW, Hellesdon Marsh, Hockering, Old Costessey, Scarning, Sculthorpe Mill, Sparham Hall Farm & Pools.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Scarce passage migrant to the valley.

All records of singles. Costessey 30th Apr (AB), Sparham Hall Farm 1st Jul, 15th & 29th Aug, 18th Sep (CS), Old Costessey 25th Aug (AB), N Tuddenham 24th Sep (B&BP).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquata*

Scarce passage migrant to the valley. Red listed.

A single at Bintree Mill 19th Apr (DN).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

125 moved mainly SSW from 28th Oct to 13th Nov New Costessey (AG).

25+ feeding on apples Hindolveston 31st Dec (AJ).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Notable counts during early winter period; **Jan** 60 North Tuddenham, 11th. **Feb** 100 North Tuddenham 2nd, 90 Lenwade 6th, 70 Great Witchingham 28th. **Mar** 100 Shereford 9th, 200 North Tuddenham 16th, 150 Primrose Green 25th. **Apr** 200 Bintree 4th, 300 Guist 5th & 6th, 100 Iyng 19th & 50 Taverham 22nd. (continues)

Fieldfare (continued)

Late winter counts of note **Oct** 20 Lyng & 35 Costessey 18th, 50 HBW 19th, 50 Wood Norton 30th. **Nov** 100 Sparham Pools 3rd, 30 Dereham SW 4th, 45 Worthing 27th. **Dec** 40+ Hindolveston 28th & 50 Reepeham 31st.

In addition AG recorded 3,373 moving mainly WSW over New Costessey from 17th Oct to 17th Nov with peak movement of 661 on 28th & 653 on 31st Oct. AB recorded 1000 moving Old Costessey 28th Oct.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelus*

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

Many records of 1 or 2 from 22 locations with a max of 6 at Sparham Pools 14th Apr & 10th Jun (JP), & 12 Costessey 25th Sep (AB).

AG recorded 105 moving mainly WSW from 3rd Oct to 13th Nov with a peak of 17 on 7th Oct over New Costessey.

A few records of breeding were received.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

At the beginning of the year recorded from 15 locations. Notable counts: 40 North Tuddenham 11th Jan (BS), 50 Shereford 9th Mar (PB), 40 Costessey (AB) & 42 Sparham Pools 24th Mar (JP), 250 New Costessey 26th Mar (AG) & 150 Guist 5th Apr (IB). Last spring record 2 Lenwade 20th Apr (NM).

First autumn record 5 Worthing 1st Oct (DK), then in Oct c100 Sparham Pools 10th (BB/JE), 200 Old Costessey 17th (AB), 58 HBW 19th (DK). Late year reports of 45 Dereham SW 4th Nov & 26th Dec (IB) also 45 Kerdiston area 5th Dec (JP).

In addition AG recorded 7,275 moving mainly WSW over New Costessey from 2nd Oct to 17th Nov with peak movement of 1719 on 17th & 1450 on 31st Oct.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant. Amber listed.

Recorded from 15 locations. Post breeding flocks 10 Old Costessey 1st Oct (AB) & 25 in BTO 2km sq Kerdiston area (TG0624) 5th Dec (JP).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Rare resident expanding its range through valley.

Birds present in valley throughout the year. 1-2 birds recorded at Swanton Morley GP during the first winter period (DA, BB/JE, B&BP). No proof of breeding but up to 3 birds present at Costessey and Swanton Morley GP during breeding season (DA, AB, IB, B&BP). 1 present at Lenwade Mill (JP) and 2 at Old Costessey (AB) during second winter period.

Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

Scarce summer resident and passage migrant. Red listed.

Four birds reported "reeling" from 23rd Apr at Costessey Marshes (AB) and a single bird singing at Dereham on the same date (IB).



Grasshopper Warbler, by Steve Cale

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant.

Earliest record 7th Apr at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes (BB/JE) and CS reported his first and earliest record for Sparham Hall Farm on the 9th.

Five birds present at Costessey Marshes by the 22nd Apr (AB) when single bird still present at Sparham Hall Farm (NS). Single bird at Swanton Morley GP (BB/JE) on 22nd Apr increased to 3 by 5th May (B&BP).

The single bird at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes had increased to 3+ by 25th Apr (BB/JE). Single bird at Sparham Pools on 2nd May also present on 3rd July (JP).

RG reported 3 singing males at Sparham Pools on 4th May and the same at Beetley on 15th. Two birds in a reedbed at Scarning on 7th June (IB). 7 birds were ringed at Whitwell Common on 27th July (RG).

The latest was report of a single bird heard near Guist Bridge on 24th Aug (B&BP).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant.

Earliest record 17th Apr at Costessey Marshes (AB). Over a week later 3-4 birds at Swanton Morley GP (DA,IB). On 26th Apr, 1 at Billingford Common (NM) and 4 at Sparham Pools on 27th (DA).

CS recorded his first bird of the year on Sparham Hall Farm on 29th Apr. Between 1 to 3 birds at Sparham Pools during May (B&BP, RG, JP) whilst on 15th May at Beetley a single bird was singing (RG). Two birds at Sparham Pools on 10th June (JP) and 13th (BB/JE).

21 individual birds were ringed at Guist Common in Aug, 4 of which on 27th were latest records received (RG).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Very scarce passage migrant in the valley and county.

A report was received of a bird singing between 17th and 26th June at a valley site. Unfortunately inadequate evidence was provided to confirm the record of this particularly difficult to identify species. There has been one previous, confirmed, record for the valley - a single bird at Elsing on 12th June 1987.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Scarce summer resident and passage migrant.

Earliest record 22nd Apr at Swanton Morley GP (BB/JE) with possibly the same bird on 26th (DA, IB). Two birds at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes on 25th (BB/JE) where 1 pair on 4th May (RG) and 1-2 birds carrying food on 3rd and 15th July (JP).

Single birds also at Bintree Wood on 27th Apr (DA) and 2 singing males at Mileham on 2nd May (RG). Latest report single bird at Worthing on 14th Aug (DK).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer resident.

Earliest record 21st Apr at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes (BB/JE) with 3 at Swanton Moprey GP on 22nd (BB/JE) and 26th (IB). Single bird at Hidolveston on 24th (JAJ) when CS recorded his first bird of the year at Sparham Hall Farm. Single bird at Sculthorpe Mill on 27th Apr (PR).

During May RG recorded 7 singing males at Mileham on 2nd, 3 at Sparham Pools on 4th and 7 at Beetley on 15th when he heard breeding calls. During the NWT Hoe Bird Walk a single recorded on 18th May had increased to 5 on 15th June, 6 on 17th Aug, down to 1 on 20th July and 21st Sept which was the latest record received (DK). In July single birds at Sparham Pools on 3rd (JP), North Tuddenham on 13th & 27th (B&BP) and Lenwade Mill also on 27th (JP). During two Ringing sessions at Whitwell Common in July a total of 8 adults and 11 juveniles were caught.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

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

Earliest records on 20th Apr when 2 at Alderford Common (JP) and single at Lenwade (NM).

In Apr also reported from Lenwade Common with 1-2 between 25th - 28th (LB, PR, JP), Ringland Common on 25th (AB), 4 at Swanton Morley GP on 27th (PR) and 2 singing at Costessey Marshes on 29th (AB).

On 4th May 6 singing males at Sparham Pools (RG) with possibly the same birds on 9th (BB/JE). Also at Swanton Morley GP on 5th (B&BP) and 1 at Beetley on 15th (RG) when breeding calls were heard.

During the NWT Hoe Bird Walk 1 heard on 18th May and 15th June but no later reports (DK).

JP recorded 3 at Sparham Pools on 10th June including an adult carrying food. At same site she recorded single bird on 3rd July and 16th Aug which was latest record received.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Probable wintering female on 12th Feb in a garden at North Elmham (JL).

Earliest spring record at Sparham Pools on 29th Mar (JP, BB/JE) followed by 1 at New Costessey on 1st Apr (AG), Sparham Hall Farm on 2nd (CS), Bawdeswell on 3rd (DA), Billingford Common, 2 at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes on 5th and 1 Sparham Pools NR on 6th increasing to 4 on 14th (JP).

Between 11th Apr and 17th Aug 1-4 birds recorded at Swanton Morley GP, Lenwade Mill, Dereham, Alderford Common, NWT Hoe Bird Walk, Elsing, Lenwade Common, Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools NR and Scarning. Highest counts of 8 singing males at Mileham on 2nd May and evidence of possible breeding at Beetley on 15th May when 9 singing males and breeding calls were heard (RG).

(continues)

Blackcap (continued)

During a Ringing session at Whitwell Common on 20th July 2 adults and 3 juveniles were caught (RG).

Latest autumn records of 2 on Marriott's Way on 24th Sept and 1 Great Witchingham Common on 5th Oct (JP). Evidence of possible wintering birds in New Costessey when single male 4th Nov (AG) and a female at Thorpe Marriot on 24th Dec (MM).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer resident, passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.

Recorded throughout the valley with reports from 21 sites. A wintering bird at Swanton Morley GP on 12th Jan with first spring record on 8th Mar (DA) and 9th (BB/JE) at same site. One at Sparham Pools also on 9th (DA). Further arrivals between 18th – 30th Mar with 1 at Trainer's Wood on 18th (AG), Sparham Hall Farm on 18th (CS), Sculthorpe Moor on 27th (C&JF), 2 at Old Costessey on 28th (AB), 1 at Old Costessey on 28th, 6 at Sparham Pools on 29th and singles at Lenwade Mill (JP), North Tuddenham Common (B&BP) and Honeypot Wood, Wendling on 30th.

Between Apr and Aug 1 – 4 recorded at Taverham, Foxley Wood, West Raynham Lake, Lenwade Mill, NWT Hoe Bird Walk and Lenwade Common. During Apr high counts of 10 at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes on 2nd (BB/JE), 7 at Sparham Pools NR on 6th (JP), 8 at Alderford Common on 20th (JP), 6 at Great Witchingham Common on 28th (JP), with 6 at Mileham on 2nd May (RG) and 8 at Sparham Pools NR on 10th June (JP).

Possible evidence of breeding at Beetley on 15th May when breeding calls heard (RG) and at Sparham Pools NR on 10th June when adult bird carrying food (JP).

During a Ringing session at Whitwell Common in July 2 adults and 17 juveniles were caught. In Sept single birds at Sparham Pools, Old Costessey and Lenwade Mill. Higher counts of 5 at Ringland on 12th (MM) and 4 during NWT Hoe Bird Walk on 21st (DK). Latest record at Sparham Pools NR on 2nd Oct (JP).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

Earliest records from Costessey Marshes 2 on 26th Mar (AB) and Sparham Hall Farm single on 30th (CS). Early Apr reported at Sparham Pools single on 2nd (BB/JE) and 4th (AJ,B&BP – their earliest ever record), Billingford Common 1 (NM), Sennowe Park 1 (NarVOS) and Sparham Pools 3-4 (BB/JE,DA) on 5th. JP made regular counts at Sparham Pools between Apr and Sept that indicate the population changes through the season. The highest numbers recorded each month were – Apr-6, May-10, June-8, July-6, Aug-2, Sept-1.

A high count of 15 at Swanton Morley GP on 26th Apr (DA), 1-3 birds also reported from New Costessey, Alderford Common, Hoe Bird Walk, Lenwade/Great Witchingham Common, Elsing, Mileham and North Tuddenham.

