

September 2026 – Issue 135 **The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter**

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Contents - if something is underlined, you can Ctrl-click / press on it etc to jump to an external website link or that point in the newsletter

Chair's Corner ..... Page 2
A Note from the Editor ..... Page 3
NENBC Bird Highlights ..... Page 4
August 2026 ..... Page 4
September: What To Look Forward To ..... Page 11
Member Extras: Observations ..... Page 11
Club Notices ..... Page 15
What's On? - General Info ..... Page 16
Upcoming Events ..... Page 17
Talk: Shelducks and Windfarms ..... Page 17
Felbrigg Doubles: Walk & Amble ..... Page 17
Winterton Walk ..... Page 17
Coordinated Seawatch ..... Page 18
Young Birder Bursary ..... Page 18
Dilham Canal Festival ..... Page 19
A Scilly Pelagic Weekend ..... Page 20
Hanging Out In Hampshire ..... Page 23
A Celebration of Life: Carl Chapman ..... Page 25
Spotted Flycatcher Success ..... Page 28
BTO Bird Atlas: The Basics ..... Page 28
UEA Environmental Consultancy Projects ..... Page 30
The Blue Badge Challenge - More of the Same! ..... Page 33
Peregrine Corner - 2026 Review ..... Page 34
Check This Out ..... Page 38
Have You Tried Birdle Yet? ..... Page 38
Ficedula Fun ..... Page 39
Data, Records & Posts ..... Page 40
Club Badges ..... Page 42
Cultural Birds: Escher ..... Page 43
Ficedula Fun Solutions ..... Page 44
Back Page Club Info ..... Page 45





Chair's Corner

A record-breaking summer ...

By John Swallow

What a record-breaking summer we have experienced, it takes me back fifty (yes fifty!) years to the summer of 1976 when many of us were taking our first holidays abroad, often to Spain, to experience sunny days, heat and endless rainless days. It seems we no longer have to fly south ourselves to experience this and also see an ever growing list of mediterranean species which are now regular on the North Norfolk coast. I even hear that tourists are now flocking to Scotland for a "coolcation". Personally I've never needed an excuse to visit Scotland but I do wonder if the days of package holidays to Spain are coming to an end. I cannot tell you how happy I was when the rain finally arrived. The rain filled my water butt allowing me to top up my pond which due to a combination of evaporation and too many thirsty Woodpigeons was becoming dangerously shallow. I almost, perhaps I did, do a rain dance.

I enjoy so many aspects of birding. Most birders have travelled at least a few miles to see a bird they haven't seen before, or for many years, or to add it to a site, or their year list. I don't always get the time to do this myself but I really enjoyed catching up with Alan's Shore Lark at Weybourne, a cracking find for mid-July. I heard on WhatsApp about the many migrant passerines arriving mid-August with the rain and several "Pied Flys" had been found. Days, perhaps a week, passed before I was able to follow any up, then after waiting for a very heavy rain storm to pass, at last there was one of the reported **Pied Flys** at Sheringham Cemetery on 29th Aug.



The Wryneck at West Runton had been found a few days before I headed over to see it on 31st August. It was a really confiding and settled bird feeding away at the base of some large willows. There were already a few birders when I arrived all watching from a respectful distance, that is to the bird and also other observers. I joined them and took a few photos, not the sharpest but better that than I go forward and unnecessarily disturb and change the behaviour of the bird and spoil the fun for everyone else present and perhaps others yet to come along.



Of course it's great to bump into birds yourself. These are the birds that linger for longer in the memory. I was making my last Woodcock survey visit on 24th June when I heard not a roding Woodcock but a brief "wet my lips", quite distant but clear enough to then record the second call on my iphone and send to on to Andy for confirmation – **Common Quail**!

As part of Felbeck Trust Ringing Group I have been making a number of visits to West Beckham Old Allotments (WBOA) to trap and ring some birds from the large finch flocks which have been passing through, and other birds like this **Lesser Whitethroat**.



Hearing a Green Sandpiper calling overhead on 4th August was unexpected and great to hear, then Mark shouting that Buzzard looks interesting and it turned out to be a Honey Buzzard on 11th August was the icing on the cake. Migrants are to be found on the Cromer Ridge....

Perhaps best of all there have been many opportunities to share birding with others too during the last few months. I was involved in an NWT - Sainsbury Centre (Norwich) Wildlife and Art Walk, the Dilham Canal Trust 200th Anniversary Festival (write up on page 19), a spot of sea watching with Phil and Russell at Weybourne Beach and finally today's (6th September) NENBC walk at Cley NWT, but you'll have to wait till next month's newsletter for that report.

However you prefer your wildlife watching, enjoy your birding ☺

John

A Note from the Editor

By Carol Thornton

Welcome to our very belated September newsletter! Apologies from me for the tardiness.

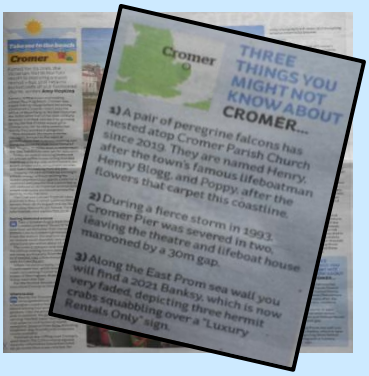
Welcome to our new members
We look forward to seeing you soon!

* Joy Mello * John Hopkins * Jake Crump *
* Steve McNally *
and welcome back
* Daniel Masters and Richard Webb *

If you have any queries, just drop us an email

We said goodbye to one of our number over the summer with the sad passing of Carl Chapman. We remember his contribution with words from some who knew him from page 25.

Hope you all had a good summer and the rain and 'cooler' weather that we saw a bit of in August eased some of the wildlife stress on your local patches. It certainly helped our garden critters, pond and plants and the local trees seem more healthy than I expected them to be, but certainly in our wider patch it has been very quiet on the bird front, seemingly more so than in previous Augusts.



Looking back in this month's newsletter, it has remained a bit stressful over at the Cromer Peregrine Project Watchpoint of late but we have a review of the ups and downs of the season (page 34) from Jane Crossen, who also spotted article over on the right in a feature on Cromer from the i-Weekend in August – 'our' Peregrines get a mention! We are also showcasing the third of our UEA Environmental Consultancy projects for 2025, with Luke's report on Climate Change and UK Birds (page 30). We have been back-to-business this month for the new season and we have already had our first weekend walk at Cley and our Felbrigg Park double - a walk and amble - which will all be written up for next month's newsletter. Our evening talk schedule kicks off this Thursday the 24th with a change to what was originally advertised – Ros Green (who had to postpone due to illness a year or so ago) will be talking about Shelduck migration in relation to offshore wind farms (page 17). Due to a post-booking diary clash, original speaker Ryan Burrell will now be talking about Wader Conservation Challenges in the January slot. Looking forward to the beginning of October, we have the annual Coordinated Seawatch (page 18) early doors on Saturday 3rd so do come join us at Sheringham, Cromer, Mundesley and Happisburgh for that bit of fun, learning and science. October's weekend walk on 17th is at Winterton (page 17) and the Wednesday Felbrigg Park Double is on 21st (page 17). We had one of our Pop-up seawatches at Cromer on 9th September but due to a mindless act of vandalism, our regular clifftop seawatching shelter is temporarily closed (with no word as yet on repairs) and we had to relocate to near the Henry Blogg memorial – fine for a fine day but not so good for any seawatching in the 'best' inclement weather of the autumn / winter.





A quick word on photos. Our 2025 Bird Report is with the printer as I write and we will be getting the book out to those of you who have signed up for a copy in the near future. One of my jobs is to select the photos for these publications and having trawled through all the uploads for last year, it was apparent that the number of photos of our more common birds, uploaded to our website by yourselves, has fallen off a bit. Images of our 'regulars' are just as important as the rarities so please consider making a point of taking a few more and adding them to our photo gallery for future use. Our Bird Reports are much richer for the inclusion of pics. The **'Through a Lens'** topic for the front cover of birds seen last month was **'gulls'** and we have Yellow-legged [Mark Clements MC], Mediterranean [MC], Herring [Doug Cullern] Lesser Black-backed [MC], Great Black-backed [MC], Caspian [Trevor Williams], Black-headed [MC] and Common [Ken Thornton]. For September our theme will be **'migrants'** so get clicking at the coast or inland! Below is a selection of **my favourite member photos** from August, this time showing off the rear view plumage of some of last month's visitors – lovely! Pied Flycatcher [Richard Farrow RF], Whinchat {Andrew Crossley], Kestrel [Steven Lines], Wryneck [RF], Turnstone [Jane Crossen]. Thanks all!











NENBC Bird Highlights – August 2026

By Carol Thornton

All records are from the NENBC website and submitted by members unless otherwise stated. No use of AI to help collate the report this month!

≈ 6,224 individual records covering 167 bird species were added in August

August 2026 Highlights | Some very interesting birds reported during August, with **Sooty Shearw**ater at Sheringham, **Honey-buzzard** at West Beckham, **Red-backed Shrike** at West Runton and **Citrine Wagtail** at Weybourne being the best. Seawatching brought a couple of **Manx Shearwater** and **Cory's Shearwater** records, **Glossy Ibis** flybys, skuas, gulls and terns, plus a large group of **Cattle Egret** making their way west along the coast were also of interest. Some of our regular migrants were a pull for many members with **Pied Flycatcher**, **Wheatear** and **Whinchat** plus **Purple Sandpiper** putting in an appearance, unusual autumn **Tree Pipit** records and a confiding **Wryneck** after a dip in 2025. See fuller details below.

Brent Goose | A single on the foreshore west of Spalla Gap on 13th.

Eider | One east at Weybourne on 3rd.

Goosander | Five flew east at Weybourne on 3rd, then inland over the Camp.

Grey Partridge | Four on road at West Beckham on 19th, 6 at Bale on 22nd and another 3 near Bodham on 26th.

Quail | One disturbed from Beach Lane, Weybourne on 9th which flew into a Muckleburgh field.

Nightjar | Four records from Kelling Heath on 2nd, 6th, 16th and 22nd with churring and flight calls reported on 3 occasions and visual reports on two.

Cuckoo | One at Kelling Heath on 11th and sadly a report of a juvenile which perished after a window strike.

Water Rail | A report from Corpusty & Saxthorpe on 11th and a nocturnal flight call over Sheringham on 23rd.

Grey Plover | Six east at Weybourne on 2nd and 4 east there on 8th. Two were in summer plumage past Cromer East Cliffs on 18th, one west Sheringham on 21st and a nocturnal flight call, also Sheringham, on 23rd.

Whimbrel | Thirty-two records during August, mostly of 1-6 birds past Weybourne and Cromer East Cliffs. Higher counts were 8 west at Cromer on 18th and 20 west at Weybourne on the same date, plus 7 west there on 9th. The only inland record was one over Swafield on 20th. *Photo 1 courtesy of David Griffiths*

1



Bar-tailed Godwit | Thirteen records of predominantly singles at Weybourne on 7 dates plus 2 there on 9th and 3 on 19th, a single past Cromer East Cliffs on 18th and 4 west Cromer Pier on 22nd. A flock of 15 flew high over a Sheringham garden on 21st calling.

Black-tailed Godwit | One west past Cromer East Cliffs on 18th. At Weybourne, records from 18th (5 west), 19th (8 east over village), 21st (1 west) and 26th (15 east over village).

Knot | Four west Weybourne on 5th plus singles west there on 21st and 31st. One west Cromer Pier on 22nd.

Ruff | Three west Weybourne on 20th and 1 east over the village there with Black-tailed Godwits on 26th.

Sanderling | Reported on 13 dates in August. Most records of single figure counts at three coastal sites, where their respective high counts were 6 west at Cromer Pier on 23rd, 2 on beach west of Overstrand on 13th and at Weybourne there were 10 east on 26th,15 west on 25th and 34 (22 east and 12 west) on 22nd.

Dunlin | Plenty of single figure counts from three coastal sites. Higher counts were 10 at Weybourne on 2nd, 12 on 17th and 13 on 27th, with 7 west in small groups at Cromer East Cliffs on 18th with several nocturnal flight calls recorded over Sheringham on 23rd.

Purple Sandpiper | First sightings of the season of this lovely species with a single on the rocks near The Crown at Sheringham on 28th, potentially with an injured foot, plus up to 2 birds there on 30th. *Photo 2 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Woodcock | Just one record of 2 at Holt on 30th.

Snipe | One in off the sea at Weybourne on 17th, one during a monthly farm survey at the private Wolsey's Farm 25th and 1 west Muckleburgh Hill on 30th.

Common Sandpiper | Mostly singles on 10 dates from 9 locations. Higher counts were 3 Baconsthorpe 3rd and (shortly after being reported leaving there on the WhatsApp Alerts Group) 5 at Felbrigg Park lake, 4 at Weybourne on 5th, 2 Cromer Pier on 12th and 3 there on 31st plus 2 Felbrigg Park lake on 19th. A single was observed on the beach at Cromer on 18th and one on the sea wall at Sheringham on 28th. *Photo 3 courtesy of Ken Thornton*



Green Sandpiper | A single calling over a Gresham garden on 3rd and over the lake at Felbrigg Park a little earlier, two heard calling in the mist at West Beckham during a bird ringing visit on 4th and one west over Beeston Bump calling on 26th.

Redshank | Most records were of single-figures moving along the coast throughout the month. Higher counts were Weybourne, 20 in a single flock on 2nd, with 11 there 17th, 10 west 18th and up to 17, including a flock of 14, on 23rd. Mid-month nocturnal flight calls were reported over Sheringham on two dates and on 3rd, a single was circling high over Holt calling for 7 minutes.

Wood Sandpiper | A single west past Cromer Pier on 22nd.

Spotted Redshank | A report of a juvenile-type west with Redshanks and a Greenshank at Weybourne on 17th.

Greenshank | Singles west along shore at Weybourne on 4th, 6th and 17th, one calling during a West Beckham bird ringing session on 11th, one calling along Weybourne Cliffs on 14th and 2 south over Cromer town centre on 27th.

Kittiwake | Records from the 21st to 27th along the northern coastline predominantly of singles but with 10 east at Sheringham during a 2-hour seawatch on 22nd, 10 past Weybourne on 27th (9 east, 1 west) and 3 east in a 3-hour seawatch at Cromer on 25th. There was also a juvenile east Muckleburgh Hill on 27th.

Little Gull | A single west at Weybourne on 10th and again on 11th were the only records this month.

Mediterranean Gull | Nearly 50 records on 26 dates from 12 locations from Weybourne to Paston. Most were of single-figure counts with higher counts of 16 at Trimingham on 9th feeding on insects with other gulls, 26 there on 26th with 5 following a cultivator and 21 on the beach, 17 also there on 24thplus 50 at Paston over the cliffs on 27th feeding on flying ants. Several reports were of juvenile or first summer and winter birds. *Photo 4 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Caspian Gull | A fantastic 48 records in August from Cromer, Sheringham and Weybourne sites. Often of more than one bird, and up to 8 (Cromer Pier 18th). Reports included 2 Dutch-ringed birds, 1 German-ringed and 1 Polish-ringed. Plenty of juvenile records plus a smattering of 1st calendar and 4th calendar year birds, near adult and adult records where an age was specified. One inland record of a juvenile on pig fields at Field Dalling & Saxlingham. *Photo 5 courtesy of Mark Clements*

5



Yellow-legged Gull | Records on 9 dates, predominantly singles from Cromer Pier but with 2 juveniles west Weybourne on 22nd and 2 Cromer Pier on 31st. *Photo 6 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Sandwich Tern | Lots of records, including plenty of triple-figure counts and reports of fishing, between Weybourne and Trimingham throughout the month. High count was 442 off Weybourne 27th (412 east and 30 west). *Photo 7 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Arctic Tern | Eight east at Weybourne on 24th was the only record of the month.

Black Tern | Two east at Weybourne on 31st.

Great Skua | One east at Sheringham on 21st and also at Weybourne where there was possibly a second bird too. Two east and two west at Sheringham on 22nd, 1 east at Cromer East Cliffs on 25th, 1 east Weybourne 28th and finally 1 east and 1 west Weybourne 30th.

Pomarine Skua | One west Cromer Pier on 25th and 4 east Weybourne 30th.

Arctic Skua | Thirty-seven reports throughout the month between Weybourne and Cromer flying both east and west. Most were single-figure counts but there were 11 past Sheringham on 21st and 12 on 22nd, 10 past Cromer Pier on 25th plus 10 past Weybourne on both 26th and 27th. *Photo 8 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Long-tailed Skua | At Sheringham, a 'blond' juvenile was observed inside the flags on 21st, which landed

6



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8



in the sea briefly before heading on east, an immature mid-distance on 22nd and 1 east on 23rd. At Weybourne, a single offshore chasing terns on 24th.

Red-throated Diver | Records on just three dates, all singles – east Sheringham on 21st, a summer-plumage bird close in at Cromer East Cliffs on 23rd and 1 west Weybourne 24th.

