

Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

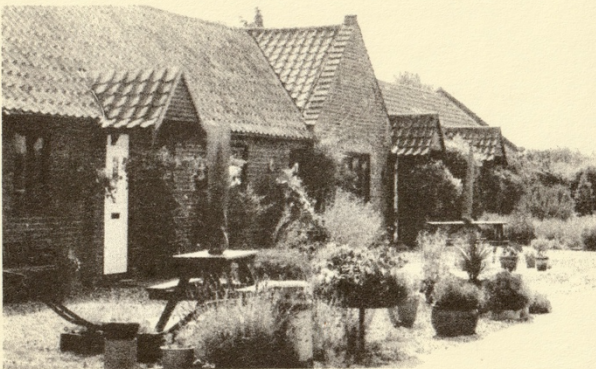


**Ninth Annual Report
2011**

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Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

2011 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 2011

Officers:

Chairman/President	Alwyn Jackson (resigned as Chairman April 2011)
Secretary	Lin Pateman
Treasurer	Martin Spriggs
Membership Secretary	Richard Norris
Publicity	Colin Wright
Newsletter Editor	David Knight
Recorder	Liz Waller/David Gibbons (Liz Waller resigned Dec 2011)
Programme Coordinator	Ray Gribble
Loan Library	Josh Leeder
Member	Liz Bridge (joined committee July 2011)
Webpage	www.wvbs.co.uk (Website Manager Jacky Pett)

WVBS 2011 Programme

- 9th Jan** Outdoor meeting - Winter Count.
Leader Richard Norris.
- 20th Jan** Indoor meeting – “The Wildlife on a Breckland Farm”. *Speaker Chris Knights.*
- 23rd Jan** Outdoor meeting – RSPB Strumpshaw Fen & Buckenham Marshes Reserves & Corvid Roost.
Leader Glenn Collier.
- 17th Feb** Indoor meeting – “Lundy- a personal view”.
Speaker Richard Campey.
- 27th Feb** Outdoor meeting – Costessey marshes area.
Leader Andrew Brown.
- 17th Mar** Indoor meeting – “Dragonflies and other Wildlife”.
Speaker Dr Pam Taylor.
- 27th Mar** Outdoor Meeting – Salthouse to Kelling walk.
Leader Alwyn Jackson.
- 16th Apr** Outdoor meeting – Visit BTO HQ.
Leader Ray Gribble.
- 21st Apr** Indoor meeting – AGM followed by talk “The BTO Nestbox Recording Scheme”.
Speaker David Leech (BTO).
- 28th & 30th Apr** Bird I.D. Workshop – Warblers.
Leader Steve Cale.
- 15th May** Outdoor meeting - Dawn Chorus at NWT Sparham Pools NR. *Leader Glenn Collier*
- 20th May** Outdoor session- Nest Finding & Recording with *David Leech (BTO).*

- 21st May** “Wild About the Wensum” Conservation Event at Pensthorpe, Fakenham.
- 29th May** Outdoor meeting – Suffolk W.T. Lackford Lakes Reserve. *Leader Alec Waller.*
- 4th -12th June** Members Trip to Mull & Iona.
- 16th June** Outdoor meeting - Nightjar Evening. *Leader Josh Leeder.*
- 23rd & 25th June** Bird I.D. Workshop - Birds of Prey. *Leader Steve Cale.*
- 25th June** Outdoor meeting – Sennowe Park. *Leader Steve Cale.*
- 24th July** Outdoor Meeting – Blakeney Point. *Leader Ray Gribble.*
- 14th Aug** Outdoor meeting – RSPB Havergate Island NR. *Leader Liz Bridge.*
- 4th & 6th Aug** Bird I.D. Workshop – Waders. *Leader Steve Cale.*
- 18th Aug** Indoor meeting – Summer Social Evening.
- 15th Sept** Indoor meeting – “A thousand years of bird-watching in the Castle Rising area”. *Speaker Professor Fred Cooke.*
- 8th & 17thSept** Bird I.D.Workshop - Terns & Gulls. *Leader Steve Cale.*
- 25th Sept** Outdoor meeting – Breydon Water & Berney Marshes. *Leader Ray Gribble.*
- 15th Oct** “Wild About Norfolk” Conservation Fair at Easton College.

- 20th Oct** Indoor meeting – “The Birds & Beasts of the Kruger National Park, South Africa”.
Speaker David Pelling.
- 30th Oct** Outdoor meeting – North Norfolk Coast.
Leader Colin Fenn.
- 17th Nov** Indoor meeting – “A Fair Isle Season”.
Speaker Rebecca Nason.
- 26th Nov** Outdoor meeting – High Ash Farm, Caistor St Edmunds. *Leader Richard Norris.*
- 15th Dec** Xmas Social at Weston Longville Village Hall.

WVBS 2011 Diary

Sunday 9th: January-Winter Bird Count led by Richard Norris. Our annual bird count took place on 9th January and nearly thirty members formed teams to scour the valley in search of as many birds as possible in the allotted time. As usual teams arrived at identical sites at different times of the day to end up with entirely different results and recent inclement weather meant some stretches of water, which in past years had provided good sightings, proved very sparse this year. The eventual winners were Glen & Lucy with seventy four species seen. They were duly presented with a magnificent trophy made by Alec Waller and our thanks must go to him for this. A thoroughly enjoyable day was rounded off in the evening with a meal at the Fox & Hounds where teams swapped notes and discussed the day. Many thanks to Richard.

Thursday 20th January: Talk "A Breckland Farm" given by Chris Knights (Wildlife Photographer & Farmer). The Brecks is a landscape of forest, heath and agricultural land bordering Norfolk and Suffolk. One of the driest parts of Britain this area is home to many distinctive birds, plants and animals. Chris Knights, several times winner of the Bird Photographer of the year, runs a farm in the Brecks and described how he manages to maintain a fine balance between the demands of modern farming methods and wildlife conservation. His talk was illustrated with pictures of the flora and fauna of the area and the star of the show, the Stone Curlew, which is only seen in this area of Norfolk and parts of Wiltshire. We were enthralled with remarkable pictures of Stone Culews protecting their nest, which is nothing more than a scrape in rocky ground, by confronting a pig and a curious sheep. An excellent talk interspersed with some good old Norfolk humour.

Sunday 23rd January: Outdoor Meeting at RSPB Strumpshaw Fen & Buckenham Marshes led by Glenn Collier: Near the reserve entrance we watched several species at the feeder station including a Brambling, Treecreeper and Marsh Tit. On the reserve we saw lots of water birds,

several Marsh Harriers, a Bittern and an Otter. Then returning to the car park for lunch Common and Lesser Redpolls were spotted busily feeding high in an ivy clad tree.

After lunch we visited Buckenham Marsh and were immediately greeted with 1000's of Golden Plover, also seen were Barn Owl, Little Egret, Ruff, Snipe, a distant Hen Harrier and a lone Bean Goose. The visit continued into the evening where those who stayed the course watched the impressive sight of thousands of corvids coming into roost. Thanks to Glen Collier for leading a brilliant day out.

Thursday 17th February: Talk "Lundy a Personal View' given by Richard Campey (Director of Operations, In Focus). Lundy (Norse for Puffin) is owned by the National Trust and lies off the coast of North Devon. Richard said he was 'grabbed' by the island when on a trip during his student years at Cardiff University. So much so that he became warden for two years following his degree in Zoology. We were guided round the island by someone who obviously has an intimate knowledge of the island, its former inhabitants and its wildlife. We enjoyed the excellent photographs and the captivating and sometimes humorous dialogue.

Sunday 27th February: Outdoor meeting at Costessey led by local birdwatcher Andrew Brown. Although close to Norwich, Costessey has a wide range of habitats easily accessible from the former railway line now Marriot's Way. Starting from Shallowbrook Lakes we did circular walk which took in the rivers Tud and Wensum. Over 50 species were seen including Siskin, Redpoll, Snipe, with fleeting glances of Kingfisher along the Wensum and a Grey Wagtail on the Tud. An excellent day's exploration of the lower reaches of the Wensum and Tud rivers thanks to Andrew sharing his local knowledge with us.

Thursday 17th March: Talk "Dragonflies and other wildlife" given by Dr Pam Taylor, president of the British Dragonfly Society. This was a superbly illustrated talk on the subject of dragonflies, their life history

and distribution in Norfolk. We learnt that the large number of ponds, lakes, rivers and marshes in our area create ideal conditions for the water dependant life cycle of dragonflies. We were shown dramatic pictures of the adult emerging from the larval stage into a fully fledged dragonfly in a wonderful range of distinctive colours and markings. The males and females are often very different colours making species identification more of an exact science than we imagined. A wide range of other wildlife was included in Pam's talk including deer, hares, otters, terns with camouflaged chicks on a pebble raft, cormorant, herons and snakes. After a brief mention of other expeditions the evening closed with a round of applause from a very appreciative full house.

Sunday 27th March: Outdoor Meeting at Salthouse led by Alwyn Jackson. Over 30 members turned up for a walk along part of the north Norfolk coast from Salthouse Marshes through Kelling Quags and finishing at the Old Reading Room Tea Rooms, Kelling. There was a keen Norfolk wind but it remained dry for the group who saw about 45 species which included Stonechat, Little Egret, Wheatear, Chiffchaff and a Firecrest. This was a pleasant walk away from the crowds enabling us to explore a less frequented part of our wonderful coastal environment. Many thanks to Alwyn for leading the morning.

Saturday 16th April: Outdoor Meeting at BTO HQ, Thetford. Sixteen members joined the coach at Weston Longville en-route to Thetford where we met up with a further 23 members who travelled by car. We spent the morning birdwatching on the BTO reserve, led by staff member Su Gough. Some 50 species were seen. After the walk Su spoke about the work and organisation the BTO and then gave us a tour of the building which was originally a nunnery. Another successful WVBS event.

Thursday 21st April: AGM followed by a talk about the BTO's Nest Record Scheme given by Dave Leech (BTO). Following our AGM our speaker gave us a graphic description of how everybody can contribute to the Nest Record Scheme by finding and recording the progress of

individual nests in their immediate area and gathering information on the breeding success or otherwise of the birds. The resulting data is published in a BTO report entitled 'The Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside' and it was pointed out how useful this can be to conservation bodies in their efforts to protect our breeding birds.

Sunday 15th May: Outdoor Meeting at NWT Sparham Pools NR led by Glenn Collier & Lucy Topsom. Thirteen early risers turned up for our Dawn Chorus walk with Glenn & Lucy under whose expert guidance we were able to pick out dozens of songsters. Garden Warbler and Blackcap were heard and seen near the car park and later woodpeckers, members of the tit family, Mistle and Song Thrush, Reed & Sedge Warbler and good views of Reed Bunting. Ever alert Lucy called "Nightingale" and sure enough it was heard by all those present. Further on a Cuckoo showed well before the party returned to the car park to enjoy al-fresco bacon baps. Many thanks to Glenn and Lucy for leading the morning so ably and to all those who rustled up the bacon baps.

Friday 20th May: Nest finding & recording at BTO HQ. Following Dave Leech's talk on locating and recording nests a few members met him at BTO HQ to learn something more about the practical side of nest location. Those present were shown how to locate likely sites by gently tapping undergrowth with a cane thus disturbing the adult birds sufficiently to make them fly without causing any harm. The progress of the nestlings was then recorded in their absence. The group found two previously undiscovered nests one of which, a Whitethroat, required careful observation before its well hidden nest was located. Great care was taken throughout not to leave an obvious path for possible predators by taking large steps in different directions to eventually reach the path again. During the course of the visit Dave Leech gave the members a valuable insight into his work in an enthusiastic and enjoyable way.

Saturday 21st May: The Wild about the Wensum Conservation Fair at Pensthorpe was once again a great success, lots of visitors, excellent

weather and plenty interest in our stand. We also supplied volunteers to act as guides in the hides. It was a long day but well worth it. Many thanks to all those who helped.

Sunday 29th May: Outdoor Meeting at SWT's Lackford Lakes NR led by Alec & Alice Waller. Twenty one members assembled in the car park and the early arrivals had already located Turtle Dove and Nightingale nearby. The pond next to the visitor centre held Sedge and Reed Warbler and a lucky few saw a Nightingale as it sat briefly on a gate. Feeders full of red millet in the field nearby attracted a good number of Tree Sparrows. In the scrub were Greenfinch, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Goldfinch and Reed Bunting. We made our way around the reserve visiting some of the hides overlooking the former gravel workings. Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Sand Martin, Lesser Whitethroat, Bullfinch and Linnet were added to the species list before we spent some time watching a Hobby capturing dragonflies and devouring them in flight. After a break for lunch a visit was made to another part of this extensive site and the highlights included a pair of Red-crested Pochard and a Kingfisher flying to and from its nesting site. The day was rounded off with a cup of tea at the visitor's centre having recorded 72 species. Many thanks to Alec & Alice for guiding us so well around this wonderful site.

Monday 30th May: Costessey Fete. We set up our stall in bright sunshine and had loads of visitors. Many thanks to Alec Waller for his help and provision of an assortment of many interesting objects which drew lots of interest.

4th - 12th June: Members trip to Mull & Iona. A full report of this trip written by David Gibbons is included elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Thursday 16th June: Outdoor Meeting at Marsham Heath for Nightjars led by Josh Leeder. Starting from the newly renovated Marsham Arms the group assembled at Marsham Heath in search of this enigmatic bird. The secret of Nightjar watching is for the group to be as

quiet and unobtrusive as possible, this year this was achieved and several birds made an appearance. Many thanks to Josh for leading the evening.

Saturday 25th June: Outdoor Meeting at Sennowe Park. Members assembled at the Raptor Watchpoint at Great Ryburgh for a visit to the grounds of this stately Edwardian home and were welcomed by the owner Tom Cook. Then, in the capable hands of ace birder, artist and WVBS member Steve Cale, this picturesque estate of lakes and woods was explored. A very distant Kingfisher and a Little Ringed Plover were spotted by eagle-eyed members and a quick I.D. description by Steve helped identify a Mediterranean Gull as it flew from one of the lakes. Many thanks to Tom Cook for making us welcome and to Steve for leading an enjoyable afternoon. A total of 60 species were seen.

Sunday 24th July: Outdoor Meeting to Blakeney Point led by Ray Gribble. Seventeen WVBS members gathered on Morston Quays in thick woolly hats, scarves and gloves to protect themselves from a sharp north easterly wind. This was a minor discomfort to be rewarded with such close views of the 500/600 mainly Common but also Grey Seals at low water. We turned our attentions to the fourteen thousand terns present this summer at Blakeney Point some of which were already starting to leave for Africa. We had soon ticked Common, Little and Arctic along with Sandwich with their distinctive shaggy crest. A lone Guillemot was on the sea and an Arctic Skua overhead. A single Mediterranean Gull scrutinized our boat, 10 pairs had raised 30 young this year.

We clambered ashore for a quick walk along the Point as we only had an hour to explore. A short list was compiled including Gannet, Ringed Plover, Meadow Pipit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Greater Black-backed Gull and Turnstone.

The wind dropped, the sea calmed and the sun shone for our return journey. Once back on land our outer layers of clothing were swiftly removed. The sea air had given us all an appetite and once energy levels were replenished most of the group descended on Cley NWT Nature

Reserve for a couple of hours. We assembled at North Scrape and searched for a Curlew Sandpiper we knew was present. Eventually all of the group managed to pick it out with the aid of a scope and enjoyed good views despite the fact that it was continually on the move. Eleven Spoonbills were present along with dozens of Dunlin, Avocet, Grey Wagtails, a few Knot and a couple of Spotted Redshanks. Many thanks to Ray for leading an excellent day out. 60 species was our final total.

Sunday 14th August: Outdoor Meeting to RSPB Havergate Island led by Liz Bridge. Members arrived at Orford Quay by coach at about 8.30am for the two sailings at 9 and 10 a.m. Those members on the 10 o'clock boat had plenty of time to explore the quay taking in the scenery and picking up a few birds for the list. They heard the call of a Greenshank but were unable to locate it. Then the boat returned to pick them up and twenty minutes later they were disembarking on Havergate Island. It was a superb morning and as the only visitors to the island that day members went about exploring and using each of the five hides. They remained on the island for four hours before returning to Orford to join the coach home. There were some good birds seen with the particular highlights being Greenshanks, Wood Sandpipers, Spoonbills and Whimbrels. Thanks to Liz and Brenda Palmer for organising the successful day's visit.

Thursday 18th August: Summer Social Evening. All went well and everybody seemed to enjoy the evening. However just as we started to cook the rain came but luckily we were able to deploy a large tarpaulin that saved the day. Lots of culinary delights had been provided by the members and the event ended with an interesting short talk by Lin Pateman on the members' trip to Mull in June.

Thursday 15th September: Talk "A thousand years of birdwatching in the Castle Rising area" given by Prof. Fred Cooke (formerly of the Simon Fraser University, British Columbia). Professor Fred Cooke combined his passion for local history and his interest in birds to discover

which bird species existed in the Castle Rising area in times past. Built by the Normans on Roman foundations the Castle was the residence of Queen Isabella of France in 1330. From records, kitchen accounts and bone analysis we saw the extensive range of local birds served up on the menu. One species recorded was the Sea Eagle, locally known as the Fen Eagle, Professor Cooke was a strong supporter of its planned reintroduction to Suffolk a few years ago. It was interesting to see how the geography of the area has changed over time and by overlaying ancient and modern maps our speaker demonstrated how the lines of the Saxon sea walls still influence the lie of the land. An interesting and thought provoking talk.

Sunday 25th September: Outdoor Meeting to Berney Marshes led by Ray Gribble. In brilliant weather members alighted in the middle of nowhere at the British Rail request stop at the Berney Arms Halt and after a bit of foraging for bullaces, set off toward the river spotting Curlew, Ruff and Little Egret. At the river a second breakfast ensued for some of the party at the Berney Arms Pub before setting off on the five mile walk to Great Yarmouth. Black and Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank and a Hobby were seen, Cetti's Warblers were heard calling and the group had good views of a Reed Bunting on a hawthorn bush. A brief stop was made for lunch then the final lap toward Yarmouth and return to Norwich by train. Many thanks to Ray for leading a refreshing walk with over 50 species seen.

Saturday 15th October: Wild About Norfolk Conservation Fair. This was held at Easton College which turned out to be an excellent venue with plenty of space for the exhibitors whose numbers seem to grow larger each year. There were lots of visitors and it was very heartening to see the younger ones getting involved in the activities offered by the exhibitors which included everything from beekeepers, bats, a toadwatch, nature and conservation groups, rambles, the RSPB, the RSPCA and woodland community projects. There were microscopes to

peer into, nest boxes to build and even a stand devoted to "The wonderful world of wood lice".

Thursday 20th October: Talk "**The Birds and Beasts of the Kruger National Park**" given by **David Pelling (WVBS member)**. David was based at the Mjejane River Lodge in the Kruger National Park which is the largest game reserve in Africa (roughly the size of Wales) and home to many rare examples of African flora and fauna. We were shown an impressive range of birds including the Crested and Black-Collared Barbets, the Lilac-breasted Roller with stunning plumage, the African Paradise Flycatcher with its striking tail and the amazing nest of the Weaver bird. Animals were also featured in David's talk including lions, elephants, giraffes and a pair of warhogs which, despite their looks, always seem to engender some audience approval. Sadly we learnt that some of these animals still fall victim to poachers despite the protection offered by the game reserve. An excellent talk amply illustrated.

Sunday 30th October: **Outdoor Meeting to RSPB Titchwell NR led by Colin Fenn.** After some early morning showers the weather improved and was fine and mild by the time we headed for Titchwell via Choseley Barns. Our list began to build with Yellowhammer, Ruff, Long-tailed Tit and a superb Peregrine being spotted. At Titchwell one car was missing but turned up after a short time having taken a wrong turning. The occupants had been rewarded with great views of a Rough-legged Buzzard flying right over their car! The Yellow-browed Warbler was still about on Meadow Trail so that is where we headed. A quick look at the feeding station on the way added Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Great and Blue Tits and a lone Siskin was seen by few. A Treecreeper and Cetti's Warbler were on the Meadow Trail but no YBW. Back on the main path it was decided to split up into two groups as some wanted to see the warbler. One group continued towards the beach stopping frequently to look at various birds on the marsh. Then a shout went up "Bittern!" and the group were treated to great views as the bird did a lengthy circuit and then disappeared into the reeds. On arrival at the

beach the sea looked quiet but with numerous eyes scanning the water the birds started to appear. Red-throated Diver, Great Crested Grebe, Gannet, Razorbill, Red-necked and Slavonian Grebe and Red-breasted Merganser were added. The other group joined us and reported that the YBW had been heard but not seen. The whole group headed back calling in at the new Island Hide. New sluices had recently been completed and the hide was now surrounded with water bringing the birds very close. Lunch was now overdue so we headed back our cars for some refreshments. A number of the group decided to call it a day at this stage and left soon after but those who stayed added Yellow-browed Warbler, Buzzard and Hen Harrier to their very impressive list. Twenty-six members turned out for this popular event including several new members which is always great to see. An impressive 93 species were recorded so many thanks to Colin for a great day out.

Thursday 17th November: Talk "A Fair Isle Season" given by Rebecca Nason (Wildlife Photographer). Fair Isle sits between Orkney and Shetland and is 25 miles from the mainland. With a population of 70 Fair Isle is described on its website as "a jewel of an island famous for birds, knitwear and the sea area on the BBC's shipping forecast". With the aid of some stunning photographs we were taken through the seasons in pictures. Close ups revealed how tame some birds were and with the lack of vegetation cover Rebecca was able to take excellent close-ups of Razorbills, Fulmars, Long-eared Owl and Gannets. We also saw pictures of much rarer birds such as the Rustic Bunting, Thick-billed Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Lanceolated Warbler and the Chestnut-eared Bunting. Finally we saw the new observatory which offers comfortable visitor accommodation, meals and illustrated talks. Over 70 people turned up for this talk, a club record, and they were not disappointed.

Saturday 26th November: Outdoor Meeting at Chris Skinner's High Ash Farm, Castor St Edmund. Listeners to Radio Norfolk will be familiar with Chris Skinner's broadcasts on wildlife which last year won him a

silver medal at the Sony Radio Academy Awards. We did a four hour walk around part of the five miles of tracks open to the public through rolling countryside with some set aside for wildlife crops and bird cover. We recorded 42 species which included Fieldfare, Nuthatch, Buzzard, Marsh Tit, Redwing, Reed Bunting and large flocks of Linnets. During the walk we met Chris who told us that ten breeding pairs of Little Owl had been recorded on the farm this year. Many thanks to Richard Norris for organising and leading the walk.

Thursday 15th December: Christmas Social at Weston Longville Village Hall. A get-together with a 'bring your own' buffet, raffle and a quiz or two to stretch the mind. The buffet again exceeded expectations and this informal and popular event allowed members to get acquainted.

Footnote

We often receive calls from members of the public debating if they should come along to one of our events. Such was the case when Natalie phoned about the Wensum Valley walk and decided to join us for the day. We asked her if she would write a few words on her impressions of the event. This is what she said about the Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society:-

"Thinking about going on a fieldtrip or joining an evening event? Not done it yet, because you are not sure what it will be like? There's nothing to worry about. Having just been on my first field trip, rest assured they are a friendly bunch! I felt very welcome and was lent a pair of binoculars straight away. The people were very knowledgeable but we also had a really good laugh! This group is for anyone, whether you are a super-keen birder or a novice who would just like to find out more, give it a try! I will certainly be back. Natalie K."