Proof of breeding at Sparham Pools on 3rd July when an adult bird was seen carrying food (JP) and juveniles were caught and ringed at Beetley, Guist Common & Whitwell Common (RG).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

Recorded at Bintree, Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes, Lenwade Mill, New Costessey, Worthing, HBW, Dereham (Windsor Park), Swanton Morley GP, Alderford Common, Costessey SSSI, Gunton Lane, Old Costessey, Worthing village, Great Witchingham Common, North Tuddenham Common, Whitwell Common and Kerdiston.

Proof of breeding at North Tuddenham Common on 25th May (B&BP) and 4 juveniles caught at Whitwell Common during a Ringing session on 20th July (RG).

High counts of 8 at Sparham Pools on 24th Mar (JP), 5 at Lenwade Mill 1st June (JP), 6 at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes on 23rd Nov (BB/JE) and 7 at Sparham Pools on 26th Dec (LB).

(continues)

Goldcrest (continued)

JP made regular counts at two sites:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lenwade Mill	1	1			1	5	2	2	2	1		
Sparham Pools	1	2	8	2				2	4	4	2	4

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare passage migrant. **Amber listed.**

One lucky member recorded one in their garden at Taverham on 10th Oct (JR).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

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

Earliest record 1 at Worthing on 15th May (B&BP).

Evidence of breeding at Sparham Hall Farm farmyard on 1st June (CS), Sculthorpe Mill on 2nd June (IB), and Worthing village where 2 nests observed with adults feeding young on 4th June (DK). Subsequently 1 pair fledged 3 young in one nest with one dead chick in second nest (RG). Breeding also at Swannington where one nest with 3 young on 21st July (RG, TF) and at Sparham Pools NR 2 adults were observed feeding a fledged juvenile on 16th Aug (AJ). One adult had coloured band on one leg and BTO ring on other.

Pairs also reported at Swanton Morley (BM), Great Dunham Church on 1st July (NarVOS) and two birds at Heydon Village on 8th Aug (AB) and at Worthing level crossing on 14th and 20th Aug (DK). 3 juveniles were present at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area until 14th Aug (BB/JE).

Single birds recorded during NWT Hoe Bird Walk on 17th Aug (DK) and at Old Costessey 16th-19th Sept (AB) which was the latest record.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus**Common resident.*

Records of 3-8 birds during the year at Dereham (Windsor Park), Lenwade Common, Marriott's Way (Lenwade), Taverham (Ghost Hill), Fustyweed (Elsing), Worthing, North Tuddenham, Wendling, Sculthorpe Mill, Alderford Common, Beetley, Hockering Wood, Kerdiston, and Swanton Morley GP.

Higher counts of 5-20 at Lenwade during Jan (B&SG), 3-4 family parties of c.15 each during one afternoon in June (CS), 26 at Scarning on 4th Aug (IB), 12 at Great Witchingham Common on 5th Oct (JP), 23 at Macks Lane (Taverham) on 26th Nov (NS) and 14 at Morse Close (Lenwade) on 20th Dec (RG)

Regular counts at three sites made through the year give some indication of population changes (DK &JP)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hoe Bird Walk		10	6	2		13	5	10	5	3	6	10
Sparham Pools	4	16	10	14	9	6	5		4	36	9	10
Lenwade Mill	2	4	8	1	1		7	12	8	9	10	4

Breeding evidence at Beetley where 7 recently fledged/downy young on 15th May (RG).

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris**Uncommon and declining resident. Red listed.*

During first winter period 1-2 birds recorded at Fustyweed (Elsing), Lenwade, Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes, Swanton Morley GP, Sculthorpe Moor and Old Costessey.

During the breeding period 1-2 birds recorded at Swanton Morley GP, Dereham (Windsor Park), Sculthorpe Moor, Hoe Bird Walk, Sparham Pools and Beetley where one in suitable breeding habitat.

During the second winter period 1-2 birds recorded at Lenwade, Lenwade Common, Elsing (Mill Street), Swanton Morley GP and Longham Hall. (continues)

Marsh Tit (continued)

Higher counts of 4-5 birds at Sparham Pools Oct-Dec (JP).

Single birds attracted to garden feeders at Dereham (Windsor Park) in Apr (C&JF), for the first time ever at Morse Close (Lenwade) in Aug (RG), at Scarning in Dec (IB) and at Hindolveston (G&AJ).

Possible evidence of breeding at Beetley where a single bird was seen in suitable nesting habitat on 15th May (RG) and 2 birds at Sparham Pools with a number of young on 3rd July (JP).

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Uncommon declining resident. Red listed.

A much rarer, and more rapidly declining species than Marsh Tit. Due to the difficulty in separating this from the Marsh Tit the potential for confusion must be recognised.

During the first winter period and early spring recorded at Hempton Marsh (IB), Bintree Wood (DA), Foxley Wood (B&BP), Swanton Morley GP (LB&CA) and Sculthorpe Moor (PR).

No records received after the end of Apr.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident.

Records of 1-2 birds From Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes, Worthing, Old Costessey, Lenwade Mill, NWT Hoe Bird Walk, Dereham (Windsor park), Taverham, Swanton Morley GP, Attlebridge, Elsing and Scarning.

Higher counts in Lenwade of 8 in Jan, 6 in Mar when birds were recorded collecting nesting material and 6 in Sept when birds were seen daily (B&SG).

Single birds attracted to garden feeders in Dereham (Windsor Park) on 11th Mar (C&JF) and Scarning on 6th Dec (IB) with 2 at Worthing on 20th & 30th Nov (DK). Two birds also recorded in a Taverham garden on 18th Oct (LW). (continues)

Coal Tit (continued)

1-2 birds recorded every month at Lenwade Mill (JP) and singles recorded during NWT Hoe Bird Walk during Feb, Apr, May, June, Sept and Oct (DK).

Whilst no more than 3 or 4 individuals were seen at any one time in a Lenwade garden 37 different birds were captured during the year as part of an ongoing ringing study (RG).

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Common resident.

Regular counts at Lenwade Mill, Sparham Pools (JP) and NWT Hoe Bird Walk (DK) indicate the fluctuations in the number of birds present through the year possibly due to the presence of post breeding and winter flocks.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lenwade Mill	1	4	4	2	2	3	4	5	6	2	2	3
Sparham Pools	2	24	16	12	7	4	7	4	10	12	7	14
Hoe Bird Walk		12	2	4	1		1	4	2	1	2	4

Elsewhere 2-4 birds at Dereham (Windsor Park) in Jan, Sept and Oct, at Dereham (Lolly Moor in Mar and Alderford Common in Apr. Larger numbers of 7 at Fustyweed (Elsing), 5-8 at Lenwade in Jan & Mar, 6 at Great Witchingham Common in Feb, up to 6 at North Tuddenham Mar-Aug and 8 at Honeypt Wood, Wendling in Mar. At the end of the year 6-10 at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge Oct—Dec around a feeder and 11 counted in a 2km area at Kerdiston in Dec.

A breeding pair using a nestbox at Hindolveston on 27th Mar and probable breeding at Beetley where 8 pairs present in May.

191 different birds were captured in a Lenwade garden during the year as part of an ongoing ringing study (RG).

Great Tit *Parus major**Common resident.*

Regular counts at Lenwade Mill, Sparham Pools (JP) and NWT Hoe Bird Walk (DK) indicate the fluctuations in the number of birds present through the year possibly due to the presence of post breeding and winter flocks.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lenwade Mill	10	8	3	2	6	7	6	6	4	3	4	4
Sparham Pools	6	24	22	14	3	6	5	2	4	12	7	4
Hoe Bird Walk		12	3	2			1	1	2	1	2	1

In first winter period between 2-8 present at Dereham (Lolly Moor & Windsor Park), North Tuddenham, Lenwade, Fustyweed and Honeypot Wood, Wendling. 12+ at Great Witchingham Common in Feb.

Evidence of breeding at Lenwade where birds were collecting nesting material in Mar and at Lenwade Mill where a bird was seen taking fluff and presenting it to its partner also in Mar. At Hindolveston a pair used a nest box and the fledglings were seen on 12th June. During the breeding period 2-4 birds were present at North Tuddenham Apr-July, 2 at Alderford Common on 20th Apr and 6 pairs at Beetley on 15th May.

During the second winter period between 2-5 present at Swanton Morley GP in Oct, at Dereham (Windsor Park) Oct-Dec, 4 at Great Witchingham Common in Nov and 5 counted in a 2km area at Kerdiston during Dec. Between Oct-Dec 6+ at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge coming to garden feeder.

Whilst no more than 4 or 5 individuals were ever seen at one time 74 different birds were captured in a Lenwade garden during the year as part of an ongoing ringing study (RG).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea**Uncommon resident.*

During the first winter period 1 at New Costessey and Sparham Pools/ Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area in Jan, 1 at Lenwade (Norwich Road & Morse Close), 2 at Great Witchingham Common and 1-2 Old Costessey in Feb and 2 at Lenwade in Mar.

During the breeding/post breeding period 2 holding territories at Costessey in Mar/Apr and 2 in Sept all month, 1 at Dereham (Windsor Park) in Mar/Apr coming to a feeder, 2 at Sparham Pools Mar/Apr, 2 at Taverham, 1 at Foxley Wood, 1 at Old Costessey, Ringland Lane and Ringland. Also 1 NWT Hoe Bird Walk in Apr and Jun when 1 at Fustyweed (Elsing) at feeder was first garden record for 14 years (BS). 1 at Lenwade (Morse Close) at garden feeder in Aug, 1 at Great Witchingham Common and 1-2 in Lenwade (Norwich Road) in Sept.

In second winter period 1 at Taverham (Ghost Hill Wood) in Oct/Nov, 2 at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area in Nov/Dec, 1 at Lenwade Common in Nov and singles at Lenwade (Marriott's Way & Morse Close) and Scarning in Dec.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris**Unobtrusive resident.*

During the first winter period max 2 at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area, Swanton Morley GP, Dereham Rush Meadow and Sculthorpe Moor. Single birds at, Lenwade Common, Bintree Wood, Worthing, Swannington, Lenwade Mill, New Costessey and Lyng.

Only record of possible breeding was 4 juveniles and 1 adult at Sparham Pools on 5th June (JP). During the breeding/post breeding period 1-2 birds at, Sculthorpe Moor, Costessey (Marriot's Way), NWT Hoe Bird Walk, Lenwade Common, Bintree Wood, Swanton Morley GP, Gunton Lane Park (New Costessey), Lenwade Mill and Worthing. Three at Great Witchingham Common 1st Sept could possibly have been a post breeding flock.

(continues)

Treecreeper (continued)

During second winter period 1-2 birds at Worthing, Great Witchingham Common, NWT Hoe Bird Walk and Lenwade Common. In Dec 4 at Lenwade Fishing Lake (LB).

Jay *Garrulus monedula*

Common resident and winter visitor.

The regular counts made at Lenwade Mill and during NWT Hoe Bird Walk give no indication of an increase in numbers in autumn and winter when eruptive migrations of Northern and Central European populations can occur.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hoe Bird Walk		2	1	2	2		2	1	2	2	3	2
Lenwade Mill		1	1	2	2	1	3		1	2	2	2

During first winter period 1-2 birds at Dereham (Windsor Park, Lolly Moor), Fustyweed (Elsing), Worthing, Sparham Pools Drayton and Taverham where one bird was showing an interest in a Woodpigeon's nest (RGH).