Fulmar | Sporadic records on 11 dates in the month, mostly of 1-2 birds. Three possible migrants heading east at Cromer East Cliffs on 21st, with 8 there during a 3-hour seawatch on 25th. Sheringham high counts were 7 on 21st during a late afternoon seawatch and 6 on 22nd during an early morning one. *Photo 9 courtesy of Mark Clements*

9



Cory's Shearwater | All records were from 22nd. A bird reported heading east from Cley earlier passed Sheringham mid-distance at 0621, then 1 west distant 0720, followed by 1 east mid-distance, dropping briefly onto the sea before continuing east 0726. Observers reported these as 3 birds rather than 3 sightings of the same bird. The latter bird was picked up from the eastern end of Sheringham at 0731 and at Cromer Pier 0742.

Sooty Shearwater | One west Sheringham 22nd.

Manx Shearwater | Up to 4 birds off Sheringham on 21stand 1 east Cromer East Cliffs on 25th.

Shag | One west Weybourne on 18th. At Sheringham, a first calendar year bird on sea on 21st, on basket near The Crown on 29th and another record from 30th. *Photo 10 courtesy of Mark Clements*

10

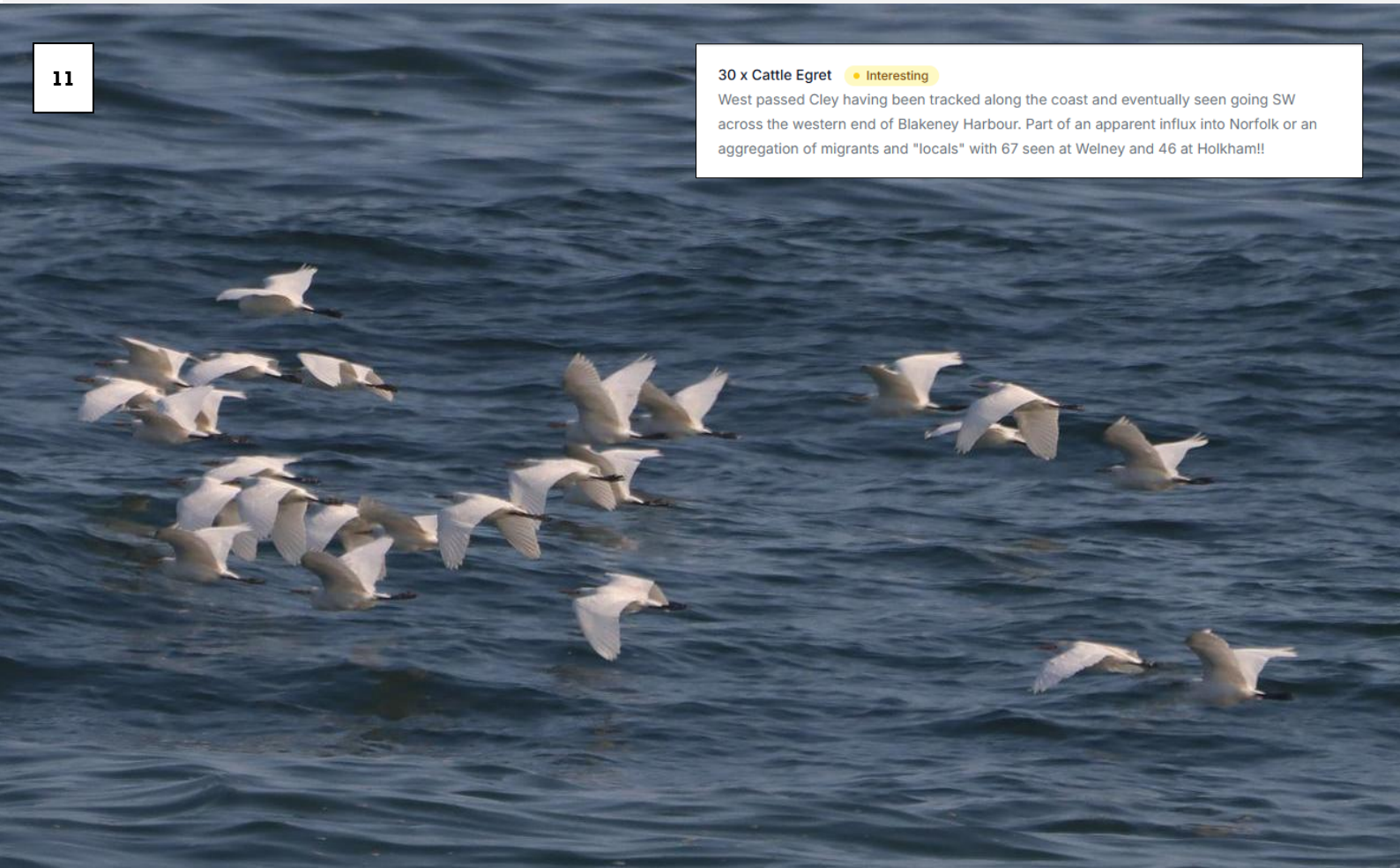


Glossy Ibis | Two circled over the Camp at Weybourne on 24th before heading out of the club area to Kelling Water Meadow and 3 birds passed east over Muckleburgh 31st.

Spoonbill | A single east over Weybourne village on 15th.

Cattle Egret | A highlight for seawatchers on the 23rd, when up to 36 Cattle Egret were reported heading west offshore in a single flock from Cromer, past Sheringham and Weybourne and beyond. On 27th, 1 east over Muckleburgh Hill was the only other record. *Photo 11 courtesy of David Griffiths*

11



Great White Egret | Observed on 5 dates. A single was east past Cromer East Cliffs early morning on 27th. All other records were from Weybourne – 3 west over the village and one offshore on 9th, singles on 16th, 25th and 29th, all east over village, with 2 west offshore with Grey Heron on 27th. *Photo 12 courtesy of David Griffiths*

12



Osprey | One passing over Edgefield on 12th and one west along the cliffs at West Runton on 30th before heading inland. *Photo 13 courtesy of Paul Morris*

13



Honey-buzzard | A single over West Beckham on 11th. *Photo 14 courtesy of John Swallow*

Marsh Harrier | Inland records were of a single over Gresham Sewage Works on 3rd and Lower Gresham on 5th, a male drifting east over Baconsthorpe on 11th, a female over West Beckham on 16th, a juvenile over Field Dalling & Saxlingham on 28th plus two probable juveniles over Southrepps Common on 26th. Coastal records were from Weybourne, singles on four dates and 2 birds east over fields there on 14th.

Hen Harrier | A 'ringtail' quartering a field on Weybourne Cliffs on 13th.

Short-eared Owl | A low-flying bird shadowed by 2 Carrion Crow over Weybourne car park on 28th.

Kingfisher | Records of singles on 10 dates, predominantly from Selbrigg Pond, with 2 at the end of the lake at Blickling Park on 7th. Other sites with one record each were Gimingham, Felbrigg Park and Baconsthorpe with a juvenile reported from a monthly farm survey near Ingworth on 25th.

14



Wryneck | A single lingered for a couple of days 30th to 31st at West Runton and seen by 21 happy members. *Photos 15 courtesy of Stu Bock and Richard Farrow*

15 a



15 b



Merlin | A single female-type in off the sea at Cromer East Cliffs on 18th, then headed west harassed by Herring Gull. Another report on 30th from Calthorpe of a low-flying single.

Hobby | Nearly 70 records of 1 or sometimes 2 birds, from 23 coastal and inland locations. At Weybourne Cliffs on 16th, 2 juveniles perched together when an adult male flew in from the west and was met, high up, by

an adult female for a prey pass. An adult and 2 juveniles reported in the same area again on 21st. Three in a group were at Mossymere Woods on 21st, including one juvenile with yellower streaked breast. *Photo 16 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Peregrine | Plenty of records from the Cromer church family throughout the month but see article on page 34 for the current trials and tribulations. Elsewhere, singles at Weybourne on 15th, 17th and 30th, Muckleburgh Hill on 30th, Sheringham Cemetery on 30th and Happisburgh on 31st.

Red-backed Shrike | An elusive juvenile was at West Runton on 25th. *Photo 17 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Hooded Crow | One at Cromer Pier on 11th and a report of one at Aylmerton on 20th which sadly couldn't be relocated by the writer! *Photo 18 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Raven | Two on the mobile mast at Baconsthorpe on 2nd and a single at Swafield both morning and afternoon on 21st.

Marsh Tit | Just a few records from Selbrigg Pond, Corpusty & Saxthorpe, Holt Country Park & Lowes (2), Blickling Park and Gresham.

Cetti's Warbler | Singing Cetti's were at Pigneys Wood on 9th, 10th and 17th, Weybourne on 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 31st plus Beeston Bump on 26th. *Photo 19 courtesy of Steven Lines*

Willow Warbler | A single bird reported from Weybourne Cliffs on 2nd and then no records until 26th with a further 27 reports to month end from Beeston Common, Happisburgh, Sheringham Cemetery, Southrepps Common, Trimingham, West Runton (4 on 30th and 31st) and the Weybourne area (4 on 29th). *Photo 20 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Garden Warbler | Singles at Weynor Gardens, Kelling on 13th, a Bale garden (appropriately) on 16th feeding on elderberries, Cromer on 14th and Weybourne (2) on 28th. *Photo 21 courtesy of Paul Laurie*

16



17



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19



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21



Lesser Whitethroat | A smattering of records on the first 3 weeks of the month, including a 1st year bird, trapped and ringed during a Felbeck Trust ringing visit at West Beckham Old Allotments, with more numerous reports from 24th to month end. Predominantly singles but with 3 Sheringham Cemetery 10th and 3 Field Dalling & Saxlingham 28th.

Whitethroat | Nearly 90 records throughout the month from 22 inland and coastal locations. All single-figure counts except 12 at Weybourne, on the Camp, on 11th.

Firecrest | Singles at Weybourne Heath on 1st, Selbrigg Pond on 5th and 11th plus High Kelling also on 11th.

Spotted Flycatcher | A single was feeding in a member's garden at High Kelling on 2nd with 2 seen and others heard calling on the area on 10th. One was at Mannington Hall Park on 14th, a juvenile being fed at Blickling Park on 16th, flycatching observed at Sheringham Cemetery on several dates with up to 3 birds reported on 28th, taking bees at Beeston Common on 28th and 2 feeding at Trimingham on 28th. Additional reports from Briningham - see article on page 28.

Pied Flycatcher | A juvenile was in a Bale garden on 9th and then there was a flurry of reports from 25th through to 2nd September. Up to 3 birds were at Sheringham Cemetery from 26th, up to 3 at West Runton 30th to 31st, plus 5 at Trimingham on 26th with reports of 1-2 birds from Beeston Bump, the Weybourne area, Paston, Southrepps Common and Muckleburgh Hill. *Photo 22 courtesy of Russell Page*

Redstart | Singles only reported, both male and female at just coastal locations, present variously at Sheringham Cemetery, Weybourne area, Trimingham, Paston, Beeston Bump, West Runton, Happisburgh in the period 25th to 31st. *Photo 23 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Whinchat | A single reported at Weybourne on 3rd then no further records until 25th, then reports daily to month end from 10 primarily coastal sites of 1-4 birds. Coastal birds were between Weybourne and West Runton with inland reports from Felbrigg Park and Field Dalling & Saxlingham. *Photo 24 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Stonechat | Over 70 records throughout the month from mostly coastal locations from Weybourne to Happisburgh. High counts were 10 at Weybourne on 7th and 14th with 9 there on 29th. Inland reports came from Kelling Heath, Ingworth and Baconsthorpe. Juveniles reported from 3 sites. *Photo 25 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

22



23



24



25



Wheatear | A handful of reports of singles from Weybourne, two from Cromer and one from Sheringham Cliffs 3rd to 19th, with number of records (25) and birds (1-6) picking up from 25th onwards, predominantly still along the length of our coastline but inland records from Felbrigg Park and Field Dalling & Saxlingham. The high counts of 6 were at West Runton 25th, Weybourne 26th and Muckleburgh Hill 30th. *Photo 26 courtesy of Steven Lines*



Yellow Wagtail | All 15 records from Weybourne of up to 5 birds covering 14 dates, mostly recorded on the beach there.

Citrine Wagtail | On 14th there was a report of a single juvenile / 1st winter bird on the coast path at Weybourne.

Grey Wagtail | Singles at Selbrigg Pond on 1st and 5th, Letheringsett & Ford on 3rd, Mannington Hall Park on 14th and Blickling Park on 23rd.

Tree Pipit | An initial nocturnal flight call recorded over a Sheringham garden on 23rd was followed by a first for the site at Southrepps Common on 26th, seen and described well by the observer, and one at Trimingham on 28th.

September: What to look forward to .....

There is a noticeable upturn in migration during the month of September and it can be an excellent month for scarce and rarer migrants as well as our annual returners. Our regular locations where the larger range of species get reported from every month benefit from larger observer numbers, but that is not to say they are the only suitable 'downing' spots or habitats. Many locations, particularly, but not exclusively, along the coast can hold migrating birds so why not see what you can find? Bacton and Walcott have both featured in previous years with some excellent reports, but they rarely get many of our members visiting, and our inland parks and commons or lakes and ponds can also be productive, as can scanning agricultural fields. A strong north-west wind will produce some exciting seawatching with the numbers of grebes, divers, wildfowl and waders moving westwards increasing as the month progresses so look out for our short-notice Pop-ups and the annual Coordinated Seawatch on 3rd October, especially if you are new to seawatching, and come and give it a try with support from more seasoned watchers. We have already had Red-backed Shrike, Wryneck, Redstart, Wheatear, Purple Sandpiper and Pied Flycatcher records this autumn. Look out too for Yellow-browed Warbler or returning thrushes like Fieldfare and Redwing. Lapland Buntings and Snow Bunting may be here by the month end. And don't forget the geese! Heard any Pink-feet yet? Want to make sure you don't miss out? Sign up to our WhatsApp Alerts Group for timely posting of interesting species.

Observations from last month .....

Member Extra!

Member Highs, Lows and Ponderings

All member comments are taken from the notes section of the website. We are getting a lot more detail on The birds and their activities these days which makes these summaries longer, but much richer, so please keep it up everyone!

Stock Dove | singing while perched on the tawny owl nestbox, hopefully a nesting attempt. | Phil Borley | Edgefield | 4th

Woodpigeon | 2 proud parents on the garage roof and a squab possibly on its maiden flight, landing somewhat ignominiously in the clematis. It sat there for a long time looking bemused after its parents had flown off. | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 19th

Moorhen | Heard alarm calling at first from reservoir pond near Swafield footbridge. Tuned out to be a Buzzard in one

of the trees. After it flew off 3 adults and 4 chicks emerged. | Stephanie Witham | Pigneys Wood | 9th

Moorhen | 17x Breeding record: lots of juveniles from this season | Andy Clarke | Baconsthorpe | 23rd

Turnstone | Yay! They're back. Looking very fine and dandy - usual place! Rocks in front of The Crown! | Jane Crossen | Sheringham | 18th

Common Tern | 482 east. 90 west. Incredible and spectacular numbers. Following a discussion with the regular observers at Sheringham, they, like myself have no idea what is actually going on.| Phil Borley | Weybourne | 28th

Little Egret | 2x west during Red Arrows Cromer Carnival display |Trevor Williams | Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs | 19th

Little Egret | 2x West during Red Arrows display | Dave Billham | East Runton (Coastwatch Station) | 19th

Sparrowhawk | Unsuccessful attack in area where wryneck, redstart and Dunnock had been feeding at very base of hedge. | Stu Buck | West Runton | 31st

Red Kite | One with food in talons, seemed to be attempting to land in tree (perhaps where juvenile was?) but a Buzzard prevented it | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 27th

Buzzard | 4x Soaring over house then drifted SW and seemed to go down in wood. I wonder if these are local adults and young as the wood is a regular roost for local buzzards over the years. | Stu Buck | Antingham & Bradfield | 30th

Tawny Owl | Calling from tree close to my open bedroom window, woke me up | Julia & Davis Ivison | East Runton & Thains Lane | 15th

Tawny Owl | Recently fledged sitting on A149 just east of Weybourne. Thankfully they decided to fly off as I got out of the car! My wife's best views of Tawny Owls! | David Griffiths | Weybourne | 26th

Great Spotted Woodpecker | Good views of the juvenile - sitting on a telegraph post with a Green Woodpecker - I had no idea it was so much smaller than a Green Woodpecker! Record shot only - light was appalling. | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cemetery | 17th



Green Woodpecker | Very pleased to see a juvenile bird on our lawn, suspected local breeding this year so good to see confirmed! | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 12th

Green Woodpecker | Juvenile, very happy and noisy in gardens along Chapel Road at the moment, lots of ant hills and water available | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 26th

Kestrel | Lovely watching an obviously newly-fledged Kestrel hunting with an adult along the cliffs. It dropped a mouse (proof of that in photo attached!) | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cliffs & Golf Course | 11th



Kestrel | By chance walked very close to this young bird on the ground surrounded by feathers from a Sparrowhawk kill. Flew rather weakly to a gravestone and then a fence post - probably just hungry. | Alan Stevens | Sheringham Cemetery | 29th

Hobby | Flashed west low over garden, eliciting panic in the few passing Swallows. My first over the garden this year. | Andy Clarke | Sheringham | 17th

Marsh Tit | 2x feeding on honeysuckle berries, some berries were obtained by the bird hovering and plucking the berry from the plant, all of which were taken to a nearby tree to consume, then flying back for more. | Phil Borley | Holt Country Park & Lowes | 12th

Sand Martin | 12x Same nesting site as the previous brood. Obviously had a second one. they didn't like the Kestrel sitting next to it! | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cliffs & Golf Course | 11th

Willow Warbler | At least 1. Brighter than chiffchaffs with longer brighter supercilium extending further back beyond eye and clearly paler legs. | Stu Buck | West Runton | 31st

Spotted Flycatcher | Briefly seen feeding on front lawn, more typical of a wagtail. | Colin Blaxill | High Kelling | 2nd

Spotted Flycatcher | Very briefly - south west corner. It caught a Humming Bird Hawk Moth and then flew west. Wish I'd got a photo of that feed! | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cemetery | 28th

Robin | 1 heard ticking, 1 immature bird in the apple tree, just developing its red breast | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 16th

Pied Flycatcher | Knew there had to be one around here somewhere! Female/juv type, in sallows from gate near picnic tables, School Common | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 28th

House Sparrow | 13x Female queuing for its turn in the waterfall first thing in the morning. Later 13 in front hedge and feeding on seedheads in meadow - what a lovely sight | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 13th

House Sparrow | 8x Flushed from a bush in All Saints Close by a ginger cat that leapt into the bush and then got entangled in it - i almost felt sorry for the cat; it did manage to extricate itself | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 22nd

Highlights | Rings, Tags & Flags



Just a reminder to folk logging ringed birds on our website. Although we send our data off en masse to the county recorder through BirdTrack uploads, we don't directly contact ringing coordinators of individual projects – that needs to be down to you if you have a sighting and the ringing coordinators love to get updates on 'their' birds.