WVBS trip to the Islands of Mull and Iona 4th to 12th June 2011

Sat 4th June

6am. joining the A47 at Longwater - 347 miles to our overnight stop at Falkirk. A couple of coffee breaks on the way, *Kestrels* and *Buzzards* helped to break up the journey. 2pm. arrival, joined by 3 other members so dinner for 7 later at the nearby restaurant. We needed a translator at one point to assist in a language clash between a Falkirk-Scottish and a Mid-Norfolk dialect.

Sun 5th June

7am start to Oban, one car found a café for breakfast the other found a *Red Kite* site at Argety, one *Kite* was clearly seen from the hide which was on private land. We met the farmer who gave us the history of the site and his views on conservation and education.

Next stop Oban for a spot of breakfast, coffee and pastries in a café then we discovered fresh crab and smoked salmon sandwiches to die for from the "hut" on the quayside.

The second car went in search of Tesco for supplies.

11.55 am ferry to Oban, 45 minutes to Craignure, *Black Guillemots* in the harbour and as we departed an accordion started up on the top deck with "Auld Lang Syne" and other Scottish tunes, a couple of Irish tunes including "Danny Boy" and for some reason "Le Marseillaise". This along with sea watching made the journey pass quickly. *Guillemots*, *Shags*, *Common Terns*, *Lesser Black-backed Gulls* to name a few were seen. A 6 mile drive to the hotel and 2pm. check-in. The hotel overlooked the bay at Salen and in between the hotel garden and the shore was the Glenforsa airstrip.

A well needed beer in the garden and we saw *Hooded Crow*, *Song Thrush*, *Willow Warbler* and *Chiffchaff* and on a nest in a hole in a tree trunk by the car park was a *Spotted Flycatcher*.

The evening took us to Tobermory via a stop at Salen Bay where we saw *Grey Heron*, *Shag*, and *Common Sandpiper*. Steady rain in

Tobermoray but a restaurant opened early to protect us from the rain and grills and fish and chips kept us occupied for a while. After dinner we walked to the ferry terminal to appreciate the multi-coloured buildings along the harbour.

On the way back to the hotel a couple of stops at viewpoints only revealed a rain drenched *Buzzard* perched on a branch.

Mon 6th June

Several members up early in ones and twos, first checking the *Spotted Flycatcher*, now both birds on the nest, then crossing the grass airstrip in front of the hotel to walk along the shore of Salen Bay in the Sound of Mull. *Dunlin*, *Turnstone*, *Ringed Plover*, *Common Sandpiper*, *Oystercatcher*, *Eider*, *Greylag* and *Canada Goose*, *Rock Pipit* along with *Hirundines* swooping low over the airstrip and a solitary *Buzzard* in a pine tree.

Following breakfast we went north via Tobermoray to meet our guides from the RSPB and Forestry Commission at the head of Loch Frisa. Blue sky and sun today, immediately we witnessed a *Kestrel* "mugging" a *Short-eared Owl* for its prey, quickly followed by a passing *Hen Harrier* and *Ravens*. Setting off in convoy along the 8 mile track stopping to look for Skye and Frisa, the celebrity pair of White-tailed Eagles. No luck here today though so *Common Buzzards*, *Red-Breasted Merganser*, *Common Redpoll* and *Great Spotted Woodpecker* have to suffice. From the Eagle hide we had a *Whooper Swan* who had decided to stay for the summer, *Grey Heron*, *Hooded Crow* and *Curlew* along with *finches* and *Siskins* on the feeders. Once escorted off the track at the southern end of the Loch it was back into Salen for the Spar shop, bakery and Post Office for lunch items and postcards.

Heading west to Loch Na Keal and taking its northern shore we pulled off the road for a brew up and lunch. With 'scopes set we started to scan and soon came across a tagged *White-tailed Eagle* in a tree, super views and then it took to flight and majestically cruised over the Loch and was soon replaced by another. Our 'scopes along these single tracked roads soon attracted the attention of other tourists including a group of Dutch

visitors and a couple of bikers. Thinking luck was on our side we decided to continue along the southern shore for Golden Eagle to sites which we had information on. There were only a few places where our three cars could park off the road but at one of the many passing places we came across a very rare event “a white van” giving way!! On the Loch we only managed a *Great Northern Diver* and a *Peregrine*.

Back in Salen at the Salen Hotel, where one of our group was staying, a separate room was provided for us and local ale with venison sausages went down very well. Following dinner the following day’s plans were discussed depending on the weather, rain or no rain. Plan A – other known sites for Golden Eagle.

Tues 7th June

Wet and windy, a few of us made the early morning shore watch, the *Spotted Flycatcher* still on the nest, breakfast and off to the Spar shop in Craignure for our lunch items then to Glen More for Golden Eagle. On Ben More, the highest point on the island and classified as a “Munro”, it was difficult to find off-road parking for three cars but we found three spots where we could. Still raining, damp and gloomy and after a couple of hours scanning the valley with no success, a few brews to warm us up but things were not looking good and our enthusiasm was flagging. We got no help from a guided Wildlife Tour who indicated they had just seen an eagle so they were nearby. Some detective work found a discarded apple core in one of the parking spots they had used but our scanning revealed nothing.

We drove towards Pennyghael to other sites, still raining, nowhere open for afternoon tea and cake, no eagle, then back to Lochbuie 8 miles down a narrower track, a very pretty valley but still no eagle but plenty of *Buzzards* and two *Gannets* in the distance. Plan A hadn’t worked!!

Back to Craignure where two members of the group were to return as foot passengers on the ferry back to Oban to get their car and drive to Hartlepool for the White-breasted Robin – we hoped they would have better luck than we had today.

So the Craignure Inn became the venue for dinner.

Wed 8th June

A flat tyre on one of the cars required some attention and the local garage would repair it during the day so we headed back to Glen More!! Dry and warmer with the sun trying to break through our expectations were high again. Back to the “apple core” spot and with the three cars safely off the road another period of scanning and brew-ups started. A *Cuckoo* was heard, *Hooded Crows*, *Meadow Pipits* and *Ravens*, then one of the group who had walked down the road waved his walking stick in the air, he had seen a *Golden Eagle* at last, could we all see it? A few minutes passed, had he dreamt it? Then it made a short flight back to the nest, ripped apart its prey and took off again. Now knowing where the nest was scopes were fixed and we were rewarded with clear views of a fluffy white chick, so double success!

Now off to the north of the island, stopping for lunch at Loch Na Keal, saw *White-tailed Eagle* again, almost in the same tree. It took off and flew across the loch also saw *Red-Breasted Merganser*, *Shelduck* and *Black Guillemot*. Off again on a spectacular windy and hilly journey to Calgary Bay, the beach here looked fantastic especially as the sun was out and the sky blue. Calliach Point was our destination for sea watching, we found it at the second attempt, our reward was *Gannet*, *Puffin*, *Razorbill*, *Guillemot*, *Rock Pipit*, *Kittiwake*, *Manx Shearwater*, *Great Skua* and *Fulmar*.

Also in view in front of us was a local crab boat winching in its pots.

The drive back to Salen was via Dervaig, our colleagues were back from their trip to Hartlepool where they had seen the *White-breasted Robin* at 5am. The tyre was also fixed so off to Tobermory for dinner.

Thurs 9th June

A few hardy souls met on the shore of Salen Bay before breakfast, then on the road to Fionnphort stopping briefly in Glen More at the *Golden Eagle* nest sight so our two colleagues, who were not with us yesterday, could see the birds. We saw the female take a short flight from the nest to a perch on the ridge above where she was silhouetted against the blue sky, whilst her mate flew from the nest way down the valley.

A few minutes delay on the way as re-surfacing was taking place on the single track. We parked up in Fionnphort, a couple of us saw a *Merlin*, and we boarded the ferry to Iona. The journey took about five minutes and after coffee and pastries in the café the first stop was the field behind the Fire Station one of the known spots for Corncrake and marshy Yellow Iris habitat. No luck so moving on making steady progress along the track and across the island to the beach on the far side. The island is only about 3 miles long and 1 mile wide. *Linnets, Meadow Pipits, Shags, Eider, Kittiwake, Hooded Crow, Rock Doves, Gannets, Jackdaw and Rooks*, (these latter two species are not found on Mull!). We retraced our steps back to the cross-road, turning left down the track through a farm yard before reaching the remains of a Nunnery. Corncrake territory again, this field also backs on to the Fire Station. We continued up to the Abbey, passing the gardens of a hotel, another known site. We took lunch on some picnic tables across from the Abbey wall and almost immediately a cry went up as we saw a *Corncrake* hop on the wall, walk across the Abbey lawn and disappear into the longer grass - success!

We lingered a while in the Abbey gardens, at the Nunnery and at the Fire Station on the way back hearing *Corncrakes* but had no more sightings. We caught the 6pm ferry back to Fionnphort via Bunesan Bay where we stopped for dinner in the Argyll Arms overlooking the bay. Leaving we soon came to a sudden stop as we witnessed Bottle-nose Dolphins in Loch Scridain, then a brief stop at Pennyghael looking for otter but no luck but back in Glen More we saw two *Cuckoos*. It was now nearing 10 pm, the sun had still not set and the reflections in the lochs threw up blues and pinks. On again we met two deer in the road and we glanced two more wading in a loch. We were soon back at the hotel where the *Spotted Flycatcher* was still on her eggs.

Fri 10th June

Only three of us on the loch shore this morning and after breakfast it was a search for woodland birds. First stop was on the road to Grasspoint but little to see so we moved to the road on the way to Lochbuie and almost immediately we witnessed a *Buzzard* "buzz" a *Golden Eagle*. The Eagle

turned upside down under the Buzzard, showed its talons and the Buzzard flew off having taken the hint.

Wood Warblers were calling and everyone got a good sighting, *Willow Warbler* and *Whitethroat* were also seen.

After lunch to Fishnish Bay, where another ferry runs to Lochaline on the mainland, some of us enjoyed Orkney ice-cream from the café. We saw a few *Artic Terns* but in the wood on the edge of the Loch we had good views of *Common Redpoll*.

Moving on to Aros Bridge, pass Salen, we looked for Dipper but no luck but we did get *Blackcap*.

Our final drive was up to Dervaig, scanning as we went, stopping in the Forestry Commission car park at the north end of Loch Frisa. *Cuckoo* was seen but most interest was in watching and photographing *Golden-ringed Dragonfly*, *Beautiful Demoiselle damselfly*, *Dark Green Fritillary* and *Green Hairstreak butterflies*. As we left we came across a *Hen Harrier*, then back to Salen via Tobermoray. Dinner at the Salen Hotel, where we updated our records for Mull and Iona and we had a total of 102 species.

Sat/Sun 11th/12thJune

Check out after breakfast, 3pm. ferry from Craignure back to Oban and then an overnight stay in Kilmarnock before travelling home.

It had been a very enjoyable and rewarding week's birding.

David Gibbons

WVBS Systematic List 2011

Editor Ray Gribble

This report was compiled by David Gibbons (Mute Swan to Great Crested Grebe), David Knight (Honey Buzzard to Great Black-Backed Gull), Alwyn Jackson (Little Tern to House Martin) and Ray Gribble (Cetti's Warbler to Reed Bunting). 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.

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 about 5,500 records received during 2011. This is a disappointing reduction on the 9,000 records submitted in 2010.

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
HOT	Hawk & Owl Trust
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. Green listed.

High counts at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge, c.30 in Feb, c.40 in Mar, c.45 in Apr. Sightings in Ringland saw 29 and 32 in Feb and Mar.

54 sighted in June by the WVBS field trip to Sennowe Park.

Seen monthly on the HBW. Also seen throughout the year at Lyng, Lenwade, Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley.

Numbers up to 7 at Pensthorpe, with sightings from Apr and records of several pairs with 2 cygnets, one with 4 cygnets and one with 5 cygnets.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus colombianus*

Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers. Amber listed.

Flying over Sparham Hall Farm, 1 skein of 80 and 1 of 10 at 8am on 25th Feb. 7 flew over Pensthorpe on 13th Nov.

Whooper Swan

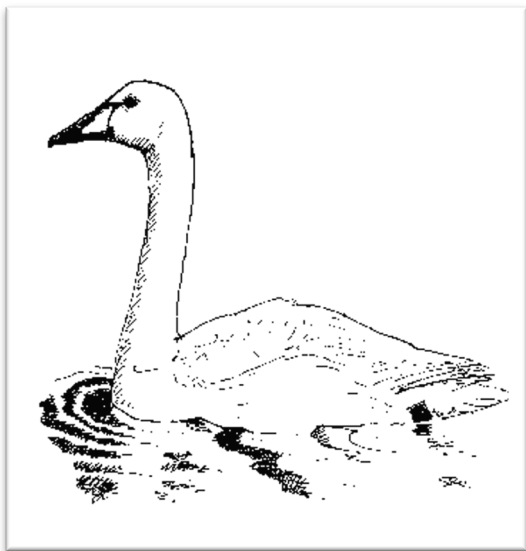
Cygnus cygnus

Uncommon winter visitor. Mainly flyovers.

Amber listed.

8 recorded flying east over Costessey on the 1st of Jan.

*Whooper Swan,
by Steve Cale*



White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

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

Pensthorpe recorded numbers from 1 to 33 from mid to late Nov, the groups included juveniles, flying over and in fields close by. 1 was recorded at Sparham Hall Farm on 15th Nov.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

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

Sightings at Pensthorpe of the Tundra form (*Anser fabalis rossicus*) saw groups of 3 to 11 from the 14th to 25th of Nov. The first sightings for several years.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

150 recorded on 1st Jan at Hindolveston (G&AJ). 40 on the 2nd at Costessey (AB), 300 and 400 seen Jan 21st - 22nd at Lenwade and Lyng (PLam, NM), 20th Jan 350 recorded at Worthing (DK), 90 at Shereford on 9th Jan (A&CJ).

At Sparham Hall Farm 600+ flew over on 22nd Jan, followed by 400 on 23rd and 1000+ on 28th of Jan (CS).

108 at Swanton Novers on 13th Feb (IB). Taverham Hall School area sightings of 80 and 150 on the 5th and 20th of Oct(AB)

1,000 were recorded flying west over Pensthorpe on 31st Oct (TS).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Common throughout the valley with a long established and increasing feral population.

Seen monthly on the HBW, small groups to a maximum of 60 (DK).

60 at Fustyweed on 8th Mar (EJ). Lyng saw groups of up to 30 in Feb (B&BP, PLam).

Swanton Morley Pits 38 recorded in Mar (EJ). Worthing Village 50 on 30th Aug (DK). 12 at Sparham Pools in May.

Largest numbers recorded of 500+ on 9th Jan at West Raynham (S&BG, R&CG, R&BN).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common introduced resident.

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

Recorded monthly on the HBW with numbers from 5 to 24 (DK), Lenwade and Lyng in Jan and Feb saw numbers from 10 to 30 (RG, PLam, B&BP). Mar and Apr 5 were recorded at Hall Farm Attlebridge (WO).

26 recorded at Beetley GP on 26th June (RG). Pensthorpe saw groups of 15 to 17 from July to Dec (TS).

Highest count was 70 at Lenwade Mill in Nov (RG).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

Pensthorpe had numbers from 14 to 45 in Nov from the 11th to the end of the month (TS).

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Vagrant to Valley.

Only 1 record and that at Pensthorpe (not one of their collection) on 27th Sept (EB-J).

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.

During first winter period up to 10 recorded at Attlebridge. (WO).

Apr recorded groups of up to 11 at Pensthorpe with several pairs with large numbers of goslings, (3,7 and 9) (TS).

Higher numbers were recorded at Pensthorpe in the second winter period of up to 44.

Recorded monthly with groups of 2 to 7 on the HBW (DK).

Proof of breeding at Lenwade Common in Apr, 1 pair with 5 young (RG).

Seen at Ringland (MMc), Sparham, Sparham Hall Farm, and Sparham Pools where breeding was also verified (RG).

Highest number recorded in the valley was at Sennowe Park with 53 birds on the WVBS field trip in June.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A scarce visitor to the valley. Amber listed.

Recorded during most months, but a dearth of sightings during the late summer when they leave the valley to moult.

Seen on 9th Jan at Bittering (IB, PR, TF). Small numbers, up to 6, at Pensthorpe from Mar to July and then again from Sept to Dec (TS).

Also recorded at Scarning, Sennowe Park in June, Sparham Pools in Mar and Apr and at West Raynham Lakes.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A very scarce visitor to the valley.

1 recorded at Sparham Pools on the 22nd and 23rd Mar (BB, RG, DK).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

2nd Jan 45 at Bintree Mill (RG). Also recorded at Bittering and 6 in Costessey in Jan.

Hall Farm Attlebridge hosted 20+ on Mar 1st.

The HBW recorded 1 in Mar.

Highest sightings were at Pensthorpe during the latter end of the year with 105 on 10th Nov (TS). 70 at Sparham Pools on 10th Nov (CS).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Resident, passage & migrant winter visitor. Amber listed.

2nd Jan 2 at Costessey (AB). 2 at Lyng on the 4th (PLam). On the 16th Jan 18 recorded at Worthing (RG). Sparham Pools on 28th Jan 16 recorded (DH).

Taverham on 23rd Mar recorded 20 (NE). Sightings at Pensthorpe began in Apr, building up from Sept with the highest count on 11th Dec of 24 (EB-J).

5 pairs were recorded at Sparham Pools on 29th Nov (LB).

Also sightings at Ryburgh, SMHOT, Swanton Morley GP and West Raynham.

Teal *Anas crecca*

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

Highest first winter count 20 in Jan at West Raynham and 12 in Elsing (R&CG, R&BN).

At Pensthorpe sightings started in Apr with numbers building from Aug with 24, 71 in Sept, 103 in Oct and 232 in Nov.

Recorded elsewhere in small numbers at Ryburgh, SMHOT, Sparham Pools, Bintree Mill and Bittering.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Hall Farm Attlebridge had numbers of 2 to 15 in the period Feb to Apr (WO).

HBW recorded sightings in all months with groups ranging from 1 to 13 (DK).

At Pensthorpe a duck with 16 duckling was recorded on 30th Mar. Was this a single brood?

Highest numbers were recorded at Lenwade Common, between Oct and Dec, of 30 to 60 (RG).

Also records from Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley Gravel Pits.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor and migrant. Amber listed.

1 recorded at Bittering on 9th Jan (IB, PR, TF).

Pensthorpe recorded a drake on 1st Nov, a pair on the 2nd and a duck on the 6th and 10th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

A winter visitor, and rare breeder. Amber listed.

Jan saw sightings of 3 at Elsing Mill (A&CJ), 1 at Lyng (S&BG) and 4 (BB) also at Lyng.

Pensthorpe saw 1 in Apr and then from Sept numbers building to the highest count of 17 on 6th Nov (TS).

Pochard *Aythya farina*

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

Jan saw single birds at Elsing and Swanton Morley GP. 1 record from SMHOT in Feb. Sparham Pools recorded 3 in Mar.

Pensthorpe recorded 1 in Apr. In May the sighting of a duck with 6 ducklings was proof of breeding. There were 2 drakes in Sept, increasing to 3 in Nov.

Red-crested Pochard *Neyya rufina*

A rare visitor to the valley.

1 drake at Pensthorpe on 21st Apr and 1 duck on 5th Nov (TS).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Summer breeder also common passage migrant & winter visitor. Amber listed.

Good numbers in Jan and Mar at Sparham Pools of 13 to 31.

30 on Jan 9th at Lyng (S&BG). Lenwade had good sightings with 21 on 19th Nov (R&CG). Lakeside, Lyng had 25 on 14th Feb (B&BP). Records from the HBW on 4 months from Feb to June.

Beetley Gravel Pits had 2 pairs in Apr (RG).

Pensthorpe submitted records from Apr to Dec with the maximum number on 5th Nov of 60.

Sparham Hall Farm recorded 38 on 28th Dec (RG, AH, RN).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Scarce winter visitor & passage migrant. Amber listed.

Only 3 records: 8th Mar at Swanton Pits (DK). Pensthorpe, a duck on 17th May and a drake on 16th Nov (TS).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Winter visitor & passage migrant. Green listed.

Records from a handful of sites in Jan, Feb and Mar saw 6 at Great Witchingham (RG), 12 at Lyng (AJ), 19 at Sparham Pools (BB). 2 pairs at Elsing (PLam).

In Nov 1 at Costessey (AB).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Common introduced resident.

Recorded on the HBW most months with the highest count in Oct with 7.

Pensthorpe, seen most months with a pair and 6 chicks on 31st Aug, 21 on 1st Nov (which had been flushed out) and a group of 9 on the 23rd (TS).

25 recorded in Worthing Church area in Sept with groups of 2 to 8 seen in Sept to Oct, often roosting on house roofs (DK).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

First winter period saw records from Hall Farm, Attlebridge and from the HBW in Mar, 4 from Daffy Green and 1 from Elsing in Apr.

Sparham Hall Farm had 2 breeding pairs during the summer with coveys of 7 and 12 (CS).

Sept at Pensthorpe 1 adult with 9 juveniles were recorded (TS). Also here larger numbers of 6 and 7 recorded in Nov (PJ). 9 recorded near Fakenham in Dec (IB).



Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Uncommon summer visitor.

Amber listed.

3 records only: In May 1 at Swanton Novers RWP (IB) and 1 at Sculthorpe Moor (TSm). In June 1 alongside the Marriotts Way in Old Costessey (AB).

Quail, by Steve Cale

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident.

Doubtless under-recorded as game management in the valley is widespread and involves the release of thousands of pheasants in the late summer/early autumn.

Highest counts:

6 to 10 at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge, Feb (WO).

8 N. Tuddenham, Feb (B&BP).

10 (3m.7f.) Oct, Pensthorpe (TS).

HBW small numbers recorded monthly. Also seen throughout the valley, Beetley GP, Billingford, East Bilney, Honingham, Lenwade, Mattishall.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*
by Scarce and local introduced resident.

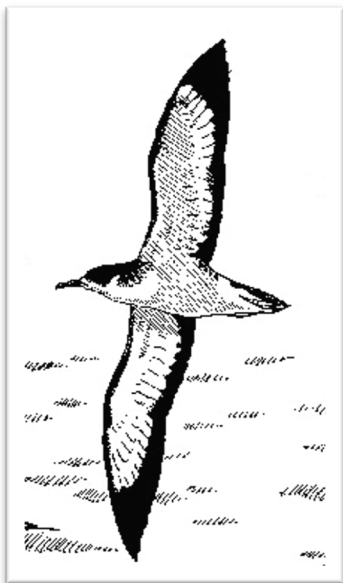
Records only from Sculthorpe Moor HOT, 1 seen frequently Jan to Apr, (IB, PL, JP, LP, LB). 2 males heard calling 16th Apr (PL). The origin of these birds is somewhat dubious!

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*
Vagrant "wrecked" inland after high winds.