A single bird in suitable nesting habitat at Beetley in May with 1-2 birds also present during breeding/post breeding period at Lenwade, North Tuddenham, Sparham Pools and Hockering Wood with 5 at Taverham (Spring Plantation) on 23rd Apr (NS).

During the second winter period 1-3 birds at Attlebridge (Old Hall Farm), Hindolveston, Taverham (Ghost Hill Wood), Dereham (Windsor Park), Lenwade Common and Swanton Morley GP. A max of 6 at Sparham Pools Oct-Dec and just a single bird counted in a 2km square at Kerdiston in Dec during a 2 hour survey.

Magpie *Pica pica**Common resident.*

No breeding records received although 2 in suitable breeding habitat at Beetley on 15th May. Single birds at Alderford Common 20th Apr and Lenwade Mill May/June with 3 at North Tuddenham 15th Aug the only records during breeding/post breeding period.

Largest flocks during first winter period 4 at Felthorpe on 22nd Jan and during NWT Hoe Bird Walk on 16th Mar. 1-2 birds at Fustyweed, Drayton, Taverham, Lenwade and Worthing.

In second winter period up to 4 birds present at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge Oct-Dec, 3 at Taverham in Nov, 2 at Hindolveston and 1 at Worthing for whole of Dec. Just one bird counted in 2km square during 2 hour survey visit at Kerdiston during Dec (JP).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula**Common resident.*

Regular counts at Lenwade Mill, Sparham Pools and during NWT Hoe Bird Walk give some indication of dispersal during breeding season and flocking during post breeding period and winter.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lenwade Mill		8	25	4	2	2	6				24	18
Sparham Pools	8	20	Max 36	47	8	1	2			13	8	6
Hoe Bird Walk		18	1		1			3	12	3		15

Highest winter flock counts of 250-300 at Foulsham 11th Nov (RG, AJ), 300 with rooks at Lenwade (Marriott's Way) 13th Dec (RG) and c.80 at Hindolveston 31st Dec in church ruin (G&AJ).

Small flocks of 3-4 birds at Lenwade in Jan, Sculthorpe Mill in Apr, Great Witchingham Common in Nov and Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge during Nov increasing to 15 during Dec.

Just 8 birds counted at Kerdiston in a 2km square during Dec (JP).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus**Common resident.*

Highest counts of winter flocks of 700 going to roost at Elsing Hall 27th Jan (B&BP), 2000+ on barley stubble at dusk at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge 13th Oct decreased to 2-300 during whole of Dec (WO), c.400 at Taverham (Macks Lane) 12th Nov (NS), 500 flying N to roost at New Costessey 7th Dec (AG) and c.200 on ploughed field at Taverham 20th Dec (LW).

Smaller winter flock counts at Sparham Pools of 18 in Feb, 24 in Oct, NWT Hoe Bird Walk 30 in Nov and at Lenwade 50 in Dec.

No counts or records of rookeries received.

Between Apr-Sept recorded at Sculthorpe Mill (10), Sparham Pools (highest count 15), Beetley (4), NWT Hoe Bird Walk and Great Witchingham Common (3).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone**Common resident.*

Regular counts made at Lenwade Mill and Sparham Pools show some evidence of possible post breeding and winter flocks.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lenwade Mill	2	2			2	1	Max 4	Max 5	Max 3	Max 6	Max 4	8
Sparham Pools	2	2	Max 6		3		2		2	Max 6	1	Max 6

Elsewhere just two records received during first winter period of single at Dereham in Jan and 2 at Great Witchingham Common in Feb.

No breeding records received but 8 at Beetley and 2 at North Tuddenham in May.

During second winter period just single at Great Witchingham Common in Nov and 5 counted in 2km square at Kerdiston in Dec.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris**Common resident. Red listed.*

During first winter period highest flock counts of 50 at Mill Farm, North Tuddenham (B&BP), 40+ at Shereford Road (30+ still present on 6th Apr) (P&AB), and 150 at Old Costessey (AB) in Feb. During Mar 600-700 roosting on Costessey Marshes (AB) and 400 at Mill Farm, North Tuddenham (B&BP).

During breeding/post breeding period 4 counted during NWT Hoe Bird Walk on 20th Apr (DK), 7 at Lenwade Mill included an adult carrying food on 4th May and between 17th-25th May 9 adults and 8 juveniles present (JP). At Beetley 6 seen in suitable nesting habitat on 15th May (RG) and a possible post breeding flock of 30 at Old Costessey on 15th Sept (AB).

During the second winter period early morning counts by AG between 7th Oct-13th Nov a total of 4,431 moving largely WNW. The highest counts were 1290 on 24th Oct in 1.75 hrs, 568 on 29th Oct in 2.75 hrs, 244 on 30th Oct in 2 hrs, 1324 on 31st Oct in 2.25 hrs and 611 on 1st Nov in 1.75 hrs. Eventually on 13th Nov the numbers had dwindled to just 6 in 1hr.

Highest counts elsewhere were 400 at Old Costessey on 31st Oct (AB), 60+ flying SW on 28th Oct, c.30 in a Lombard poplar all month with 30+ in Dec at Taverham (NS), c.1000 at Bawdeswell on 11th Nov (AJ,RG), c.80 at Hindolveston on 22nd Nov (G&AJ) and c.200 at Old Costessey on 30th Nov (AB).

Regular counts by JP at Lenwade Mill indicate a dispersal during the post breeding period.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max	Max	Max	Max	Max	Max		1	1		Max	Max
8	16	6	5	14	18					30	25

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common but declining resident. Red listed.

Despite being red listed this species remains under recorded.

Just one record of a flock of 25 at North Tuddenham on 9th Mar during first winter period.

Evidence of breeding at Lenwade Mill where on 19th Mar 2 birds were taking heads from pampas grass and flying towards the village (JP), and at Sparham Hall Farm CS recorded a male singing that was the first for 5 years at this site. At Elsing Mill 2 birds nest building on 23rd May (RG, AJ, AH, DP).

Possible post breeding flocks of 12 at North Tuddenham on 24th May increasing to 20 in July and Aug (B&BP) and 16 at Worthing on 20th Aug decreasing to 10 in Sept (DK).

During second winter period flocks of 20 at North Tuddenham on 14th Oct (B&BP), 20 at Elsing in Nov (A&CJ) and 8 at Hindolveston in Dec (G&AJ). Smaller flocks of 5-6 at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge, Taverham and Worthing.

JP counted just 3 in a 2km square at Kerdiston in Dec.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Uncommon declining resident. Red listed.

Only four records received - 5 at Doughton, near Fakenham on 5th Apr (NarVOS), 4 at Lyng on 10th May (NM), 1 at Sparham on 5th July (CS) and 1 at Kerdiston on 5th Dec.

No proof of breeding or winter flocks reported.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

Compared to 2007 an increased number of reports.

The only large flocks were 20 at Stanfield on 1st Jan (IB), 60 at Mill Farm, Great Witchingham on 14th Jan (AJ) and up to 20 coming to a garden feeder at Swannington on 1st Feb (TF).

(continues)

Brambling (continued)

Also during the first winter period reported in Jan at Great Witchingham (1), Fustyweed, Elsing (max 10 with 10 in Feb, 3-4 in Apr & until Mar 18th), Windsor Park, Dereham (1), Sculthorpe Moor (2), Worthing (1), Mill Street, Elsing (11 on 22nd until end of month), Swanton Morley (1) and Sparham Pools (1).

In Feb at Heath Road, Lenwade (4) and North Elmham (3).

In Mar at Lenwade (2), Bylaugh (1), Billingford-Bintree (6), Hindolveston (5), Morse Close, Lenwade (2) and Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes (2).

Last spring reports on 22nd Apr of 5 at Swanton Morley (DA) and 1 at Taverham (LW) a first garden record.

First second winter period record at Morse Close on 13th Oct (reported to RG by neighbour). Also in Oct at Old Costessey (2) and New Costessey (1 with 2-3 in Nov).

During Nov at Scarning (4), Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes (1), Hoe (1), Mill Street, Elsing (3), Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge (3-4 daily from 19th and through Dec), and Worthing (1). During Dec at Lenwade Mill (1) and Old Costessey (1).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident.

In first winter period 3-8 at Lenwade, Great Witchingham Common and NWT Hoe Bird Walk. Also 8-13 at Lenwade Mill and 3-10 at Sparham Pools during Jan-Mar.

In breeding/post breeding period 1 at Alderford Common in Apr (JP), 1 during NWT Hoe Bird Walk (DK) and 5 at Beetley in May when singing/breeding calls heard (RG). Max 5 adults & 4 juveniles at Lenwade Mill (JP) in June. Between Apr-Aug 3-4 at Sparham Pools (JP) and 8 declining to 2 at North Tuddenham (B&BP). Also 6 at Worthing (DK) in Aug.

(continues)

Greenfinch (continued)

In the second winter period larger flocks of 20+ at Sparham Hall Farm 5th Nov (NS), max 44 at Lenwade Mill 16th Nov (JP), 60+ at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area 24th Nov (BB/JE), 40+ at Macks Lane, Taverham 26th Nov (NS) and c.100 at Sparham Hall Farm during Nov/Dec (CS).

A max 6-12+ around garden feeder at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge during Oct-Dec (WO).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident.

During first winter period flock of 25 at Scarning Fen on 19th Jan (IB), 60 at Morse Close, Lenwade coming to garden feeders during Feb (RG) and 10 at Costessey on 12th Apr with Linnets (AB). Also 2-4 birds in Lenwade Jan-Mar, Great Witchingham Common in Feb, Fustyweed, Elsing and Worthing in Mar.

Evidence of breeding at Hindolveston when adult feeding juvenile on 14th May (JAJ), 2 pair present at Beetley on 15th May (RG) and a max of 3 adults and 3 juveniles at Lenwade Mill in June (JP).

During breeding/post breeding period 2-4 birds present at Alderford Common, Fakenham, Shereford Road, Worthing Church & village area and Lenwade, Larger flocks of 70 at Old Costessey and 60 at Longwater, Costessey (AB) during Aug.

Second winter period flock of 12 during NWT Hoe Bird Walk on 19th Oct (DK), 25 at Morse Close, Lenwade coming to garden feeders during Oct, 60+ at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area on 24th Nov (BB/JE), 50+ at Macks Lane, Taverham on 26th Nov (NS) and max15 in garden at Mill Street, Elsing during Nov (A&CJ).

Also 2-4 birds at Swanton Morley GP, Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area, Ghost Hill, Taverham and Kerdiston during this period with 8 at Great Witchingham Common in Oct and 9 in a garden at Taverham at the end of the year.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Winter visitor in varying numbers.

In Jan 40 at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham hall Farm fishing lakes area (BB/JE) and 60 in Morrison's car park, Fakenham (AH). During Feb up to 40 at Swannington (TF), 60+ coming to garden feeders at Morse Close, Lenwade (RG), max 20 at Sparham Pools (BS) and 46 at Felthorpe (P&AS). In Mar 73 were ringed in a garden at Morse Close, Lenwade and gauging by their levels of body fat were ready to migrate. Also 20 at Hoe Rough on 20th (DK).