EU Colour Ring website.

Iceni Bird Monitoring Group [locally ringed Turnstones (red flag three letters starting JAA), Black-headed Gulls (red rings starting 2C00) and Marsh Tit (white rings 00-99)]

BTO [metal-only rings]



Lesser Whitethroat
John Swallow

















Caspian Gull

Photos courtesy of Mark Clements: KK, G6, XMVP, PJ3L (?) XR6U (?), XC7H (?)| Ollie Allison

11/08/2026	Caspian Gull	6	Cromer Pier	5 juvs (including KK Dutch ringed bird & 2nd CY bird)
12/08/2026	Caspian Gull	8	Cromer Pier	7 juvs (including G:6 Dutch ringed bird)& 2nd CY bird
20/08/2026	Caspian Gull	7	Cromer Pier	6 juvs (including G:6 & new German ringed bird XMVP & adult
23/08/2026	Caspian Gull	5	Cromer Pier	all juvs including German ringed bird XMVP
31/08/2026	Caspian Gull	5	Cromer Pier	including Polish ringed and German ringed birds
04/08/2026	Sedge Warbler	1	West Beckham	one trapped and ringed, fledged juvenile with fat, birding during FT ringing visit at WBOA
24/08/2026	Lesser Whitethroat	1	West Beckham	one 1st year bird, trapped and ringed, birding during FT ringing visit at WBOA

Highlights | 'NocMig' Sound Recordings

Calling all those members out there who dabble in nocturnal recordings of over-flying birds ... please do pop your confirmed records on the website.

They don't count towards your Star or Green badges but they are an interesting addition to our data. Supporting sonogram images welcome. But what about those off-the-wall identifications the analysis software comes up with? The advancements in technology are great but they are a guide rather than a definitive ID so you do need to check your recordings yourself using website databases like Xeno-Canto or BirdNet for example. Please don't log these 'dodgy' records on the website, but do drop us an email to let us know your best 'if only' records of the month!

23/08/2026	Water Rail	1	Sheringham	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0344 (single call)
23/08/2026	Oystercatcher		Sheringham	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0333 (10 calls)
23/08/2026	Grey Plover	1	Sheringham	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0213 (single call)
23/08/2026	Turnstone	1	Sheringham	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0223
23/08/2026	Dunlin		Sheringham	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0206, 0315 (13 calls in total, so probably small flocks)
23/08/2026	Redshank	5	Sheringham	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 2142, 2317, 2340 (22nd), 0146, 0222, 0412; clearly passage this night
23/08/2026	Tree Pipit	1	Sheringham	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0146 (single distant call)

Bird Ventures of Holt

Our club sponsors offer a 5% discount on own-branded wild bird food to NENBC members all year. They also stock feeders and so much more and are always happy to offer advice. Have a look at their website https://birdventures.co.uk or pop by their shop. Free local delivery available.

Bird Ventures | The Wildlife Shop
9B Chapel Yard, Albert Street
Holt NR25 6HG
Telephone 01263 710203
salesbirdventures@aol.com
Monday 10:15am-5:00pm
Tuesday to Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm

NENBC WhatsApp groups

We have 3! We need your mobile number to sign you up for any of them and you will need to activate WhatsApp on your phone if you are not already using it. There are a few rules on the 1st two groups which you will need to agree to on sign up that ensures they run as smoothly as possible for our volunteer administrators and the instant info you get is of use. Please be aware that like all WhatsApp groups, your number will be visible to all those on the group There isn't a way to hide them.

NE Norfolk Sea-watching is administered by Trevor Williams and is for any active and participating seawatchers along the north east Norfolk coast whether they are club members or not.

NENBC Alerts is administered by Tony Forster and is solely for club members to share news on the location of interesting birds within the club area.

NENBC Communications has been set up so we have a means of contacting members quickly and easily without going through the email / website route. We plan to use it for things like ….

- sending out reminders a day or two before scheduled club events
- letting folk know where we are running a short-notice 'Pop-Up' event outside of our published schedule
- advising to any last-minute changes to scheduled events

Unlike the other WhatsApp groups only the Admins can send messages out; **members won't be able to respond** via it so there shouldn't be a lot of traffic on it. It **won't be used as a bird alert** so won't duplicate the purposes of our other two.

Newsletter Contributions

The more folk who contribute articles for this monthly newsletter, the richer the read! You don't have to be a birding expert to write something with a birding link – long or short, with or without photos, trips, anecdotes, questions you want answered, surveys you have been doing, equipment or books you like – you would be surprised the number of members who would be interested in reading what you have to say. Please get in touch on nenbc@aol.co.uk if you can help. We would love to hear from you.

2nd Hand Book Stock

We could do with some more book donations for our birds and other nature book stall at our indoor events. We have rather a lot of Field Guides for most of the world it would seem so we don't necessarily need more of those, but we could do with a wider range of reading material from home and away. If you have any books languishing on your shelves, please bring them along to one of our events or drop us an email on nenbc@aol.co.uk

A change to our subscription rate for next year ….

Just a quick reminder about the changes we announced back at the AGM in December. From January 2027 we will be increasing the annual membership rate to £17.50 for those wanting a printed Annual Report from the previous year. The rate without a report remains at £12.00. Those of you with a standing order, we would be much obliged if you could change the amount to be deducted prior to the renewal date in January. Thank you!

Speaker Suggestions

We are always on the lookout for recommendations for speakers for our indoor programme, or ideas you may have of subjects we could cover. If you have any thoughts, please drop Alan and email on ahstevens52@gmail.com

What's On?

General Event Information – please see our **website** for **full details**

Overview

- Talks on the last Thursday evening of the month at Gresham Village Hall from Sep-Nov and Jan-Apr, also available live via Zoom
- Walks around Felbrigg Park on the 3rd Wednesday morning of the month Sep-Jul
- Varied monthly weekend walks and the odd evening one from Sep-Jul
- Special events including:
  - Coordinated Seawatch
  - Walks Weeks
  - Christmas Social & AGM
  - New Year's Day Birding Challenge
  - NENBC Big Sit
  - Global Big Bird Day activities
  - Birding for Beginners Course
  - Short-notice themed 'pop-up' sessions

Car-sharing is always encouraged, or even better, walking or cycling.

General Walks Information

Please wear clothing suitable to conditions - footpaths can be muddy at any time of the year.

YOUNG PEOPLE: Children are always welcome if accompanied by well-behaved adults and we would be happy to see young members aged 16 and 17 attend unaccompanied with prior written consent from a parent or guardian who has also supplied a phone number where they can be contacted in an emergency.

DOGS: We regret no dogs except assistance dogs.

EQUIPMENT: Binoculars are always recommended to gain full enjoyment from your birding and for some of our walks, a scope is definitely useful but don't forget you'll have to carry it!

ACCESSIBILITY: Unfortunately most of our walks aren't suitable for wheelchair users but please do contact us on **nenbc@aol.co.uk** to see which of our events are or could be adapted to be so.

BADGES: Birds seen on club-area walks count towards individual Star badges & if you walk or cycle from home, they also count towards your Eco-Badges.

BOOKING: You generally won't need to book for any of our walks so just turn up on the day if you fancy it. We advise joining the WhatsApp Comms group which we will always use if we have to make any last minute changes. There may be the occasional time we do need advance numbers and bookings and if this is the case it will say so on our publicity.

General Talks Info

LOCATION: Our indoor events are benerally held at Gresham Village Hall and unless otherwise stated they start at 7:30pm. Most are also available live via Zoom. The postal address is East Beckham Road, Gresham, Norfolk, NR11 8RT but note the published postcode might not take you to exactly the right spot! If you are coming through Aylmerton and Lower Gresham, turn right by the church (just after the school) and the hall is on your left. If you are coming through Gresham, turn left at the church (just before the school) and the hall is on your left. If you are dropping down from East Beckham, the hall is on your right opposite the church.

AT THE HALL: Those of you attending in-person at the hall for our regular evening talks can expect a selection of home-made cakes plus tea, coffee, hot chocolate, wine and cold drinks during the interval and of course the chance to socialise with other members. We can cater for gluten-free or other requirements if you let us know in advance. We have a 2nd hand 'natural world' book stall for you to purchase from / contribute your no-longer-required stock to, supplies of our club publications to buy (including our annual bird reports), a display of member photos and details on our upcoming events. We are happy to offer members' old birding equipment for sale at our events (or in our newsletter) with a contribution going to club funds.

NO BOOKING REQUIRED BUT…: It is always nice to know if you are coming to an evening talk but by no means essential so if it takes your fancy on the evening, please just turn up as we would love to see you! If you want the Zoom link though, you will need to let us know in advance!

ACCESSIBILITY: The hall is wheelchair accessible. The level car park at the hall is shingle but we can reserve a space next to the entrance if you need it.

PARKING: Access to the hall car park is off East Beckham Road, opposite the church. There is additional parking on the road along the side of the church itself and an overflow car park has kindly been offered to us by Gresham Village School. The school car park is located on Cromer Road to the left of the school as you face it and at the left-hand end of the row of houses – about a 300m walk from the hall. Please park considerately to allow maximum number of cars in the car parks and on the road but with enough space for passing traffic to be able to get through, including agricultural vehicles. We can send you a map of the locality on request.

Upcoming Events

In the coming weeks we have another **Felbrigg Park Double** offering a walk or a shorter and slower amble depending on your preference, a **Winterton Walk** and our Annual Coordinated Seawatch – always fun and informative. Back for the autumn. Our **September Evening Talk** is about **Shelducks and Wind Farms** with Ros Green. Look forward to seeing you at these events soon.

Felbrigg Park Monthly Walks

21st October
18th November
16th December

Come and join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and take your pick of a walk or an amble ....

Felbrigg Park Walk
9:00am to 11:00am | ≈ 2+ miles
A bit of a romp
with Trevor Williams

Felbrigg Park Amble
9:30am to 11:00am | ≈ 1 mile
Slow and steady
with Nick Kimber

A staggered start with us all meeting up in the café afterwards at 11am.

These events are sociable and cater for all levels of birding ability so come and give us a try. Our route is dependent on the local bird and other wildlife recently reported or likely to be present on the day. We normally see around 40 bird species on an average walk and even on the 'worst' of days more than 30.

NO BOOKING REQ'D | PARK & MEET: Main Felbrigg Hall car park – free for National Trust members | **ACCESSIBILITY:** footbaths, grassland, a bit of mud usually and can be uneven in places | **FACILITIES:** Café and loos at the Hall | **CLUB BADGES:** In area so all appropriate individual records count.

Thursday 24th September | Evening Talk | 7.30pm to 9.30pm | GVH and via Zoom

"Shelduck migration in relation to offshore wind farms" *with Ros Green*

Ros will present the results of her PhD research, studying the migration of common shelduck in relation to offshore wind farms. This will include information on a five-year GPS tracking project and the results of stable isotope analysis to understand where they moult and spend their winters. She'll also present her published work assessing the vulnerability of all UK migrant ducks, geese and swans to offshore wind farm impacts. Overall she'll explain how the PhD worked and explain how the growing number of offshore wind farms might impact the migration of shelduck and wildfowl more generally. Ros recently submitted her PhD thesis to the University of Liverpool, and will be defending the thesis during August. Whilst doing the PhD part-time she continued to work for the British Trust for Ornithology. She has now returned to BTO as a full-time Senior Research Ecologist..

Winterton Dunes and Somerton Estate

***** advance booking required *****

Saturday 17th October | 9.00 am 1.00 pm

Walk Leader: Janice Darch

The hedges of the estate are good for Brambling, finch and tit flocks, woodpeckers, overhead Marsh Harriers are common and we have been lucky enough to see Common Cranes overhead on past walks. The dune coast can be very good for migrants and species such as Bluethroat, Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike, Barred Warbler and Short-eared Owls are possibilities! Shore birds such as Dunlin and Sandling are usually on the shoreline and offshore scoter flocks are often seen. Grey Seal may already have started their breeding season on the beach.

PARK & MEET: *Meet in the car park at Somerton Road Playing Fields, Winterton-on-Sea NR29 4AW. This is a free car park on the left-hand side as you enter the village.*
NR29 4AW | TG489194 | X648939 & Y319405
ratty.relies.suppose

DISTANCE: approx 5 miles

ACCESSIBILITY: The walk is on easy tracks and sandy surfaces in the dunes. Largely level but there are some gentle slopes and uneven surfaces. Stout footwear is recommended as paths may be slippery or muddy particularly after rain.

FACILITIES: Refreshment stops are not a formal part of this walk, although the 'Dunes Café' is located nearby at the beach. There are also public toilets at the Winterton on Sea beach car park but please note that this is not the car park where we are meeting. Both the café and toilets should be open in October, although this can't be guaranteed.



Saturday 3rd October | 7:30am to 10:30am |

Annual Coordinated Seawatch

Sheringham Tank *with Phil Borley*

Cromer North Lodge Park *with Trevor Williams*

Mundesley Seafront Shelter *with Julian Thomas*

Happisburgh Village Car Park *with Andy Clarke*

We currently have hosts for 4 sites arranged. If anyone would like to host at any other site, do please get in touch.

Our annual event is both a social and informative event and a great way to get started seawatching as a beginner and also to pass on your knowledge as a regular to those new to the activity.

This will be the 12th Coordinated Seawatch organised by the NENBC. We set ourselves up at a number of sites with good views out to sea, each team with an experienced seawatcher as lead, to record the number and species of all the birds we see along the club coastline and beyond (and the direction they are flying) for each 10-minute period throughout a 3-hour time frame. The beauty of a coordinated event is that we can message our other sites along the coast via our WhatsApp Seawatching Group to give advance warning of identifiable flocks flying through. Then of course there is the friendly rivalry between the sites. All the previous events have been well supported, produced some great data and most importantly been enjoyed by all the participants. It is both a social and informative event and a great way to get started seawatching as a beginner and also to pass on your knowledge as a regular to those new to the activity. To get the most out of the event, we'd advise coming along for the whole 3 hours but 'part timers' will always be welcome at any point! Whatever your level of seawatching, or birding, experience, please come and join us!



Pop-Ups | We will be running a few short-notice events throughout the 2026/27 season. Up to now we have only hosted pop-up seawatches but watch this space as we hope to be extending the idea for other activities too. If you have any ideas for things we could do, please let us know! Pop-ups give us the flexibility to run events when the weather conditions are most favourable for the activity. We will primarily advertise these through the NENBC WhatsApp Comms Group so if you aren't signed up, drop us an email and we will get you added. Info will also be listed at the top of the Home page of the website

NENBC Young Birder Bursary 2026 Applications invited!

A grant of up to £500 is available for 2026 to support an NENBC member aged between 16 and 25 to develop their interest in birding. Could that young member be you?

The bursary could, for example, provide funds for a residential trip to a bird observatory, guided birding trips with local operators, travel costs, training courses (eg: bird-ringing), optical equipment, subscriptions to birding organisations or publications, books, clothing, disability aids etc. Whatever you think will make a difference to you and your birding. There is an application form to be completed where we want to know what you want the bursary for, why this is important to you and how this would benefit your birding knowledge and experience. The successful applicant(s) will need to provide a report on how the funds were used.