A bird found at Lexham on 5th Sept was reported thus:

"A seabird was found this morning by a Game Keeper's dog in grass/nettles on the East Lexham Estate [TF 8617]. The bird turned out to be a Manx Shearwater in good condition. It was duly released late this afternoon at Wells-next-the-Sea, where it swam out to sea and started diving, before swimming out of view" (NarVOS).

Manx Shearwater,
by Steve Cale



Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common, increasing, resident. **Green listed.**

Reported throughout the year from 12 sites. Highest counts:

10 on 9th Jan at Elsing (R&CG, R&BN), 4 on 22nd June at Beetley GP (RG), 6 on 16th Oct on HBW (DK), 2 at Lenwade on 9th Jan (S&BG), 2 at Lyng on 14th Feb (B&BP) and at Pensthorpe 4 on 24th Oct (EB-J) and 6 on 10th Nov (TS).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Scarce visitor. **Red listed.**

Seen at 3 sites:

Pensthorpe 26th May (GE) and 9th Nov (PJ). Sculthorpe Moor HOT 12th Jan (TSM) and 14th Mar (NMid). Swanton Morley on 28th Jan (IB).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

Recorded at an increasing number of sites throughout the year. Up to 3 at Hall Farm, Attlebridge in Feb, HBW 2 to 3 seen in the 1st winter period. Seen in and around Worthing most months on a regular basis with a count of 4 on the river bridge on 27th July (JW).

Recorded at Pensthorpe most months with 3 on 21st May (IB).

Sightings of mainly single birds were received from Bintree, Dereham, Elsing Bridge, Guist Common, Lenwade, Lyng, Ringland, Scarning, Sculthorpe Moor HOT, Sparham Pools and Swanton Morley.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Common resident throughout the valley. Present all year. **Green listed.**

Early in the year sightings of 2 to 3 seen on a regular basis at Hall Farm, Attlebridge, 5 at Great Ryburgh RWP, 6 active nests at The Ark, Great Witchingham in May. Guist Common had records of up to 4 birds. 1 to 2 birds were seen most months on the HBW. There were regular sightings at Lenwade, Lyng, Swanton Morley, Taverham and Worthing. At Pensthorpe birds were seen almost on a daily basis.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Mainly a winter visitor but also an uncommon resident. Breeds in small numbers. **Amber listed.**

Evidence of breeding at Beetley GP and Pensthorpe.

In the first winter period sightings from Bintree Mill, Bylaugh, Dereham SW, Great Ryburgh, HBW, Lyng and Sparham Pools

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding resident on most pits & lakes in the valley, often departing to the coast in winter months. **Green listed.**

At Sparham Pools several pairs were nest building early in the year. Swanton Morley had sightings of 8 in Mar and 6 in June. Seen on HBW every month with 3 in July and Oct. Seen almost daily at Pensthorpe with evidence of young.

Apr and May saw 2 to 3 pairs each at Lyng Lakes, Lenwade Common and Lyng Easthaugh, with a highest count of 6 at Lyng Lakeside in May.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

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

Singles seen at Lyng 24th Apr (NM) and Pensthorpe 27th June (AR). There was also a single bird seen on HBW 18th Sept flying low overhead.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

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

Recorded every month from Jan to July throughout the valley - Briston, Bintree, Colkirk, Elsing, Guist, Honingham, Pensthorpe, R.Tud valley, Ringland, Sculthorpe, Kettlestone, Sennowe (A&AG, IB; C&FN; FH; RG; PL/NMid; PR; TF; JB; TS; JW; BS; MMcM; B&BP; NM; CS, GW), and one sighted in Dec. A total of 32 sightings. Normally singles but pairs seen on three occasions.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Recorded from Jan to Oct with the first sighting 9th Jan at Sculthorpe Moor and last 4th Oct at Pensthorpe. There were three main areas where the birds were seen on a regular basis Guist, Pensthorpe and Sculthorpe.

At Guist 16th Apr (PL/NMid), 18th May (B&BP), 5th May (PL), 25th & 29th Aug (IB) and July through to Sept with a max count of 3 (1m, 1f, 1juv) birds (RG, AJ, AH, RN).

At Pensthorpe 4th Apr, 10th, 14th, 15th & 29th Sept (TS), 10th Sept (E.B-J), 30th Sept (KB) mainly single birds.

At Sculthorpe singles on 9th Jan (JP, LB, LP), 3 on 5th May (B&BP), and 18th Apr (BB), 3 on 16th Apr (IB), 5 on 10th Apr (RG) and at HOT there were 6+ during the period Mar to Aug and 8 young fledged during July (PL, NMid).

Other records at Sparham Pools 31st Mar, 30th Aug (CS); Scarning 21st May (IB); Twyford 11th Sept (RG); Beetley GP 10th Apr (RG); Dereham 19th May (IB); Gt.Ryburgh 29th May (IB); Helhoughton 16th Apr 6 with 2 pair seen copulating (PL/NMid) and 1 pair 10th Apr (RG) and 1 bird at Kettlestone 15th Apr (GW) and 22nd May (AJ).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

Singles only seen on four occasions.

Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 15th Feb (PL), Little Snoring 21st Mar (GE) and at Pensthorpe on 31st Oct and 1st Nov (TS).

Possibly the same bird on both occasions at Pensthorpe and their first for at least four years.

Montagu's Harrier, by Steve Cale



Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

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

One was seen in the Aylsham area twice in July (PL) and a pair were reported from the Fakenham area mid-Apr to end June (NMid, RG, RN).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Singles seen on nine occasions. Swanton Novers 13th Feb when a female seen twice (IB); Bintree 12th Mar (NM), Sculthorpe Moor HOT 23rd Feb, involved another female (NMid); 8th Apr Sparham Pools (NM), 8th, 16th Apr Lyng (NM) and 17th Apr Sculthorpe Moor HOT (NMid) where a male was seen interacting with male Sparrowhawk. Another at Lyng 29th Apr (NM) and one Pensthorpe eating a Rook 11th Dec (MP). There was also a male displaying over Sculthorpe Moor HOT reserve 14th Mar (NMid).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Widespread fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green listed.

Records every month of the year of mainly single birds.

Individual dates too numerous to list. Seen at Attlebridge, Beetley Mill; Dereham SW; Doughton, Elsing; Felthorpe; Hockering; Foxley; Great Ryburgh, Guist, Hindolveston, Hockering, HBW, Lenwade, Lyng, N.Elmham, Pensthorpe, Ringland, Scarning, Sculthorpe Moor HOT, Sparham, North Tuddenham, Swanton, Kettlestone and Worthing.

There was proof of breeding with birds carrying food Pensthorpe 17th Apr (TS), Lyng Kingfisher Lakes 9th May (PLam), Foxley 2nd July (RG).

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Increasing breeding population in the valley. Green listed.

Reported every month of the year in 39 locations.

Highest counts were 4's Scarning 20th Mar (IB), Pensthorpe 6th Apr (TS), Lyng 15th June (NM), Pensthorpe 4th & 9th Sept and 14th Oct (TS). There were up to 8 Ringland 12th Feb (MMcC), Sennowe Park 13th Feb (AJ), SNRWP 22nd Mar (RG), Sculthorpe Moor 10th Apr (RG), Scarning 16th July (IB), Ringland 14th Aug (IB), SNRWP 29th July (IB), Pensthorpe 18th Aug (TS), Lyng 18th Sept (NM), Sparham Hall Farm 15th Sept (CS), Pensthorpe 23rd Sept (TS,EB-J), Kettlestone 18th Mar (GW).

By far the largest numbers seen were 12 Sennowe Park 20th Mar (NM). 14 SNRWP 22nd Mar (RG), 13 HBW 18th Sept (DK) and finally a huge 18 SNRWP 13th Feb (IB).

Proof of breeding noted at Sparham Hall Farm 1st May (CS). There were a number of displaying birds 5 Sennowe Park 13th Feb (AJ), 3 Little Witchingham 11th Apr (MS) and 2 Pensthorpe 15th Apr (TS).

Osprey *Pandion halaetus*

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

Seven records of single birds. Sculthorpe Moor HOT 10th Apr (PL) and 28th Jul (NMid), Lyng 30th Apr (NM,CS) and 5th Jun (NM), Sparham Pools 7th Jun (CS) and Square Meadow Lakes 25th Apr (BB).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Seen throughout the valley during every month of the year. Mainly single birds recorded from Apr through to Dec at Pensthorpe. Also recorded from Dereham SW, East Bilney, Fakenham, Fulmodestone, Gt.Ryburgh, Guist. HBW, Honingham, Kettlestone, Little Snoring, Lyng, Mileham, North Tuddenham, R.Tud valley, Ringland, Roosting Hills, Sculthorpe, Sparham Pools, Swanton Novers, Taverham, West Raynham, Swanton Morley GP, Elsing.

Proof of breeding from Pensthorpe where 5 pulli were ringed on 31st May (GE).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Single Sparham 7th Mar (NM), and single bird seen chasing Meadow Pipit in Mill St to Bawdeswell area 10th Oct (BS).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant throughout the valley. Green listed.

Single first sighted 23rd Apr Lyng (NM). Numerous records at Little Snoring, Pensthorpe, Swanton Morley, R.Tud valley, Sennowe, Sparham Pools, Scarning, Thorpe Marriott, Swanton Novers, Sculthorpe Moor HOT, Guist, Lyng, Foulsham with the last record 5th Oct Costessey Marshes (AB).

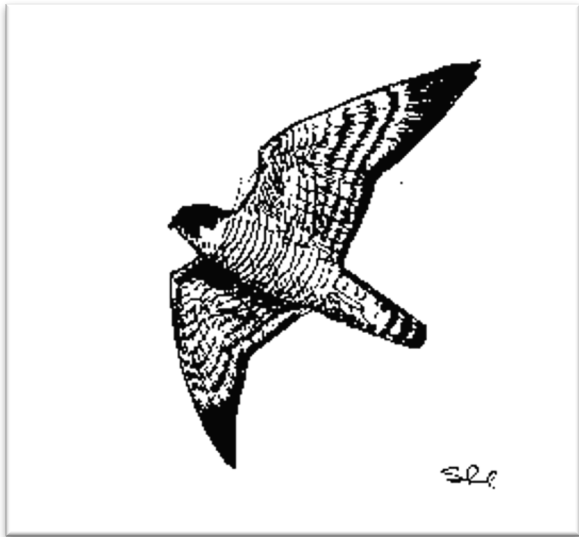
Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

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

First sightings 14th Mar via the nest platform camera at Norwich Cathedral. An egg was laid but did not hatch.

Singles also at Pensthorpe 14th Nov and 9th Dec (TS) and Sparham Hall Farm 27th Nov (CS).



Peregrine, by Steve Cale

Water Rail *Rallus aquatus*

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

The first winter period recorded single birds Sparham Pools 1st Jan (CS), Costessey 2nd Jan (AB), Sculthorpe Moor 7th & 9th Jan, 11th Feb (S&BG, BB, JP,LP,LB), Guist 22nd Mar (RG) and New Costessey/Gunton Lake 22nd Apr (PS).

During the summer one sighting Guist Common 24th Aug (RG, RN, AH).

Recorded in the second winter period with 2 Pensthorpe 25th Oct and 28th Oct (TS). Also singles Scarning 3rd Oct (IB), Pensthorpe 24th Oct (EB-J), Guist Common 18th Nov & 20th Dec (RG, AH, RN), Costessey Marshes 9th Dec (AB).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident. Widespread throughout valley supplemented by autumn immigrants. Green listed.

Under-recorded. Recorded every month of the year from 10 locations.

The only double figure count was Lyng Lakeside 14th Feb when 10 birds were recorded (B&BP).

Coot *Falica atra*

Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Another under-recorded species. with only 18 sightings but there were some large counts in the early part of the year with a maximum of 85 Lyng GP 1st Jan (CS). At this site there were also 40 on 9th Jan (S&BG), 20 on 14th (B&BP) and c.50 on 21st Jan (PLam). Elsewhere 28 Worthing 16th Jan (RG), 30 Swanton Morley GP 8th Mar (EJ).

The only significant second winter period count was 12 Pensthorpe on 16th Oct (TS).

The only report of breeding was 6 adults and 6 juveniles at Beetley GP on 20th July (RG).

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.

Single bird seen almost daily at Pensthorpe between early May and Nov, but two adults and two adults and a juvenile were also seen on a few occasions - 4th May, 24th Jun, 18th May (TS). 2 Lyng 30th Apr (NM), an impressive 8 Scarning 14th Aug (IB); 2 Taverham & Thorpe Marriott 10th Apr (MMc).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

First sighting of single on 14th Feb Lyng Lakeside (B&BP) then seen every month up to 14th Aug Pensthorpe (TS) with 4 birds recorded. 1- 4 birds also at Attlebridge Hall Farm, Beetley GP, Gt.Ryburgh, Guist Common, HBW, Kettlestone, Lenwade, North Tuddenham, Ringland, Sculthorpe Moor, Sennowe Park, Sparham Hall Farm; Sparham Pools, Swanton Morley, Worthing.

There were a number of records of breeding with 1 adult + 1 juvenile Pensthorpe 21st June (TS), nest with two eggs Sculthorpe Moor 1st May (PL) and nesting Sparham Pools 22nd Apr (RG).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

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

Recorded primarily at Pensthorpe where up to 9 birds were seen (5 ad + 4 juv) over the breeding season of Apr to July (TS, IB, EB-J).

Also Sculthorpe Moor HOT had a fleeting appearance of 2 on 28th May and 2 again 1st July (PL). On WVBS field trip 2 were recorded 25th June at Sennowe Park (DG).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadris dubius*

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

Every record but one was at Pensthorpe with the first sighting of single 31st Mar (TS). Then throughout Apr and May with a max 5 birds 21st Apr (TS, EB-J) with the last record 1 on 3rd July (TS). There was breeding here with 1 pair + 2 young. The young (pulli) were ringed 6th June (GE).

The only other site was Sennowe Park with 1 on 25th June (DG).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common passage migrant and increasing winter visitor. Amber listed.

The first records of the year were on WVBS winter count 9th Jan (IB, TF, PR) and c.60 near Foulsham water tower 14th Jan (G&AJ) and 40 in fields at North Tuddenham 11th Feb (B&BP). The max count of the first winter period was 450 on 23rd Feb near the Cawston to Marsham road (AB).

In the second winter period counts of 10 - 40 were recorded Pensthorpe 11th Nov (TS), Sparham Hall Farm 18th Nov (CS) and Lenwade/Weston Longville 30th Nov (RG). Counts of 70-150 were noted: Bawdeswell 15th Sept (NM), Lyng 4th Dec (RG), Gressenhall in fields on 8th Dec (IB), R.Tud valley, New Costessey 29th Oct (AG) and Worthing Church area 13th Nov (DK).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

The first sightings of the year were on our Winter Bird Count on 9th Jan with 1-10 at Bittering, Colkirk, Lenwade and Weston Longville.

Recorded every month of the year in the valley with records at Bawdeswell, Costessey, Guist Common, Horningtoft, HBW, Kettlestone, Lyng, Norfolk Show Ground, North Tuddenham, Pensthorpe, R.Tud valley, Scarning, Sculthorpe Moor, Sennowe Park, Sparham, Sparham Hall Farm, Swanton Morley and Worthing.

Flocks of between 100 – 200 were quite common with 110 Sparham 30th Jan and Lyng 15th Sept (NM), 149 R.Tud valley 17th Nov (AG), 220 Pensthorpe 24th Sept (TS) and 150 on 8th Dec Gressenhall (IB) but the max number was 238 recorded at Pensthorpe 19th Sept (TS).

A nest with 4 eggs recorded Pensthorpe 14th Apr (TS) with adults and a juvenile seen in June and July. Breeding was confirmed at Sculthorpe Moor where at least two pairs bred bringing off 6 young.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

Rare passage migrant.

Amber listed.

A single recorded 22nd – 24th Sept Pensthorpe (TS).

Ruff, by Steve Cale



Jack Snipe

Lymnocyptes minimus

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

A single recorded 8th Dec Pensthorpe (TS).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

By far the most sightings came from Pensthorpe (EB-J, TS) with 1-5 birds in Apr. Then from Aug to Dec up to 8 were recorded but with a max of 18 on 5th Oct being the best count of the autumn.

Other sites with mainly 1-5 birds were in **Jan** North Tuddenham (B&BP), Bintree Mill (RG), Costessey (AB), Swanton Morley (B&BP), Worthing (RG); in **Feb** 15+ Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 19th (PL), Attlebridge Hall Farm on 23rd (WO) and in **Apr** Ringland on 3rd Apr (MMc).

In **Oct** 10 Costessey Marshes on 20th Oct (AB), In **Nov** 10+ Guist Common on 18th (RG) and in **Dec** 10 Costessey Marshes on 9th (AB), 12 Scarning on 24th (IB).

Woodcock *Scotopax rusticola*

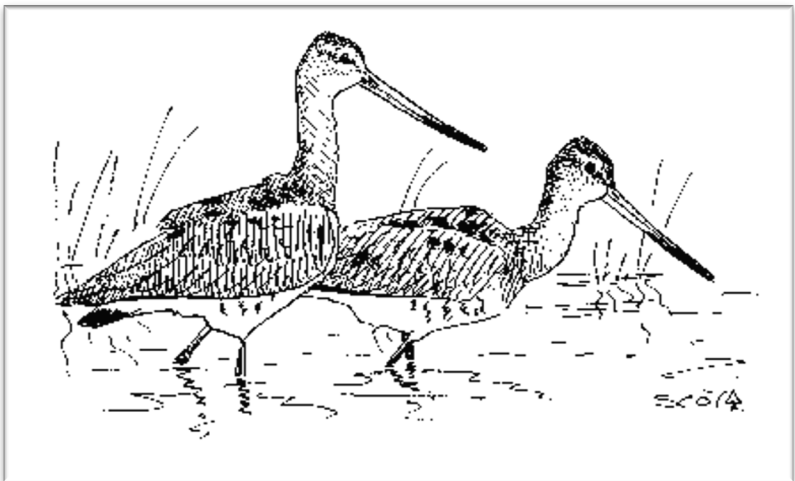
Uncommon breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Mainly singles otherwise monthly site max given.

During the first winter period recorded: in **Jan** Daffy Green, Rush Meadows Dereham, Foxley Wood, 2 Scarning, 10+ Sculthorpe Moor HOT (PL, TS), 8 Sparham Hall Farm on 8th (CS); In **Feb** Dereham, 8+ Hempton on 19th (GE), Ringland, 6+ Sculthorpe Moor on 19th (PL).

The only record received from the breeding season was 6 Sculthorpe Moor on 7th May (NMid).

During the second winter period: in **Oct** on 24th Pensthorpe recorded first for the autumn; in **Nov** 3 Costessey on 30th (AB), Guist Common, 2 Scarning and Sparham Hall Farm where first of autumn on 16th.



Black-tailed Godwits, by Steve Cale

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Scarce passage migrant to the area. Red listed.

Pensthorpe 2 on 3rd May (EB-J) and 7 on 18th July (TS). In addition one was reported flying over Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 12th Apr by an unknown observer.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Scarce passage migrant to WVBS area. Mainly fly-overs. Amber listed.
Only three records. Bird heard on two occasions HBW 20th Mar, 17th Apr (DK) and single bird seen 15th Sept Sparham Pools (CS).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Declining passage migrant. Amber listed.

Single Roosting Hills 8th May (B&BP) remainder all at Pensthorpe with singles 22nd Apr, 16th May, 19th May, 6th Sept, 7th Sept (TS,EB-J). 2 Pensthorpe 12th Aug (TS).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

Singles throughout the year 6th Jan Lyng (PLam), 3rd Feb, 10th Apr, 25th July Sculthorpe Moor HOT (PL), 12th Feb Ringland (MMc), 1st Mar Sparham Pools(CS), 25th July (DG), R.Tud valley 1st Aug (AG) and Pensthorpe in Mar to Oct (TS, GE) with max 2 on 3rd July, 17th Aug, 22nd Aug (TS).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Rare passage migrant. Amber listed.

Singles 14th – 16th Apr and 26th Aug at Pensthorpe (TS).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce passage migrant. Green listed.

Singles 16th & 21st Apr at Pensthorpe (TS).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

All sightings at Pensthorpe early spring and summer. 2-3 birds recorded 31st Mar throughout Apr, 4th May and 14th July (TS). Also Pensthorpe 4 on 8th Apr and 1 on 13th Apr (EB-J).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

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

This common species was reported every month of the year but is clearly under-reported.

Counts of a hundred plus in the first winter period were: 100 HBW 16th Jan (DK), 286 heading west R.Tud valley, New Costessey 5th Feb (AG), c.100 Ringland 27th Feb (MMcC) and 150 Wensum Valley GC 7th Mar (EJ).

There were much higher counts in the second half of the year with 700 hawking flying ants over R.Tud valley, New Costessey on 31st July (AG), 750 following the plough at Bintree on 1st Sept (RG) and 700 Thurning 14th Sept (AJ).

Proof of breeding was recorded at Sparham Pools NR with 5 nests on 22nd Apr producing 10 + young 15th June (RG, AH, AJ, BM, RN).

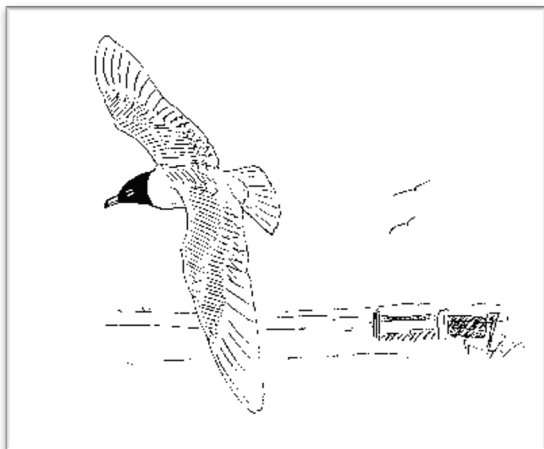
Mediterranean Gull

Larus melancephalus

Scarce visitor. Amber listed.

Mediterranean Gull, by Steve Cale

Nine records all in the middle period of the year. 2 Pensthorpe 8th, 14th Apr (TS), followed by 1 on 22nd June (TS) and another 13th July (NA). Elsewhere 1 Sculthorpe Moor 21st May, 2 Swanton Novers RWP 30th May (IB) and 1 Sennowe Park 25th June (DG).



Common Gull *Larus canus*

Widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber listed.

Recorded every month except May with 1-4 birds over the two winter periods with high counts of 20 Lyng (S&BG) 9th Jan, 80 on 20th Feb & 18 on 20th Mar on HBW (DK) but 379 passing over R.Tud valley, New Costessey on Feb 5th (AG) was by far the highest count.

There were 50 Bintree 1st Sept (RG) and Pensthorpe had up to 19 in Nov (TS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

Significant sightings were 20 Taverham 10th Apr and 30 Wensum Valley GC 25th Apr (MMcC) then 193 passed through R. Tud valley, New Costessey 24th Sept (AG) but by far the highest count was 850 in pig fields at Ringland on 10th Oct (RG).