Smaller numbers of between 1 to 6 birds in Fustyweed (Elsing), Lenwade village, Common, Mill & Heath, Costessey Marshes, Bawdeswell, Bintree Wood, Worthing, Old Costessey, Taverham, Sennowe Park, Fakenham, Dereham with max 10 at Swanton Morley during Jan – Apr.

Latest spring record of 2 at Springfield Cottage, North Tuddenham on 31st May (B&BP).

First second winter record 2 at New Costessey where 51 were counted between 1st Oct – 17th Nov (AG). Also during second winter period flocks of 40 at Sparham Pools in Oct (JP), 16 NWT Hoe Bird Walk, 17 at Worthing (IB), 40+ at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area (BB/JE), 40 at Blickling Hall Park (MS) and 50 at Lyng (NM) in Nov. During Dec up to 25+ at Sparham Pools (BB/JE; LB), c.40 Lenwade (Marriott's Way) (RG), 60+ Lenwade Fishing Lake (LB) and max 20 at New Costessey (AB).

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

*Declining resident. **Red listed.***

Large flocks reported from beginning of year to well into Apr. In Jan flock of 70 at New Costessey (AB) and between 30 – c.50 in Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area increasing to 80 -100 in Feb (JP, BB/JE, DA). In Feb 70 at Old Costessey all month but declining to 30. In Mar 43 at Worthing (DK), 30 on Marriott's Way, Costessey (AB) with a max 12 at Dereham SW (IB). In Apr 30 at Costessey (AB), 40 at New Costessey (AG) and 20 at Ringland (B&BP). (continues)

Linnet (continued)

During the breeding/post breeding period 3 at Beetley 15th May (RG), 2 in Worthing village on 2nd June (DK) and 2 noted during NWT Hoe Bird Walk (DK). 18 breeding pairs on Sparham Hall Farm (17 pair in 2007) with 150 in Aug at same site (CS).

During second winter period c.30 at Old Costessey for whole of Sept, increasing to max 80 Oct, max 40 Nov and declining to max 12 in Dec (AB). Other flocks of 40+ at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area on 9th Nov (BB/JE), 52 – 60+ at Sparham Pools 7th – 9th Dec (JP, BB/JE) and 30 at Gressenhall on 24th Dec (IB).

Between 11th Oct – 13th Nov total of 19 counted during 8 early morning observation sessions of between 1 – 2.5 hours in duration at New Costessey (AG).

Lesser Redpoll (Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret*

Scarce and declining resident and winter visitor. Amber listed.

A poor year. Just one record during first winter period of 1 at Costessey Marshes on 10th Feb (AB).

During Nov 2 recorded at New Costessey on 6th, 1 on 8th, 9th & on 13th with 5 on 18th (AG). Elsewhere a min 2 at Old Costessey on 18th Nov with Siskins (AB), 10 on Marriott's Way, Lenwade on 8th Dec, 1 noted during NWT Hoe Bird Walk on 21st Dec (DK) and 1 with small flock of 5 Siskin at Sparham Pools NR on 29th Dec (A&CJ).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Very rare resident breeder following eruptions.

Two records of this scarce valley species both in July, 2 flying over the Great Ryburgh Raptor Watchpoint on the 6th (IB) and a single bird at Lyng on the 12th (NM).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula**Declining resident. Red listed.*

Most records from the middle & lower reaches of the valley and the Dereham area that probably reflects the distribution of the observers rather than the species.

During the breeding season 1 seen in suitable breeding habitat at Beetley on 15th May, 4 adults & 17 juveniles caught in 2 ringing sessions in July at Whitwell Common (RG) and 4 young birds at Scarning on 21st July (IB).

Through the year recorded at the following sites:-

Costessey (Marriott's Way) 2-4 in Mar; Costessey Marshes 2 in Apr; Costessey SSSI 1 in Sep, 5 Oct, 4 Nov; Costessey (Shallowbrook) 4 in Nov; Old Costessey 2 in Dec.

Felthorpe 1 in Dec; Kerdiston 4 in Dec; Lenwade (Marriott's Way) 2 in Mar, 1-3 Dec; Lenwade Heath 1 in Feb; Great Witchingham 2 in Jan; Elsing Hall 1 in Jan.

Sparham Pools 2 Jan, 1-3 Feb, 1-4 Mar, 4 Apr, 1 Jun, 2 Oct, 1 Nov, 2 Dec; Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes area max4 Jan, 2 apr, 6 Aug, 2-4 Oct.

Swanton Morley 2-5 Jan – Apr; Swanton Morley GP 1 in Apr/May, 2 Oct, 6 Dec; NWT Hoe Bird Walk 2 Feb/Mar, 4 Jun, 1 Jul/Aug, 6 Sept, 4 Oct, 3 Nov, 4 Dec; Hoe-Worthing Road 2 Oct; Worthing 2 Mar, 1 Dec; Hoe Road 1 Nov; Gressenhall 3 Nov.

North Tuddenham 2 Jan; Dereham (Lolly Moor) 2 Mar; Dereham SW 5 Nov, 2 Dec, Dereham (Windsor Park) 2 Dec; Scarning 3 Aug, 5 Dec; Scarning SW 3 Sep; Longham 5 Aug.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis**Very rare winter visitor. Amber listed.*

Single bird on Sparham Hall Farm between 23rd – 27th Dec. This is the third record of this species on the farm, the previous being 3 on 25th Nov 1975 and 5 on 20th Nov 1976. (CS)

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella**Declining common resident. Red listed.*

In first winter period 11 at Scarning, 10 at Sparham Pools NR/Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes, 12 at Costessey and 20 at Bintree in Jan; 12 Mill Farm, North Tuddenham in Feb increasing to 20 in Mar; 8 at Springfield Cottage and 6 at Rush Meadow, Dereham in Mar. Elsewhere 1-4 at Hempton, Sparham Pools, Old Costessey, Worthing and Fustyweed (Elsing).

In the breeding/post breeding period 5 pair at Costessey during Apr (AB), 1 at Beetley where breeding calls heard in May (RG) and 6 pairs bred on Sparham Hall Farm compared to 12 pairs in 2007 (CS). During NWT Hoe Bird Walk 1-2 recorded Apr, May & Jul; 4-5 at Springfield Cottage, North Tuddenham in Apr/May with 2 in Jun; 2-5 at Sparham Pools in July; 2 at Worthing in Aug and 3 on Marriott's Way, Old Costessey in Sep. During second winter period highest counts of a max 9 at Old Costessey and 30 at Gressenhall in Nov. In Oct just 2 counted at New Costessey in 2.25 hours on 29th and 5 at Old Costessey all month. In Nov recorded at Little Witchingham (3), Springfield Cottage, North Tuddenham (3), Macks Lane, Taverham (2) and Dereham SW (3). In Dec 15 counted in a 2km square at Kerdiston and also recorded at Worthing (1), Sparham Pools (2) and Old Costessey (2).

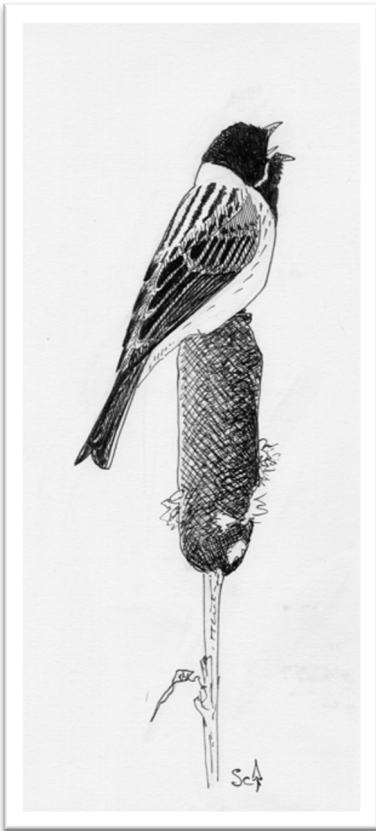
Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus**Uncommon resident. Red listed.*

During first winter period 1 – 3 birds recorded at Old Costessey, Lenwade, Mill Farm, North Tuddenham, Bylaugh SW, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley GP and Dereham.

Evidence of breeding at Costessey Marshes where 5 territories reported in Mar increasing to 6-7 in Apr (AB) and at Beetley where 4 birds singing on 15th May (RG).

(continues)

Reed Bunting (continued)



Birds also present during breeding/postbreeding period at Sparham Pools (1 Apr, 3 May, 1 Jun), Swanton Morley GP (1-4 Apr), Guist (5 Apr), NWT Hoe Bird Walk (1 Apr/May, 3 Jun), Scarning (4 May, 1-2 Jun, 3-5 Jul) and Whitwell Common (1Jul).

Largest count in second winter period was at Sparham Hall Farm where 25 present throughout Dec (CS).

Elsewhere singles at New & Old Costessey in Oct, Dereham SW in Nov and Swanton Morley GP in Dec when 3 at Sparham Pools.

Reed Bunting, by Steve Cale

Escapes

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

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

SE Europe, Asia and N Africa.

Two Swanton Morley GP on 15th Aug (BB/JE).

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

North America.

One Swanton Morley GP on 29th Nov (BB/JE).

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

SE Russia, NE China and Japan. A small feral population in Norfolk.

2 at Guist 6th and 12th Apr (IB) and 1 Swanton Morley GP 29th Nov (BB/JE) probably refer to the same 2 birds.

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Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Honey Buzzard	18 th May	WVRWP	IB	14 th Sept	Lyng	NM
Hobby	15 th Apr	Guist Bridge	BB/JE	28 th Sept	Lyng	NM
Little Ringed Plover	21 st Apr	Beetley	RG			
Common Tern	1 st Apr	Lyng GP	CS	21 st Aug	Lyng	BS
Turtle Dove	27 th Apr	Reepham	NM	16 th Aug	Worthing	DK
Cuckoo	22 nd Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS, NS	1 st June	Lenwade Mill	JP
Swift	26 th Apr	Swanton Morley GP	DA, IB	20 th Aug	Lyng Guist Bridge	BB/JE RG
Sand Martin	24 th Mar	Swanton Morley GP	DA, B&BP	17 th Aug	HBW	DK
Barn Swallow	29 th Mar	New Costessey	AG	11 th Oct	New Costessey	AG
House Martin	7 th Apr	Sparham Pools	BB/JE	4 th Oct	Norfolk Showground	NS
Nightingale	11 th Apr	Swanton Morley GP	LB,CA			
Sedge Warbler	7 th Apr	Sparham Pools	BB/JE	24 th Aug	Guist Common	B&BP
Reed Warbler	17 th Apr	Costessey Marshes	AB	27 th Aug	Guist Common	RG
Lesser Whitethroat	22 nd Apr	Swanton Morley GP	BB/JE	14 th Aug	Worthing	DK
Common Whitethroat	21 st Apr	Sparham Pools	BB/JE	21 st Sept	HBW	DK
Garden Warbler	20 th Apr	Alderford Common, Lenwade	JP NM	16 th Aug	Sparham Pools	JP
Blackcap	29 th Mar	Sparham Pools	BB/JE JP	5 th Oct	Lenwade Common	JP
Chiffchaff	8 th Mar	Swanton Morley GP	DA	2 nd Oct	Sparham Pools	JP
Willow Warbler	26 th Mar	Costessey Marshes	AB	27 th Sept	Costessey Marshes	AB
Spotted Flycatcher	15 th May	Worthing	B&BP	19 th Sept	Old Costessey	AB

Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors

Species	Latest	Location	Obs.	Earliest	Location	Obs.
Goosander	25 th Mar			23 rd Oct	Sparham Pools	
Golden Plover	5 th Apr	Tatterford	NarVOS	17 th Aug	N Tuddenham	B&BP
Fieldfare	22 nd Apr	Taverham	NM	17 th Oct	New Costessey	AG
Redwing	20 th Apr	HBW, Lenwade	DK NM	1 st Oct	Hoe	DK
Brambling	22 nd Apr	Taverham Swanton Morley	LW DA	13 th Oct	Lenwade	RG
Siskin	31 st May	North Tuddenham	B&BP	1 st Oct	New Costessey	AG

Locations and their Grid References

Site	Grid ref.	Site	Grid ref.
Alderford Common	TG1218	Etling Green	TG0012
Attlebridge	TG1216	Fakenham	TF9228
Badley Moor, Dereham	TG0212	Felthorpe	TG1618
Bawdeswell	TG0402	Foxley	TG0220
Beetley GP	TG9818	Fustyweed, Elsing	TG0418
Billingford	TG0020	Gateley	TF9624
Billingford Common	TG0018	Great Ryburgh	TF9426
Billingford Pits	TG0018	Great Ryburgh Raptor Watchpoint	TF9624
Bintree Mill	TF9824	Great Witchingham Wildlife Centre	TG0818
Bintree Wood	TG0020	Gressenhall	TF9616
Bittering	TF9216	Guist	TF9824
Broom Green	TF9824	Guist Common	TF9824
Bridge Lake, Lenwade	TG1018	Hindelveston	TG0228
Briston	TG0632	Hempton Marsh	TF9028
Bylaugh	TG0218	Hockering	TG0612
Bylaugh Hall	TG0218	Hall Farm, Attlebridge	TG1214
Bylaugh Marshes	TG0218	Hoe	TF9816
Bylaugh Sewage Works	TG0218	Hoe Common	TF9816
Cadders Hill, Lyng	TG0616	Horningtoft	TF9222
Clippings Green, Mattishall	TG0412	Kettlestone	TF9630
Costessey	TG1610	Lenwade Common	TG0818
Costessey Mill	TG1612	Lenwade	TG0818
Costessey Pits	TG1612	Lenwade Bridge	TG1018
Coxford	TF8428	Little Ryburgh	TF9628
Coxford Heath	TF8230	Little Snoring	TF3294
Drayton	TG1812	Longham	TF9414
Dunton	TF8830	Lyng	TG0616
East Barsham	TF3234	Lyng Easthaugh	TG0818
Eastgate, Cawston	TG1422	Manor Farm, Great Witchingham	TG1020
Easton College	TG1210	Marsham Heath	TG1622
East Rudham	TF8226	Marriot's Way, Lenwade	TG1018
Elsing	TG0416	Mattishall Burgh	TG0410
Elsing Mill	TG0416	Mileham	TF9018

Site	Grid ref.	Site	Grid ref.
Mill Street, Elsing	TG0416	Swanton Morley	TG0016
Mill Farm, Great Witchingham	TG0820	Swanton Morley GP	TG0018
Morton-on-the Hill	TG1612	Santon Novers Raptor Watchpoint	TG0030
New Costessey	TG1810	Taverham	TG1614
North Elmham	TF9820	Themelthorpe	TG0422
North Tuddenham	TG0214	Thorpe Marriot	TG1614
Old Costessey	TG1610	Three Bridges Farm, Elsing	TG0418
Pensthorpe	TF9428	Twyford	TG0024
Pockthorpe	TG0618	Union Farm, Gressenhall	TF9616
Pudding Norton	TF2692	Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng Easthaugh	TG0816
Ringland	TG1412	Wendling	TF9212
Ringland Common	TG1212	Wensum Valley Golf Club	TG1412
Roosting Hills, Beetley	TF9816	West Raynham	TF8624
Sennowe Park, Guist	TF9824	Weston Green	TG1014
Sculthorpe Airfield	TF8630	Weston Longville	TG1016
Sculthorpe Fen	TF9828/ 30	Whissonsett	TF9422
Sculthorpe Mill	TF8830	Whitwell	TG0820
South Raynham	TF8624	Whitwell Common	TG0820
Sparham Hall Farm	TG0618	Worthing	TF9818
Sparham Holes	TG0418	Worthing Church	TF9818
Sparham Pools NR	TG0616	Worthing GP	TF9818

WVBS Ringing Report for 2008 - 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 1 in 400 for Willow Warbler.

A total of 2,476 birds of 47 species were ringed in the WVBS study area during 2008. The most ringed species was Blue Tit with 262, followed by Swallow with 238, and Siskin with 184 (it was a remarkable year throughout Norfolk for ringed Siskin numbers). The total of 18 Kingfishers was also noteworthy, although at the other end of the scale only three Spotted Flycatchers and a single Willow Tit were ringed, reflecting the tough times that these two species are having.

The highlights amongst the recoveries were the Sand Martins, with a bird caught that had been ringed in Spain and a WVBS bird that was re-trapped in France. Finally, thanks to the ringers that operated in the WVBS study area during 2008 for access to their records.

Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2008

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

Age when ringed

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

M = male

F = female

J = distinctive juvenile plumage

Condition at Recovery

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

Sand Martin

3	24.08.03	Las Minas, Madrid, Spain
R	27.06.05	Beetley, Dereham (1,429km S)

This bird was on autumn migration when trapped near Madrid. As can be seen from the dates, it takes a long time to get information out of the Spanish ringing scheme!

3	15.06.08	Lyng Easthaugh
R	26.08.08	Etang de la Horre, Aube, France (533km SE)

This bird was intercepted by a French ringer as it was on migration towards its winter quarters in the Sahel region of West Africa, south of the Sahara Desert.

4	17.06.06	U.E.A., Norwich
R	04.07.08	Lyng Easthaugh (15km NW)

Somewhat surprising that this bird was caught at the U.E.A in a reedbed roost. Mid June is very early for Sand Martins to form communal roosts, especially with adult birds. Normally both adult and juvenile Sand Martins return to their nest holes to roost at this stage of the breeding season. Sand Martins are known to change colonies from year to year, and there were four examples of this concerning the colony at Beetley. Three of the Beetley-ringed birds turned up at Lyng Easthaugh, whilst another moved to East Winch (near King's Lynn). Additionally a Lyng Easthaugh bird also moved to East Winch and a Sheringham bird moved to Lyng Easthaugh.

House Martin

- 3 22.09.07 Dungeness, Kent
 R 26.06.08 Shereford, Fakenham (212km N)

Only 1 in 250 ringed House Martins are ever heard of again so all information is valuable. Interestingly the equivalent figure for Sand Martins (which are easier to catch!) is better than 1 in 60.

Swallow

- 3 06.08.08 Weybourne, Sheringham
 R 06.08.08 Guist Common (25km SW)

A juvenile ringed on the North Norfolk Coast at 2.15pm and caught coming in to roost at Guist Common at 8.50pm the same day!

- 3J 07.08.07 Boughton Fen, Stoke Ferry
 R 17.08.07 Guist Common (37km NE)

Only 10 days between the two captures, this bird was at a reedbed roost on both occasions. Not only that, but the same two ringers were involved on each occasion.

Sedge Warbler

- 3J 11.08.07 Guist Common
 R 25.08.07 Orfordness, Suffolk (89km SE)

This bird was on its autumn migration to Africa – the dates giving an indication of the departure date.

Reed Warbler

Only a very local movement, but an adult ringed at Pensthorpe 08.08.07 was re-trapped at Guist (5km distant) a year later to the day!

Chiffchaff

- 3 14.07.08 Kettlestone, Fakenham
 R 08.08.08 Guist Common (6km ESE)

A typical example of post-juvenile dispersal

Goldfinch

3F 29.12.04 Pittswood, Tonbridge, Kent
 R 28.02.08 Lenwade (174km N)

The winter habits of Goldfinches appear to be changing. This bird was wintering in the U.K., as many Goldfinches now seem to do. Previously, most would have been expected to move south to Iberia. Perhaps this is connected with climate change.

Greenfinch

5F 29.01.08 Lenwade
 X 17.07.08 North Walsham (23km NE)

A typical local movement. This Greenfinch, like many others, was taken by a cat.

Siskin

5M 13.02.08 Mill Street, Elsing
 R 10.04.08 Boyton, Suffolk (76km SSE)

5M 26.03.08 Kettlestone, Fakenham
 R 08.04.08 Lenwade (18km SE)

2008 was an excellent year for Siskin ringers. A pair of local movements are shown, but more returns are expected from this spring's efforts with the passage of time.

WVBS ringing totals for 2008

Marsh Harrier	3		Goldcrest	14
Sparrowhawk	1		Spotted Flycatcher	3
Common Tern	16		Long-tailed Tit	91
Woodpigeon	3		Coal Tit	41
Collared Dove	1		Marsh Tit	7
Barn Owl	24		Willow Tit	1
Kingfishers	18		Blue Tit	262
Green Woodpecker	1		Great Tit	161
Great Spotted Woodpecker	8		Nuthatch	1
Sand Martin	157		Treecreeper	10
Swallow	238		Jay	4
Pied Wagtail	20		Jackdaw	12
Wren	73		Rook	1
Duncock	53		Starling	9
Robin	83		House Sparrow	7
Blackbird	83		Chaffinch	118
SongThrush	8		Brambling	10
Sedge Warbler	25		Goldfinch	113
Reed Warbler	66		Siskin	184
Whitethroat	25		Linnet	2
Garden Warbler	5		Bullfinch	25
Blackcap	71		Yellowhammer	25
Chiffchaff	113		Reed Bunting	15
Willow Warbler	24		Total	2,476

Bird Atlas 2007-11: the Wensum Valley area

The British Trust for Ornithology, Bird Watch Ireland and the Scottish Ornithological Club have joined forces to deliver a third Bird Atlas, following those in 1968 and 1988-1991. There was also an Atlas of wintering birds in 1983.

Atlases deliver an insight into the prevalence and ranges of bird species, and show changes in the ranges and abundance over time. They provide the casual birder an indication of what might be seen in an area. For scientists and conservationists they provide data to help understand the processes of bird communities and benchmark changes that may be indicative of wider environmental issues.

The Atlas is primarily carried out by volunteers who count birds in particular areas in two ways.

First there is the Timed Tetrad Visit (TTVs), in which the volunteer walks round a 2km x 2km grid square of land, visiting as much of the different types of habitat possible, and counting all the birds seen and heard. This helps particularly to provide data on the abundance of species. TTVs are carried out twice in the winter season, (Nov-Dec and Jan-Feb) and twice in the breeding season (March-April and May-July).

Secondly, Roving Records can be made by anyone visiting any area, and these are particularly valuable to record less common species that may be missed on a TTV, and more secretive, or nocturnal species, and particularly to record whether there is evidence of breeding (although this is also noted on TTVs).

In addition, all those birders who record on the BTO Birdtrack system have their records contributed to the Atlas, and all those volunteers in other surveys, such as the Breeding Bird Survey, have their records incorporated into the Atlas too. All records are allocated as far as possible either to a tetrad (2km by 2km square) or to the 10km square they are recorded in, using the National Grid reference system.