An application form can be requested by emailing Carol on nenbc@aol.co.uk. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2026. Interviews will be held in November and the Bursary will be available in the 2027 calendar year. Under 18s will need the permission of a parent or guardian to apply.

North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust (NWDCT) 200th Anniversary Festival

By John Swallow

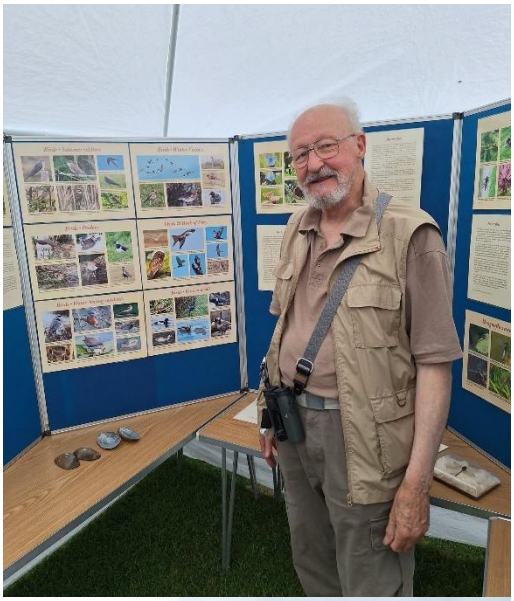
The club was invited by NWDCT to participate at this year's North Walsham and Dilham Canal Festival on the August Bank Holiday Weekend. As a relative newcomer to North Norfolk I have to say I wasn't very well informed about the history of the Dilham Canal, however, on reading the preamble I was amazed to learn that this year's festival was to mark the 200th anniversary since the canal opened in August 1826! I was intrigued by the stories of folk travelling from far and wide (Aylsham), presumably on foot or by horse drawn vehicles to celebrate the canals opening to provide a bypass to a long shallow loop in the River Ant. Amazingly it was hand dug by "100 Bedfordshire bankers" and completed in only 15 months. However, the expected coal traffic did not materialise and while corn, flour, timber, cattle cake and animal feedstuffs were important cargoes the venture was struggling by 1886 when a plan to encourage tourist traffic was announced. The number of Wherries using the canal declined from 6 in 1923 to one by 1931 with the last load of Barley shipped by the motor wherry Ella from Bacton Wood Staithe in 1934. It has since lain dormant until the efforts of the Dilham Canal Trust to revitalise it.



This was a weekend celebration and I attended on Saturday 29th hoping to speak with as many people as possible about the virtues of our bird club despite the location being slightly to the south east of the club's recording area, would this be a problem? I arrived at 08:30 and was immediately impressed by how well organised the event was, well sign posted and stall locations well set out. There were plenty of activities for all the family from Wherry boat rides, food stalls, music and even Axe throwing hosted by the local Scouts! I found the NENBC plot was located next to the North East Norfolk Conservation Volunteers and NWT. NENBC members John Hurst (with his paintings) and Bob Farndon (on the organising team) were located not too far away and they and NWT provided support when I needed to leave some of the kit unattended.



Despite the weather forecast there was a steady stream of visitors and a high percentage were keen on the outdoors, interested in wildlife and supportive. I spoke with some 15 people and handed out leaflets about the Club, many lived in the Club area or nearby. Interestingly many said "they aren't twitchers", but they did have an interest in the birds in their gardens and would look out for birds and other wildlife while out walking. So, this was a good place to engage with people about NENBC. I stressed we are a local, friendly club for people both new to birding or experienced and we all benefited from each other while on walks or attending our indoor meetings. It was also a pleasure to meet a Club member there. With footfall declining I left at 15.30. John tells me more people came along on the Sunday.



I had a nice chat with the Director of the Broads Museum and perhaps we will arrange an evening boat trip to see the many newly fledged Kingfishers he described seeing on a nearby Broad.





Top pic from John Swallow, middle two courtesy of the NWDCT Facebook pages, including this great one of Bob who was celebrating the wildlife of the canal at the event. Final pic is from Val Stubbs of the Dilham Canal from our Locations Library – it's partially in our club area alongside Pigneys Wood and well worth a visit.

A Scilly Pelagic Weekend



The group at sea aboard *Sapphire*

By Andy Clarke

Norfolk is a wonderful county for birding, but it does not have everything. If you want to see breeding Dotterel or Crested Tit you have to go to Cairngorm; if you want to find breeding Pied Flycatchers and Wood Warblers you need to head west. And if you want to see specialist seabirds (or at least see them well), you have to take a pelagic trip into the Southwest Approaches. Which is what I did in early August.

You can organise your own independent trip but I decided to book onto the well-regarded 'Scilly pelagic weekends' run by Oriole Birding (a small local birding travel company based near Fakenham). This provided bed and breakfast accommodation in Scilly (in my case a delightful guest house in St Mary's) and three pelagic trips on MV '*Sapphire*' with seabird doyen Bob Flood as guide.

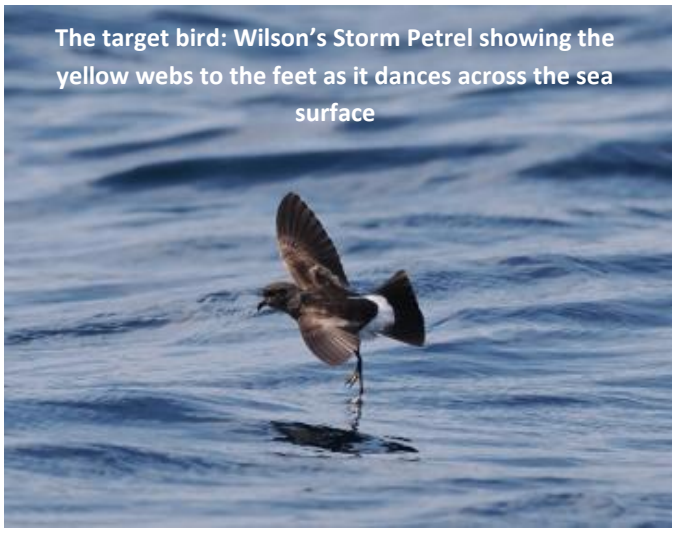
Birding from a small boat in the open ocean miles from land is not everybody's cup of tea. You cannot use a telescope and if the weather is poor you may well suffer from 'mal de mer'. On this occasion, however, the weather was kind. Indeed for the entire weekend the wind was light and the sea calm (at times flat calm!). This meant that observing was easy and we had very close views of species such as Wilson's Storm Petrel and Great Shearwater, birds that are often only glimpsed from land and that usually in poor weather. On the other hand the lack of wind meant that there was no real chance of the extra seabird goodies that often appear on these pelagics, and which mean they remain extremely popular (often being booked up a year in advance).

The trip started in Penzance, with the voyage to Scilly on MV '*Scillonian III*', departing at 0910. We were soon picking up Manx Shearwaters, small pods of Harbour Porpoises and some show-off dolphins (these were Short-beaked Common Dolphins). The latter were especially popular with the non-birders aboard and for many excited children this was their first encounter with wild cetaceans. The trip across was otherwise quiet bird-wise.





On arrival at St Mary's we had lunch, settled in to our accommodation, and then gathered at the quayside for our first pelagic. This set off around 5 pm, and headed east towards Seven Stones Reef, a dangerous area marked by a light-ship. Here the crew were keen to get close enough to touch the lightship (mariners are a superstitious bunch). However this brought us luck as within minutes our first Wilson's Storm Petrels were spotted. We were able to watch these at close range in company with the locally breeding European Storm Petrels, and gradually learned how to tell them apart from subtle differences in their flight and feeding behaviour. I found the more direct flight of European Storm Petrels difficult to discern, but what was striking was the very different way in which the two species fed. European Storm Petrels would stop in flight, drop their feet to the water holding their wings vertical in the air, pick from the surface and then move on. In contrast Wilson's Storm Petrels would skip from spot to spot with feet dipping into the water at regular intervals, almost dancing on the sea surface. Learning these differences was very useful as when seen from land Wilson's Storm Petrels rarely allow close enough views to allow the field guide characters of yellow webs to the feet, or the longer legs extending beyond the tail, to be seen.



The target bird: Wilson's Storm Petrel showing the yellow webs to the feet as it dances across the sea surface



Joe Pender preparing 'chum' to attract seabirds

The next day was a full day at sea and this time we headed into deep water 10 miles to the west. Seabirds have an acute sense of smell, so to attract them in Joe Pender the skipper (and top seabirder) used 'chum'. This is basically a mass of decaying fish (in our case mackerel) which disperses a slick of oil and fish debris when placed in a bag and hung over the side as the boat drifts. Although the light wind meant that the smell lingered about the boat more than we might have wished, we soon had dozens of Wilson's Storm Petrels feeding in the slick, with close fly-by Great and Manx Shearwaters. During the day we also encountered Ocean Sunfish, a close Blue Shark, three Sooty Shearwaters, a distant Cory's Shearwater and our only skua of the trip, a Bonxie (Great Skua) that came close but did not linger.



A close fly-by Great Shearwater

On the Sunday we had a half-day pelagic scheduled, and decided to go out in the morning rather than late afternoon as originally planned. What little wind there had been yesterday had died away almost completely, but once again we had good views of both Wilson's and European Storm Petrels, Great Shearwaters, and a superb close Sooty Shearwater. On the other hand the wonderful viewing conditions meant that we did well for cetaceans, with highlights being a small pod of Risso's Dolphins and a close Northern Minke Whale

The rest of the Sunday and Monday morning were free, and the group dispersed to different locations. Some went to Tresco to look for passage waders on the Abbey Pool, others went to Porth Hellick and had superb views of an obliging Wood Sandpiper. I went to Peninnis Head to look for migrants and seawatch for cetaceans. None of the latter were in evidence, but there were two newly arrived Wheatears foraging actively on the short turf, and half a dozen Clouded Yellow butterflies flitting between the huge granite outcrops.

We returned to Penzance on the Monday afternoon sailing of *Scillonian III*. The weather was still calm, and Manx Shearwaters were passing continually, getting more and more common as we approached Lands End. Some of the group managed to see Great Shearwaters and others a Wilson's Storm Petrel (but nobody saw both!), and once again we encountered a pod of Short-beaked Common Dolphins. All in all a memorable trip.

Why are they called 'Storm Petrels'?

The name comes from days before weather forecasts, satellite navigation, radar or depth sounders, when mariners relied extensively on natural signs to help them navigate treacherous seas. They noticed that these small black-and-white seabirds were often to be seen around ships as the skies darkened and the seas grew rough, thus associating them with impeding storms. They were also known as 'Mother Carey's chickens', though who Mother Carey was is far from clear (it may be a corruption on the Latin name for the Virgin Mary, *Mata Cara*, or it may not). The more superstitious sailors thought storm petrels to be the souls of mariners lost at sea, doomed like the Flying Dutchman to roam the seas forever.

Hanging out in Hampshire …



By Val Stubbs

In early August we headed to Hampshire for a visit to family. This was not a birding trip - but I just can't help myself, so here's a brief account of what we saw, even though I didn't even get my binoculars out of their case! Not a huge variety – just 29 species, fewer than we would see on a really bad Wednesday NENBC walk at Felbrigg – but I enjoyed studying the behaviour of some familiar species.

6-Aug – Raptors galore



As we stepped out of the car at our campsite we were greeted by the winsome whistling of a **Red Kite**, which then sailed low over our heads. A few minutes later, as we were tussling with our awning, a **Buzzard** swept across the neighbouring field. With the awning up, and a cup of tea in hand, we allowed ourselves a few minutes of relaxation. **Swallows** swooped overhead, chittering. In the distance a **Green Woodpecker** yaffled.



A **Sparrowhawk** hove into view over the hedge. At least, I thought it was a Sparrowhawk until it began hovering. We all know that Sparrowhawks go 'flap flap glide' while Kestrels hover. But it just didn't feel right for a Kestrel - the markings were wrong and I had been completely convinced when I first spotted it. Still, Sparrowhawks don't hover, so a Kestrel it must be. However, a minute later it appeared again over the hedge like a rapier, flew low, twisted in midair and snatched a Swallow before flying away with it hanging in its talons. Definitely a Sparrowhawk!



The **Woodpigeons**, which had been keeping a low profile, obviously decided they were off the menu, and started flapping around in the trees and doing that thing that they do when they fly up and then glide down. It looks like great fun, but I wonder why they actually do it? Later in the afternoon, I disturbed a couple of **Red-legged Partridges** who were happily trotting through the field until they clapped eyes on me, at which point they scarpered, followed by a third bird which had evidently been perched on the roof of the loo block, and clearly liked the look of me less than the other two, departing with a great flurry of wings and a good scolding!



In the evening we headed to the nearby village of Kingsclere for a pub meal (chocolate tart to die for!). We were struck by the impressive Romanesque church, though something didn't feel quite right about it. We subsequently discovered that it was indeed a Norman church, but had been "restored" in the Victorian era. In the churchyard, a number of **Jackdaws** were strutting about, while several **House Martins** flew through the blue sky.

7-Aug – A spot of urban birding



In the morning, as I headed to the loo block, a female **House Sparrow** flew up from the path into the hedge. A **Herring Gull** flapped over, and a handful of **Linnets** emerged from the stubble and bounced away. As we drove away from the campsite, a couple of **Dunnocks** flitted across the road. On arriving at a car park, it was the turn of the black and white birds:

a **Magpie** flew onto the roof of a building, while a **Pied Wagtail** scuttled about among the cars looking for titbits, and a **Carrion Crow** helped itself to some leftovers from a bin.

As we drove back into the campsite the Sparrowhawk appeared over the top of the hedge, but the Swallows were keeping a low profile. In the night, we heard two **Tawny Owls** hooting to each other.

8-Aug – Pheasants playing chicken

A quiet day on the birding front. In the morning I heard a **Robin** singing in the hedge by our van and a few minutes later, it hopped down onto the path into front of me. A handful of **Rooks** meandered about in the neighbouring stubble field.

The afternoon was spent in Basingstoke, where half a dozen **Feral Pigeons** were gathered on the rooftops in the town centre.

On our return journey, a couple of male **Pheasants** stood on the edge of the road, playing their favourite game of "Shall I? Shan't I?". In the end they decided not to bother and scuttled off into the base of the hedge.

9-Aug – What's that call?

Lying in bed, I again heard a Tawny Owl hooting in the darkness. Later, at first light, I was awakened by the pitter patter of raindrops - blessed relief, though it only lasted five minutes. In the hedges, a passerine was calling; it was a familiar call, but my sleep-befuddled brain couldn't place it. Later, Nick spotted a **Bullfinch** in the hedgerow - aha! That's what I had been listening to earlier. While we enjoyed our not-very-early morning cup of tea a **Wren** churred in the hedge and then we watched it flitting from stalk to stalk in the undergrowth like a fat moth.

10-Aug – Garden birds

Wandering down to the loo block, I noticed a male **Blackbird** hopping about in the camping field, while a juvenile perched on the farm fence. Later, as we headed out for the day, we could see seven or eight **Blue Tits** feeding in the Oaks by the farm house.

11-Aug - Never assume!

A number of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** flew over the car park in Basingstoke as we arrived for our final visit. Back at the campsite, a **Chaffinch** was calling, while several **Stock Doves** flew over. As we were enjoying the sunshine I caught sight of a bird of prey that flew in fast and then began hovering in the Sparrowhawk's habitual place, so I assumed it was indeed the talented Sparrowhawk, but... it was a really expert hoverer - in fact a **Kestrel** doing what our family calls 'kestrelling': hovering on the spot, immovable, tail fanned. A lovely end to our stay!

Library pics from the club area and definitely not Hampshire from: Red Kite (Steven & Barbara Lines), Sparrowhawk (David Griffiths), Woodpigeon)Mark Clements), Jackdaw (Doug Cullern), Herring Gull (Richard Farrow, Magpie (Dave Bilham), Feral Pigeon (Doug Cullern), Bullfinch (Ken Thornton), Wren (Mark Clements), Blackbird (Richard Farrow), Lesser Black-backed Gull)Francis Farrow), Kestrel (Richard Farrow)















A Celebration of Life: Carl Chapman



Carl at Wild Ken Hill pointing out Beaver activity | *Francis Farrow*

Many of you will now be aware of the untimely passing of Carl Chapman. Carl was a long-time club supporter and member and gave us a talk back in 2016 on one of his passions, Norfolk's Cetaceans. Every person who has spoken to us about Carl since has been full of warmth, admiration, stories and sadness. Back in August, Carl's engagement and achievements were recognised when he was awarded the prestigious Sydney Long Memorial Medal. Several of our members went along to the award ceremony so we will start there…

Sydney Long Memorial Medal Presentation

By Francis Farrow

At 2pm on August 5th, friends of Carl Chapman arrived at the Simon Aspinall Wildlife Education Centre, Cley for an award ceremony hosted by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) and the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society (NNNS). The award was the prestigious Sydney Long Memorial Medal – an award presented every two


Sydney Long Memorial Medal
2026

Carl Chapman has two passions, wildlife and educating people about it. In 2008 he developed Wildlife Tours and Education, a small company specialising in accompanied wildlife tours, initially day trips round Norfolk but later further afield to Mull and the Scillies. Through these he enthused many and built a faithful clientele.