Herring Gull *Larus argentus*

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

In the first winter period large flocks were seen at Attlebridge Old Hall Farm with up to 100 on 1st Feb, c.300 there 9th Mar and 100+ on 1st Apr (WO), c.20 Ringland 27th Feb and 120 there 25th Apr (MMcC). The max number counted were 500 near the pig fields at Ringland in the second winter period 10th Oct (RG). Also 25 Pensthorpe 5th Nov and 30 there 21st Nov (TS).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Up to 3 HBW 15th May (DK). A single bird Ringland 10th Oct (RG) and a max of 2 Pensthorpe through Oct to Dec period (TS).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Rare summer visitor to the valley. Amber listed.

Single bird at Swanton Morley GP on 22nd Apr (RG). The only previous valley records 7th May 2008 (CS), 4 birds at Swanton Morley GP on 8th Aug 1984 (NB&MR) and single bird at Lyng Easthaugh GP on 20th Apr 1980 (NB&MR).



Little Tern, by Steve Cale

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Migratory breeder and passage migrant in valley. Amber listed.

Recorded at 8 sites along river. Earliest record 5th Apr at Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes – the earliest record ever for CS who has been recording the species arrival dates for many years.

No further reports until 22nd Apr when 2 at Pensthorpe, 4+ at Sparham Hall Farm fishing lakes & 3 at Swanton Morley GP. Then 2 at Lenwade Common on 23rd (RG) and 4 at Ringland on 29th.

Breeding records from Pensthorpe where 1 pair fledged 3 juvs (GE); NWT Sparham Pools NR c10 pairs fledged c20 juvs; WVBS tern raft on Sparham Hall Farm fishing lake unknown number of pairs fledged 18 juvs (RG *et al*); 3-4 birds present at Swanton Morley GP late Apr - early June and single noted at Sennowe Park in June but no reports of breeding received from these sites.

Latest record 3 birds at Costessey heading S at 9am on Sept 25th (AG).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage migrant.

One Sparham tern raft lake 19th Apr (CS).

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Feral resident, associated with human habitation.

Flocks of “many” at Lenwade and unknown number in Dereham on 9th Jan. Otherwise no reports received.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Fairly common resident throughout valley. Amber listed.

Recorded each month during HBW and at 11 other locations. Highest counts in first winter period 25 at Bintree, 6-8 at Attlebridge and 8 on HBW.

1-5 birds reported at 12 locations during breeding period. Evidence of breeding at Helhoughton where bird calling from nest site and at Kettlestone where they are considered to have “certainly bred”.

In second winter period highest counts 6 on HBW and 7 at Pensthorpe in Dec.

Between Oct 13th – 30th 6 birds in total observed migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident throughout the valley. Green listed.

Highest counts in first winter period: Jan 30 at Kettlestone, 12 at N Tuddenham and at New Costessey; Feb: 50-100 at Attlebridge, 200 on HBW, 20 at Honingham; Mar: 15 at Kettlestone, 13 on HBW.

Breeding observed at Pensthorpe where 2 adults & 1 juv in May, 2 juvs in Aug and 2 adults & 1 juv in Sept. Also at Kettlestone where one occupied nest noted but several pairs probably bred.

During the breeding period high counts of 12 on HBW in Apr; 76 at Bilney, 40 at Mileham, 34 at Old Beetley, 19 at Beetley GP and 12 on HBW during June; 10 at Hockering Wood in July.

(continues)

Wood Pigeon (continued)

Highest counts in second winter period: Sept 15 on HBW; Oct 32 on HBW; Nov 100 on HBW, c60 inc several juvs at Pensthorpe; Dec 30 on HBW, 12 in a garden at New Costessey.

Oct 2nd – Nov 16th a total of 5,885 counted migrating through the R Tud valley; the highest daily counts 2,476 on Oct 16th, 1380 on Nov 8th & 488 on Nov 9th. On Oct 16th an albino bird noted flying S in a large flock (AG).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident, associated with human habitation. Green listed.

During first winter period small groups of 2-4 birds reported from eight scattered sites with higher counts of 16 at Beetley in Jan and c37 at Fulmodeston in Mar.

No breeding records received but 2-5 birds at N Tuddenham, Attlebridge, Sparham Pools, Sennowe Park and Mileham at various times during Apr-June.

Only two records received in the second half of the year. Sept 23rd – Nov 13th 8 birds observed migrating through the R Tud valley at New Costessey and a single bird noted at Worthing in late Dec.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Decreasing migratory breeder and passage migrant. Red listed.

Earliest record 11th Apr when 2 at Old Costessey (AB) followed by one heard during HBW on 17th and two reports of presumably the same bird at Lenwade on the 30th. Birds continued to arrive during May with singles heard at Kettlestone on 4th, at Swanton Morley GP on 8th, Worthing on 10th, N Tuddenham and Kettlestone again on 11th, Sparham Pools on 14th, Fakenham on 18th, Dereham on 19th and Pensthorpe on 21st.

Two birds recorded every day during May in a garden at N Tuddenham and 1-2 birds at 8 other sites but no evidence of breeding noted.

Latest report 2 birds at Costessey on Sept 20th (AB).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Migratory breeder and passage migrant. Red listed.

First report of year a single bird on Apr 9th at Sparham Pools (NM) followed by singles at Lyng Easthaugh on 11th, Lyng on 12th, Helhoughton and Pensthorpe on 16th with 2 at Sculthorpe Moor on same day, singles on HBW on 17th, Bintree Mill and Kettlestone on 20th, Taverham on 21st, New Costessey on 23rd, Lenwade and Sennowe Park on 25th, Great Ryburgh and Guist on 29th.

Calling birds heard from a further 3 sites in May and two in June. Two birds on HBW on May 15th and Dereham on 19th with a further two noted at Swanton Morley on June 4th.

Single bird at Kettlestone July 15th an “unusually late record”.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

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

During first winter period reports from 26 sites of largely single birds with 3 noted at Attlebridge and 2 at Swanton Morley GP in Jan, 2 at Scarning and Worthing village in Feb and 2 during HBW in Mar.

During breeding/post fledging period reported from 17 sites with evidence of breeding at Lyng, Sparham Hall Farm, Lyng Easthaugh and Scarning where rings attached to 3 birds. One bird with ring on leg found dead at Pensthorpe on Sept 3rd and another carrying prey on the 22nd indicating possible breeding.

Reported from just 4 sites in second winter period but present at Worthing throughout the year. A high count of 6 perched around a field at Pensthorpe on Nov 1st.

Little Owl *Athene noctue*

Introduced resident. Fairly common in WVBS area.

During first winter period up to 2 birds at N Tuddenham in Jan and singles at Daffy Green, Fustyweed (Elsing), Attlebridge, Scarning and Worthing village.

Bred at Sparham Hall Farm, Swallow Falls (Swanton Morley) and N Tuddenham. Four birds at Longham in July could indicate possible breeding. Elsewhere in breeding season 1-2 birds at Attlebridge, Daffy Green, Great Ryburgh RWP, Whissonsett, Worthing and Scarning but no apparent evidence of breeding.

During second winter period singles at Scarning, Costessey Mill, N Tuddenham, Sparham Hole and during HBW.

1-2 birds present at Worthing all year but no proof of breeding reported.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Widespread resident. Green listed.

At Sparham Hall Farm the species was “active all year” and elsewhere 1-3 birds reported (mostly heard) at infrequent intervals from 19 scattered locations.

Two males with female responding at Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve in Jan, 3 birds calling all night at Scarning in Apr, a roosting bird discovered at Kettlestone in May, 1 bird calling during the middle of the day at Worthing village in July and 3 birds calling from different directions at Guist Common in Sept.

Breeding recorded at Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve where 6 juveniles fledged from 2 nest boxes and at N Tuddenham where adult and 1 juvenile observed.

Two road casualties in Aug one at Hall Farm, Dereham the other at Berry Hall, Honingham.



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

The only report received was of 2 males and 1 female at Marsham Heath observed during the Society's evening visit in June (RG, *et al*).

Nightjar, by Steve Cale

Swift *Apus apus*

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

First report 23rd Apr at Scarning (IB). More reports during first week of May with 7 at Hindolveston on 1st, 2 Mill Street, Elsing on 2nd, 3 Guist Common, 2 at Lyng and Pensthorpe on 5th, 9 at Taverham and 3 at Worthing on 7th.

Reported from a further 10 sites during May-Aug period with highest counts 17 during HBW in May, 11 in June, 12 in July; 15 at Worthing in June with 10 in July and 20+ at Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve in Aug.

Only evidence of breeding reported was at Worthing where 10 birds observed flying into nest sites under tiles (DK).

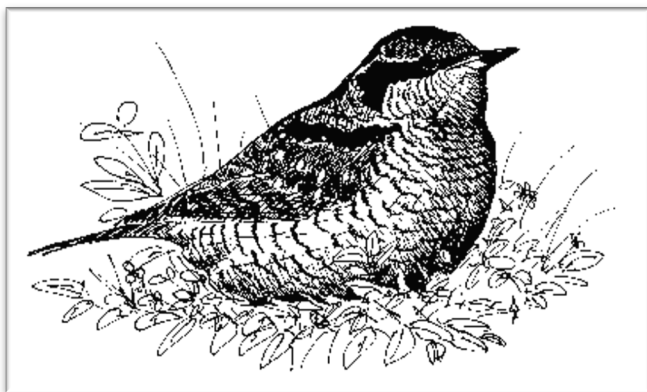
Latest records 2 at Lyng (NM) and 2 at Pensthorpe (TS) on 8th Sept.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Common resident in the valley. **Amber listed.**

Mainly singles reported from 12 sites. Very few reports during first winter period – singles at Dereham SW, Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve and Sparham Pools. At the latter site regular sightings were made from the end of Mar with most Aug/Sept but reported as “quite scarce this year”. At Kettlestone Common birds recorded on 5 occasions 8th June-19th Aug. Two juveniles ringed but no evidence of breeding on site although the species made a welcome return after being absent during 2010.

During second winter period regular sightings of single bird at Pensthorpe until the beginning of Dec with 3 in Nov. Singles also reported at Worthing, Scarning, Dereham SW, Guist Common, Lenwade Common and Gressenhall. Two “chasing” at Hellesdon Marsh in Nov.



Wryneck, by Steve Cale

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Former breeder now a very rare passage migrant. **Red listed.**

Single spring passage bird in a garden at Kettlestone on 12th May (AJo).

Green Woodpecker *Picis viridis*

Fairly common resident. **Amber listed.**

Mostly single birds recorded once or at irregular intervals at 19 scattered sites. Heard regularly throughout Mar and Apr until early May at Kettlestone Common. On HBW singles reported each month except May and 3 at Lenwade Heath in Nov. No evidence of breeding received.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident. Increasingly visiting garden feeders. **Green listed.**

Mostly single birds reported from 17 scattered sites. Two to three birds at Hall Farm, Attlebridge during first 4 months of year and up to 2 birds in New Costessey garden in Jan and Feb but no evidence of subsequent breeding noted.

Pair at feeders on 8th Feb at Kettlestone Common and drumming heard throughout Mar but no further records until 11th May. No further sightings until second half of July after which heard and seen regularly.

Proof of breeding observed at N Tuddenham in July.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

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

Fewer reports than in 2010.

One heard calling at Kettlestone Common on 10th Mar. Single birds on 15th Mar (NMI) and 6th Aug (MP, HOT employee) at Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

A very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Single wintering bird at Fakenham on 28th Dec (IB) reportedly present from 15th Dec until end of year.

Jay *Garrulus monedula*

Common resident and winter visitor. Green listed.

Three in a Taverham garden in Jan, 6 in Sept and 9 in Oct during HBW, 3-4 at Pensthorpe Sept-Nov, 3 at Guist Common in Sept and 3 at Lenwade Common in Dec probably reflects the Jay's habit of wandering in small groups during winter away from their favoured woodland habitat.

Also reported in 1-2s at a further 13 sites at various times through the year including the breeding/post breeding period but no evidence of breeding noted.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Common resident. Green listed.

Recorded throughout the year during the HBW and 1-2 birds at 13 scattered sites mainly in central area. Highest counts in first winter period during **Jan 5** at New Costessey, 10 at Honingham, 7 during HBW; **Feb 6** at Honingham, 12 at Guist and 13 during HBW. Reported in gardens at New Costessey and Mattishall during Jan.

No breeding records received and assessed as "uncommon" at Pensthorpe.

Highest counts in second winter period from HBW when 5 in Sept, 7 in Oct and 6 in Dec.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Common resident. Green listed.

Probably under reported as only records received from one member after the end of June. Recorded each month except July on monthly HBW. Highest counts during both winter periods – HBW Jan 7, Feb 20, Mar 21, Sept 8, Nov max 5, Dec 150.

Elsewhere max 20 with Rooks at Kettlestone, 6-8 Attlebridge in Feb; 16 at Kettlestone and 6 in Worthing village in Mar with up to 5 in Nov. Almost certainly a small colony building on or around Kettlestone Common and 150 with large flock of Rooks passed over the site on 5th Aug. No other breeding records received.

Reports of 1-2 birds from a further 9 scattered sites.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Recorded each month except July on monthly HBW. Highest counts during the winter periods were Jan 135 Worthing, 82 Beetley, 60 HBW; Feb up to 200 at Kettlestone; Mar 26 HBW; Sept 60 Worthing, 150 HBW; Dec 300 HBW.

On 23rd Mar one was mobbing a Red Kite at Kettlestone Common.

One report of 11 nests in rookery at Pensthorpe in Mar which is an increased number from 2010. Elsewhere large concentrations of 60 in May and 50 during HBW, 19 East Bilney in June and 300 over Kettlestone Common on 5th Aug with 40 on 19th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

Reported every month up to the end of June and then only from HBW and Kettlestone Common during Aug-Dec period. No reports of any sizeable winter foraging groups the highest counts being 8 during HBW in Jan; 4 at Lyng in Feb; 8 at N Tuddenham in early Apr; 10 HBW in Oct. Otherwise 1-2 birds at 3 other sites.

Evidence of breeding at Taverham where a bird was observed carrying nesting material and at Kettlestone Common where they "probably bred nearby". In June 7 birds counted at Beetley GP and 6 at Mileham within a 2km square in one hour for the BTO Atlas survey.

Corvid Roost: In Dec c4000 corvids roosting near Elsing Hall (DK).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

1-2 birds recorded irregularly at 14 sites through the year except May. Highest counts of 5+ at Dereham SW in Oct and 4 at Scarning in Dec.

No evidence of breeding reported although a singing bird heard at Pensthorpe in early Apr and birds present during breeding/post breeding period at Scarning, HBW, Old Beetley and Sennowe Park.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus**Common resident. Green listed.*

Recorded each month during HBW and at infrequent intervals at 19 other sites.

Highest counts in first winter period 12 at Honingham and 13 during HBW in Jan; 10+ at Attlebridge, 8 at N Tuddenham and 17 during HBW in Feb; 22 during HBW in Mar. Fifty-six birds ringed at Kettlestone Common were considered to be a very good winter period reflecting the high number of juveniles in 2010. Disappointingly only 10 juveniles were ringed in post breeding period.

Breeding at N Tuddenham where 4 nests contained a total of 32 eggs and at Hindolveston where a pair used a terracotta nesting ball. During breeding period 6 at Attlebridge, 15 during HBW, 6 at Beetley GP, 6 at Pensthorpe and 9 at East Bilney. 1-2 birds Sparham Pools, Old Beetley and Mileham.

Post breeding period 20 in July and 15 in Sept during HBW and 20 captured in mist nets at Guist Common in July. Counts in second winter period only from HBW when 15 in Sept, 5 in Oct, 4 in Nov and 3 in Dec.

Great Tit *Parus major**Common resident. Green listed.*

Recorded each month during HBW with highest counts in first winter period of 9 in Jan, 12 in Feb, and 14 in Mar. Thereafter 1-7 birds with only 1 in May, 2 in Nov and 3 in Dec. 10 plus seen daily in Old Hall Farm garden, Attlebridge during Feb dropping to 6 in Apr. At Kettlestone Common 45 ringed and 19 re-trapped from previous years back to 2008.

Occasional records of 2-6 birds from 14 other sites. Breeding at N Tuddenham where 1 nest had 10 eggs in late Apr and at Hindolveston where one pair observed feeding young in nest box in early May.

In June the first of 13 juveniles ringed at Kettlestone Common on the 8th and a total of 18 birds captured at the Pensthorpe Constant Effort Site. Also during June 5 birds recorded in one hour within a 2km tetrad at Beetley GP, with 4 birds around Old Beetley, 3 around East Bilney and only 1 in Mileham area.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident. **Green listed.**

1-2 birds reported at infrequent intervals at 12 scattered sites through the year. Two birds visiting garden feeder in first winter period at Honingham and 1-2 birds in New Costessey, Mattishall and Worthing village in both winter periods. Four birds recorded at Lenwade during the Society's Bird Count with 4 at Honingham in Feb.

New record numbers reported at Kettlestone Common with regular sightings in first winter period and spring. 13 birds ringed with 5 retraps dating back to Mar 2009. Only 1 bird in May and none in June but more regular records in July and Aug. 5 juveniles ringed, the first on 15th July.

Two birds captured at Pensthorpe Constant Effort Site in Apr and just 1 in Aug.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Scarce declining resident. **Red listed.**

Two birds at Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve on 1st & 2nd Jan one of which was heard singing (PL). Single bird singing on 4th Jan (PL). 2 on 1st Feb (PL) and 1 on 4th (BB) with no singing reported. There were no second winter period reports from SMHOT. Is this another site to lose its Willow Tits?

One was caught and ringed near Dunham Wood at East Lexham on 6th Aug (MT).

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

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

Irregular reports 1-2 birds from 16 scattered sites. No reports during May.

In first winter period 5 at Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve in Jan with more than 4 present during Mar. Four at Foxley Wood late Mar and at Pensthorpe early Apr. At Kettlestone Common recorded up to end of Apr, then just single records in May and June with a few more in July and Aug. Three ringed during first winter period with just one retrap back to July 2009. (continues)

Marsh Tit (continued)

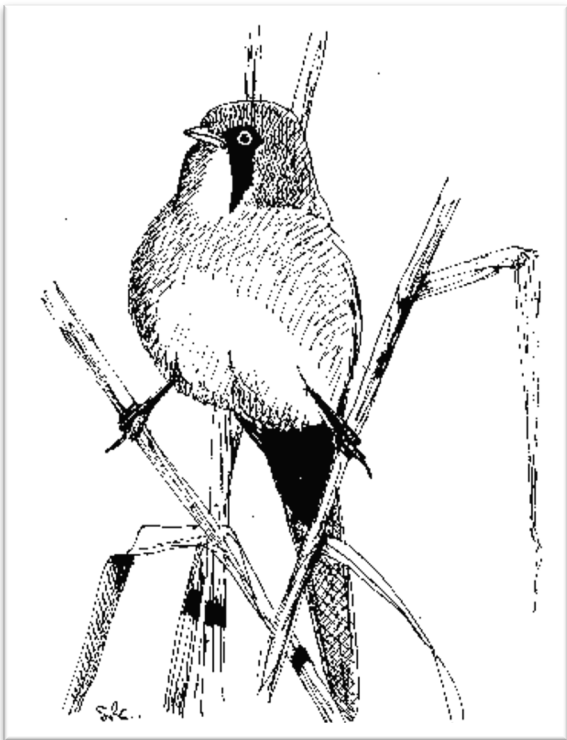
No reports of breeding received but 1-2 birds at Pensthorpe, Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve, East Bilney and during HBW during breeding/post breeding period. At Kettlestone Common “no juveniles ringed for first time brings fears that Marsh Tit may go same way as Willow Tit”.

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus
Rare visitor to valley.

Amber listed.

Single bird at Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve on 5th Apr (PL). Bearded Tits “erupt” in no specific direction from their reedbed colonies in Sept to Nov, so had this bird been in the area since autumn 2010?



Bearded Tit, by Steve Cale

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

In first winter period wintering flocks reported at 11 sites with highest counts of 25 at Sparham Hall Farm, 10 at N Tuddenham and 80 in Worthing Church area in Jan; 55 at Ringland and 7 at Swanton Novers in Feb; 28 at Ringland and 6 at N Tuddenham in Mar with 40 at Ringland in early Apr. Otherwise 1-4 birds at 8 other sites.

A decline in breeding pairs on Sparham Hall Farm and during breeding period up to 3 singing birds at Pensthorpe, 1-2 in Worthing Church area, during HBW, at Beetley GP, Old Beetley, Kettlestone, East Bilney and Mileham.

Post breeding flock of 8 at Weston Longville and 8 flying over Pensthorpe in Sept with 1+ birds singing there in early Oct.

In the second winter period highest counts of 8 at Ringland in Oct, 12 at Attlebridge, 8 at Scarning and Foulsham in Nov, 100+ at N Tuddenham and 18 Fakenham in Dec.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

*Passage migrant and migratory breeder preferring fresh faces in sand quarries. **Amber listed.***

Earliest report 1 at Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve on 28th Mar (PL) with c10 at Pensthorpe on 30th (TS). Thereafter 20 at Pensthorpe on 4th Apr declining to 6 by 5th May. Four birds counted during HBW and 10+ at Lyng in latter half of Apr.

Twelve birds at Beetley GP on 8th May increased to c300 by 22nd June with 200 nest holes counted on 13th. This breeding colony was "decimated by foxes" leaving just 2 birds on 20th July. Elsewhere 87 birds were netted during a ringing session at Lyng Easthaugh on 2nd July. Also in July 2 birds during HBW and at Pensthorpe with 20 birds at Guist Common between 31st July and 20th Aug. No birds reported after this date.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

Earliest report single bird at Lyng on 25th Mar (NM) with 3 at Sparham Pools on 29th (BB). In Mar members reported their first sightings on their local patches with single at New Costessey & 2 at Scarning on 2nd, 2 at Attlebridge & 1 at Felthorpe on 3rd, 1 at Sparham Hall & 10 at Worthing GP on 4th, 2 at Pensthorpe on 5th, 1 at Sparham Pools NR & max 4 at Worthing village on 7th, 2 at N Tuddenham on 8th, 2 at Lenwade Common on 9th, 1 at Thorpe Marriott on 14th, 2 at Ringland on 15th & 5 at Taverham on 25th. By 20th Mar up to 12 present at Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge and 20 at Kingfisher Lake, Lyng on 26th.

In May 2 at Hindolveston on 1st, 6 at Roosting Hills GP (Beetley) on 8th, 4 at Guist Bridge on 9th, 2 during HBW on 15th, 2 at Worthing on 17th & 1 at Taverham on 21st.

Breeding at Swanton Morley where 8 nests and a total of 9 young ringed in June with a further 2 nests both with 5 eggs on 20th July. At Worthing a total of 6 birds with adults feeding young on 27th June. At Kettlestone a pair with 3 fledged young on 28th June. In Sept at Worthing still 2 adults feeding 3 young on 19th and still present on 1st Oct.

Post breeding flock of 16 at Worthing village on 2nd July increasing to 20 by 28th and 35 by 2nd Sept. At Sculthorpe Moor HOT Reserve 20 on 2nd Aug, 6 at N Tuddenham on 27th and up to 40 at Pensthorpe on 7th Sept. Just 12 passing through Worthing village on 26th Sept.