The Wensum Valley is fully covered by eight 10 km squares, TF 81, 82, 91, 92 and TG 01, 02, 11, 12, and also includes the southern parts of TF 83, 93, and TG 03 and 13.

At the end of 2008, the first full season of TTVs had taken place, plus the first winter visit. Volunteers had committed to the second breeding season as well. In the remaining 2 years of the Atlas, only 25% of tetrads remain to be surveyed in the Wensum Valley area, with more availability in the east (TG squares) than in the west, as shown in the table below:

TF squares	Done	Remain	TG squares	Done	Remain
81	21	4	01	16	9
82	21	4	02	14	11
83	10	0	03	8	2
91	17	8	11	16	9
92	20	5	12	16	9
93	10	0	13	8	2

An additional small area of the Valley, close to Norwich, is recorded in tetrad TG21A; some smaller areas still are less than tetrad or only parts of a tetrad.

A total of 161 species of birds have been recorded so far in the 10km squares (excluding the partial ones). They reveal some interesting variations, many of which can be linked to specific habitats.

There are twenty-five species which are recorded in every square in both seasons; this includes House Sparrow, Starling, Goldcrest, Collared Dove and Green Woodpecker. All 25 are recorded as definite breeders, although Green Woodpecker and Pheasant are only recorded as with recently fledged/downy young, rather than more definite nesting evidence.

A further seven species were recorded in all areas except TG21A in both seasons, and TG21A only in one of the two seasons: Sparrowhawk, Black-headed Gull, Stock Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Pied/White Wagtail, Linnets and Bullfinch.

Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Mallard, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge, Grey Heron, Kestrel, Moorhen, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Marsh Tit, Treecreeper, Rook and Yellowhammer were seen in all seasons

everywhere except TG21A and Feral Pigeon in all seasons in all squares except TF81.

At the other end of the scale, 34 species were recorded in only one season in one 10 km square. These were; Berwick's and Whooper Swan, White-fronted, Snow and Brent Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Mandarin Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Eider and Scaup, Quail, Great Northern Diver, Crane, Avocet, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Knot, Whimbrel, Rock Dove, Long-eared Owl, Nightjar (probably including a record from a WBS outing to Marsham Heath), Waxwing, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Wood Warbler, Bearded Tit, Common Redpoll (Mealy), Common Crossbill, Snow Bunting, Corn Bunting, Muscovy Duck, Indian Peafowl and Reeve's Pheasant.

Recorded in two squares were Goldeneye, Golden Pheasant, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Jack Snipe, Woodlark, Stonechat, Nightingale, Cetti's Warbler, and a Carrion/Hooded Crow hybrid. Helmeted Guineafowl was also recorded in TG12 in both winter and breeding seasons.

Recorded in three squares were Goosander, Peregrine, Water Rail, Little Ringed Plover, Curlew, Common Sandpiper, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Lesser Redpoll. The only one of these lesser recorded species for which there is a breeding record is Little Ringed Plover, probably thanks to the exposure from BBC Springwatch from Pensthorpe. Evidence of breeding includes adults carrying food or faecal sac so records submitted to one of the BTO online schemes that have these sightings included are very valuable.

If you are interested in contributing to the Bird Atlas through Roving Records, or to volunteer for a tetrad and do four TTVs over the two seasons (a nice two-hour walk in interesting countryside) contact the BTO or email birdatlas@bto.org.

For more details go to www.bto.org/atlas.

Jacky Pett

Birds in Boxes

Having bird boxes in our garden has been a bit of a passion for us. As we have lived at our present address for over 40 years, we have lots of memories of successful breeding and also of some failures. In 2006 it was decided to try a new type of box, so plans were drawn-up and building began and a House Martin terrace was installed on the house gable-end.

No luck with the summer visitors in 2006, but in spring 2007 our partly built nests attracted our first Martin's nest. After a long struggle to get the nest completed (due to bad weather and a leaking roof) they finally raised and fledged their brood. Over the winter months the "builders" doubled the size of the terrace to 8 "nests". So with great expectation we waited for their possible return the next spring.

On the 27th April 2008, they returned, with company, and over the next 4-5 weeks all 8 nests were nearing completion but after much interference from the House Sparrows, trying to take over, they finally settled down to 5 nests.

Wet weather struck again and part nest and eggs ended up on the ground. Quick repairs to the roof by the resident builder soon cured the problem and eggs are re-laid. It was not long before 10 parents were feeding young. Another 2 weeks and small heads are visible at the entrances. It is soon apparent that House Martins are very sociable and their constant chattering is a joy to listen to.

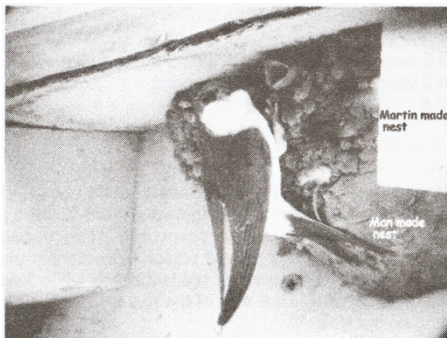
But a few days later, more trouble! A youngster is found on the ground having fallen from the nest during the night. On its back and close to death from cold, it's rushed indoors to be revived with "blankets and water bottle". Well, laying on kitchen roll on a saucer over a basin of warm water actually!

But just 20 minutes later all seems ok and the ladder is hastily erected to return the chick to its nest. But which nest shall we push him into? Measurements and calculations are made and nests 1, 2 or 3 could be his home. Very reluctant to be pushed into number 1, he is nearly happy with 2 and disappears from my hand. Two days later another bird needs

to be reunited with its nest and the ladder is erected again. Just out of puff, so this one is easily picked up and we start up the ladder together. Half way up the ladder his livestock take a liking to my arm and forty fleas disappear up my shirtsleeve. At the top of the ladder again, nest 1 is not acceptable, nor 2, and as I am leaning towards nest 3 my grip slackens and he slips from my grasp and flies off into the sunset! Next day we are watching again and another youngster fail to make it home, he falters and falls ground wards, but recovers only to fly straight in the open back door and lands on the window sill! He is easily captured and launched back into the air and this time only 20 fleas made it up my shirtsleeve!

Now 25+ birds are in the air and every one seem happy. Only 1 pair lays a second clutch which finally fledge on the 22nd September. Three days later we see our last House Martin for the season. Time to relax and look forward to hopefully another eventful summer in 2009 but in the meantime will we have to build more nests? Perhaps it is best to wait and see how many make it back after all it's a long and often hazardous journey for our very own North Tuddenham House Martins!

Barry & Bridget Pummell



Common Terns at Sparham Pools 2008

Background

Common Terns have bred on an island at NWT Sparham Pools reserve for many years. Their success on this island has varied markedly due to the varied level of vegetation on the island - despite the considerable efforts to keep it clear by the voluntary warden, Alwyn Jackson, with a band of helpers. Common Terns need a clean shingle "beach" to nest on.

In 2005 Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society (WVBS) were delighted to be offered up to £4,000 sponsorship, as part of Jordans Cereals 150th Anniversary, for a "wetland project" in the mid - lower Wensum Valley. This came at a time when the terns at Sparham had experienced 2 years of breeding failure so it was decided to purchase a tern raft and a boat to service the raft and use for other essential conservation work in the Valley ready for the 2006 breeding season.

The raft was positioned on a nearby lake and was an instant success with 5 pairs nesting in 2006 but this was followed by disaster in 2007 when the raft was flooded and sank during heavy rain.

During the winter 2007/8 AJ & his team cleared the island, laid down a membrane in the centre to prevent weeds penetrating it, then covering it with shingle. This area was then roped off in an attempt to prevent geese fouling it.

2008

Both the raft and the island were visited on 3 separate occasions to monitor breeding success.

5th June

Island - This had 10 nests. 6 with 3 eggs, 3 with 2 eggs and 1 with 2 young + 1 egg. Plus there were 2 young that could not be attributed to any nest as they had wandered, and a single egg, which was not in a nest.

Av clutch size 3.0.

4 young were ringed

Surprisingly 80% of the nests were not in the open but either very close to or actually just into the surrounding vegetation. Presumably when they started nesting there was very little vegetation.

Raft - This had 6 nests. 3 with 3 eggs, 1 with 2 eggs, 1 with 1 egg but 2 just out of it plus a nest with 2 young and a "wandering" young.

Av clutch size 2.8

3 young ringed

14th June

Island - There was still 1 nest with 1 egg, 2 nests with 2 eggs and one with 3 eggs. Potentially there should have been 21 youngsters but only 2 were found - one of the previously ringed young and a single new chick. The vegetation around the membrane area was 0.5 metres high and riddled with tunnels about 100mm wide. There had obviously been a high level of predation and while far from proven Otter had to be a prime suspect due to the size of the tunnels and the fact that 3 had been recorded regularly on the lake.

Raft - This was more encouraging with 1 nest with 2 eggs & another with 1. 2 of the 3 ringed chicks were still alive and a further 8 were present & ringed.

16th July

Island - There were no unfledged young on the island but 3 young and 5 adults were flying in the vicinity. These could have come from either the island or the raft or even elsewhere in the valley. There was 1 recently fledged young on the tiny island. As this bird was unringed it may well have come from the island escaping predation and we missed it on our previous visit. The clear area was surrounded by vegetation going to seed with the risk that this will form a huge seed bank both around the edge of the membrane area and on it leading to additional management issues for 2009.

Raft - A similar situation with no chicks on the raft but a single fledged young and 2 adults were nearby. There was 1 dead chick in the water near the raft and this had been ringed on 14th June.

Conclusions

The island seems to have suffered badly from predation with a maximum of 10, one third of the potential birds, fledging. The raft fared better with probably 10 of the potential 17 birds fledging.

The Future

Further work will be done on the island to clear weeds and hopefully find a solution to the predation problem.

The raft is to be returned to its manufacturer for repair to ensure no further problems like those experienced in 2007 will occur again.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Charles Sayer (landowner) for permission to ring the Common Terns; Alwyn Jackson & Allan Hale for their direct help with the ringing and to all the helpers who have assisted with the management of the raft & the island.

Ray Gribble

NOA Hempton Marsh Reserve Summary for 2008

With the reserve open to visitors from 31st March 2007, Hempton had already seen a dramatic increase in the amount of data collected at the reserve, but in 2008 the official opening and the calendar of events stimulated even greater interest in the reserve and its wildlife. Eight scheduled events took place at the reserve during the year and these consisted of the Grand Opening, 2 wild flower walks, 2 moth days, 1 ringing demonstration, 1 insect walk and a fungal foray. All these events were very successful with only one insect walk cancelled owing to weather conditions. Particular thanks should go to Robin Parker for his efforts in effective local advertising for each individual event, and to all those members and visitors who came to the events which took place.

The majority of the data collected was the product of the hard work of our volunteers during the year, who have attended in all seasons and weathers, and recorded everything from rats and frogs to bumble bees. In 2008 a total of 22,806 biological records were produced in 223 days of observations. Of these 21,859 were birds, 621 were mammals, reptiles and fish, and 326 were insects. As this is an unprecedented level of effort, it is difficult to draw too many comparative conclusions with other years, but there is still much of interest that has been discovered.