Generous with his knowledge and time, Carl has put much energy into Norfolk Wildlife Trust activities and those of Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society, of which he was chair for five years. He initiated, and has remained head of, the Liaison Committee of the NWT which facilitates co-operation between wildlife organisations in Norfolk. Carl has run educational events for Wild Ken Hill and courses for the Field Studies Council.

Carl's primary interest has been birds. He has taught wildlife photography and contributed many images to the Norfolk Bird Report. Since moving to Norfolk, he has developed his interest and expertise in cetaceans, becoming county recorder for this group. In 2025 he published *Whales and Whaling in Norfolk*, documenting in academic detail all the sightings of cetaceans, dead or alive, in the county since 1255. He has privately published *History and Mystery*, notes made by taxidermist H.M. Pashley over 100 years ago.

Carl Chapman
The Sydney Long Memorial Medal
For the year 2026

years jointly by the two organisations. This is Norfolk's highest accolade for naturalists and is for an outstanding contribution to the county's natural history and as it is NWT's centenary year two medal winners, not one, were announced.

Normally the award is presented at the Trust's AGM in November, however, owing to Carl's increasing health problems the Cley award ceremony was arranged. Unfortunately Carl's health had further deteriorated and sadly he could not attend but he did post this on his Facebook page in July:

> "Recently I was awarded the Sydney Long Medal. A joint presentation between the NWT & NNNS. I am so humbled to receive the award alongside Alice Liddle for work contributed to understanding wildlife in Norfolk." *Carl Chapman*



Tony Leech with Alice Liddle who is accepting Carl's award on his behalf | Cherry Farrow

The medal was presented by Tony Leech (past chair of NNNS) and accepted on Carl's behalf by Alice Liddle, also a recipient of this year's Sydney Long award. Tony said that Carl when informed of the award was 'absolutely delighted' and then went on to outline the citation –

Carl is a former chair of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society and a long-standing Council member. His major contribution to Norfolk's nature has been as an informal educator, using his considerable knowledge to inform others both through his wildlife tour-leading and publications. He initiated and has remained head of the Liaison Committee of NNNS, which facilitates cooperation between wildlife organisations in Norfolk. More recently, Carl became a County Recorder for cetaceans, in 2025 publishing *Norfolk's Whales and Whaling in Norfolk*, documenting sightings of cetaceans in the county since 1255. A full copy of the citation is reproduced on the previous page.

Alice added some personal words regarding Carl's positive affect on her 11-year old grandson when birding in the Brecks in freezing temperatures. That grandson is now 22 and a keen birder. Alice and Tony later took the framed citation and medal to Carl at his home.

Carl's friends that had gathered for the ceremony were treated to coffee and cake and had the opportunity to buy original artwork of cetaceans that were featured in his 2025 book. In the absence of Carl and Tania, the talk was much about the trips, the wildlife and the inspiration Carl had brought to many people, also the huge support given by Tania, his loving wife, was not lost to those assembled.

Our thoughts are with them both as they face difficult times ahead.

Carl's Memorial *by Francis Farrow*

At 2pm, 1st September, the many friends and colleagues of Carl Chapman gathered once again in the Simon Aspinall Wildlife Education Centre at Cley Marshes reserve courtesy of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. This time it was for a memorial to Carl's life, less than a month after the presentation of the Sydney Long Memorial medal was held in Carl's honour. Sadly Carl passed away on 7th August.



Photo Trevor Williams

Simon Barnes, sports journalist and wildlife author, was invited to give the eulogy, and what a thoughtful, uplifting, humorous tribute it was, capturing Carl's love of nature, his spirit of wonder and the way he immersed himself so completely with people and the natural world.

Andy Clarke

“I often encountered Carl in the field, either at a good bird, or an interesting location where he was bringing one of his small tour groups. Conversation typically ensued, and we discovered a mutual interest in cetaceans and whaling. This developed into long talks over coffee, where subjects ranged from birding and survey work, through natural history in general and on to cetaceans. Always open and friendly, Carl was a gentle giant, with a deep commitment to natural history, education and a passion for cetaceans. He was also an outstanding photographer. He made a huge contribution to natural history in Norfolk, and I will miss his company, conversation and knowledge.”

John Hurst

“Whether quietly looking at an Alpine Accentor at the end of Blakeney Point or grappling with another 'lifer' on Scilly together, every encounter with Carl was a joy. Not only had he the ability to enhance the experience with his experiential knowledge and observational skills but also with the genuine desire to share occasion with those around him.

His sense of fun was legendary. When viewing the Mundesley night heron I received a call from Carl asking if the bird was back on site. When reassuring him that we were observing by the millpond it he divulged that he was actually standing several metres away in the shadows on the opposite bank!

As well as Tania, being a very generous patron of the arts, my lasting memory of Carl is the manner in which he made one feel so happy and worthy of his company. In a social setting, he would never seek to gaze around in order to find someone more 'important' to speak to, always giving one his undivided attention.

Like so many folks whose countless lives have been touched by this wonderful guy I could typically ramble on. Just to say that he'll be missed by us all. Sincere condolences to Tania and those close to him.”

Francis Farrow

“I first met Carl shortly after he came to Sheringham, on Beeston Common of course. He told me of his idea to take small parties on natural history adventures, to introduce nature to people through personal encounters. Sadly I missed out on this opportunity, however, I was lucky enough to visit a couple of times at Wild Ken Hill where he was leading tours around the rewilding estate and gained an insight to the depth of knowledge that Carl had and was able to impart to the participants.

During the long days of ‘lock-down’ I remember Carl and Tania visiting Beeston Common, in particular, to see Mourning Bees and on another occasion with a party to visit Hawfinches that were feeding on Rowen berries. Carl was a great advocate for nature and for the education of that subject. His enthusiasm was never showy; it was a quiet, steady force that drew people in and helped them see more, understand more, and care more.”



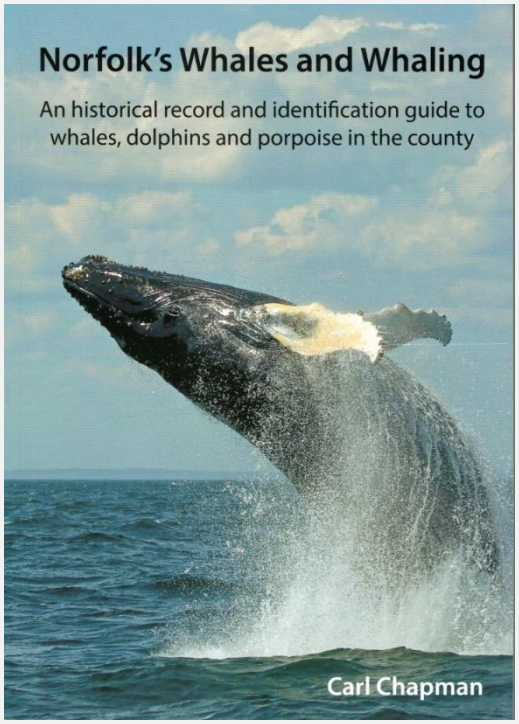


"Carl has two passions, wildlife and educating people about it – he enthused many about the special wildlife in Norfolk and beyond.”

Tony Leech, NNNS

Photo left courtesy of NWT

Photo above from Carl Chapman



Spotted Flycatcher: Success in Briningham

By Paul Williams

During 2023 Spotted Flycatchers were seen in the village of Briningham during June and July and although no proof of breeding was evident, a juvenile was seen that year in early September. In 2024 and 2025 there were occasional sightings in May and June, but again no proof of breeding. On 24 June 2026 I was informed that there was a Spotted Flycatchers nest in a private garden off The Street and the next day was invited to view and confirm this fact. There were four small chicks being fed by the adult pair during an hour of close viewing; the pair were tolerant of our presence at about 10 metres. The young fledged about 10 days later, and an adult was seen again on 19 August in a different private garden. No sign of a second brood in the original nest or elsewhere. The last time I had evidence of a Spotted Flycatchers nest in Briningham was back in 1992 when a pair brought up four young in a nest on an old stable building, which we later developed into our home.









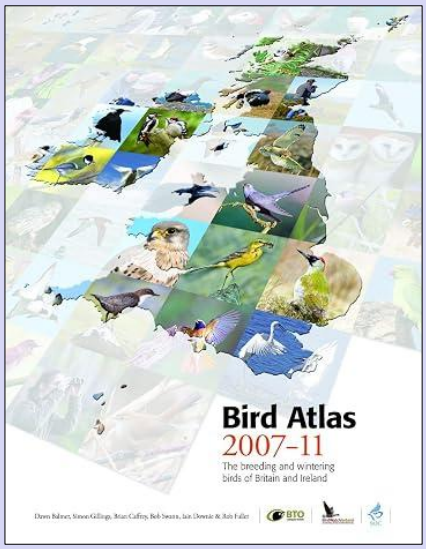
BTO Bird Atlas: The Basics

By Carol Thornton

Many of you will know what is meant when folk talk about a Bird Atlas but if you don't (yet), don't worry, we are here to help! It's a term that you are going to hear a lot more of in the coming months and years so we'll be including a series of articles and updates in future newsletters and keeping you all in the loop at our evening events. To get started, here's a simple quote from the-always-very-useful-to-me Wikipedia:

> "A **bird atlas** is an ornithological work that attempts to provide information on the distribution, abundance, long-term change as well as seasonal patterns of bird occurrence and makes extensive use of maps. They

often involve a large number of volunteers to cover a wide geographic area and the methods used are standardized so that the studies can be continued in the future and the results remain comparable."





The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) led on the last Bird Atlas that was produced over 20 years ago and which covered the period from 2007 to 2011. The purpose of this survey was to map the distribution of all bird species, generate information on patterns of relative abundance, quantify distribution changes, inform conservation priorities, and engage a new generation of recorders. It involved the work of many thousands of people, birders out and about recording what was present in defined squares (tetrads) in set time periods right across the country, collecting the data that were used to produce the results subsequently published in a huge tome, shown above. If you don't have a copy, you can peruse the species maps included online here. It was described by the BTO at the time as "the definitive statement on breeding and winter bird distributions in Britain and Ireland. It builds on previous atlases (1968–72 Breeding Atlas, 1981–84 Winter Atlas, 1988–91 Breeding Atlas) to show how the fortunes of the birds of Britain and Ireland have changed over the last 40 years."

Well, two decades on it is nearly time to start work on a new one and our club, like many others, are planning to be very much involved in providing the necessary data from our club area and we will need your help to do this. Here's the BTO take on their new project:

"BTO is working with partners BirdWatch Ireland, the RSPB, Scottish Ornithologists' Club and Welsh Ornithological Society to secure a step change in the evidence base for bird conservation across Britain and Ireland. The five organisations have come together to begin work on ***Bird Atlas 2027–31***, a project that will provide complete and unrivalled information on the breeding and wintering birds of Britain, Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, telling us which birds are where and how they are doing. The project will draw on the support and skill of thousands of volunteer surveyors, who will help to measure changes in the number and distribution of all our bird species in both winter and the breeding season, collecting robust evidence that will underpin conservation action for decades to come. It has been nearly 20 years since the last atlas, and a great deal has changed since then. The pressures on species and habitats have never been greater, and we need this new atlas so that we can identify the species and sites most in need of conservation action."

"We are delighted to join the Bird Atlas 2027–31 partnership and to support the creation of this vital and comprehensive resource. It will help us track the state of bird populations across Britain and Ireland, demonstrate the impact of conservation action, and guide clear priorities for the future."
Beccy Speight, Chief Executive, RSPB

"Bird Atlas 2027–31 represents a step change in the evidence base for bird conservation across Britain and Ireland. Delivering in partnership with four organisations, it reflects our commitment to working together at scale to engage more people than ever before to deliver a lasting impact for birds."
Professor Juliet Vickery, CEO, BTO

John Swallow has already provided some preliminary information to you in both his January and March Chair's Corners of this newsletter and at out indoor events since, and Andy Clarke will be picking up on more of the details as they develop starting in next month's newsletter, so watch this space. In the meantime, why not get scan the QR code on the right with your phone and you can listen to an Opinion Piece which has just appeared in the Autumn 2026 Issue of BTO News by BTO Programme Lead Katie Carey-Dawes entitled **'Atlases: what are they good for?'**.

We were delighted to be back working with the University of East Anglia's Environmental Science department again this year. This is where, along with other organisations, we pitch real-life environmental consultancy projects to a group of 3rd year students in the capacity of 'client' and we get selected by 'consultant' students in line with their areas of interest. Working on the briefs provided by us, they research and document our topic, feedback via Zoom or in-person, and at the end of the process give us a presentation and produce an individual consultancy report. This time we worked with four students.

Below is part of the brief for the third of these along with a summary extracted from the full report by student consultant Luke Jeavons. If you would like to be emailed the full consultancy reports for any of these projects then just let us know.

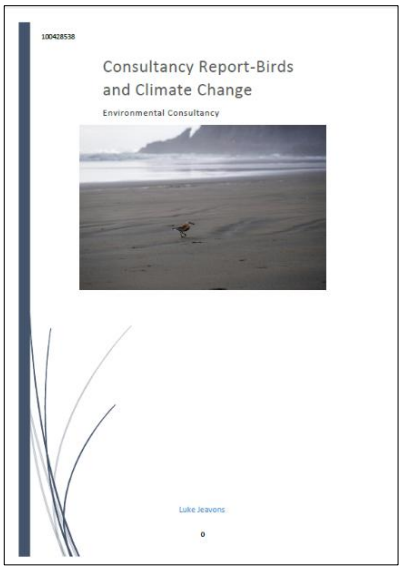
Climate Change and UK Birds

The recognition that the climate is changing has prompted a number of studies attempting to predict what the consequences might be for flora and fauna. A major study of European breeding birds (Huntley et al., A climatic atlas of European breeding birds, Lynx, 2007) examined potential range changes in all European breeding birds, while closer to home the Wallace Initiative at UEA has been looking at potential gains and losses for a wide range of UK vertebrates and invertebrates. Given that the UK has gained some new breeding bird species (for example several heron species) and lost others (for example Red-backed Shrike, Golden Oriole), now is a good time to take stock of what changes are underway in UK bird populations, and how these match the predictions.

A number of initiatives have attempted to predict what impact a changing climate may be having on the UK bird fauna. The aim of this project is to survey the various predictions made for birds breeding in UK, identify consensus predictions together with any differences between the various predictions, and then compare these with actual recent changes in the UK bird fauna. The main thrust of the project is to assess how good the various predictions have proved to be and identify, if possible, any other factors that might be influencing the recent changes in the UK bird fauna. Changes might be gains or losses in terms of breeding species in UK, shifts in distribution, or population increases or declines that might signify incipient loss of breeding status. In some cases species that were suspected might colonise UK have failed to do so, and a key question here is why this might be so.

A challenge for this project is that many of the predicted changes, and those becoming apparent, relate to large spatial scales, often the whole of the UK. To keep the project focussed, it might to be good to concentrate on a smaller area, for example East Anglia.

A report summarising the various predictions made for UK breeding birds in the face of climate change. This should identify where there is a consensus, and where predictions vary. These predictions should then be compared with the changes that have been documented for UK birds. Finally, a discussion of the implications of these changes for conservation.



"Climate Change and UK Birds" *by Luke Jeavons*

Disclaimer: *This material is based upon work supported by* ***Luke Jeavons*** *for ENV-6031B Environmental Consultancy module in the School of Environmental Sciences, UEA. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations are those of the author and do not reflect the views of the School of Environmental Sciences, UEA its employees or its administration.*

Executive Summary

This report summarises and examines the strengths and weaknesses of predictions around climate induced bird species dispersion. I predominantly focus on Europe and the UK and then home in on the region of East Anglia.

It is now commonly accepted in the scientific community that human activities will cause climate change and global warming. The International panel on climate change (IPCC) outlines; "human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1 degree C above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020" IPCC (2023)

There have been a range of predictions on how climate change will ultimately affect different bird species in a number of different ways. Namely, the local to East Anglia Wallace initiative analysed in detail by Price. J (2017), and more widely other crucial bodies of research i.e., Huntley et al (2008) in an analysis of European breeding birds. I look at how some of these predictions are lining up with the present-day evidence. I will be hence looking at how the current stock of bird species matches with predictions using secondary data from sources such as the British Trust of Ornithology (BTO), providing a timeline perspective on what has occurred of late. From this, I assess the quality and validity of predictions on a species case

by case basis. I will assess whether a general consensus is present and more briefly investigate why making predictions can be challenging and nuanced.

The main take-home message for the report should be that climate change modelling and predictions showing impacts on bird species are generally broadly accurate but not perfect. The way they are designed can disguise nuance and falsify connections as I discuss. The other main point I strive to get across with this report is that climate change will undeniably have a drastic impact on birds in the future, and so we must do all we can to conserve habitats and look after all bird species.