Numbers of roosting birds at Guist Common fluctuated; during July 80 on the 11th, 25 on 21st, 200 on 31st; during Aug 20 on 6th, 50+ on 17th, 250+ on 20th, 20 on 22nd, 50+ on 24th with just 10 on 3rd Sept and 8 on 8th.

Latest sightings 5 at Worthing on 2nd Oct (DK) and 1 at New Costessey on 13th (AG).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant. Amber listed.

Earliest reports in Apr with 3 New Costessey on 2nd (AG) and singles at North Elmham and Taverham on 10th followed by up to 4 at Lyng on 11th, c5 at Pensthorpe on 13th, an unknown number at Elsing Bridge on 17th, 20+ at Kingfisher Lake, Lyng on 26th and 20 at N Tuddenham on 29th.

Breeding season records: in May up to 10+ at Pensthorpe, 2 at Beetley GP, 2 during HBW and up to 7 at Worthing; in June 5 at Worthing, 3 during HBW, 2 at Old Beetley, up to 4 at Pensthorpe and probably a post breeding flock of 30+ at Guist Common.

50-100+ roosting birds at Guist Common in Aug with 80 on 2nd Sept. Other high counts in Aug 22 during HBW and 10 at Pensthorpe; in Sept 55 at Worthing village on 2nd, 12 during HBW on 18th and c60 at Pensthorpe on 21st down to 30 on 22nd.

Latest records all on 6th Oct with 2 Old Costessey (AB), 3 at Pensthorpe (TS) and 10 heading W along R Tud valley at New Costessey (AG).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Rare resident expanding its range through valley. Green listed.

Recorded from Gunton Lakes, New Costessey 2 on 24th Apr (PS), Pensthorpe 14th Apr through to 24th Nov with 2 on 12th Oct (EB-J, GE, TS), Sculthorpe Moor 7th May (PL) and Swanton Morley GP 4th June (IB).

Long Tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus**Common resident. Green listed.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hoe Bird Walk	6	9	12	3	4	22	14	12	20	26	1	8

Apart from the HBW set of records the only double figure counts were c.20 at Lenwade on 4th Nov, up to 16 at Nethergate on 5th Jan and at Pensthorpe 15 on 6th June & 3rd Aug and 10 on 1st Nov. Nest building was observed on Lenwade Common on 18th Apr. Recorded visiting bird feeders at Felthorpe, Hindolveston, Mattishall and New Costessey.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix**Extremely rare migrant. Red listed.*

One was recorded on a dawn chorus at Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 16th Apr (IB, GE).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita**Common summer resident, passage migrant and increasing winter visitor. Green listed.*

First winter records from Bylaugh SW 1st Jan (BB) & 23rd Jan (NM), probably the same bird nearby on 13th Feb (AJ). One on 12th Mar at Lenwade was at the forefront of the main immigration from 19th Mar. Last record was 12th Oct Pensthorpe (TS). Indication of a poor breeding season was 37 adults to only 13 juveniles ringed at Kettlestone (GW) and none at all ringed at Guist Common cf. 2010 when 3 adult & 7 juvs. 72 records from 23 locations.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus**Common summer resident and passage migrant, declining. Amber listed.*

An extremely early bird was recorded at Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 27th Mar (12 days earlier than 2010). The main influx started on 4th Apr Pensthorpe (TS), 5th Apr Sparham Pools (CS) becoming widespread over the next few days. Last bird 18th Sept HBW (DK). 32 records from 14 locations.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Only one first winter record, a female, 29th Jan Mattishall (EW). The main influx started on 25th Mar at Sparham Pools (CS) and got into full flow first week of Apr. Last summering birds 12th Oct Pensthorpe (TS) & 1st Nov at New Costessey (AG). 70 records from 24 locations. An indication of how common this species is: 64 were ringed at Kettlestone (GW) and in July & Aug 24 were ringed at Guist Common.

2 birds, a male & a female, were present in a Mill St., Elsing garden 20th to 25th Dec (AJ) while in New Costessey a male was seen on 3rd & 28th and a female on 11th & 18th Dec (AG).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

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

First arrival 16th Apr Sculthorpe Moor HOT (IB). Then 20th Apr Sparham Pools (CS), 21st Apr Ringland (AB) & 22nd Apr Swanton Morley GP (RG). During May additionally recorded from Kettlestone, Lenwade, HBW and Pensthorpe. Other sites during the summer included Beetley GP, Sennowe Park and Guist Common. Last record 21st Aug HBW (DK). 22 records from 11 locations shows how this is less common than the former species.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Scarce summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

First arrival 23rd Apr Gunton Lakes, New Costessey (PS, AG) then 25th Lenwade Heath (RG) & 29th Ringland (MMcC), May 1st Scarning & 2 on 30th SNRWP (IB). During June additional sites 4th Swanton Morley GP (IB), 29th 2 at Mileham. July 11th Guist Common (RG) & 17th HBW (DK). 2 in Aug & 3 on 3rd Sept Pensthorpe. The latter being the last record of the year. 2 pair bred at Sparham Hall Farm (CS). 17 records from 11 locations.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer resident. Amber listed.

First record 8th Apr Old Costessey (AB), 14th Apr Pensthorpe then 17th Apr 5 HBW (DK) indicated immigration well underway. Then recorded through to 18th Sept when 3 HBW (DK). 39 records from 15 locations.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer resident and passage migrant. Red listed.

First record 3 singing 23rd Apr Gunton Lakes, New Costessey and Scarning (IB).

Recorded from 7 locations – Guist Common 2 in July (AH, RG, RN), Hempton Marsh (GE, PL), Lyng Easthaugh (CS), New Costessey (PS), Pensthorpe (GE), Scarning 5 on 5th June (IB), Sculthorpe Moor HOT 28th May (PL) & 2 feeding young on 4th July (NMid). Last record a juvenile 21st July Guist Common (AH, RG) – proof of breeding.

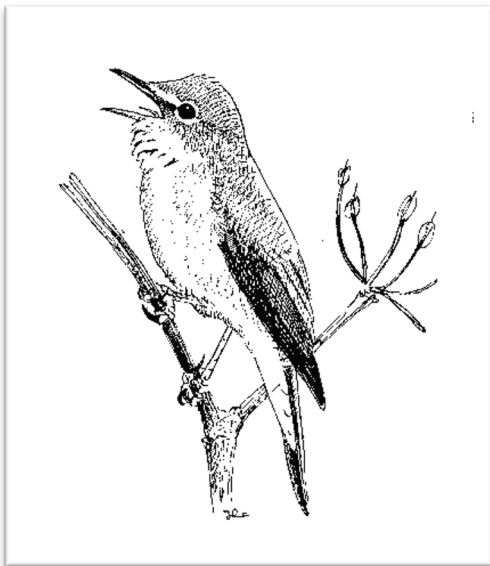
Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

First records 6th Apr Pensthorpe (GE) and Sculthorpe Moor HOT (NMid).

Last record a bird ringed on 3rd Sept Pensthorpe (GE). This is a common warbler in the right habitat – 65 were ringed in July & Aug at Guist Common and a similar number at Pensthorpe. 47 records from 11 locations.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
Rare passage migrant. Red listed.



Marsh Warbler, by Steve Cale

A singing male was at Swanton Morley GP from at least 30th May to 4th June (IB, DK et al).

This is the first record of Marsh Warbler since WVBS started in 2003.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

The first record was of one caught and ringed on 14th Apr Pensthorpe (EB-J). The last record Guist Common 16th Sept (RG).

Recorded from only 9 locations but an idea of abundance in the right habitat, *Phragmites* reed, comes from Guist Common and Pensthorpe where 60 to 70 individuals were ringed at each site.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous*

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor. Rare in valley. Green listed.

The flock in the Costessey, Drayton, Taverham area peaked at 70 in one lucky member's garden on 21st Mar (MMcM). Prior to this Taverham 15 on 19th Jan (AJ, PL, RG), 6 on 27th Jan (EW, MMCM), 28 on 17th Feb at St. Augustine's School, Costessey (MMCM). Then 30 on both 25th Mar Taverham (MMcM) and Drayton (NE) next day. Final record 25 on 4th Apr Costessey (CW). There were no records from the second winter period.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Uncommon resident. Green listed.

Recorded from 12 locations. Only proof of breeding – adult feeding young in garden at Nethergate, Guestwick (per AJo).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Unobtrusive resident. Green listed.

Recorded from 16 locations. Only proof of breeding – Sculthorpe Moor HOT where 2 pairs (PL).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant, mainly sedentary resident. Green listed.

This ubiquitous species was only recorded from 17 locations. Very under-recorded.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident. Red listed.

At the beginning of the year numbers were low with 20 Honingham on 1st Jan and 6th Feb (JB), HBW recorded 30 on latter date but 150, the highest early winter maximum, on 20th Feb (DK). 20 max garden count for Feb in New Costessey (DH). 54 on 1st Mar at Hindolveston was highest Mar count (AJo).

Proof of breeding came from Kettlestone on 19th and Hindolveston on 26th May with 18 and 14 birds with young resp. (AJo). (continues)

Starling (continued)

During AG's autumn passage watch over New Costessey he recorded 9,523 between 23rd Sept and 13th Nov mainly heading W or NW with highest daily counts of 6,463 on 14th Oct and 1,475 on 23rd Oct.

During Nov 400 at Guist Common (RG) and 200 – 300 at Pensthorpe (TS) were going to roost.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Rare passage migrant. Red listed.

A single record - Lenwade Heath 26th Apr (RG).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

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

Recorded every month from 19 locations. Apart from AG's migration watch there were no records of 20 or more birds. This is possibly partly due to the dry spring as a report from Kettlestone suggests – 3 nests with 4, 4 & 5 eggs only produced 5 young to ringable age. AG recorded 327 between 25th Sept and 13th Nov with a peak of 80 on 14th Oct passing over New Costessey.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red listed.

During first winter period recorded from 16 locations. Counts above 50: c.130 over Hindolveston 10th Jan (G&AJ), 60 Worthing 16th Jan rising to 100 on 28th Jan (DK). 100 Mattishall GC 3rd Feb (EJ), 80 Marriott's Way, Cawston feeding in grass field (MS) & 200 HBW 20th Feb (DK), 150 Costessey 22nd Feb and 50 Great Witchingham 25th Mar. Last record of first winter period 1 Costessey Fish Farm Meadows 3rd Apr (AG). First autumn records 13th Oct 134 over New Costessey (AG) and 10 Pensthorpe (TS). Peak passage on 20th Oct at New Costessey 1,630 (AG) and 1,050 "heading up Tud Valley, 10.15 to 11.30hrs" (AB). 100 Pensthorpe 24th Oct then 50 on 6th Oct. Then small numbers to year end except 40 Worthing Level Crossing 9th Dec and 20 Sparham Hall Farm 20th Dec.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Red listed.

Recorded from 21 locations mainly in singles (max 4) in all months. AG recorded a total of 343 heading mainly W or SW over New Costessey between 17th Sept and 13th Nov, with daily maxima of 77 on 13th Oct and 91 the next day.

Redwing *Turdus illiacus*

Common passage migrant with small numbers in winter. Red listed.

Double figure counts in the first winter period started in Jan with 15 on 2nd Costessey (AB), 20 Worthing on 9th (S&BG), 40 Lenwade on 10th & 21 Worthing on 16th (RG). In Feb 60+ on 15th (PL) & 150+ on 18th (BB) Sculthorpe Moor HOT, 27 HBW on 20th (DK) and 25 New Costessey on 25th (AG). In Mar 15 Kettlestone on 10th (GW), 20 in a garden in Taverham on 14th (MMcC), 10 HBW on 20th (DK), 35 & 15 New Costessey on 22nd & 25th respectively where the last spring records of singles 15th & 26th Apr (AG). The last was perversely heading N.

Autumn passage started with 7 on 2nd Oct, 32 on 8th and 297 on 9th New Costessey with a total of 5,600 between 2nd Oct and 16th Nov. Peak passage days were 1,838 on 13th and 1,405 on 14th Oct (AG). This is the lowest autumn count since AG began his study. Elsewhere Pensthorpe had their first, 6, on 12th Oct (TS), 43 HBW on 16th (DK), 50+ & 20+ Dereham SW on 17th (IB), 50 Costessey on 20th (AB), 30 Scarning 22nd (IB). In Nov the peak at Sparham Hall Farm was 200 on 6th but CS reported good numbers Oct, Nov & Dec. Also Nov 20 Pensthorpe on 6th (TS) when 10 Worthing Church (DK), 40 Lenwade Heath on 12th (C&RG), 40 Guist Common (RG) & 45 Worthing Level Crossing on 18th (DK), 50 HBW on 20th (DK) then c.70 Pensthorpe 23rd (TS).

Fewer records in Dec 20 Worthing 9th and 80 HBW 17th (DK) and 10 – 50 headed W over New Costessey each day from 20th to year end (AG).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant. Amber listed.

Recorded every month from 21 locations, mainly in 1s and 2s. Proof of breeding from Lenwade (RG) and Pensthorpe (TS) and singing in West Raynham (B&RN, C&RG) & Worthing (DK) in Jan, Taverham (NE) and Kettlestone (GW) in Mar then started again as early as 17th Nov Pensthorpe (TS).

Post breeding flocks of 49 on 15th Aug at Sparham Hall Farm (CS) and 39 then 8 at Pensthorpe on 20th Sept (TS). A small passage was noted over New Costessey 15 between 23rd Sept and 29th Oct “often high and heading south, biggest annual total” (AG).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Uncommon and declining summer resident. Red listed.

First record 7th May Sculthorpe Moor HOT (PL) where “2+ pair bred” (NMid), 12th May Worthing Village where 4 young fledged (RT, DK, JWa), 25th May Pensthorpe (GE) then again 24th & 28th June (TS) but no evidence of breeding. During June pairs bred at Walcis Farm, Lenwade & Sparham Hall Farm (CS) and Swallow Falls Farm, Swanton Morley where a nest of 4 eggs was predated (BM), 2 Lyng on 4th (NM), 1 Guist Common on 18th (MN), a nest with 3 young Nethergate, Hindolveston on 22nd (per G&AJ).

In July a pair nested successfully in a garden at Mattishall “the first time since 1999” (per EW), on 9th nest with 3 young Collen Green Farm, Lyng (RG), 2 on 14th Sculthorpe Mill (PL), on 21st Reepham “one bird seen entering ivy covered wall of bungalow; possible second brood” (per AJ) and 1 Whitwell Common (per AJ).

In Aug 1 Kettlestone on 19th (GW) and an amazing report of 30 from Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 20th by a visiting S Beds RSPB group (per NMid).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Common resident. Numbers may be augmented by passage migrants especially in autumn. **Green listed.**

This ubiquitous species was recorded in every month. Evidence from ringing that they had poor winter survival but a good breeding season (GW, RG).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

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

Very few records, all singles. Lyng 19th Apr "until at least 8th May. Probably bred or would have gone" (CS), Ringland Common 21st Apr (AB) & 8th May (B&BP) and Hempton 21st May (TS) "heard singing on old railway line".

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

Sculthorpe Moor HOT 29th Mar singing (NMid), Pensthorpe 18th Nov (TS) "the second in four years only", Hellesdon Marsh a male 30th Nov (AB).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

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

In spring Fakenham 30th Mar (PL), Pensthorpe 3 on 7th Apr then singles on 14th, 16th & 21st (TS, EB-J), Sparham Hall Farm 8th Apr & 14th May (CS), Lyng Easthaugh 13th Apr (DD), Reepham 3 males on 15th Apr (DG), Old Costessey 3 males on 18th Apr (AB) and Drayton a male and female on 20th Apr (NE). In autumn Buxton Heath 15th Aug (AB) then Pensthorpe 3rd Sept (TS, GE), 2 on 12th (PJ) and a single 6th Oct (TS).

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Common sedentary resident. **Amber listed.**

Recorded in every month from 16 locations. Only proof of breeding Hindolveston (G&AJ). Under recorded.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

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

Despite being a common bird it was only recorded from 14 locations. Double figure counts: Norwich Rd, New Costessey 15 going to roost 22nd Feb (AB), Springfield Cottage, N Tuddenham 30 Feb, 25 May, 30 June, 40 July (B&BP), Old Beetley 19 June (RG), Poplar Farm, Scarning 50 Mar (IB), Worthing 10 all months (DK).

Proof of breeding from Hindolveston (G&AJ) and Pensthorpe (TS).

Tree Sparrow, by Steve Cale

Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Scarce declining resident.

Red listed.

From the records received this species continues to decline. Only recorded from the Scarning area and a single bird at Sparham Hall Farm in a birdfood strip on 19th Nov (BB).

All Scarning records from IB 8+ on 13th Feb, 8 Poplar Farm on 6th Mar & 6+ on 5th Nov, 14 Hoves Farm on 5th June where nesting.



Yellow Wagtail *Motecilla flava flavissima*

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

A single record 14th Aug Pensthorpe (TS) "First for several years".

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

The valley is a stronghold in Norfolk for this lover of fast streams. Local breeder mainly at mills but more widespread outside the breeding season. Amber listed.

Recorded in all months from 13 locations – Bylaugh SW 23rd Jan (NM) & 14th Mar (DK), Costessey Mill 9th Dec (AB), Dereham SW 9th Jan (IB, PR, TF), 2 on 20th Mar, 1 on 2nd Apr then 3rd, 17th & 19th Oct (IB), Lyng Bridge 24th Feb (BB), 2 on 8th May (AJ, CS), Jarrold's Mill, Norwich 1 pair 5th Apr (AG), Pensthorpe, mainly fly-overs, from 3rd Sept to 17th Nov with 3 days in Sept and 7 in Oct (GE, TS), Ringland 10th Apr (MMcC), Scarning singles Jan, Feb, June and Dec with 2 in Apr, Aug and Oct (IB), Sculthorpe Mill a pair had 2 broods (PL), Sparham Hall Farm "Regular Nov/Dec around lakes and farmyard" (CS), Waterfall Farm, Swanton Morley 4 on 20th July suggests successful breeding (BM) and Worthing Bridge a pair Apr, May & June gathering food on 1st June (DK, B&BP).

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant. Green listed.

Recorded in all months from 18 locations. During the Bird Count on 9th Jan 60+ at Bintree, 20 Bylaugh SW and 20+ Dereham SW.

Roosts reported: Guist Common 45 – 50 on 22nd Mar, 11 on 14th July, 25 on 13th Sept, 100+ on 22nd Oct, 120 on 6th Nov, 15 flew off to NE on 19th Nov then c.40 went to roost 17th Dec, Sculthorpe Moor HOT 70+ on 2nd Aug.

Proof of breeding from Kettlestone where 1 pair with a juvenile 19th May (G&AJ) and on same date Lyng "at Old PO ad feeding juvs on garage roof" (JS).

A classic behavioural observation from Pensthorpe on 16th Apr "attacking its reflection in car mirror" (TS).

123 passed over New Costessey between 20th Sept and 16th Nov.

There were no specific reports of White Wagtail the "alba" nominate species.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

Amber listed.

A scarce but surely under reported species! In spring 5 Ringland on "rough field adj to river" on 6th Mar (MMcC). Costessey Marshes 1 on 15th Aug, 3 to 4 on 5th Oct and 3 9th Dec (AB), Dereham SW 4 on 17th & 19th Oct (IB), Pensthorpe singles from 3rd Oct to 24th Nov mainly fly-overs but 6 on 25th Oct, Sparham Hall Farm 10 max "wintering on upland grassland Nov/Dec".

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. **Green listed.**

While common across the WVBS area throughout the year very few wintering flocks are present, even compared with the SW of Norfolk. In first winter period 50 on 18th Feb & 100 on 22nd Feb Springfield Farm, N Tuddenham (B&BP), 30 Bylaugh SW 8th Mar (EJ) with double figures visiting garden feeders in Honingham 15 (JB), Attlebridge 12+ (WO) and Hindolveston 20+ (G&AJ). Numbers were lower in the second winter period with only 60 at Sparham Hall Farm on 20th Dec of note.

AG recorded 1,536 over New Costessey between 17th Sept and 16th Nov with daily maximum of 138 on 14th Oct heading W or SW.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers. **Green listed.**

A poor year in both winter periods. Monthly max for each location is recorded below.

(continues)

Brambling (continued)

In Jan Sparham Hall Farm 3 on 1st & 3rd (A&CJ, BB) then 40 on 7th (RN, RG), Honingham 10 on 31st (JB) with singles at garden feeders from Hindolveston (G&AJ), Lenwade (S&BG), Lyng (PLam), New Costessey (DH) plus up to 8 Sculthorpe Moor HOT (RN, RG).

In Feb Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge 2 (WO), Costessey Mill 1 (AB), Felthorpe 2 (MS), Hindolveston 2 (G&AJ), Kingfisher Lakes, Lyng 5 (PLam), Springfield Farm, N Tuddenham 10 (B&BP), Ringland 1 (MMcC) and Sculthorpe Moor HOT 13 (BB).

In Mar Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge 12 (WO), Costessey Mill 7 (AB), New Costessey "one male singing in garden for 15 minutes" on 14th (AG), Dereham SW 2 (IB), Felthorpe 4 (MS), Hindolveston 4m, 2f (G&AJ), Sparham Hall Farm 1 (CS) and Taverham 1f (LW).

In Apr Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge 7 (WO), Felthorpe 3 (MS), Lenwade 1m (RG), Sculthorpe Moor HOT 20 (PL) with last 2 of spring on 16th (IB) and Taverham 9 (MMcC).

AB reported a remarkably early autumn record of 2 in his garden at Old Costessey on 12th Aug.

Only 3 other autumn records: 2 on 17th & 1 on 19th Oct Dereham SW (IB) and 1 Pensthorpe on 3rd Nov (TS).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident. Green listed.

Numbers continued to remain low through 2011 showing little recovery from the effects of the *trichomoniasis* parasite. All double figure counts reported during the year: 10 - 12 Feb to Apr Old Hall Farm, Attlebridge (WO), 20 Kingfisher Lake, Lyng on 14th Feb (B&BP), 20+ Taverham 23rd Mar (NE) and 10 Pensthorpe 8th Dec TS).

In Lenwade RG trapped 35 (cf. 37 in 2010) different birds in his garden as part of a long term study.

AG recorded 261 (cf. 343 in 2010) over New Costessey between 23rd Sept and 14th Nov with daily maximum of 25 (cf. 69 in 2010) on 23rd Oct.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis**Common resident. Green listed.*

All records over 20 in chronological order: Jan c.50 Great Witchingham (RG), c.20 Hindolveston (G&AJ), 30+ Sculthorpe Moor HOT (PL), 30 Worthing (DK), Feb 20+ Sculthorpe Moor HOT (PL), 200+ going to roost Norwich Road, New Costessey (AB) and at same site in Mar 155 (AG) then none until Aug 45 Pensthorpe (TS), 20 HBW (DK), 35 Morse Close, Lenwade (RG), Sept 40 Morse Close, Lenwade (RG) where max for Oct was 25, 60 Dereham SW (IB), Nov 22 Pensthorpe (TS), Dec 60 Sculthorpe Moor & 20 Sparham Hall Farm (RN, AH, RG).

AG recorded 371 over New Costessey between 23rd Sept and 14th Nov with daily maximum of 56 on 20th Oct.