Birds at Hempton

Bird sightings were very consistent during the year and it is clear that, as might be expected, many species at Hempton are year-round residents. Species such as Woodpigeon and Jackdaw were among the most numerous, because they were present in good numbers every day regardless of season or conditions. Many species were recorded either in one hide log book or the other but not both; for example Grey Heron and Barn Owl were regularly seen from the marsh hide, but understandably not recorded in the wood! Some species, however, were most frequently seen at the meander and it is unlikely that we would have recorded Teal or Little Grebe without this special feature. It is still possible that some records were duplicated when the same birds were seen from the two different hides on the same day, but for the purposes of this report this has no significant effect on the results.

Waterbirds are fairly well represented at the reserve with Mute Swan, Greylag Goose and Mallard recorded all throughout the year. Teal are recorded

in the first quarter of 2008 and Pink-footed Geese are recorded from mid-autumn through the winter. Tufted Duck is seen occasionally and the records occur in April and May. This might suggest exploring for next sites or even attempted breeding nearby. Grey Herons use the marsh almost daily. Little Egrets are seen less frequently but there are 11 records for April 2008. The data suggests that they are not resident on the marsh. Little Grebe is recorded in small numbers but seems to occur for most of the year, and again local breeding is possible. Kingfisher was recorded in most months but not between January and March, and monthly counts did not exceed four (October). Both Red-legged and Grey Partridges were observed but both species, and Grey in particular, seem to be scarce. It was encouraging to see records of roding Woodcock in 2008. The most unusual wader records nevertheless were of two Green Sandpipers on the scrape on 12th August, presumably early autumn migrants. Not strictly a waterbird, 3 Grey Wagtails were nevertheless a significant find on the 22nd August.

One noticeable change at the reserve is the relative increase in the number of raptors, with regular sightings of birds of prey such as Marsh Harrier and Sparrowhawk, but also a number of Buzzard records, and three records of Goshawk on the 8th and 24th April and 28th October 2008. Peregrine was recorded on the 21st October and a female Merlin was seen on the 30th May. There is no doubt that the area is increasingly attractive for raptors, not least because of the work of the Hawk and Owl Trust nearby at Sculthorpe Moor reserve.

Summer visitors at Hempton included Sedge and Reed Warbler, Garden Warbler (June 3rd), regular reports of Cuckoo, and Swifts, Swallows and House Martins were recorded when wet weather brought them down low over the trees. Staying overnight at the reserve for moth nights produced some interesting records too, with roding Woodcock and glow-worm interesting summer additions.

The presence of Jays at Hempton seems to be a year-round feature with between 9 and 23 records for the species in any given month. Breeding has been recorded on the reserve in the past and the number of records could suggest that this is an annual occurrence. Further monitoring is needed to establish the status of Jays at Hempton.

The feeding station continued to attract the usual members of the tit family, with Blue and particularly Great Tit abundant at the site. Both Marsh and Willow

Tit were consistently recorded at Hempton and this continues to be reinforced by ringing data. Later in the year the reserve again attracted a good variety of finches. Large numbers of Siskins were present early in 2008 with 160 recorded in January and 110 in December. It appears that 2008 has been another irruption year for Siskins and that they continue to be attracted to both the natural food in the alder trees and the feeding station at Hempton.

Bramblings were recorded between 24th and 27th January 2008 with 6 records, and a single Redpoll was recorded on the 27th December. Bullfinches were not regularly recorded but 2 were seen on 23rd October with singles recorded in May, June, September and October. Greenfinches are surprisingly scarce with only 4 records, 2 on May 23rd, and singles on the 5th July and 22nd August.

Reed Bunting is a species that might be expected to occur at Hempton fairly frequently, but in 2008 only 1 record was made on the 29th April. A single Crossbill flew over calling on the 5th July, and this is not the only record of this species flying over at Hempton, with one also recorded on the 22nd March 2005. This could be coincidental, or it could be that Hempton is on a flight path, either between Crossbill feeding sites, or along a migration route.

Insects at Hempton

Insect records were again only casual observations in 2008 as opposed to the butterfly and dragonfly transect completed by Adrian Riley prior to 2007. Recording from the hides was inevitably fairly sporadic and gives us little information about insects using the marsh itself. However it does tell us what our visitors can see in terms of insects on the reserve.

A single Bumble Bee was recorded on the 23rd of February, but there are no butterfly records prior to the 3rd of April, probably owing to the very cold weather in March which may well have set back the appearance of some early species. There are 15 butterfly and 14 bumble bee records for April, with Peacock (*Inachis io*) and Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) the most numerous. Orange Tip went on to be by far the most abundant butterfly in May too, with 16 records during the month. Damselfly records began to appear in May also, with Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) and Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigera*) most commonly recorded. There were also two records of Common Darter dragonfly (*Sympetrum striolatum*).

In June Speckled Wood was the most numerous butterfly this year, with 8 records from just 19 butterfly records during the month. This was perhaps an indication of the cold and wet weather which plagued us for much of the summer. However there were 27 dragon and damselflies recorded, with Common Blue Damselfly and Banded Demoiselle the most commonly recorded insects. There were also records of Broad-bodied chaser (*Libellula depressa*), Four-spotted Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*) and Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*) during June, although the numbers were small.

In July the number of butterfly records increased dramatically with 68 records of 14 species. Perhaps surprisingly, given the relative location of the boardwalk and hides where the records were made, Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) was most recorded in July. (It should be pointed out that none of the July records were number specific, with sightings given in terms of species only).

There were 33 dragon and damselfly records in July, all of species previously discussed. The vast majority were of Banded Demoiselle and Common Blue Damselfly.

It was in July that a sharp increase in the numbers of recorded insects was noted at Holme, but the moth night at Hempton on the 26th July was also very productive with over 800 moths recorded. These included a number of species not regularly trapped at Holme such as Large Emerald (*Geometra papilionaria*), Rosy Footman (*Mittochrista miniata*), Blue Bordered Carpet (*Plemyria rubiginata*), Gothic (*Naenia typica*), Small Phoenix (*Ecliptopera silaceata*), Minor Shoulder-knot (*Brachylomia viminalis*) and many others. Although many of the common moths were significantly undercounted, Mother of Pearl was the most abundant by a considerable margin with 79 individuals recorded from the two traps. The two moth days run at Hempton were the first moth trapping recorded on the site by the NOA, so it will take some years yet to find out what the norm for the site really is. The discovery of Glow-worms on the site the evening of the 4th July was a fortunate consequence of the preparations for the moth day on the 5th.

In August Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*) and Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) were the two most regularly recorded butterflies, with the number of records for the month standing at 47. Only 16 dragon and damselfly records were made, this time Common Darter was the most frequently seen, with five sightings.

Butterfly records drop off dramatically in September, with only Peacock, Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) and Speckled Wood recorded, and in October Red Admiral, Large White and Comma (*Polygonia c-album*) are the three species seen. There are no butterfly records after October 27th. Four Common Darters are recorded on November 14th, and these are the latest of the records.

Mammals at Hempton

Mammal records in 2008 included over 600 records of 13 species. Many visitors to the reserve will remember 2008 for the rat numbers at Hempton, with 128 records made during June 2008. However there have been many other less obtrusive species recorded on the reserve. Munjac Deer, Grey Squirrel and Brown Rat were the three species recorded in every month. Hares were present between winter and spring, but not recorded after April. Roe Deer were seen in small numbers, and virtually absent between June and October. Water Voles were seen between April and December but not in the first three months of the year. We have been very encouraged by the frequent sightings of this species; one which sites like Hempton can serve to help protect. Finally Otter has been recorded on one occasion in March, something that the NOA is keen to build on in the future.

Sophie Barker
NOA Assistant Warden

2008 Monthly Weather Summary

JANUARY

This was the fourth warmest January for England in the Areal series back to 1914. Mean temperatures ranged from 1°C above average across areas of Northern Scotland to over 3°C above across the Midlands and East Anglia. Rainfall mostly well above average with parts of North England and Southern Scotland having over 250% more than average. Sunshine mostly below average across western areas of the UK and above across some S. Eastern areas of the UK.

Preston Wynne (Herefordshire) recorded a maximum temp. of 15.2°C on 20th. Braemar (Aberdeenshire) recorded a minimum temp. of -11.3°C on the 12th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	8.1°C	2.5°C	5.3°C	39.8 hrs	189.6 mm
E. Anglia	9.7°C	3.7°C	6.7°C	56.7 hrs	70.8 mm
E. Anglia Average 1961-1990	6.2°C	0.7°C	3.4°C	52.5 hrs	51.3 mm

FEBRUARY

Mean temperature 1.5°C to 2.5°C above average across the UK. Maximum temperature over 3.5°C above average across parts of Eastern Scotland. The UK sunshine levels generally well above average with England and Wales having their sunniest February in the areal series back to 1929. Minimum temperatures did get slightly below average across parts of England and Wales. Rainfall generally below average across the UK but in North West Scotland some areas recording over 200% average rainfall, well above average.

Trawsgoed (Ceredigion) recorded a maximum temperature of 18°C on the 12th. Copley (County Durham) recorded a minimum temperature of -10.7°C on the 20th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	8.9°C	1.0°C	4.9°C	102.8 hrs	82.3 mm
E. Anglia	9.8°C	0.8°C	5.4°C	122.6 hrs	18.7 mm
1961-90	6.5°C	0.6°C	3.5°C	67.9 hrs	37.0 mm

MARCH

Mean temperatures generally close to average across northern half of the UK. But slightly above average across southern half of the UK. Rainfall above average and well above average across areas of East Anglia and S.E. England. The wettest March over England since 1981, wettest over Scotland and the UK since 1994 and the 6th wettest in the series back to 1914 for Northern Ireland. Sunshine generally above average across most areas, maybe closer to or slightly lower across S.E. England.

Wiggonholt (Sussex) recorded a maximum temperature of 15.8°C on the 15th. Braemar (Aberdeenshire) recorded a minimum of -11.4°C on the 26th. An area of snowfall gave 5-10 cm across some eastern areas of England on Easter Sunday

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	8.5°C	1.8°C	5.1°C	116.6 hrs	122.5 mm
E. Anglia	9.7°C	2.8°C	6.3°C	110.6 hrs	83.1 mm
1961-90	9.3°C	1.9°C	5.6°C	107.0 hrs	45.9 mm

APRIL

The mean temperature was close to average across the whole UK. England Wales and the UK all had their coldest April since 2001. Rainfall generally above average across parts of Eastern Scotland and N.E. England, but fell below average for most of Northern Ireland. Sunshine mostly above average but below across parts of northern England and southern Scotland.

A band of snow pushed through the Midlands and South-east on the 6th closing Heathrow airport for a time. Hull recorded a maximum temperature of 23°C on the 26th. Blencathra (Cumbria) recorded a minimum of -7.7°C. Weybourne (Norfolk) saw a maximum of 22.0°C on the 26th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	11.1°C	3.1°C	7.1°C	155.3 hrs	76.2 mm
E. Anglia	12.9°C	3.8°C	8.3°C	164.5 hrs	45.7 mm
1961-90	12.0°C	3.7°C	7.8°C	143.6 hrs	45.7 mm

MAY

Mean temperatures generally 2-3 °c above average but in Eastern parts of Scotland and N.E England it only managed 1-2°c above average. The warmest May in the series back to 1914 for the whole of the UK. Rainfall well above average across southern areas of England and Wales but below average across central and northern areas of the UK. Sunshine going from slightly below average across south western areas to well above average across northern areas of Scotland.