Prediction summary: Huntley. B et al (2008)

A peer reviewed research article titled "potential impacts of climate change on European breeding birds" (Huntley. B et al (2008) shows a study exploring various predictions on bird species dispersion based on climate change scenarios. The study reveals the monumental impact that climate change could ultimately have on bird species if these scenarios were to be realised in the future. The study uses bioclimatic modelling in aim to accurately predict several potential climatic scenarios. "Using previously published methods, values for a variety of bioclimatic variables were calculated from monthly meteorological data" Huntley. B et al (2008).

Conclusions: There are a multitude of severe predicted impacts for bird species in Europe. On the whole, many species will move northward with expected rising temperatures, in the worst cases birds will need to migrate to an extreme distance in order to find suitable habitat. Many birds in these scenarios would not be able to sustain any habitat in Europe.

So, do these predictions match with current reality? Are we on track? BTO evidence

Broadly accurate range shift predictions: There is indeed evidence to suggest that bird species are moving northward in response to warming temperatures, as per the Huntley. B et al (2008) research. In a large publication by the BTO, they assess that 'climate change is driving a consistent poleward shift' i.e., Northward for UK birds (Pearce Higgins J.W. (2021) & (Chen et al (2011). This suggests that Huntley was certainly correct to predict an overall Northward range shift for the average of bird species, as they move to more suitable habitat. Moreover, it's interesting to see that bird communities appear to be becoming more uniform described in the publication as a 'simplification of bird communities' Pearce Higgins J.W. (2021) as species associated with warmer temperatures are appearing at locations relative to more northern species.

More nuanced analysis needed: In a study of 124 British breeding birds Massimino. D et al (2015) found that there would certainly be a redistribution of British birds as a result of climate change, however it will be more of a rearrangement than a net loss or gain. They also discuss how it will be the birds that are already vulnerable that are affected the most by loss of habitat. Huntley's predictions perhaps simplify the true reality of these nuances.

Broadly accurate predictions of bird species habitat loss: Massimino. D et al (2015) discusses future potentials that do align with Huntley et al (2008) predictions such as northern species likely losing climate space and potential habitats.

Species shift velocity: Studies by Gillings. S et al (2015) found that over a period of 20 years, there was a northward species shift of 13.5km over 20 years. This equates to a species shift velocity of 0.7km a year (13.5km ÷ 20 years). This suggests a perhaps more modest rate of movement among species will be likely. Although, in the paper, it is acknowledged that this was perhaps an underestimate due to species not always migrating exactly due north. Nevertheless, velocity shifts still likely wouldn't have matched the rates from the Huntley et al (2008) paper. This suggests Huntley's predictions could be overestimating the rate of northward movement year on year, as it doesn't match with the velocity presented in past evidence.

Summary: The predictions presented in the Huntley et al (2008) paper predict the general range shift of bird species very well and are broadly accurate in predicting the most poignant features of how bird species will be affected by climate change. However, it could be overestimating the pace of changes each year. In addition, perhaps due to the large scale and choice of presentation of predictions, it somewhat simplifies the expected dispersion of bird species. We must be careful to not assume the picture is as black and white as it appears, as I will discuss further in sections later.

Prediction summary: Wallace Initiative

The Wallace Initiative is discussed as uses modelling based on collaborative research to predict climate change impacts on animals and plants, (Price, J., Warren, R. & Forstenhäusler, N (2024).

Warren. R et al (2013), Price. J (2017), and Zaleweska. K et al (2025) outline some of the predictions for birds made as part of the Wallace initiative:

Core predictions:

- Rarer birds in Norfolk such as the Dotterel highly at risk due to unsuitability of habitat in Norfolk due to rising temperatures in a scenario of 3.2 degree C rise. (Price. J (2017).
- Species such as the Starling likely to be greatly impacted and face habitat loss (Warren. R et al (2013).
- Certain species will expand in dispersion in East Anglia i.e., Little Egret (Price. J (2017). -Indicates some species favour warmer temperatures/ having to migrate up from even warmer climates.
- Farmland birds such as the Skylark and Corn Buntings at high risk (Zaleweska. K et al (2025).

Are these predictions supported by data?

Largely, yes!

- A BTO article discusses how **Little Egrets** have already colonised much of Southern England and Ireland and have been generally increasing (BTO(a) (n.d.). It also analyses how they have in the UK been moved from the amber list to the green list Eaton M.A. et al (2015). This implies they are dispersing in great numbers. Another article supports this, highlighting that little Egrets now have a stronghold in East Anglia (Birdfy.com (2026).
- The (SUKB) (2017) report highlights a decline in rarer breeding bird species such as the Dotterel, **Whimbrel** as habitats in the UK become unsuitable, indicating a trend of decline.
- A Gov.uk report (DEFRA, (2025) shows a trend of decline in farmland birds long-term i.e., Skylark, Corn-Buntings.



Little Egret – *Doug Cullern*



Whimbrel – *Jane Crossen*

General considerations and discussion for these predictions

It's evident that flora and fauna are impacted by a variety of variables. Newson S.E. et al (2008) highlights in a paper how it can be difficult to measure both each effect of climate change and whether this is indeed the cause of a particular impact. They analyse "Given the large diversity of taxa and species affected by climate change, it is impossible to monitor all species and effects thereof" and "Choosing and developing indicators of the impacts of climate change on migratory species is a challenge, particularly with endangered species, which are subject to many other pressures" (Newson S.E. et al (2008), Abstract). This underscores the difficulty of identifying the cause of impacts on species and they write about how there needs to be a series of clear indicators to assess climate impacts, (Newson S.E. et al (2008) discuss how for bird species, breeding success, population trends, and changes in distribution are potentially key indicators, but perhaps these are not a foolproof mechanism for determining climate change as the exact cause? We should therefore take this into account when assessing predictions. These predictions perhaps run the risk of making it appear as if climate change is the sole driver of certain species distribution changes.

Beale C.M. (2008) critiques elements of climate envelope modelling. They suggest essentially that prediction data such as this can almost be a victim of its own design creating statistical artifacts that bare small resemblance to actual reality. In the same vein of Newson et al, meaning it may in essence manufacture or exaggerate some correlations i.e., for some species and impacted by climate change where there are other factors at play. This would then hence lead to a slight bias to brushstroke generalisations. In summary, it has the potential to make connections that aren't true or at least aren't the full truth. For example, it could be perhaps true that a species is declining, but we can't always assume that the sole reason is climate change. This could then perhaps lead to inadequate conservation solutions if the problem isn't fully identified.

This is evidently the case with farmland birds. The BTO analyses "farmland bird declines in the UK are largely attributed to changes in the way farmland has been managed over the past five decades" (BTO, (2025). We have to be careful in understanding the root causes of these changes in order to form the right response. It's clear that the protection of bird species may involve fundamental changes in agriculture, which is particularly important of course given how much of East Anglia is rural.

How does Huntley et al (2008) compare with the Wallace initiative predictions - do they agree?

- They both seem to concur on the general trend that southern European bird species will move northwards.
- They both suggest certain species will lose suitable habitat where they currently are situated.
- They both agree that there will be both loss and gain of species.

How should we use all this information to help conservational efforts? Conservation recommendations

Overall, we need to remember that climate change evidently has a vast array of diverse impacts on birds and can affect different species in different ways. We must as far as possible treat conservation and assess needs on a case-by-case basis. It is undeniable that the impacts will be drastic if climate change continues on its current path. The main focuses on protection of bird species and conservation will need to be: Preventing disease, conservation of habitats where possible, change farming practices, and doing what we can to mitigate climate change in the first place.

The Blue Badge Challenge | Episode 5

More of the Same!



By Val Stubbs

My Species List	Points	My Sightings				
		Number of Sessions Seen	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7	Session 8
Arctic Skua	15	1		3		
Bar-tailed Godwit	15	1			1	
Black-headed Gull	10	4	1		7	
Brent Goose	10	1				
Common Gull	15	1				
Common Scoter	10	7	7	50	37	5
Cormorant	10	7	3	4	4	2
Curlew	15	1			2	
Dunlin	15	1		5		
Eider	15	1				
Fulmar	15	7	1	1	3	
Gadwall	15	1				
Gannet	10	7	1	31	26	31
Great Black-backed Gull	10	5			2	1
Great Crested Grebe	15	1				
Grey Heron	15	1			1	
Greylag	15	2	5			
Guillemot	15	2				
Herring Gull	10	8	15	2	20	11
Kittiwake	15	3				1
Knot	15	1		4		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	15	1		2		
Little Egret	15	1	1			
Little Tern	15	1	9			
Mediterranean Gull	15	3		1		
Oystercatcher	10	4	1	5	2	
Red-throated Diver	15	4				
Redshank	15	1			6	
Sandwich Tern	10	6	18	8	21	8
Shelduck	15	2				
Spoonbill	15	1	1			
Teal	10	3		8	16	11
Tufted Duck	15	1	1			
Whimbrel	15	1			3	

With almost another month having slipped by, on **August 27th**, I headed to the shelter at North Lodge Park in Cromer where I joined Alan, Trevor and Phil Hall, who'd all been there for half an hour when I got there at 6.30, though it turned out I hadn't missed much apart from a single Great White Egret. The visibility was poor, and frankly, the birding wasn't a lot better. Actually, that's not entirely fair, it's just that this was the first sea-watch when I wasn't able to add a new species to my Blue Badge list. As the visibility worsened, the birds were forced closer to shore, giving us some excellent close-up views.

By far the commonest birds were Gannets with 20 heading east and 11 west, comprised of a mix of ages and groups of varying sizes. Several small groups of Teal and Common Scoter flew west. From a fishing boat, a Great Black-backed Gull surveyed the scene as a dozen or so Herring Gulls followed the boat. A couple of Cormorants put in an appearance, one on the groyne basket and one flying west low over the sea. A handful of Sandwich Terns were still present, moving in both directions, with one fishing in front of the shelter. But the highlight of the morning was an adult Kittiwake which put on a wonderful display for us, right in front of the shelter.

The only species that has been sighted at every session is the ubiquitous Herring Gull! However, Common Scoter, Cormorant, Fulmar and Gannet put in an appearance at seven out of the total eight sessions to date.

My Current Points Tally	
Duration Points	270
Event Bonus Points	100
First Time Species Points	460
TOTAL	830

Peregrine Corner

A brief review of the year …

By Jane Crossen *(all photographs my copyright unless otherwise stated)*

Notes from a Small (getting bigger) Watchpoint

Just a precis/update as I've kept you pretty much up to date on a regular basis in the NENBC newsletters.

Firstly, a look at the adults. These photos were taken in September. Male and female adults are looking good – they must be at least 10 or 11 years old now.



Female



Male (think he's just had his lunch!)

Church Ringing Day

The three Cromer Church peregrines were ringed at age 25 days on 18th May. As usual, their sex is presumed according to weight and wing measurements. Phil Littler, who has now ringed all seventeen of the juveniles at the church, was quite astounded by the weight of all three birds as they are ALL above the average weight for Peregrines ringed at that age: especially the female. The average for a female juvenile at 25 days is apparently 862gms. Anything over 1000g is considered large.

| GY79514- VRN | MALE | 669g | ***** | **GY79515 - VSN | FEMALE | 1046g!** | **** | GY79516 - VLN | MALE | 726g |

Fledgings

VRN slipped over the front of the church tower onto the ledge below (luckily!) towards the end of May and it was a bit too soon, and too accidental, to count as an on-purpose fledge! But he made it back (eventually!) to the top of the church via some lower roofs a few days later and was progressing well at that stage.



VRN Looking good just after he'd fledged.



The crowd watching VRN just after he flew from the ledge to the top of the shops to the west of the church. It was a bit nerve-wracking – as witnessed by their faces!

VLN fledged 31st May. He had a few adventures: including nearly flying into the same Herring Gull's nest his brother did last year and getting entangled in some wire on the church windows AND on the church roof! Luckily, we didn't need three fire engines and two police vehicles as he eventually made it back to the nave end of the church and then the tower.



VLN on the nave of the church on fledging day



VLN NEARLY getting trapped in wire on the church roof

VSN fledged on 8th June. She was a bit flighty, so to speak. Females always fledge after their much-lighter brothers and as she was particularly large it was expected to be a week or so later, so that was fine. She also led us a bit of a dance, landing on various roofs before making it back to the top of the tower.



VSN on the low roof of a charity shop

The Watchpoint

The watchpoint has been extremely busy again this year. Even busier than last year, and that was saying something. We guestimate that we've had around 17,000 visitors which is amazing and many thanks go to the volunteers who go above and beyond.



Especially the two newcomers (Michelle and Sue) who happened to be on duty when VSN (the female juvenile) was grounded very soon after she fledged:. She landed slap bang at the front of the church – on the flagpole no less – couldn't have chosen a more prominent spot. That meant Michelle and Sue were tasked with keeping the public away whilst the adult female Peregrine attempted to encourage VSN back onto a low roof and then the tower. Which she succeeded in doing, not quite sure how!





Michelle and Sue reported that there was a very large crowd: many of whom were taking selfies and photographing the distressed bird. So they did VERY well to keep calm and keep their tempers!

Our last day (31st August) was one of our busiest!

VSN landed on the flagpole at the front of the church! (permission given to show this photo and note we have edited out the crowd!)

The watchpoint again worked well - coordinating with the live webcam in the church. The church, as always, have been extremely accommodating

It's a Wrap……

Although the fledgings, eventually, were successful, it has been a mixed result this year. VRN was flying well, but it was way too soon for him to be hunting for himself. And when he failed to reappear at the church one evening, just two weeks after his first flight, we feared the worst for him because the adults certainly didn't appear to be taking food anywhere nearby and the juveniles always come back to home base at that stage of their development. No further reported sightings of him to date.



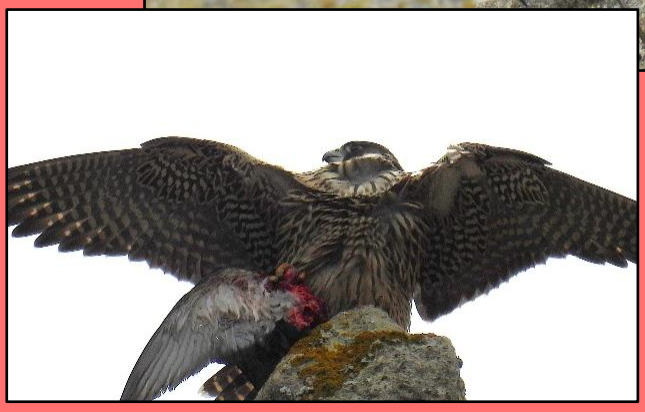
VRN just after he fledged, on the roof of the shops. He was looking good at that stage

VSN however, was seen going off with the adults, catching prey herself, returning to the church with it and plucking and eating it around the tower. Not long after she caught and devoured a very large pigeon, her absence was noted. The difference being it was much later in the season and she was perfectly capable of catching her food, so we are assuming she's OK and has just moved on. From day one she has, if anything, been slightly more advanced than her brothers. Possibly because of her weight!!



VSN just after she fledged pictured low down on the church porch.





VSN was ahead of the game from day one

VSN with prey.



VLN has been the real worry. Very soon after he fledged he returned to the church, after a brief absence, with an object sticking out of the top of his left eye. We couldn't identify exactly what it was but it appeared to be a piece of wheat or long grass, something like that. Eventually he was seen without the object in his eye, but the socket appeared severely damaged.

VLN was looking good when he first fledged

VLN with his bad eye – it did improve but this shows how bad it was



At the present time (10th September) he is still begging for food* and is presumably, being fed by the adults. We are assuming that the adults are confused as to why he's not now hunting for himself and he's confused as to why they are not feeding him regularly. So, basically, it's stalemate. We have no idea how bad the damage to his eye is. Sometimes it looks really good, other times it looks really bad and other times – somewhere in between!

From a research point of view it will be interesting to see what transpires but my personal opinion is that the outlook isn't brilliant. Obviously, I hope I'm wrong.



Post Article Updates.....

- He wasn't seen by a volunteer on 10th but was heard by a local begging for food so we know he was still around the church on that day.
- At 7.00am on Sunday, 13th September L visited the box on the church and his damaged left eye appears to be back to normal so we are hoping he is going to start learning to hunt soon.

I will pass on any update over the coming months via the website or the newsletter.

So, it's into infinity and beyond.... not our most successful year but, assuming VSN is doing OK, whether VLN makes it or not, one out of three would be considered a success. It is by no means our least successful year and it all adds to the rich and varied history of the wonderful Cromer Church Peregrines and the Cromer Peregrine Project all of which are now a big part of the history of Cromer church and, indeed, Cromer itself.

Images from the CPP webcam .....







Check This Out!

A few bits and bobs in the news recently …

Note: You may now need to sign up on the BirdGuides website to read their articles – it is free but you need to put in your email address to sign up to their newsletter. Alternatively, going back and in again on the link may work.