In Lenwade RG trapped 121 (cf. 183 in 2010) different birds in his garden as part of a long term study.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus**Winter visitor in varying numbers with occasional evidence of breeding. Green listed.*

An average year. The year started with 100+ Sparham Pools on 1st Jan (BB, CS), 20 Worthing Level Crossing on 6th (DK), 30 West Raynham on 9th (A&CJ, C&FN, R&BN, R&CG), 25 Worthing Church on 22nd (DK) and c.40 Lyng on 29th (AJ). Other Jan records, all single figures: Dereham SW, Hindolveston, Lenwade, Lyng, New Costessey, Street Farm, N Tuddenham and Sculthorpe Moor HOT. In Feb the only double figure flocks were 20+ Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 5th (PL) and Sparham Pools where 60+ on 16th (BB) & 40 on 28th (CS). Other reports were at garden feeders. Monthly maxima Hindolveston 4, Lyng 5, New Costessey 2 and N Tuddenham 1. In Mar 15 Dereham SW on 20th (IB) was only record not at feeders. Felthorpe 2, Hindolveston 1, Lenwade 6, Sculthorpe Moor HOT 6 and Taverham 8 where 10 on 2nd Apr was last spring record.

During May PL had 2 juveniles on his garden feeder in Briston on 5th and 1 on 8th. Nearest breeding habitat considered to be the Stody estate.

(continues)

Siskin (continued)

The first autumn record came from Pensthorpe on 13th Sept then 1s & 2s through Dec with max of 4 on 3rd Oct (TS). Elsewhere Dereham SW 3 on 17th & 19th Oct (IB), Sculthorpe Moor HOT 100+ on 9th Nov and 20 on 20th Dec (RN, AH, RG) and Sparham Pools 1 + “several heard” (LB).

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Declining resident. Red listed.

Recorded in all months. Recorded from: in Jan Bittering, N Tuddenham 20, Swanton Morley GP and Worthing 100. In Feb N Tuddenham 20. In Mar HBW 24, N Tuddenham 120, Ringland 20 and Sparham Hall Farm 85. In Apr Dereham SW 15, Little Witchingham 16, N Tuddenham 60 and Pensthorpe 10. In May Scarning 3 “in garden”.

In June East Bilney, HBW, Mileham & Sennowe singles, Pensthorpe 3. In July HBW 3 and Pensthorpe singles. In Aug Scarning 3.

In Sept Pensthorpe 1 – 2. In Oct Old Costessey 150+ on 6th had risen to 250 to 300 on 14th Nov and Hellesdon Marsh 120+, Pensthorpe 20. In Dec Pensthorpe c.70, Scarning 45 and Sparham Hall Farm 150 “on birdfood strip”.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Scarce and declining resident and winter visitor. Red listed.

All records of Redpoll are included here except for those specifically reported as Mealy Redpoll (see below).

In Jan 6 Sparham Pools 2nd (BB), 4 visited garden feeders Thorpe Marriott 20th (PH). In Feb 1 Taverham 18th (EW), 2 Sculthorpe Moor HOT 21st (PL), 3 Sparham Pools 22nd (BB) then 25 on 28th (CS). In Mar 15 on 3rd, 3 on 14th to NW & 2 on 21st over Taverham (MMcC) and 5+ Sculthorpe HOT on 8th (PL). In Apr 6 Sculthorpe HOT on 5th (PL) and 2 in a Hellesdon garden on 6th (AB).

(continues)

Lesser Redpoll (continued)

There were no more records until Oct when “fly-overs” were reported Pensthorpe on 7 occasions from 7th to end of month (TS). These continued in Nov at Pensthorpe with 8 on 9th and heard 14th & 15th (TS), 3 Scarning 5th (IB) and 2 Gunton Lane Pk, Costessey on 30th with 3 there on 3rd Dec (AB). 1 Pensthorpe 8th (TS) and 4 Sculthorpe Moor HOT 20th (RN, AH, RG) Dec.

Mealy Redpoll (Common Redpoll) *Carduelis flammea*

Very scarce irruptive winter visitor.

Two reported: 2 Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 14th Mar (PL) and a Redpoll sp. seen on 6th Dec at Costessey by AB who was “95% certain” it was Mealy.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Very rare resident breeder following eruptions. Green listed.

Evidence of summer movement 30 “east along valley” Lyng 4th June (NM), 4 to west Taverham 25th July (MMcC) and 2 Lyng 29th July (NM). Autumn records from New Costessey 4 to SW 16th Oct and 1 to W 8th Nov (AG).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Declining resident. Amber listed.

Recorded from 28 locations and in every month of the year mainly in 1s to 4s. Exceptions are 7 Hellesdon Marsh 30th Nov (AB), 6 HBW 16th Oct (DK), Honingham “3 male 2 female most I have ever seen at one time” 6th Feb (JB), 10 Scarning 26th Dec (IB) and Sculthorpe Moor HOT where “6 males on bird feeder table on reserve” on 9th Jan (JP, LB, LP), a max of 8 on 11th Jan and “1 large male considered to be Northern race” on 3rd Apr (PL).

An example of the Bullfinch’s unwelcome behaviour on 3rd Apr at Felthorpe “M on ornamental Apple taking buds—joined by F.” (MS).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare resident. Red listed.

One by Drayton church on 17th Feb (CH).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Declining common resident. Red listed.

This sedentary species was recorded from 23 locations and in every month of the year mainly in 1s to 3s. Higher counts: 5 HBW 20th Feb (DK), 6 Mileham 29th June during 1hr Timed Tetrad for BTO Atlas (RG), 4 Springfield Cottage during May and at Street Farm, N Tuddenham 8 on 7th Apr and 6 on 29th (B&BP), 10 Old Costessey 6th Oct (AB), 4 Scarning 1st Aug, 20 Poplar Farm, Scarning 6th Mar (IB), 25 Sparham Hall Farm 28th Nov (CS) and 10 Worthing Church 22nd Jan then 6 on 12th Mar & nearby 4 on 6th Nov (DK). AG recorded 9 over New Costessey between 19th Sept and 7th Nov, his highest total.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Uncommon resident and occasional winter visitor. Amber listed.

This predominately sedentary species was recorded from 18 locations and in every month of the year mainly in 1s to 3s, however, in certain habitats numbers can be considerable. 6 Costessey Marshes were considered to be all juvs (AB), 50 (31 juveniles) were ringed at Guist Common between 11th July and 27th Sept (RG, AH, RN), 8+ Sculthorpe Moor HOT on 29th May "Breeding confirmed with juvs being fed" (PL) and 30 in birdfood strips on 18th Nov Sparham Hall Farm (CS).

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.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Australia and Tasmania

5 birds were seen on the HBW on 17th July (DK).

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Arctic Siberia wintering in SE Europe

A single Pensthorpe 27th Sept (EB-J). Not one of Pensthorpe's collection.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

SE Europe, Asia and N Africa

A single bird was at Sparham Pools NR on 22nd & 23rd Mar (BB, DK, RG).

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

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

Two were beside the river at Guist on 29th Apr (IB).

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*.

Patchy distribution across mid- / southern Europe & Asia, Africa and Americas.

It is assumed that all records originate from The Ark, Great Witchingham, formerly the Gt Witchingham Wildlife Centre.

4 sightings, a pair on 1st Jan at The Ark, Great Witchingham (RG&AJ). 1 on 5th Mar at Great Ryburgh (NM). 2 on 7th May at Pensthorpe (GE) and 1 on 30th July at Lyng (NM).

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

South and Central America

There were 6 reports of this escape from 9th Jan to 16th Sept in the Guist – Sennowe area (A&CJ, C&FN, IB, RG, AH).

Contributors to the Systematic List

Nick Acherson	NA	Mike McCarthy	MMcC
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Ed Bramham-Jones	EB-J	Gary Mills	GM
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Liz Bridge	LB	Charles & Fran Neale	C&FN
Ian Brittain	IB	Richard & Beryl Norris	R&BN
Andrew Brown	AB	William Oram	WO
Alan Chapman	AC	Lin Pateman	LP
Matt Devenney	MD	Mike Pearson	MPe
Dawn Dowsett	DD	Jacky Pett	JP
Nick Edwards	NE	Mike Powles	MP
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Gary Elton	GE	Paul Riley	PR
Tony Forster	TF	Jim Rivett	JR
David Gibbons	DG	Charles Sayer	CS
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Ray & Chris Gribble	R&CG	Bill Shepherd	BS
Allan Hale	AH	Tim Smith	TSm
Peter Harris	PH	Thomas Spencer	TS
Beryl & Fred Hawthorn	B&FH	Martin Spriggs	MS
David Hubbard	DH	Julie Stevens	JS
Chris Hudson	CH	Roger Thorneley	RT
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Eric Jarvis	EJ	Jane Wales	JW
Paul Jay	PJ	Liz Waller	LW
Geoff & Ann Jones	G&AJ	Clive Warnes	CW
David Knight	DK	Jack Wordley	JWo
Peter Lambley	PLam	Colin Wright	CWr
Phil Littler	PL	Eileen Wyatt	EW
Bernie Marsham	BM		

Locations and their Grid References

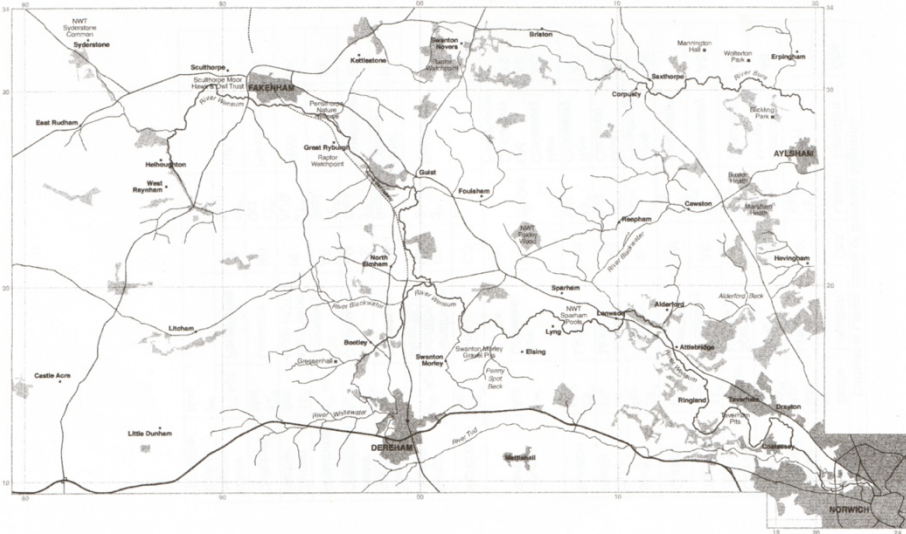
The grid references refer to the co-ordinates of the bottom left hand corner of the 2km tetrad the site is located in.

N.B. The provision of the grid reference does not give you the right to visit the site. Some of the sites listed are private, please respect landowners' wishes & follow the Birdwatchers' Code.

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

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

Wensum Valley Recording Area



Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Honey Buzzard	24 th Apr	Lyng	NM	18 th Sept	HBW	
Hobby	23 rd Apr	Lyng	NM	5 th Oct	Costessey Marshes	AB
Common Tern	5 th Apr	Sparham Hall Farm	CS	25 th Sept	Costessey	AG
Turtle Dove	11 th Apr	Old Costessey	AB	20 th Sept	Costessey	AB
Cuckoo	9 th Apr	Sparham Pools	NM	15 th July	Kettlestone	
Swift	23 rd Apr	Scarning	IB	8 th Sept	Lyng Pensthorpe	NM TS
Sand Martin	28 th Mar	Sculthorpe Moor HOT	PL	20 th Aug	Guist Common	RG
Swallow	25 th Mar	Lyng	NM	13 th Oct	New Costessey	AG
House Martin	2 nd Apr	New Costessey	AG	6 th Oct	New Costessey Old Costessey Pensthorpe	AG AB TS
Nightingale	19 th Apr	Lyng	CS			
Sedge Warbler	6 th Apr	Pensthorpe Sculthorpe Moor HOT	GE NMid	3 rd Sept	Pensthorpe	GE
Reed Warbler	14 th Apr	Pensthorpe	EB-J	16 th Sept	Guist Common	RG
Lesser Whitethroat	23 rd Apr	New Costessey	PS, AG	3 rd Sept	Pensthorpe	GE
Whitethroat	8 th Apr	Old Costessey	AB	18 th Sept	HBW	DK
Garden Warbler	16 th Apr	Sculthorpe Moor HOT	IB	21 st AUG	HBW	DK

(continues)

Earliest & Latest Reported Dates of Summer Migrants
(continued)

Species	Earliest	Location	Obs.	Latest	Location	Obs.
Chiffchaff	12 th Mar	Lenwade	RG	12 th Oct	Pensthorpe	TS
Willow Warbler	4 th Apr	Pensthorpe	TS	18 th Sept	HBW	DK
Spotted Flycatcher	7 th May	Sculthorpe Moor HOT	PL			

Latest & Earliest Reported Dates of Winter Visitors

Species	Latest	Location	Obs.	Earliest	Location	Obs.
Goosander	28 th Mar	Sparham Pools	BB	17 th Nov	Costessey	AB
Golden Plover	23 rd Feb	Cawston	AB	15 th Sept	Bawdeswell	NM
Fieldfare	25 th Mar	Great Witchingham	AB	13 th Oct	Pensthorpe New Costessey	TS AG
Redwing	26 th Apr	New Costessey	AG	2 nd Oct	New Costessey	AG
Brambling	16 th Apr	Sculthorpe Moor	IB	17 th Oct	Dereham SW	IB
Siskin	2 nd Apr	Taverham	MMcM	13 th Sept	Pensthorpe	TS

WVBS 2011 RINGING REPORT

A total of 4,467 birds of 70 species were ringed in the WVBS study area during 2011. The most-ringed species was Blue Tit with 560 ringed, followed by Great Tit with 422, Swallow with 334 and Blackcap with 281. The most amazing bird ringed was the Manx Shearwater (see the systematic list for further details), but the Hobby is also worthy of mention

There were a couple of highlights amongst the recoveries. Firstly there was the recapture at Guist Common for the second successive year of a Sedge Warbler that had originally been ringed in Spain. And secondly there was a Swallow that had been ringed at Guist Common that was later found dead on the French Coast south of Bordeaux.

Finally, thanks to all the ringers that operate in the WVBS study area during 2011 for access to their records.

Selected WVBS Recoveries Notified During 2011

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

Marsh Harrier

Nestling	10-06-2011	Sculthorpe Moor
Sight record	18-10-2011	Lakenheath RSPB Reserve, Suffolk

The first results from the wing-tagging scheme. Any sightings of wing-tagged birds would be very welcome.

Kestrel

Nestling (F)	22-06-2011	near Briston
Found dead	11-11-2011	Calais, France (220km SSE)

Only the third Norfolk-ringed Kestrel to be found in France (and the fifth to anywhere abroad), this bird was ringed as a nestling, thus adding to the value of the record.

Barn Owl

Nestling	09-07-2010	near Beeston
Found dead	19-07-2011	East Dereham (10km ESE)

Sadly the result of a road traffic accident – a common cause of Barn Owl deaths.

Sand Martin

After first-year	23-07-2010	Beetley Sand Pit, East Dereham
Re-caught	27-06-2011	Weybourne (28km NNE)

First-year	23-08-2008	Icklesham, Sussex
Re-caught	02-07-2011	Coxford Gravel Pit, near Fakenham

There were also three exchanges between Beetley Sand Pit (near Dereham) and Coxford Gravel Pit (near Fakenham).

Swallow

Nestling	06-08-2011	Swanton Morley, East Dereham
Re-caught	03-09-2011	Orfordness, Suffolk (81km SSE)

Nestling	07-06-2011	Baumber Park, Lincolnshire
Re-caught	12-08-2011	Guist Common, East Dereham (92km SE)

Juvenile	20-07-2009	Guist Common, East Dereham
Found dead	07-05-2010	Saint-Medard-de-Guizieres, Gironde, France (866km S)

The first shown was ringed as a nestling and was re-caught at a late summer reed-bed roost on the Suffolk coast. Note the swift movement, bearing in mind that the bird was ringed several days before it could possibly have fledged. The second, also ringed as a nestling, was caught at the Guist Common reed-bed roost. Both were of course, on their first journey southwards to their winter quarters.

The last shown was on spring migration to its breeding area when found freshly dead on the French coast, close to Bordeaux. It had been ringed the previous summer at the Guist roost.

Sedge Warbler

First year	15-08-2009	Dodro, La Coruna, Spain
Re-caught	19-07-2010	Guist Common, East Dereham (1,330km NNE)
Re-caught	11-07-2011	Guist Common, East Dereham

When caught at Guist Common during 2010, this bird represented the only Spanish-ringed Sedge warbler to be found in Norfolk. The re-capture date of 19th July 2010 suggests it was breeding at Guist and that view is reinforced by its 2011 capture date of 11th July.

Juvenile	18-08-2010	Pensthorpe, Fakenham
Re-caught	22-08-2011	Icklesham, Sussex (214km S)
First year	28-07-2011	Guist Common, East Dereham
Re-caught	20-08-2011	Chew Valley Lake, Somerset (295km WSW)

Icklesham is a major ringing station, situated on the south coast, where many of Norfolk's *Acrocephalus* warblers stop off before crossing The Channel. The last shown is unusual, in that it dispersed to the south-west of England.

Reed Warbler

After first year	04-07-2011	Pensthorpe, Fakenham
Re-caught	25-07-2011	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham (6km WNW)
After first year	29-04-2010	Pensthorpe, Fakenham
Re-caught	25-07-2011	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham (6km WNW)
Juvenile	09-08-2010	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham
Sight record	06-06-2011	Salthouse Marshes (23kn NE)

Juvenile	17-07-2011	Creeting St Mary, Suffolk
Re-caught	15-08-2011	Sculthorpe Moor, Fakenham (78km N)

The first two demonstrate that several of our Reed Warblers wander between these two local sites. The third was identified by its colour rings combination. The last shows a typical movement of a bird making for the coast before migrating southwards.

Long-tailed Tit

After first year	02-01-2008	Lenwade
Re-caught	27-08-2010	Whitlingham Sewage Works, Norwich (22km ESE)

Nothing outstanding but still further than the average Long-tailed Tit travels.

Blue Tit

Juvenile	14-07-2010	Guist Common, East Dereham
Re-caught	31-10-2010	Wicken Green (17km WNW)

Not a particularly interesting movement but nevertheless, the longest Blue Tit displacement of the year.

Chaffinch

First year (F)	28-09-2010	Lenwade
Re-caught	02-11-2010	U.E.A., Norwich (14km SE)

A typical movement for a first-year bird.

Siskin

2 nd year (M)	24-03-2011	Sheringham
Re-caught	02-04-2011	Briston (13km (SW)

Siskins move through the area in significant numbers most years during late winter / early spring. Just eight days between the two captures, they do tend to wander in a seemingly random manner.

Total Birds Ringed

Teal	3	Mistle Thrush	2
Mallard	1	Grasshopper Warbler	2
Manx Shearwater	1	Sedge Warbler	114
Marsh Harrier	8	Reed Warbler	186
Sparrowhawk	2	Lesser Whitethroat	14
Kestrel	10	Common Whitethroat	134
Hobby	1	Garden Warbler	14
Moorhen	29	Blackcap	281
Oystercatcher	2	Chiffchaff	121
Little Ringed Plover	2	Willow Warbler	38
Lapwing	7	Goldcrest	27
Woodcock	1	Spotted Flycatcher	4
Common Tern	26	Long-tailed Tit	160
Woodpigeon	10	Willow Tit	1
Collared Dove	3	Marsh Tit	23
Turtle Dove	2	Coal Tit	77
Barn Owl	14	Blue Tit	560
Little Owl	1	Great Tit	422
Tawny Owl	7	Nuthatch	7
Short-eared Owl	1	Treecreeper	32
Swift	5	Jay	9
Kingfisher	5	Jackdaw	18
Green Woodpecker	2	Starling	22
Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	House Sparrow	49
Sand Martin	238	Chaffinch	223
Swallow	334	Brambling	28
House Martin	8	Greenfinch	105
Cetti's Warbler	7	Goldfinch	152
Pied Wagtail	51	Siskin	167
Wren	94	Linnet	1
Duncock	140	Lesser Redpoll	7
Robin	126	Common Redpoll	1
Blackbird	160	Bullfinch	33
Song Thrush	28	Yellowhammer	9
Redwing	10	Reed Bunting	81

Visible autumn migration in west Norwich between 2003 and 2011

Adrian Gardiner

THIS IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN
THE NORFOLK BIRD AND MAMMAL REPORT 2011

Introduction

The visible migration of birds on the Norfolk coast has been well recorded at a number of locations (e.g. Lawton & Hibberd, 2002; Grieve, 2008). What is less well known is the pattern of migration across Norfolk. This article presents the results of nine years' worth of systematic autumn observations from the author's garden (TG189108), which is located close to the River Tud and adjacent farmland in New Costessey. Whilst birds clearly move through the valley at all times of year, it appears to be the autumn when there is a concentrated movement. The real potential of this location became apparent on October 12th 2003 when 3,100 Redwings were observed passing very high overhead in light north-easterlies.

Methods

Since 2004 attempts have been made to record migration on as many days as possible between late September and late November. The aim has been to record at least the first hour after dawn, which usually gives a good indication of the level of passage taking place. If passage is good, observations continue until passage appears to decline, or there is a need to attend to other commitments. The location allows birds to be observed across the Tud valley to the watershed with the River Wensum valley, to a distance of about 500 metres.

Results and discussion

Numbers recorded

In years where almost daily effort has been invested, between 18,010 and 58,545 migrants have been recorded. Whilst this does not compare with the numbers recorded at sites such as Hunstanton Cliffs (Lawton & Hibberd, 2002), it is broadly comparable with east coast observations (Grieve, 2008) and shows the potential of inland sites in Norfolk. The sight of nearly 6,500 thrushes passing overhead in the first hour of light on November 2nd 2006 demonstrates the impressive sights that can be

experienced. Wood Pigeon, Redwing, Fieldfare, Starling and Chaffinch have been consistently recorded in high numbers.

Species recorded

Table 1 shows the annual totals for all the migrants recorded during the autumn recording period and illustrates the benefits of systematic visible migration observation over time. As well as showing the significant numbers of common migrants that move through the valley, it has identified the patterns of less common species and occasionally provides records of unusual species. It has been particularly satisfying and illuminating to discern migrant behaviour in species that are also resident locally, such as 'wild Greylag Geese', Great Spotted Woodpecker, Dunnock, Jay and Bullfinch.