On the 11th great Malvern (Worcestershire) recorded a maximum temperature of 27.5°c. kin brace (Highlands) recorded a low of -6.2°c on the 19th. Manston (Kent) recorded rainfall of 121.4 mm during a 4 day period between 24th and 27th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	16.8°c	7.6°c	12.2°c	201.7 hrs	47.9 mm
E. Anglia	18.3°c	8.5°c	13.4°c	205.5 hrs	68.2 mm
1961-90	15.9°c	6.6°c	11.2°c	194.5 hrs	47.0 mm

JUNE

In terms of mean temperature it was the coolest June since 2001 for the UK. Maximum, minimum and mean temperatures right across the UK were close to average for the month. Rainfall generally close to average or above average across most of the UK. Except some southern and central areas where it was a bit below. Sunshine duration close to averages over much of the UK. Except the south-west which saw above average sunshine.

St. James Park in London recorded a maximum of 26.9°c on the 9th. Tulloch Bridge (Highlands) recorded a minimum temp. of -2.3° on the 24th. Capel Curig (Conway) recorded 94 mm of rain in 48 hrs on the 18/19th.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	17.3°c	8.7°c	12.9°c	179.8 hrs	78.5 mm
E. Anglia	19.5°c	10.2°c	14.8°c	199.5 hrs	43.1mm
1961-90	19.1°c	9.4°c	14.2°c	195.2 hrs	51.2 mm

JULY

Mean temperatures ranged from close to average across S.W. England and S. Wales to over 1°C above average across Scotland. Rainfall in East Anglia was close to average, the rest of England, Wales and Northern Ireland were mostly above or well above average. N.W. Scotland averaged below normal whilst the S.E. of Scotland was above average. Sunshine levels were generally close to average right across the U.K

On the 28th a temperature of 30.2°C was recorded at Cambridge NIAB (Cambridgeshire). Katebridge (County Down) recorded a minimum temperature of 0.8°C on the 13th. 59mm of rain was recorded in a 24hr period at Pershore College (Worcestershire), during the same period a 1 hour total of 28.8mm was recorded.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	19.4°C	11.3°C	15.3°C	166.6 hrs	108.1 mm
E. Anglia	22.1°C	12.2°C	17.2°C	214.2 hrs	54.5 mm
1961-90	21.1°C	11.4°C	16.4°C	189.2 hrs	50.6 mm

AUGUST

This was a very wet month across much of the U.K. with widespread flooding reported in Northern Ireland and parts of Eastern Scotland. Northern Ireland had its wettest August in a series back to 1914.

Daily maximum temperature ranged from about 1°C below average across S.W. areas to about 1°C above across some eastern coastal areas of England. Average daily minimum temperature were generally 1-2°C above average across the U.K. August was also an exceptionally dull month over much of the U.K. with only the far north of Scotland getting above average sunshine.

A new underpass on the M1 motorway in Belfast was flooded with 20 million gallons of water on the 17th. A maximum temperature of 27.5°C was recorded on the 6th at Faversham (Kent) Altnaharra (Highlands) recorded a minimum temperature of -0.5°C on the 15th. A daily rainfall value of 101.2mm was recorded on the 16th on Fair Isles this was a new record for there and has a return period of 200 yrs.

August	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	18.4°C	11.8°C	15.1°C	105.5 hrs	135.8 mm
E. Anglia	21.6°C	13.0°C	17.2°C	133.3 hrs	87 mm
1961-90	21.1°C	11.4°C	16.2°C	183.4 hrs	53 mm

SEPTEMBER

Mean temperature generally close to average over England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but slightly over across Scotland. Wales and Northern Ireland had their coolest September since 1994. North East England and the Midlands had a very wet month with some places recording 300% above average rainfall. Northern areas of Scotland were well below their average rainfall. A dull month across the U.K. generally with S.W. Scotland well below average sunshine.

Morpeth (Northumberland) was a scene of devastation when it got deluged on the 7th. Over a thousand homes were flooded and the high street was left under two feet of water. Norwich Airport recorded a maximum temperature of 23.4°C on the 11th. Tulloch Bridge recorded a minimum of -2.1°C on the 22nd. High 48 hour rainfall totals on the 5/6th in Northumberland at Chillingham Barns of 158.3 mm and at Morpeth Cockle Park 151.5mm, both having return periods of over 200 years.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	16.1°C	8.9°C	12.5°C	103.0 hrs	106.3 mm
E. Anglia	18.1°C	9.8°C	14.0°C	116.6 hrs	51.6 mm
1961-90	18.5°C	9.6°C	14.1°C	144 hrs	51.2 mm

OCTOBER

Maximum, Minimum and Mean daily temperatures were all below average across the U.K. The coldest October for five years. Rainfall was well above average across North Wales and N.W. England, some areas getting more than double their average rainfall. Scotland also had well above average rainfall. Sunshine was generally above or well above average across the U.K.

Snow was had in London for the first time since 1934. A torrential hailstorm in the Ottery St. Mary area of East Devon brought an estimated 100mm of rain/hail in just a few hours, causing major flooding on 30th.

Maximum temperature of 22.9°C was recorded on 12th at Gravesend (Kent). Topcliffe (North Yorkshire) recorded a minimum temperature of -6.6°C on the 29th.

October	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	12.2°C	5.1°C	8.7°C	110.3 hrs	155.7 mm
E. Anglia	14.2°C	5.6°C	9.9°C	128.7 hrs	60.5 mm
1961-90	14.6°C	7.1°C	11.2°C	107.8 hrs	52.8 mm

NOVEMBER

Maximum temperatures mostly close to or slightly over average across most of U.K. Minimum temperature generally 1°C above average but close to average across most of Scotland. Parts of Eastern Scotland only got half their normal rainfall while parts of Central and Eastern England got 150% of average rainfall. Sunshine levels ranged from 130% of average across parts of Eastern Scotland to less than 70% over N.W. Scotland and S.E. England.

On the 15th a maximum of 16.1°C was recorded at Ness Gardens (Cheshire). On the 30th a minimum of -12.1°C was recorded at Braemar (Aberdeenshire). Crabstone (Aberdeenshire) recorded 15cm of lying snow on the 23rd.

	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	8.9°C	3.5°C	6.2°C	54.0 hrs	106.4 mm
E. Anglia	10.0°C	4.5°C	7.2°C	52.4 hrs	81.0 mm
1961-90	9.5°C	3.4°C	6.5°C	66.8 hrs	59.4 mm

DECEMBER

Maximum temperature generally below average and about 1°C below across much of Southern England. The coldest December since 1996 for parts of England and Wales. Minimum temperatures were well below normal across almost all the U.K, by as much as 2°C in some western areas. The coldest December since 1996 for Wales and Northern Ireland, 1999 for Scotland and 2001 for England. Rainfall was below average in most areas and only 50% normal over parts of England and Wales, but locally 150% in Eastern Scotland. (continues)

Sunshine was above normal just about everywhere but getting on for nearly double the normal amount in some parts of England.

Westleton (Suffolk) recorded a maximum temperature of 14.7°C on the 20th. Aviemore (highlands) recorded a minimum temperature of -12.9°C on the 30th. Copley (Co. Durham) had 21cm of lying snow at 0900 UTC on the 14th. Christmas day was so mild everybody in the British Isles missed out on some festive snow for the holidays.

December	Max. temp	Min. temp	Mean temp	Sunshine	Rainfall
U.K.	6.1°C	0.2°C	3.1°C	54.0 hrs	87.9 mm
E. Anglia	6.4°C	1.0°C	3.7°C	67.7 hrs	27.2 mm
1961-90	7.1°C	1.6°C	4.4°C	47.4 hrs	55.8 mm

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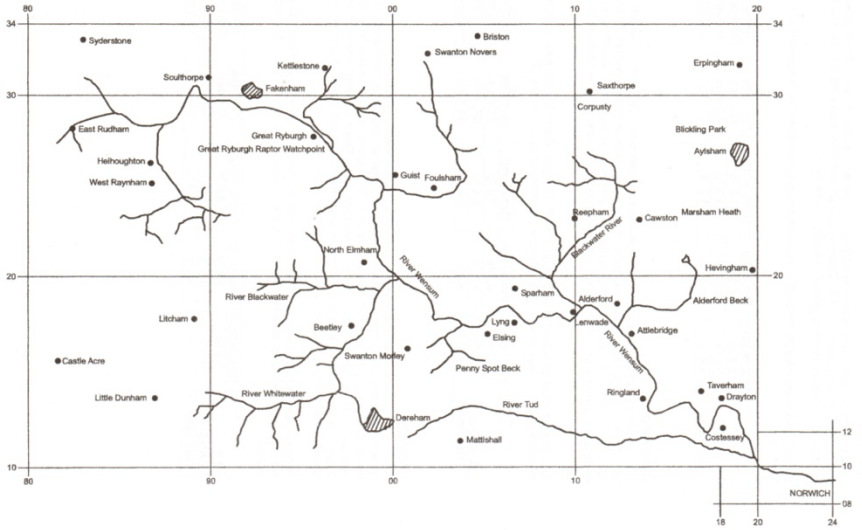
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2021 PDF of the WVBS Sixth Annual Report_200822nd October 2021

Text changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
Chairman's Report	Pensthoroe	Pensthorpe
Diary of Events for 2008		
January	number scientific organisations	number of scientific organisations
May	Our Dawn led by	Our dawn visit led by
June	were recorded	were recorded
November	travelers penciled	travellers penciled A section of duplicated text was deleted (1)
Systematic List		
Introduction	has lead to	has led to
Bewick's Swan		Duplicate entry deleted
Brent goose	can not	cannot
Wigeon	<i>Anus Penelope</i>	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Gadwall, Teal, Mallard & Shoveler	<i>Anus</i>	<i>Anas</i>
Goldeneye	possibly inc.	possibly including
Goosander	a male as on inc	a male was on including
Pheasant	As this over	As this is over
Red Kite	incl.	inclusive
Marsh Harrier		entry included (2)
Hen Harrier		entry included (2)
Goshawk	Guist a female thro'	At Guist a female through
Sparrowhawk	were seen	was seen
Golden Plover	resp.	respectively
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentus</i>	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto Alba</i>	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Whitethroat & Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia</i>	<i>Sylvia</i>
Blue Tit	8 pair	8 pairs
Great Tit	6 pair	6 pairs
Corn Bunting		entry included (2)
Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants		
Chiffchaff (earliest)	8 th Aug	8 th Mar (3)

WVBS Ringing Report for 2008 Sedge Warbler	on it's autumn migration	on its autumn migration
Bird Atlas 2007-11	conservationist Berwick's	conservationists Bewick's
Birds in Boxes	do to all 8 nest to be push	due to all 8 nests to be pushed
Common Terns at Sparham Pools 2008	layed down	laid down
NOA Hempton Marsh Reserve Summary	and single on	and singles on
2008 Monthly Weather Summary	areal series	Areal series

(1) This section of text "of Qinghai province, a two hour flight from Beijing. The trip Started at Heimahe near the Qinghai Lake then through a cold, sparsely populated and remote landscape down to Yushu and the Yangtze. During the trip over 200 species were seen, ranging" appeared twice.

(2) Entries for Marsh Harrier and Hen Harrier are included. They are in the original Word file of the Systematic List but for confidentiality did not appear in the printed report.

(3) 8th Mar is the date in the Systematic List entry.