- **Bird ringing: appreciating the avian world up close - BirdGuides** | 02-Sep
- **Crossbill split proposed to AviList - BirdGuides** | 20-Aug
- **Strumpshaw Fen marks 50 years as Norfolk wetland refuge from @RareBirdAlertUK** | 03-Sep
- **Book Review: Wetland Wings, #ornithology news from @RareBirdAlertUK** | 28-Aug
- **RSPB Minsmere reopens as Dunwich Heath remains closed after wildfire from @RareBirdAlertUK** | 13-Aug
- **The UK's wildfire wakeup call and the need for climate resilience - RSPB** | 12-Aug
- **Birdwatcher hopeful as wildlife seen at Dunwich Heath - BBC News** | 24-Aug
- **Zitting Cisticolas breed in Suffolk for second year running from @RareBirdAlertUK** | 07-Aug
- **More than half of world's migratory bird species are declining from @RareBirdAlertUK** | 04-Aug
- **Turtle doves released in South Downs in bid to stop extinction - BBC News** | 07-Sep
- **UK's rarest breeding bird successfully breeds in secret location - BBC News** | 24-Aug
- **Bury St Edmunds nesting birds delay £6m Olding Road redevelopment - BBC News** | 13-Aug
- **Gen Z flocks to BirdTok as birding takes flight: 'It's a craving for something real' - The Guardian** | 15-Aug
- **Jackie, a beloved bald eagle and livestream star, dies of mysterious illness - The Guardian** | 11-Aug
- **The ornithological artist drawing 1,000 birds by hand – all for an app that wants you off your phone - The Guardian** | 08-Aug

Have you had a go at BIRDLE yet?

By Kala Nobbs

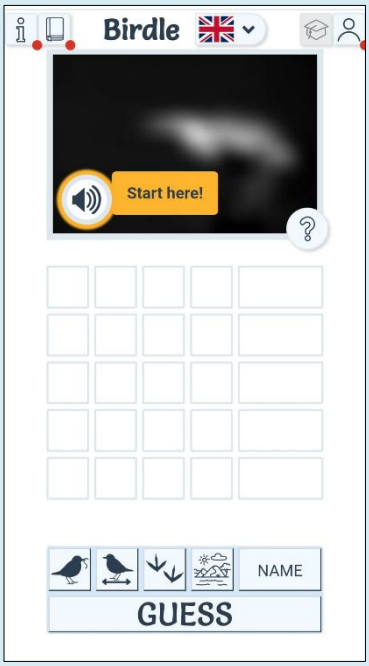
If you are a fan of WORDLE and its derivatives you might like to try BIRDLE. Expert birders might not find it much of a challenge but for those on who have more to learn this is a fun way to increase your knowledge.

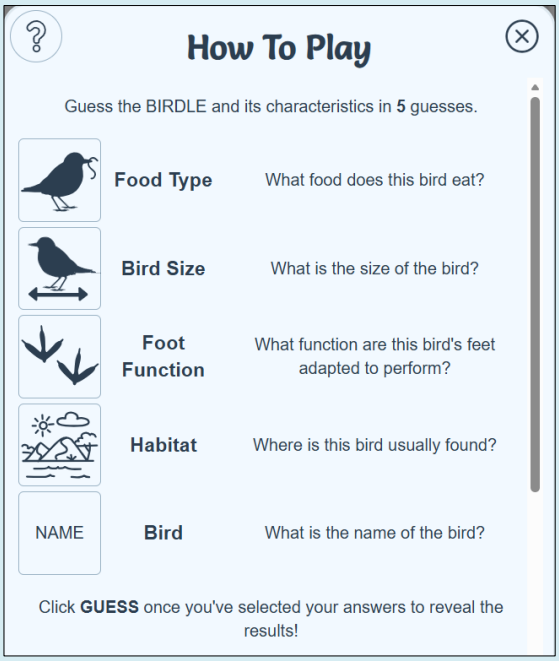
You can choose from three levels of difficulty.

Start by listening to the call, aided by a blurred photo, then try to work out the bird's size, diet, habitat and feet. You then get to guess from a list of possibles. You can have five goes. Once correct (on the first attempt of course!) you can read much more information about the bird of the day.

Try it - it's fun!

https//:birdle.co.uk.





Birdle was created, through a collaboration between Raining Rock Studio and BirdLife South Africa, as a fun way to encourage more people to learn about birds and bird conservation, no matter their experience level. You can chose a British bird or switch continents.

What's That Song?

Many of us find it difficult learning or remembering bird song whilst others seem to have a natural knack for it, a bit like a foreign language or music skill. The Merlin App has been a great help in recent years but can you recognise a bird from the description of its voice? The words below come from three different books, but they all refer to the same bird – no wonder it is so confusing! As you can see, some texts go into more detail than others. Answers are at the back of this newsletter, along with a link through to a website where you can listen to an audio excerpt and decide which description resonates best with you!

"Migrants generally silent; spring song distinctive quick, whining, nasal 'ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti' or 'kyee-kyee-kyee-kyee-kyee', rather like Kestrel or Lesser Spotted Woodpecker."
from WILDGuides BRITAIN'S BIRDS 2nd Edition - An identification guide to the birds of Britain and Ireland 2nd Edition by Hume, Still, Swash, Harrop and Tipling

"Alarm a series of hard 'teck' notes. Hisses (and twists head snake-like) if discovered in nest hole or otherwise startled. Young beg with a fast, shuttling 'zizizizizi…'. Song a series of 12-18 loud, whining notes, 4 per sec, 'tie-tie-tie-tie…'; rather long intervals between phrases."
from Collins BIRD GUIDE 3rd Edition by Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterström

"The most usual call that is heard in spring at its breeding sites, and occasionally on migration, is a falcon-like 'quee, quee', which is far-carrying and often the only indication that a pair is present."
from RSPB Handbook of British Birds 4th Edition by Peter Holden and Tim Cleeves

Wordsearch

This month, we have 24 species or races recorded on the NENBC website in September 2025 for which we have just 1 or 2 records – you never know what might crop up on your walks at this time of year so keep your eyes peeled as there were certainly quite a few exciting birds this time last year! For the purposes of this puzzle, ignore any hyphens, apostrophes, brackets and spaces. Solution is at the end of this newsletter.

Barn Owl
Black-tailed Godwit
Cory's Shearwater
Curlew Sandpiper
Dartford Warbler
Goldeneye
Goosander
Grey Plover
Little Grebe
Little Gull
Little Stint
Pochard
Red-breasted Merganser
Reed Warbler
Wilson's Storm Petrel
Woodlark
Yellow-browed Warbler
Common Crossbill
Egyptian Goose
Honey-buzzard
Lesser Redpoll
Little Owl
Little Tern
Puffin

R R E V O L P Y E R G X I T K Q I C T E V J F G D
N O I B B Z Q H W Y E P D R E E A I T E L M Y J R
Y H P I Z O P Y D Z W L A P Y J W R F I D B I Y E
A H R Y S X M B R F W L B V R D A V B P P R X T L
G O L E D D J T Q E D H H R O A S D W C E V C O B
E W T B L N R N T O D O M G A V Y N Z P F W M I R
Y N D M X B G A O O V N D L G W Z R I F L I I W A
E N U G O O R W Z I M E A K D T D P V Y E L M B W
N B S O X B U A V Z L O H S G C D E K T A S T A D
E I G Y O D M B W I U D F H O N B A E O E O S J R
D Z W J R I I X A D Y B X K A O I T U R R N A P O
L V Y Q L A L T S K E F Y S P N G V P E G S M D F
O R J Q L I K L F X L W W E X V E A M S T S K I T
G J Z C N C T Y O M R E O S N B S M A N O T Z A R
J F I O A X S T H P L E C R E O W L K A S O S R A
P Y F L W D W R L R D T T R B G H K B G I R E B D
U F B A L Z L O U E R E G A R W X I T R G M A F W
Q A A E A P Y C P C G E R R W Q O D H E B P Y B Q
N G M O D I W N P K L U U R J R J L Y M M E F K J
I D T N I T S E L T T I L B E R A M L D M T A T H
B W Q V S U H L T O Q I P L D S L E O E S R S G A
Z W B K I R W I D P Q Y K W R Z S M H T Y E N A Z
S P K E P O L G L W D R S Q J B M E C S S L H Y S
D L H K N T E F D Q E B R Z D Z W I L A S V U Y L
P L G R E S O O G N A I T P Y G E P N E R Y T W K
H T A P E P O C H A R D R I F U X W T R Y Q R R X
S B R H U W F A X R Q R Y W X Y E O R B H M N O G
E Y G I S C L G E V N I F F U P M P P D X A W P C
Y H P X L I T T L E O W L M V N R E T E L T T I L
T C O M M O N C R O S S B I L L M U A R O P E Q R

Data, Records and Posts .....

No new 'Accepted' records from the Norfolk Records Committee [NRC] for our area since our last newsletter and their current '**NRC work in progress**' file was last updated 24-Feb-26. The British Birds Rarities Committee also have a '**BBRC work in progress**' file available on their website [Dec-24].

NENBC Website

Many thanks to everyone who has uploaded records to our website this year to date. For the newbies reading this, we would love to see your records too! It is easy to do and we can guide you through if you are unsure. Please don't think that your records aren't of interest – they are. We submit all our data on to the BTO's BirdTrack for inclusion in the county reports, which appear in published format annually. How common species are faring is just as important to keep track of as sightings of the less common species. If you need any assistance, or have forgotten your password and need it resetting, just drop Carol a line on **nenbc@aol.co.uk** or through the messaging element of the website. You can access our website at **www.bird.club/clubs/north-east-norfolk-bird-club** (or by typing 'NENBC' into your search engine will get you there) and you will need your member password to get in. Not sure on your ID? Just ask – drop us an email, message or a WhatsApp or ask another birder when you are actually viewing the bird.

Prolific Posters August 2026

By Val Stubbs

Phil Borley continues to romp away, reaching with over 164,000 points. Tony Pope in second position is now approaching 70,000 points, ahead of Mark Clements, who has exceeded 62,000 points. Philip Cartlidge holds onto fourth place, having reached nearly 57,000-point barrier, followed by Val Stubbs on just under 50,000 points. David Griffiths continues to pull away from Doug and Jenny Cullern.

Of the 122 members who have logged birds so far this year, 56 have already scored over 1,000 points, with 26 exceeding 5,000 points, and 14 who have passed 10,000 points, including the Club's Secretary and Chair.

POINTS: This version of the prolific posters table is based purely on birds recorded. Points are allocated according to the likelihood of seeing a species. So the **common** birds, such as Wood Pigeon, Blue Tit and even Goldcrest and Curlew, will earn you 10 points. **'Mildly' interesting** birds, like Marsh Tit, Cuckoo and Grey Wagtail gain 20 points. **Interesting species** – the likes of Firecrest and Ring Ouzel – will garner you 30 points, while **very interesting** birds such as Glossy Ibis, Lapland Bunting or Richard's Pipit add 40 points to your score. And if you are lucky or persistent enough to spot a real **rarity** such as Lesser White-fronted Goose, Dusky Warbler, Pallas's Leaf Warbler or Brünnich's Guillemot you are awarded 50 points.

!1	Phil Borley	164,140
2	Tony Pope	69,810
3	Mark Clements	62,610
4	Philip Cartlidge	56,690
5	Valerie Stubbs	49,600
6	David Griffiths	35,510
7	Doug & Jenny Cullern	30,730
8	Stuart Jones	15,200
9	Stephanie Witham	12,980
10	Ken Thornton	12,880
11	Trevor Williams	12,570
12	Ann Gladwin	12,070
13	Carol Thornton	10,510
14	John Swallow	10,130
15	David Barrass	9,340

16	Andrew Clarke	9,250
17	Russell Page	8,350
18	Steven & Barbara Lines	8,280
18	Stella Baylis	7,750
20	Thomas Wright	7,610
21	Julia & David Ivison	7,130
22	Colin Blaxill	6,970
23	Alan Stevens	6,670
24	Peter & Sue Morrison	6,270
25	Stuart Buck	5,580
26	Gary Bunting	5,340
27	Andrew Gorton	4,950
28	Di & Richard Farrow	4,680
29	Michael Harcup	4,670
30	Phil Hall	4,630

2026 Club Stats

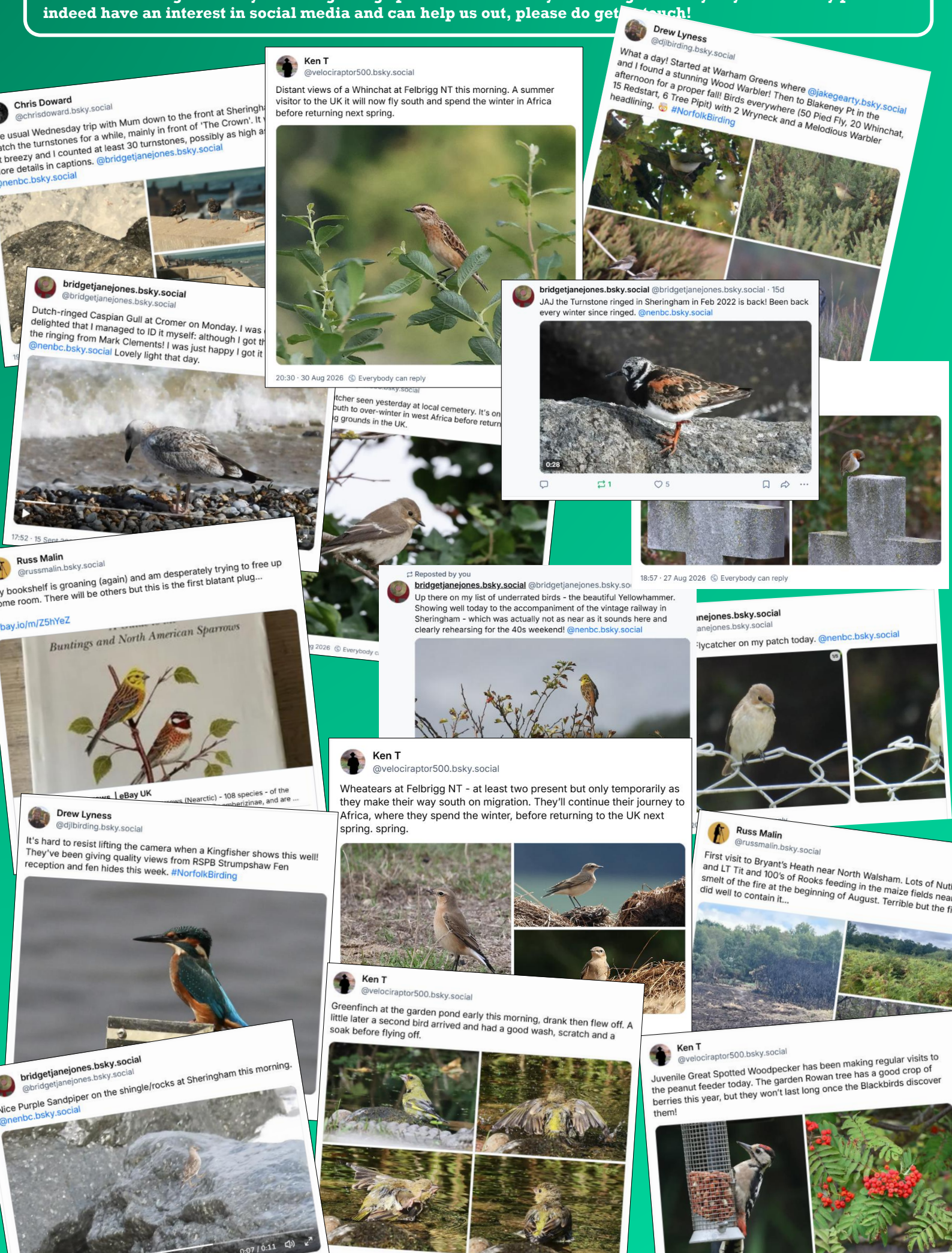
443 individual members across 298 households

73,019 bird records logged

229 bird species reported

Social Media & WhatsApp – a few bits from social media and WhatsApp in the last few weeks.

This is something we really haven't got to grips with of late so if you can tag us in any of your BlueSky posts or indeed have an interest in social media and can help us out, please do get in touch!



Club Badges

Member Awards

Star Badges

No new achievers this month.

Currently, **6** members have achieved GOLD STAR status, **26** members have been awarded SILVER STAR status and a fabulous **90** members now hold the BRONZE STAR status.

For any of the club events that take place in the club area you can include all of the species you see or hear so join us for a walk. It always helps to get on to more birds when you are in a group of like-minded folk.

Keep up the good work everyone – star badges are within everyone's reach!

Number of bird species recorded in the NENBC area since joining the club:

BRONZE [100] self-certified
SILVER [200] peer reviewed
GOLD [250] peer reviewed
PLATINUM [300] peer reviewed

We will notify members when they achieve the Bronze badge but for the higher-level badges, members should notify us on **nenbc@aol.co.uk** when they are ready for their website records to be peer reviewed by the Peer Review Group.