Table 1. Annual totals for all autumn migrants recorded

Total autumn migrants recorded per year

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Mute Swan								4	
Bewick's Swan		24	6	23	17				17
Whooper Swan						6			6
Pink-footed Goose	130	250	15	76	215			544	101
Greylag Goose								6	
Shelduck					3				
Teal	14				2		3	2	2
Pintail				4					
Tufted Duck							1		
Goosander				5					
Little Egret					3			5	4
Grey Heron		2						3	2
Great Crested Grebe								1	

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Marsh Harrier									1
Hen Harrier	1								
Sparrowhawk	3							5	
Buzzard								1	1
Kestrel	3				2	1		4	1
Merlin								2	
Hobby		1			1			4	2
Golden Plover		4	18					2	74
Lapwing	51	221	122	21		13		38	206
Dunlin		8							
Snipe		18	1		1	2	1	3	
Woodcock	1								
Stock Dove		5	13		6			6	6
Wood Pigeon	1200	1539	4890	4428	2598	2222	1395	1665	5885
Collared Dove									8
Short-eared Owl	1								
Great Spotted Woodpecker					2			2	
Jay								11	
Skylark	16	128	13	34	70	33	21	57	89
Swallow	1	1	2			1	1	15	5
House Martin		16			1	1		3	10
Chiffchaff		2	3	1				4	2
Blackcap		1	1		1	1	1		7
Waxwing	1	2						121	
Starling	475	7726	1351	18018	39213	4431	2015	24396	9523
Ring Ouzel								1	
Blackbird	340	381	93	211	211	125	93	293	327
Fieldfare	1524	2702	3549	9648	4604	3373	2483	9463	2677
Song Thrush	36	104	147	193	255	105	206	885	343
Redwing	4561	8767	7419	12026	9176	7275	11132	6316	5600
Mistle Thrush								8	15
Stonechat									1

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Dunnoek							6	3	
Grey Wagtail	8		2	5	15	5	13	37	7
'alba' Wagtail	12	17	33	10	39	29	50	105	123
Meadow Pipit		51	65	25	88	14	26	51	29
Chaffinch	NR	NR	NR	NR	1411	867	816	2230	1536
Brambling	29	24	29	33	47	6	18	72	4
Greenfinch	NR	NR	NR	NR	356	185	81	343	261
Goldfinch	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	46	225	371
Siskin	5	1	34	6	104	51	8	127	54
Linnet	13	8	2	14	97	19	31	39	54
Redpoll sp.	32	28	38	7	3	5	6	43	76
Crossbill									5
Bullfinch					3		1	2	4
Hawfinch			2					1	
Lapland Bunting								1	
Yellowhammer	5	4	2	2	1	2	3	3	9
Reed Bunting						1			
Start date	29/9	29/9	8/10	2/10	27/9	1/10	27/9	24/9	17/9
End date	8/11	27/11	26/11	19/11	25/11	17/11	9/11	30/11	17/11
No. of days observed	25	54	47	56	54	47	40	68	61
No. of hours observed	27.0	71.0	57.25	60.5	75.25	55.0	50.5	102.5	103.5
No. of migrants recorded (1,000s)	8.5	22.2	18.0	47.1	58.5	18.8	18.5	47.2	27.4
Birds/ hour	318	313	315	740	778	341	365	478	265

NR = Not recorded

Pattern of movement

Peak movement occurs between mid October and mid November. Few birds appear to occur before mid September, and passage in most years appears to end in late November. If weather conditions are favourable, some movement has been noted into late December/ early January, presumably in response to late onset of winter on the continent. Wood Pigeon, Starling and the thrushes appear to move through Costessey in similar flock sizes to those appearing on the coast, whereas the finches appear in smaller flocks suggesting wider dispersal as they head inland.

Route of migration

Whilst the origin of migrating birds will relate to the breeding range of the species, different populations may take different routes to reach their final destinations. It is generally accepted that migration takes place on a broad front, but birds also utilise prominent features of the landscape as 'leading lines' (Flegg, 2004). It appears that the North Norfolk Coast acts in this way, with birds concentrated at Hunstanton (Lawton & Hibberd, 2002).

For birds approaching the north-east or east facing coasts of Norfolk it would seem counter-intuitive to head north-west or south-east to follow the coast. It would be logical to assume that these birds continue west or south-west inland losing height as they go, particularly if faced with a headwind. It is these birds that are assumed to be the coastal origin of the birds passing through the Tud valley. This appears consistent with the low numbers of birds, notably thrushes, recorded at east Norfolk coastal sites (Grieve, 2008).

Given the regularity of movement of certain species at Costessey from one year to the next, it would appear that this is not down to chance. However, whether these birds generally follow predictable routes across the county, or they happen to aggregate at particular points is less clear. Clearly weather plays a key role, but there are often quite differing counts at different localities on the same day. The evidence points to broad front movements occurring across much of Norfolk, with some sites experiencing consistently regular and significant passage. This would suggest that there may be a number of 'leading lines' across Norfolk, which could be confirmed by wider and more regular observation.

Direction of movement

The majority of birds recorded in the autumn move between west and south-west largely following the line of the Tud valley. This is certainly true for most of the thrushes and finches. However, starlings invariably move north-west, appearing to head more into the Wensum valley than the Tud. Wood Pigeon movements are much more variable even on the same day, mostly occurring anywhere between west and east and often with a strong east or south-east bias.

Weather effects

Weather is clearly a major influence on the departure, journey and arrival of migrating birds. It has generally been found that birds depart Scandinavia and the Low Countries in settled anticyclonic conditions, with light following winds (Lack, 1960; Lack & Eastwood, 1962). Where these high pressure systems extend across the North Sea and into Britain, it has been suggested that many birds will continue their migration at a height that would be undetectable at the coast (Lawton & Hibberd, 2002). It has been found that some of the best days at Costessey occur in these anticyclonic, clear conditions, typically calm or with light north or north-easterly winds (Figure 6). Birds are often at great height, but it may be that they have dropped sufficiently over the land at this point to be detectable.

On crossing the North Sea, birds often encounter low pressure systems with westerly or south-westerly winds. These conditions have often been found to be the best days at Hunstanton Cliffs, where birds lose height over the land to optimise their flight efficiency (Lawton & Hibberd, 2002). These conditions can also produce good days at Costessey, with birds similarly flying at a low level typically just above tree/ house height.

Most of the best days occur in calm conditions or where the wind is between north-west and north-east. The highest counts generally occur in calm, light or moderate winds, but tend to decline above winds of about 20mph (wind force 4). Arrivals tend not to occur in moderate or heavy rain, but birds can be grounded in the valley in these conditions, presumably when they encounter rain as they cross Norfolk.

Time of day

Whilst for many species there is a clear peak in the first couple of hours after dawn, some species continue to move throughout the day. For

example, on October 12th 2003 after the initial post dawn peak, movement was sustained at lower (but still significant) levels throughout the day. Occasionally, such as on October 17th 2008, virtually no passage occurred early in the day with only 8 redwing recorded in the first hour of light, but then from 12.30 and throughout the afternoon 1,719 redwing and 502 fieldfare moved through.

Certainly, the more diurnal migrants (e.g. Wood Pigeon, Starling and Chaffinch) generally appear to have more sustained passage throughout the day, and therefore the numbers recorded do not fully reflect the actual numbers moving through.

Conclusion

Regular observation has shown the River Tud valley in Costessey to be an important site for bird migration in the autumn, with a number of species consistently occurring in high numbers.

There is something compelling about the changing seasons, that sense of time and place, the moments that frame a year and evoke memories of years past. Migration captures our imagination for these reasons. There is also a sense of awe at the amazing journeys that are undertaken and how much we still have to discover about how these journeys are made. It is hoped that this article encourages more people to get out at dawn in the autumn, and stare at the sky for an hour. You might be surprised by what you see, and you could be adding another piece to the jigsaw.

Acknowledgements

This article and the observations behind it could not have been achieved without the significant support of my wife Anne, to whom I am extremely grateful. Special thanks are due to Pete Sewell who provided very useful comments on the first draft. Thanks also to Gary Hibberd and Dougal McNeil for reading through the first draft and for their encouragement.

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Common Terns at Sparham Pools NWT and Sparham Lakes 2011

During 2011 the Common Terns breeding success was monitored on both the island on NWT Sparham Pools and on the tern raft at Sparham Lakes.

Visits were made on 2 dates – 1st and 15th June.

Sparham Pools NWT

On the first visit it was estimated that at least 20 pairs of Common Tern were nesting on the island. As many nests were in the vegetation surrounding the shingle area it was impossible to be precise. 5 chicks were ringed. The management regime of spraying the vegetation surrounding the breeding area was again successful in attracting a significant number of pairs to breed.

On the second visit the island was not approached as the chicks were large enough to take to the water and scatter. In total it is estimated that at least 20 chicks fledged. Another successful year due to a considerable team effort in March to prepare the island for the terns' arrival.

Alwyn Jackson and his team propose further development of the island in 2012. To reduce the ongoing erosion of the island sandbags will be put around the edge at the same time as the usual cleaning of the shingle of guano etc. and wiring to keep the geese off.

Sparham Lakes Tern Raft

It is always interesting to compare the breeding success of the island and the raft.

On 1st June the raft there were 6 nests and 13 chicks were ringed. The size of the young ranged greatly but indicated nesting had started particularly early in 2011.

The second visit on 15th June there were 18 live young and one dead bird which had not been ringed. The remaining 5 chicks were ringed. It was possible to safely visit the raft as netting had been erected around

the perimeter to prevent predation from Otters and keep geese off. The netting also prevents the Common Tern chicks “exploding” prematurely.

All 18 young are believed to have fledged successfully from the raft. This means a fledging rate of 3.0 per pair.

Conclusions

The Common Terns at Sparham on both the island and the raft had a successful breeding season in 2011. The work planned for 2012 will ensure that conditions will be suitable for their return.

Consideration might be given to surrounding the island with a metre high fence to help avoid invasion by geese and enable a better monitoring of breeding success.

Ray Gribble

Common Tern, by Steve Cale

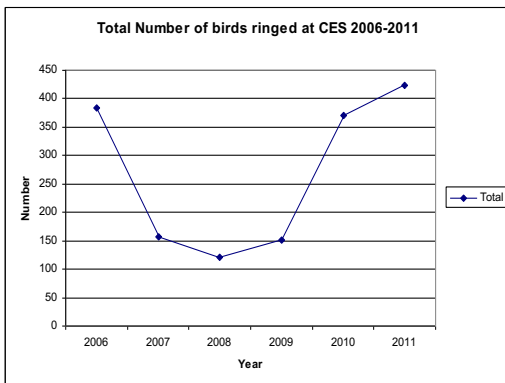


Constancy is the Key

With the NOA's Constant Effort Site at Pensthorpe Running for its Sixth Year in 2011, we take a look at some of the results

With summer drawing to a close, all be it late, thoughts naturally turn to migration. But of course the number of returning migrants is partly a reflection of the year's breeding success, and in 2010 there seemed to be a strong connection between the excellent breeding season and the vast numbers of autumn migrants. The NOA's ringing activities at Pensthorpe take the form of a Constant Effort Site, or CES. This ringing project is one of a national scheme of CES sites which all adhere to the same regulations – a set number of ringing visits take place each year and are timed within ten day 'windows'. Nets are set in the same place each visit and opened and closed at the same times, to give consistent information between sites and between years. The BTO analyses this data from all CES sites at the end of each year. In 2011 the initial results are still pending but early indications are that in 2011 good numbers of migrants returned to breeding sites while the number of residents was depleted (Greg Conway, CES Organiser, BTO). This followed what was recognized as an 'almost ideal' breeding season in 2010.

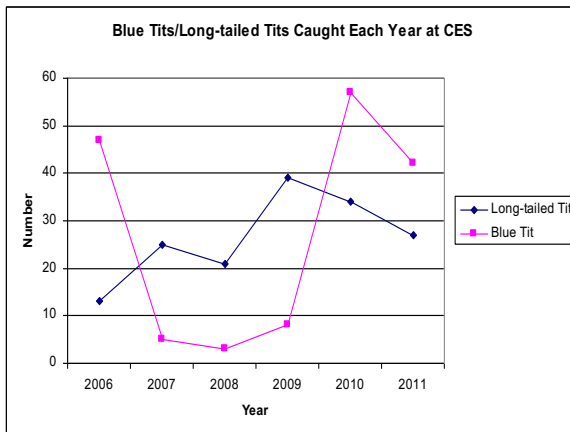
The results from Pensthorpe show 2011 to be the most successful since the NOA's CES site was set up in 2006. However in 2007, 2008 and 2009 the overall bird numbers caught during CES were less than half that in the preceding and following years.



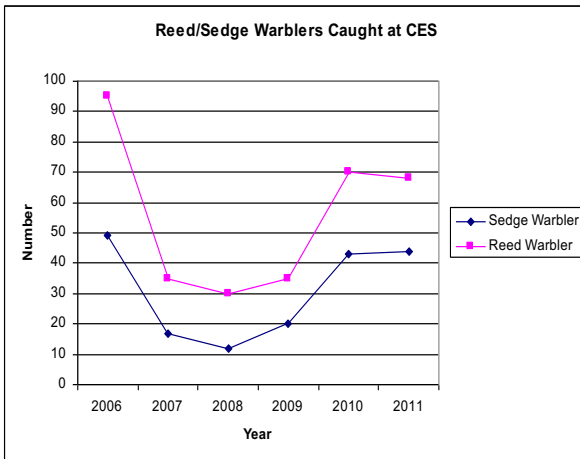
This is consistent with the national picture and the very wet conditions, particularly in 2007 and 2008, had a knock-on effect on breeding bird numbers.

Another factor which was more relevant to our resident species was the two cold winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11. Nationally these conditions had a negative impact on species such as Long-tailed Tit and Wren. Dry conditions in late winter and early spring can often have a bad impact on species such as Robins and Blackbirds whose breeding seasons start early – it will be interesting to see what effect the dry spring has had on species such as this when the national CES results for this year are published.

Comparison of the Pensthorpe CES data shows some interesting contrasts over the six year period, particularly with Blue Tit and Long-tailed Tit. Blue Tit numbers virtually collapsed at the site between 2007 and 2009 but were very high afterwards, particularly in 2010. The pattern for Long-tailed Tit is completely different, with numbers increasing in 2007 and again in 2009, and dropping off in the last two summers. Both species have decreased this year on their totals for 2010. The reason for these differences may lie in the very different timing of their respective breeding seasons, and the conditions which prevailed in different years.



Meanwhile Reed and Sedge Warblers at Pensthorpe have followed a very similar pattern since the CES began. Reed Warblers have remained more numerous than Sedge Warblers throughout but their numbers have peaked and troughed along very similar lines.



This is likely to be the result of common factors affecting their breeding success such as; survival rates, food availability and weather conditions.

Constant Effort Site ringing is designed to take place over long term periods to help identify long-term trends in survival and productivity among our breeding birds. This invaluable information continues to be an important part of the NOA's activities and we are very grateful to Pensthorpe for their support, and for their active involvement in this project. For regular updates on the progress of the CES site don't forget to check our new ringing blog at <http://noabirdringing.blogspot.com>, or by clicking on the 'ringing blog' link on our home page at www.noa.org.uk.

NOA Hempton Marsh Reserve Report

As with past years credit must go to the volunteers and visitors to the reserve which once again has enabled a comprehensive record to be collected of the birds, insects and mammals seen there during the year. A total of 11698 bird records were amassed, with the highest counts being during made during February (2798), which was largely due to the counts of Rooks and Jackdaws over flying the reserve on the way to roost sites.

The Marsh and Willow Tit survey continues to be well supported, with good quality records submitted throughout the year, and the project has now been registered as a RAS project (Retrapping Adults for Survival) with the BTO. Virtually all the records collected referred to Marsh Tits, with almost all of the records relating to seemingly sedentary birds. Several individuals were reported on a regular basis throughout the year, although there were records of at least one of 'our birds' being seen on the nearby Sculthorpe Moor Hawk and Owl trust reserve. On a negative note Willow Tits appear to have virtually disappeared, with only one positively identified during the year, in April, using the colours of its unique leg colour ring combination. Please note this species now requires a description in Norfolk, and any claims should be accompanied by field notes.

Birds

The year started with a small flock of Siskins seen regularly feeding high in the treetops in **January** with a maximum of 50 counted on 20th. **February**'s highlights included a Bittern on 13th, Water Rails on 5th and 19th and 3 Lesser Redpoll on 2nd. **March** heralded the start of Spring, with the first Chiffchaff heard on 19th, and species such as Tawny Owl becoming more active, with birds recorded on six dates during the month, Woodcock were also recorded with singles on the 22nd and 23rd.

April saw increased activity on the Marsh with a pair of Kestrels taking up residence, single Marsh Harriers seen on two dates, plus a Barn Owl on 9th and a Little Egret recorded on 28th, two Oystercatchers

were also noted on 5 dates. Single Cuckoos were noted on 21st and 23rd, with two on 16th, and warbler numbers also increased with the first Whitethroat on 6th and Willow and Sedge Warblers on 9th.

In **May** returning Garden and Reed Warblers were first recorded on 4th, with the first Swifts seen on 12th, Swallow on 14th, House Martin on 17th and Sand Martin on 28th. A reflection of the times was a record of two House Sparrows near the gate on 7th, the only ones for the year. In June Oystercatchers continued to visit the marsh with birds recorded on 3 dates, as did Cuckoos with singles again noted on 3 dates. Encouragingly, a Kingfisher was seen on the 6th, with the two past winters having a harsh impact on them the return of this species is particularly welcome, and a Spotted Flycatcher was present on 5th.

July was unsurprisingly quiet for birds with single Marsh Harriers on the 7th and 8th being the only records of note. Though it became evident that the Kestrels had bred successfully, raising three young, and the family group was recorded on numerous dates throughout the month.

August produced another Kingfisher record on the 14th, with this species continuing to be recorded every month until the year end. In **September** a Tawny Owl was noted on the 22nd and a more unusual record was a small flock of 8 Jays on the 23rd. The final Marsh Harrier of the year was seen on **October** the 5th, with a Snipe also seen on this date, and in contrast the first Fieldfares of the winter were seen this month on the 22nd (3).

Records of note during **November** included Bullfinch on the 5th and a Woodcock on the 20th. **December** saw the year ending with a small flurry of more interesting records including Bullfinch (7th), Woodcock (10th& 27th), Water Rail (20th & 26th), Barn Owl (20th), Redpoll - up to 3 birds (10th, 26th & 27th) and finally on the 31st, two Little Egrets.

Insects

A total of 241 casual insect observations were made during the year, the majority of these relating to butterflies with sixteen species recorded, the first Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) and Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*), noted on **March** 22nd.

April saw an expected increase in sightings with 28 records noted, mainly comprised of Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*, 11 records) and Speckled Wood (*Parage aegeria*, 6 records) plus the only records for the year of Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) on 9th and 23rd. **May** saw more Small White (*Artogeia napi*) records on 4 dates and the only Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*) record of the year with a single on the 4th. Single Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) and Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*) were also seen this month. In **June** butterfly numbers were low, only 12 noteworthy records, including a single Comma (*Polygonia c-album*), and Large Skipper (*Ochlodes faunus*). Dragonfly and damselfly records increased with 39 received during the month, the majority of these were Banded Demoiselle with 17 records, but also included records of Four-spot Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*), Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*), Large Red Damselfly (*pyrrhosoma nymphula*) and Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*).

Butterfly records increased in **July** with 46 sightings, with Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*) noted on two dates, and both Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) and Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) noted on four. A single Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*) and Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*) were also recorded.

Nine species of butterfly were recorded in **August** with single Small Skipper and Comma on the 5th. The first Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*) and Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*) were noted on 5th, with Common Darters (*Sympetrum striolatum*) recorded on the 5th and the 30th. During **September** Speckled Wood, Common and Ruddy Darters were recorded regularly throughout the month, with the only Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*) of the year seen on the 5th. Common Darters again featured during **October** and were recorded on four dates with the last seen on 22nd. The last butterfly record was a Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), on the 10th October.

Mammals

A total of 124 Mammal records were collected this year, a small decrease on 2010, with the majority of these records (54), relating again to Muntjac deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*), which were recorded in every month of the year with peak numbers noted in January.

Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) continued to be recorded albeit sporadically, with records on the 5th, 7th and 12th of April, the 2nd of July, and the 17th of September. There was once again an Otter (*Lutra lutra*) sighting this year on 2nd November, with a fresh spraint also found by the meander on the 5th April. Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) sightings increased markedly, with individuals noted on 13 occasions, with all but one of the records during the period between April-July. Single records were also received for Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) on the 10th March, Wood Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) on the 22nd March, and Bank Vole (*Myodes glareolus*) on the 5th April.

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) were again recorded, but again rarely more than one at a time and on a fairly irregular basis. Stoats (*Mustela erminea*) were recorded on 9 dates but as last year never more than one individual.

Gary Elton
Assistant Warden

Pensthorpe Annual Report for 2011

The year got off to a good start with 60 species seen on **January** 1st, including a Peregrine and a Bittern. Best of all, perhaps, were the two Curlews that flew north late in the day; they were seen the next day too. On 5th, two Peregrines were over the Wader Scrape and on the 6th my first Waxwings at Pensthorpe spent the day in a tree by the workshop. A sign of spring came on 13th, when a Blackbird was singing, then on 14th a Peregrine was seen again, as well as a redhead Smew and a Marsh Harrier. Encouragingly, double figures of Bullfinch were recorded mid-month; usually singles only are seen. Also, there was a recent record count of nine Grey Partridges. Towards the end of the month Chiffchaff and Wood Pigeon were heard singing and over a thousand Pink-footed Geese flew west late one afternoon. Seven Grey Herons together was an unusual sight as was the Mute Swans' nest with a single egg in it, on 27th. Kingfisher and Water Rail were recorded throughout the month and a Madagascar Teal of unknown origin.

During **February** up to three Common Cranes, a pair with a juvenile, dropped in from somewhere and were present off and on until mid-month. The redhead Smew continued to be seen and up to four Pintail, while Shoveler increased to 38 birds. On 2nd a remarkable count of 78 Brambling on the farm was made, a recent record, and a flock of around 70 Siskin was seen. At the Wader Scrape at least 73 Pied Wagtails went to roost on 11th. Returning birds such as Shelduck, Great Crested Grebe, Reed Bunting and Oystercatcher, peaking at 24 on 26th, began to be seen and more species started to sing.

The largest flock of Lapwing recently, of about 350 birds, was noted on 2nd **March** and the juvenile Common Crane was seen again between 7th and 13th. The first of these dates was warm and sunny after a frosty start, with which result the first Small Tortoiseshell and Brimstone Butterflies were recorded; once again Peregrine was seen, at the Wader Scrape. The best record of the month, though, was that of a single drake Scaup, seen on 12th until the month end. On 13th, I saw my first Little Owl here; on 16th both Treecreeper and Nuthatch were reported from the

Woodland Hide. A Blue Tit regularly visited a nest-box mid-month and a Mistle Thrush was noted carrying nest material. On 21st, Redshank returned to Pensthorpe and an almost entirely white Common Gull was seen. A young female Peregrine was seen on 24th, mobbed by Lapwings and gulls as it flew over one of the lakes, while Little Ringed Plover returned for the breeding season and three Ruff moved through; two different Common Cranes, a male and a juvenile, were also seen that day and the first Cetti's Warbler for the year was heard too. On 25th two returning Avocet were seen and a Red Kite went over. On 27th, three Little Ringed Plover were present at the Wader Scrape, with display noted; six Common Buzzards were seen, including a displaying bird, while the Grey Partridges were seen again. The month ended with the return of the Sand Martins and the sight of an optimistic duck Mallard with 16 ducklings.

On 2nd **April**, a surprisingly high count of 16 Meadow Pipits was made, a recent record; these were also the first for the year. On 4th, the first Willow Warblers and Blackcaps were in evidence and on 5th Swallows appeared too. On 6th, Sedge Warbler was noted and a pair of Great Crested Grebes was seen displaying, while the next day three Wheatears were present. Two adult Mediterranean Gulls announced their arrival on 8th, calling as they flew over the Courtyard; the first Green Hairstreak for some years was recorded too. Mid-month, Red Kite and Osprey put in an appearance, followed by a Spotted Redshank at the Wader Scrape; the first Greenshank of the year was also seen there and the first Cuckoo was heard. The first Cetti's Warbler to be ringed here was trapped on 14th as were Reed Warbler and Whitethroat, both new for the year. Yellowhammers are never very numerous here so it was good to see a male on 16th. Common Sandpiper and Tern arrived on 22nd and then a reeling Grasshopper Warbler on 28th, but a surprise on 30th was an adult Night Heron seen early in the morning on a Dawn Chorus Walk!

May began brilliantly with returning Hobby and two Bar-tailed Godwits on 1st, then two summer-plumaged Black-tailed Godwits on 3rd. On 4th a male and a juvenile Crane were present again while on 8th two Night

Heron were seen! A pleasant sight on 8th was that of a summer-plumaged Dunlin at the Wader Scrape, the first record for at least four years; increasing numbers of butterflies and dragonflies began to be recorded too. Cuckoo was heard and Hobby seen regularly in the middle of the month; Lapwing chicks were also seen. Avocet at the Wader Scrape peaked at five adults and four juveniles from two breeding pairs, up from one pair last year, which was a very positive development. Up to three Cranes were noted, two adults and an immature. On 25th, a late Bittern was at the Wader Scrape, along with two Grasshopper Warblers and three pairs of Little Ringed Plover. To finish off the month, the first Pheasant chicks were seen on 27th.

Four Little Ringed Plover chicks were seen on 2nd **June**, encouragingly, and a single Crane was also present that day. Red Kite passed through on 8th and a Marsh Harrier on 9th; by that date the pair of Mute Swans at the Wader Scrape was down to only three cygnets, despite successfully raising nine last year. On 10th, some very small Red-legged Partridge chicks were noted, the first for the year. The event was repeated on 14th but with Grey Partridge this time; thirteen tiny chicks were seen by the drive. Tufted Duck ducklings were evident from 20th, when ten were seen; the four young Shelduck at the Wader Scrape took their first flight on the same day. On 24th, a male Kestrel was seen with two fairly recently fledged youngsters and, very late, the first Spotted Flycatcher for the year. On 27th, a Honey Buzzard was observed, the first for several years. Towards the end of the month, another adult Mediterranean Gull flew over the Courtyard, the Cuckoo continued to be heard, a Red Kite flew over again and eight Avocets were present at the Wader Scrape, including four juveniles. Spotted Flycatcher was seen again on two dates, a Crane appeared once more and to end the month on something of a high, a Little Grebe was seen with five small young ones.

In early **July** the ringers heard a Cetti's Warbler, saw a Kingfisher and ringed three Common Tern chicks. An early sign of autumn came on 3rd when 33 Lapwing dropped in to the Wader Scrape, the largest number since the spring. On 13th, a moulting adult Mediterranean Gull was seen,

as was the Little Grebe family, although now with only two chicks. The Wader Scrape Mute Swans were also down to only two cygnets by this point as well. A Green Woodpecker heard on 14th was the first record since late March and, as it turned out, was the only summer record this year, unusually. The unseasonal damp and cool conditions had a part to play, no doubt. A party of seven Black-tailed Godwits, the second record this year, was present at the Wader Scrape on 18th, but they were soon seen off by the Avocets. Buzzard, Hobby and Sparrowhawk were seen regularly throughout the month but another sign of autumn was a Green Sandpiper on 22nd. By contrast, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Whitethroat and Reed Bunting were all still singing on 23rd.

Two pairs of Grey Partridge were seen in early **August**, one with one juvenile, the other with six. On 5th the ringers had fly-over Crossbill and Whimbrel, the latter the first here for some time. Forty-five Goldfinch were seen in a flock on 9th and a Crane was present again on 11th, when about 50 Lapwing were at the Wader Scrape; numbers built up to around 140 by 14th, so autumn was definitely on the way. The first Yellow Wagtail for several years appeared on 14th, there were two Green Sandpipers at the Wader Scrape on 17th and 22nd while the second Spotted Redshank for the year was there on 26th. Numbers of Teal began to increase throughout the month, going up from two on 9th August to 24 on 24th; four Snipe, the first since late April, were seen on 28th.

Wigeon reappeared at the Wader Scrape on 3rd **September**, when three were present; Gadwall numbers climbed to 25 and the first autumn Wheatear was recorded. Sadly, on the same date a ringed Barn Owl was found lying dead beside the main road; details supplied by the BTO showed that the bird was a male that had been ringed as a nestling at Bintree on 4th July. It had, therefore, survived for only 61 days and had moved 5km. On a lighter note, four Buzzards were seen up together on 4th, when a Kingfisher on the river was the first since July and an Otter was seen on 5th. A wild Crane was seen throughout the month. About 40 Swallows were seen on 7th, lining up on fence wire prior to their departure for warmer climes and a Cetti's Warbler was heard singing briefly; a Reed Bunting was the first since late July. On 8th two

Sparrowhawks were noted, as they were again on 9th when two Hobbies were also recorded. A juvenile Marsh Harrier was seen on 14th and again on 15th, when a male flew west as well. The first Grey Wagtail of the autumn turned up then too, a typical date for the species here. On 19th the highest number of Lapwing for the autumn was counted, when 238 were at the Wader Scrape, while on 20th a record 47 Mistle Thrushes flew over; this was the highest count for four years at least. On 21st around 60 House Martins flew over, this being the highest count all year. On 22nd and 23rd, six Buzzards were seen up together and on 24th the only Ruff of the autumn was recorded. On 25th two Hobbies were seen again and Shoveler at the Wader Scrape reached ten. On 29th a group of ten Grey Partridges was out on the farm and Marsh Harrier was seen then and the next day. By the month's end, numbers of Teal and Wigeon at the Wader Scrape increased to 71 and to ten respectively.

Early **October** saw the first Meadow Pipit and Siskin of the autumn, on 3rd, when a Grey Wagtail flew over too; a Cetti's Warbler was heard and seven Snipe recorded, the most this autumn. Better still, two Marsh Harriers were seen on that date, with another on 4th. During essential maintenance work, 18 Snipe were flushed from the Wader Scrape, on 5th, constituting the highest count this autumn. Numbers of Teal there rose to 103 on 6th when a Bittern was seen and photographed by fortunate visitors. Single Kingfishers were seen several times early in the month and on 7th a Bittern at the Wader Scrape showed extremely well. It stood out on the far, largest island for some time, curiously, before attempting to move into the reed bed. The reason for its reluctance to seek shelter then became clear: a Roe doe with two fawns appeared from the reed edge and chased the Bittern off, forcing it to fly a short distance. Needless to say, no-one watching had a camera! A mixed covey of partridges was seen on 10th, when six Red-legged and one Grey were out on the farm; they were present the next day too. On 11th, two Cetti's Warblers were heard singing and the first Redwing of the autumn appeared. Another Grey Wagtail was seen on 13th when the first returning Fieldfare turned up. Two adult and a juvenile Crane were here on 17th; on 19th at least one Mealy Redpoll showed well. A calling

Brambling on 21st constituted the first record for the autumn, as were those of a Woodcock and a Water Rail on 24th; a minimum of seven of the latter were heard on 25th, after an influx had obviously occurred. To end the month, about 1,000 Pink-footed Geese flew over but far more exciting was a ringtail Hen Harrier, the first here for at least four years, seen at close range on 31st.

On **November** 1st a total of six Barn Owls was seen in the evening around a single field while on 2nd five Kingfishers were present at the Wader Scrape. Also on 2nd, 21 Egyptian Geese were counted; on 5th, a total of 112 Tufted Duck was counted and on 6th, 249 Greylag and 57 Wigeon, 26 Gadwall, 17 Shoveler and 119 Teal were all the highest numbers since the start of the year; after improvement work carried out at the Wader Scrape, there had been a noticeable increase in the numbers of wildfowl using that area. Two Lesser Redpolls were seen well on 9th and a total of four Little Grebes was counted at the Wader Scrape, unusually for this site. The largest number of Common Gulls since late 2010, a total of 28, was seen on 10th, when around 100 Starlings came to roost. On 13th, seven Bewick's Swans flew low over the Wader Scrape, the only record this year. Big excitement came on 14th, when three Tundra Bean Geese, the first for several years, were located; they were last seen on 25th, having peaked at 11, including two juveniles seen on 15th. White-fronted Geese were also present in unusually high numbers for us, with a maximum of 33 on 24th. A Peregrine flew over the Courtyard on 14th, a returning bird after the last one was seen in March. 232 Teal on 16th constituted the highest count of the year to that date and on 18th only the second Stonechat in the last five years was seen. Also on that day, a pair of Goosander, the first for the year, flew down-river, with a redhead present the next day. 44 Egyptian Geese including a leucistic bird on 23rd was a recent record, although not a particularly welcome one. The month's end saw 28 Grey Partridge recorded on one day, including 22 in one field. Kingfisher was recorded throughout as were Barnacle Geese, unusually, with up to around 50 birds here; normally they are absent for the winter. Another ringing recovery was that of a Black-headed Gull, picked up dead on 25th;

it had been ringed in Finland as a young bird at the nest in June 2002 and was 1,871km from the ringing site when found here.

123 Wigeon and 29 Gadwall on 4th **December** were the highest counts since January, while 312 Teal on the same day was the highest count for the whole year. A pair of displaying Peregrine was seen then too, excitingly, and with winter seemingly unwilling to start, a duck Mallard with 10 ducklings was not too much of a surprise. Only the second Woodcock of the winter was found on 5th. Having identified some suitable habitat, it was a thrill to find my first Jack Snipe here, on 8th; reflecting the lack of proper winter weather, the first returning Shelduck were recorded on the same day. Around 70 Linnet were out on the farm then as well, the largest flock this year. On 11th a Goshawk was seen, standing on top of an unfortunate Rook! Shoveler increased to 14, the highest count since March; by strange coincidence, Cormorant peaked at 14 that day too; and a single Yellowhammer was seen. Two Lesser Redpolls formed only the second confirmed record all year, on 12th; records are most often of birds flying over though. A total of five Bullfinch on 15th was a good number. Four Woodcock, seen in the evening of 23rd, was the highest count all year. The first Smew appeared on 28th, a drake, when 25 Snipe, the greatest number this year, were flushed from a damp field and a Jack Snipe was located again. Returning Shelduck were around regularly until the month's end, with three on 29th, when a redhead Goosander was also seen. To round off an eventful year, on 30th about 2,500 Pink-footed Geese flew over, unusually high numbers for us; and a total of 84 Common Gulls was seen on 31st, a recent record here. So all in all, an exciting year with some impressive species seen as well as some notable counts made of commoner ones. Roll on 2012!

Weather Report 2011

January

After a very cold end to November 2010 and an exceptionally frigid December it as a surprise to many that January, by comparison seemed to be the beginning of spring. Although the monthly mean temperature of 4.3° was only marginally above normal. It was in great contrast to the preceding December when the mean temperature was exactly freezing (0.0°c).

A feature of January was the paucity of sunshine with many days dominated by low cloud, trapped between within stubborn areas of high pressure and resulting in the aptly named “Anticyclonic Gloom”.

The rainfall total of 70.7mms was 122% of average and the only snow observed during the month were a few random flakes on the 2nd and 27th.

Total Rainfall: 70.7mm (122% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 4.3°c (+0.3°c of average)

Ground Frosts: 17

Air Frosts: 10

Wind Direction Summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	5	4	1	0	3	7	1	3	7

February

With a mean temperature of 6.4° it was the mildest February since 2002 and was warmer than the average March!

Sunshine was at a premium and there was a seemingly endless succession of dull dreary and misty days causing the countryside to assume a “washed out” appearance. The month was one of the dullest since the dreadful February of 1947.

The maximum of 15° was noteworthy as was the very modest lowest screen minimum of -2.3° on the 1st. The wind reached gale force on the 4th and the monthly rainfall total of 41.9mms was very close to the average. Slight snow was observed on a single day, the 22nd.

Total Rainfall: 41.9mm (97% of average)
 Monthly mean Temp: 6.4°C (+2.6°C of average)
 Ground Frosts: 7 Air Frosts: 3

Wind Direction Summary

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

March

With high pressure dominating for most of the month it was exceptionally dry with the rainfall total of 13.7mm being only marginally over 25% of the average. Although rain fell only five days the countryside never presented the arid “winter blasted” appearance so common in March, due to a total absence of desiccating winds. Surprisingly this was not due to an absence of days with the wind blowing from between north-east and east. There were ten such days but due to the general mildness of the winter they were never cold or dry with only two days during the month recording a maximum below 4°. The month was snowless - unusual for March.

The absence of any significant daytime cold allowed spring growth to advance apace, but frequent clear nights allowed air frosts to develop on seven and ground frosts on fifteen nights.

Total Rainfall: 13.7mm (28% of average)
 Monthly mean Temp: 6.7°C (+0.8°C of average)
 Ground Frosts: 15 Air Frosts: 7

Wind Direction Summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	2	9	1	2	2	3	6	1	5

April

It was the warmest April in the 350 year Central England temperature record. (Amazingly the previous warmest April was as recent as 2007)

Locally, the mean monthly temperature was 4.6° above normal with the average day maximum an extraordinary 6.4° above average with six days recording maxima in excess of 21°C. The maximum of 24.0°C on the 6th is the highest temperature recorded on this day in the United Kingdom and the maximum of 27.0°C on the 23rd was notable.

The month was devoid of air frosts and although not as dry as April 2007 the rainfall total of 3.3mm was only 7% of normal. Excessive sunshine, combined with dry north-easterly winds exacerbated the lack of rainfall.

Total Rainfall: 3.3mm (7% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 12.2°C (+4.6°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 3

Air Frosts: 0

Wind Direction Summary

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

May

The moisture deficit increased with another dry very month the rainfall total of 16.8mm being only 37% of the average. The Meteorological Office judged that this spring in the United Kingdom has been the driest since at least 1893 with East Anglia being the driest region.

The only day during the month that could be defined as "wet" was the 30th when 6.2mm of rain was deposited by a front that moved across our region from west to east with an associated dramatic drop in temperature. In the late morning Norfolk was basking under sunny skies with a temperature of 24°C, but by late afternoon, under leaden skies and just prior to the onset of moderate rain and in a northerly wind the temperature plummeted to a mere 13°C.

Yet again it was a warm month with the mean temperature of 13.5°C being over 2° above normal.

Total Rainfall: 16.8mm (37% of average)
 Monthly mean Temp: 13.5°C (+2.2°C of average)
 Ground Frosts: 3 Air Frosts: 1

Wind Direction Summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	4	0	3	5	8	7	4	0

June

June brought a welcome relief from the pronounced dry spell. The monthly rainfall total of 80.0mm was a satisfactory 150% of average. The change to a wetter regime with mainly south-westerly winds is a common feature in mid June and right on cue this change was heralded on the 12th with a rainfall of 7.3mm. (more than double the total for April).

There was a mini heat wave on the 26th and 27th with the maximum climbing to 31.6°C on the latter date. The following night was exceedingly unpleasant with high humidity and a minimum temperature of 17.9°C. Thunder was heard on four days with a storm on the 28th accompanied by torrential rain that yielded a total of 16.6mms.

Total Rainfall: 80.0mm (150% of average)
 Monthly mean Temp: 15.5°C (+1.1°C of average)
 Ground Frosts: 0 Air Frosts: 0

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	3	0	2	5	9	8	2	0

July

July ended the succession of warm months with a mean temperature nearly 1°C below normal, making it the coolest July locally since 2000. The monthly rainfall total of 56.8mm was exactly average and thunder was heard on only one day.

Unusually the month's highest and lowest temperatures were recorded on the same day, the 31st. A screen minimum of 5.0° around 0400 hrs was followed by a maximum of 25.7°C in the early afternoon.

On the 24th our area in common with much of Southeast England was treated to a display of a rare cloud formation, identified as Cirrocumulus Undulatus. This cloud forms an arc across the sky with parallel rows of cloud causing a curious rippled effect.

Total Rainfall: 56.8mm (100% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 15.6°C (-0.9°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 0 Air Frosts: 0

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	5	1	0	0	3	9	3	7	3

August

With a mean temperature of 16.1°C it was the coolest August locally since 1993 and in fact, the summer season as a whole was also the coolest one recorded since 1993.

Unsurprisingly sunshine was deficient but there was a single hot day on the 3rd when a temperature of exactly 30°C was recorded.

August was a wet month with the rainfall total of 80.8mm being 158% of the average with slight thunder being heard on only two days.

Total Rainfall: 80.8mm (158% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 16.1°C (-0.3°C of average)

Ground Frosts: 0 Air Frosts: 0

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	2	0	2	3	10	8	4	2

September

An unexpected late heat wave reopened the mediocre summer with maxima attaining high summer values during the final days of the month.

27th _ 24°C; 28th _ 24.8°C; 29th _ 28.1°C; 30th _ 28.1°C

This late season heat wave occurred three and a half weeks later than the record September heat wave in Norfolk when 32.6°C was registered on the 5th September 1949.

Although south westerly winds predominated it was another dry month with just under half the normal monthly rainfall. The wind briefly reached gale-force on the 12th.

Total Rainfall: 26.8mm (49% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 15.9°C (+1.6% of average)

Ground Frosts: 0 Air Frosts: 0

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	1	6	4	12	5	0	2

October

The heat of September intensified early in the month with exceptional maxima for October on the first three days.

1st _ 28.0°C; 2nd _ 29.1°C; 3rd _ 27.5°C

The reading of 29.1°C is the highest in October since at least 1870 when local records began. (Santon Downham just eclipsed our record with 29.3°C which is currently the national record for that date).

With only three very slight air frosts there was little damage to tender plants. Autumn rains were nearly absent with the monthly rainfall total of 34.1mm being only 59% of the average.

Autumn rains were nearly absent with the monthly rainfall total of 34.1mms being only 59% of the average.

Total Rainfall: 34.1mm (59% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 12.9°C (+1.9% of average)

Ground Frosts: 4 Air Frosts: 3

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	1	3	3	7	8	3	6

November

This was an exceptionally mild month with grass growth continuing throughout the whole month. Tender plants remained in flower and insects abounded.

As many as twenty nine days recorded maxima in excess of the average. This warmth was not quite record breaking. November 1994 with a mean temperature of 9.9° c (0.6°c higher than this month) was the warmest since records began in 1659. The only true autumnal interlude occurred from the 20th to 22nd when most of Norfolk was enveloped in a dripping shroud of fog.

The month was notably dry with the rainfall total of 24.6mms being only 35% of the average.

Total Rainfall: 24.6mm (35% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 9.3°c (+2.6°c of average)

Ground Frosts: 5

Air Frosts: 3

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	1	2	4	2	3	9	1	0	8

December

December was a “westerly” month with rainfall close to normal and daytime maxima rather above average. A contrast with the very cold December of 2010 whose mean temperature was 5.5°c colder illustrated the variability of the British climate.

Slight snow was observed on three days but with not even a single day with north, north-east or east winds there was a total absence of any “hard” weather. The wind reached gale force on the 12th.

Total Rainfall: 54.5mm (89% of average)

Monthly mean Temp: 5.5°c (+0.7°c of average)

Ground Frosts: 12

Air Frosts: 5

Wind direction summary

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	0	0	0	0	0	6	20	3	2

Annual Summary 2011

Total Rainfall	504.0 mms (78% of average)	Wettest Day	3 rd Aug (21.3 mm)
Days with rain recorded	146	Days with thunder	8
Lowest maximum	1.9°C (3 rd Jan)	Lowest minimum	- 4.9°C (8 th Mar)
Lowest grass minimum	-7.0°C (8 th Mar)		
Air frosts	32	Ground frosts	66
Days with sleet or snow	6	Days with snow lying	0
Days with hail	5	Mean cloud cover at 0900hrs:	63%
Highest Maximum:	31.6°C (27 th June)	Highest minimum:	17.9°C (28 th June)
Days with gales:	3	Days with fog (0900hrs):	17

Longest period without any measurable rainfall: 16 days from 12th - 27th April)

Annual mean maximum: 15.4°C - Annual mean minimum: 6.9°C - Annual mean: 11.1°C

Wind direction at 0900hrs

Wind	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
Days	17	32	12	29	38	90	76	32	40

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

Norman Brooks (Fellow Royal Meteorological Society)



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RAMBLER DISCOUNTS
from the
OUTDOOR SPECIALISTS

2021 PDF of the WVBS Ninth Annual Report_20115th October 2021

Text changes

Format changes

Where	Original text	PDF text
Contents	Member's visit to Mull & Iona	WVBS trip to the Islands of Mull and Iona (1)
Visible autumn migration	2033-11	2003-11
Weather Summary	2010	2011
WVBS trip to the Islands of Mull and Iona	<i>Demoselle</i>	<i>Demoiselle</i>
Systematic List		
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Sparrowhawk	Recorded	Records
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Great Tit	the 8 th	on the 8 th
Chiffchaff		<i>Green listed</i>
Garden Warbler, Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia</i>	<i>Sylvia</i>
Blackbird	Abundant, passage migrant	Abundant resident, passage migrant
Redwing	resp.	respectively
Mistle Thrush	<i>Amber list</i>	<i>Amber listed</i>
Greenfinch	In Lenwade RG trapped 121 (cf. 183 in 2010) different birds in his garden as part of a long term study.	This text deleted (2)
Lesser Redpoll	were no records	were no more records
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus Atratus</i>	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
Earliest and Latest Summer Migrants		
Sand Martin	dates	Reported Dates
Spotted Flycatcher (Earliest)	PLi	PL Sculthorpe Moor HOT PL (3)
Visible autumn migration in west Norwich		Header row added to each page
Number of Migrants		Altered to thousands, e.g. 8,582 becomes 8.5 (4)
Recorded		
Route of migration	occurring	occurring
References: Lawton, N. & Hibberd, G. (2002)	forgotton	forgotten
2010 Weather Summary		
July	indentified	identified

		<p>Month Summaries moved to individual months (format as in 2010) Wind direction summaries tabulated Annual Summary 2011 and entries changed to a table</p>
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(1) The article title.

(2) For Greenfinch the text originally contained "In Lenwade RG trapped 35 (cf. 37 in 2010) different birds in his garden as part of a long term study." and "In Lenwade RG trapped 121 (cf. 183 in 2010) different birds in his garden as part of a long term study." The second text is repeated exactly in Goldfinch, is likely to refer to Goldfinch and has been deleted from the Greenfinch entry.

(3) Earliest location and observer were blank. Text was added from the Systematic List entry. For PLi see the Contributors to the Systematic List.

(4) Number of Migrants Recorded: The exact figures are;

2003	8,582
2004	22,222
2005	18,010
2006	47,087
2007	58,545
2008	18,767
2009	18,457
2010	47,165
2011	27,449