NOTE: The Norfolk Birds Rarities Committee (NBRC) can sometime get a little behind in assessing submitted 'description' species (rarities) for acceptance. This has an impact on our ability to peer review and award badges as we only confirm a rarity for badges once accepted by NBRC so apologies if you are waiting and thank you for your patience.

Eco-Badges

No new eco-achievers this month.

We currently have **27** members who have achieved their GREEN ECO-BADGES [Coastal: 16 | Inland: 11] and **11** who have achieved SUPER-GREEN [Coastal: 8 | Inland: 3].

Those of you wanting to submit, please let us have a list of species, dates seen and locations that is derived from your website records (we can help you download your data) as we can't yet tell on our website if you are driving or not! If you need help getting your list of species downloaded, please ask!

NOTE: For these badges, electric bikes are considered motorised transport!

Number of bird species recorded in the NENBC area at or from home without the use of motorised transport since 1st January 2020 (or date of joining if later):

GREEN ECO-BADGE: 75 species required for lists with only inland sites / 100 for lists with any coastal locations

SUPER-GREEN ECO-BADGE: 125 species required for lists with only inland sites / 175 for lists with any coastal locations

Lists to be submitted by members from **their club website records** to **nenbc@aol.co.uk** along with a declaration that award requirements have been met.

Sea-watching Badge

CONGRATULATIONS Thomas Wright, gaining your Blue Badge this month!

We currently have 10 members who have achieved their BLUE BADGE.

Those of you wanting to submit, please let us have a list of the dates and locations of your qualifying seawatching sessions and the species generating points on those occasions that reflect your website entries. Note that you will need to ensure that you have **added to the comments on the website duration of any of your qualifying seawatches and it might help to add 'BLUE BADGE'** against any qualifying species too. Shout if not clear!

You must earn a total of one thousand points through a combination of time spent sea-watching and species recorded.

Species list available on request

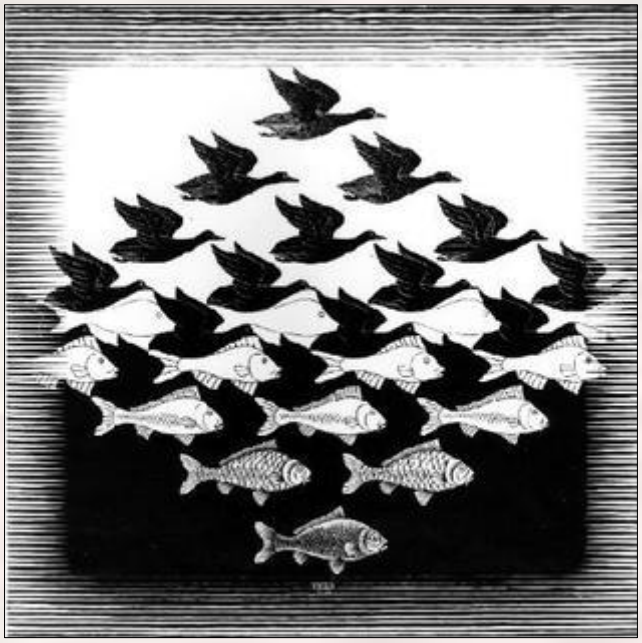
Getting Points: You get a once-only bonus of 100 points for attending a club seawatch, for all other watches 10 for every ½ hour spent watching, plus variable points for the first sighting of each of the species on our published list (also on website 'News') - 10 for the easy species, 15 for the more difficult or scarce and 20 for the rare ones.

Lists to be submitted by members from **their club website records** to **nenbc@aol.co.uk** along with a declaration that award requirements have been met.

Why not get going on your own badge journey today!?

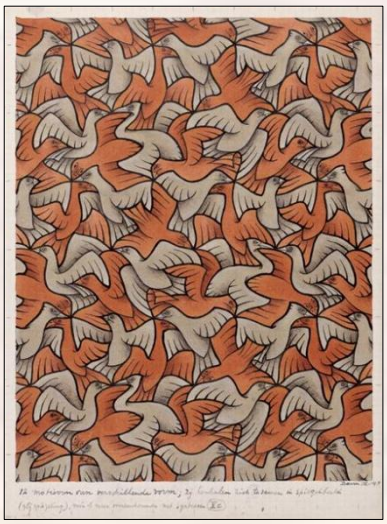
Cultural Birds – Escher's Birds

According to Wikipedia, "*Sky and Water I* (right) is a woodcut print by the Dutch artist M. C. Escher first printed in June 1938. The basis of this print is a regular division of the plane consisting of birds and fish. Both prints have the horizontal series of these elements—fitting into each other like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle—in the middle, transitional portion of the prints. In this central layer the pictorial elements are equal: birds and fish are alternately foreground or background, depending on whether the eye concentrates on light or dark elements. The birds take on an increasing three-dimensionality in the upward direction, and the fish, in the downward direction. But as the fish progress upward and the birds downward they gradually lose their shapes to become a uniform background of sky and water, respectively. According to Escher: "In the horizontal centre strip there are birds and fish equivalent to each other. We associate flying with sky, and so for each of the black birds the sky in which it is flying is formed by the four white fish which encircle it. Similarly swimming makes us think of water, and therefore the four black birds that surround a fish become the water in which it swims."

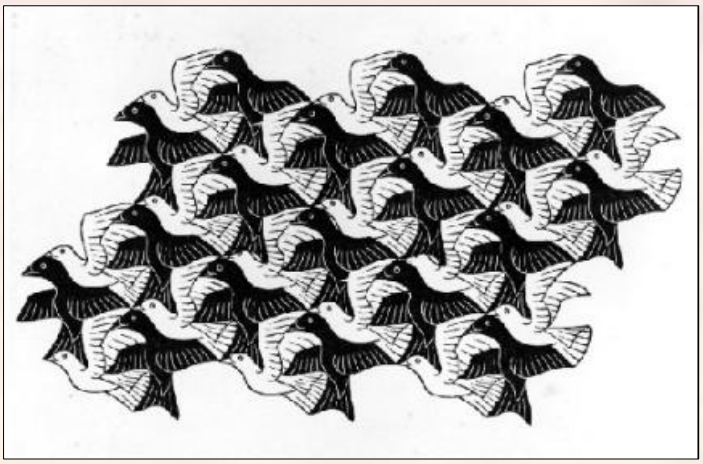


"Escher frequently incorporated birds into his work because their shapes naturally lent themselves to tessellation, allowing him to fill a plane with interlocking forms

Birds in Escher's work often symbolize air, freedom, and the visible, contrasting with fish, which represent water, depth, and the unseen. By interlocking birds and fish, Escher created a visual metaphor for the balance of opposites. His technique involved careful experimentation with translation, rotation, and glide reflection, allowing geometric shapes to evolve into recognizable forms while maintaining a regular division of the plane." https://escherinhetpaleis.nl/



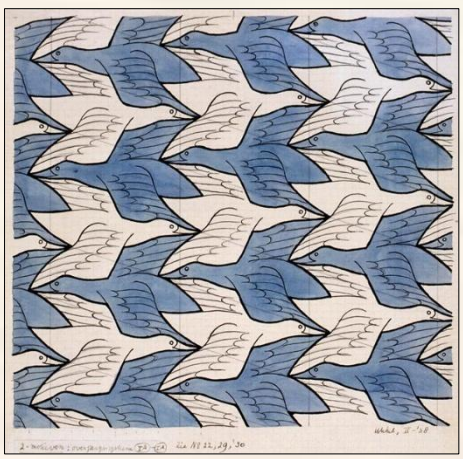


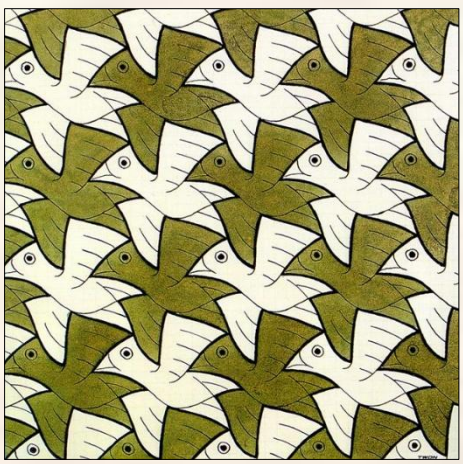


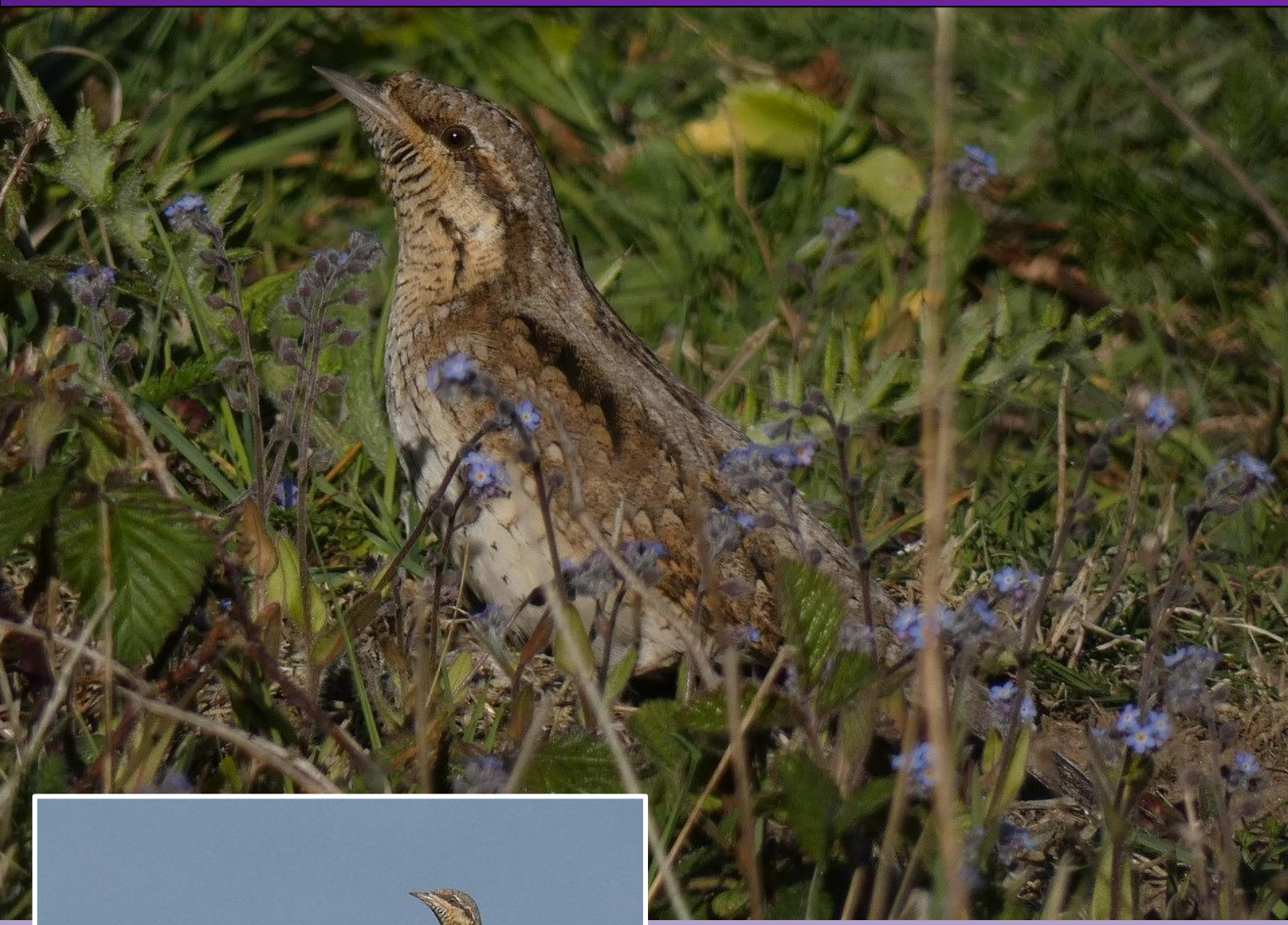










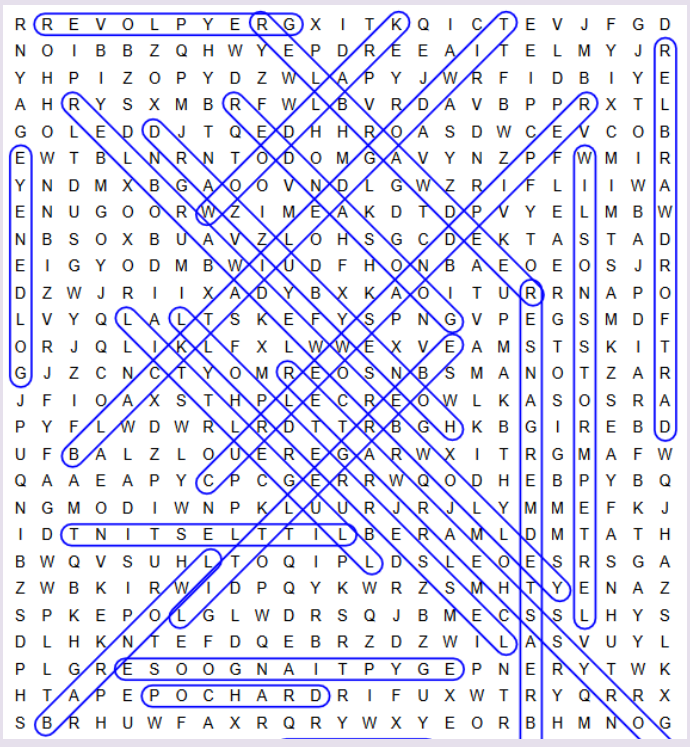




The bird voice variously described was that of a **Wryneck**. Click on the bird name to take you through to the xeno-canto website where, if you click on any of the play arrows on the left of the page, you will be able to hear the song. Don't forget to have your sound turned on and the volume up! Here's a link to the **BTO Bird Facts Wryneck** page.

Photos: Mark Clements and Moss Taylor

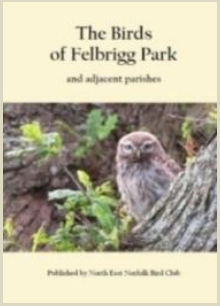
This month's **Wordsearch Solution**:
BIRDS RECORDED IN THE NENBC AREA IN SEPTEMBER 2025



Back Page Club Info .....



NENBC Annual Bird Reports are compiled from the records and photographs added to the club website by members, supplemented by other local records, and complemented by articles on club activities. The reports are £3 with discounts available on back-copies. Our **10th Anniversary Commemorative Book** celebrating the first decade of the club is also available (low stock) for £5



The Birds of Felbrigg Park is a systematic review of the records of all 220 species seen in and around the park over the past 50 years, indicating their current status and highlighting, for the rarer species, every recorded sighting. The publication includes photographs and artwork from local artists. The book is now reduced to £3.00 (postage extra) and all profits from the sale of this book go to Felbeck Trust, our local wildlife conservation charity: **www.felbecktrust.org.uk**

For Annual Reports or The Birds of Felbrigg Park, contact Carol on **nenbc@aol.co.uk**.

Club Sponsor: A 5% discount on Bird Ventures branded wild bird food is available to NENBC members at their shop in Holt all year on production of a current (or 2025) NENBC Membership Card. Have a look at the **Bird Ventures website** as they also supply feeders and much more with good advice and help for garden bird enthusiasts. **Bird Ventures, The Wildlife Shop, 9B Chapel Yard, Albert Street, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6HG, Telephone 01263 710203, Email salesbirdventures@aol.com**

Bird Ventures
THE WILDLIFE SHOP
Helping you to help our wildlife

The NENBC objectives:

- **Encourage and share the enjoyment of birdwatching in North East Norfolk with people of all abilities and experience.**
- **Promote diversity and inclusion in all its activities.**
- **Gather and collate data on birds in the recording area.**
- **Share information between members.**
- **Participate in regional and national surveys incorporating the recording area.**
- **Administer the Club in an environmentally sensitive manner.**
- **Promote the conservation of birds and wildlife within Norfolk.**
- **Liaise with other conservation groups within the local area and more widely.**
- **Hold regular indoor and field meetings and social events throughout the year.**
- **Put the interests of birds first and respect other people, whether or not they are interested in birds, in line with the birdwatchers' code.**

Monthly mid-week bird walks around Felbrigg Park on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to July | Varied **monthly weekend bird walks** to a range of local birding hotspots from September to July | **Occasional evening walks** in the spring and summer | **Monthly evening talks** on the last Thursday of the month from September to November and January to April - refreshments provided | An annual **Big Sit** birding event at a number of locations across the club area in May, recording the total number of species seen from one spot between dawn and dusk | Autumn **Global Big Day** birding challenge | Annual **Coordinated Seawatch** event along the coast in the autumn recording visible migration | Short-notice **Pop-Up Birding events** | A **Birding for Beginners** workshop series combining practical and theoretical elements of birdwatching | **New Year's Day Birding Challenge** | **Occasional master-classes, lectures, workshops and conferences** to develop better skills and understanding of the birding world | A combined **Christmas Social and AGM Evening** in December