



October 2025 – Issue 124

The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

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Through a Lens



By Nigel Redman

I sometimes give a talk entitled '101 Uses for a Puffin' (I retitle it '101 Uses for a Penguin' in the southern hemisphere). It explores the many ways that birds are exploited by humans, both past and present. And it's a lot more than just food. Chicken and eggs are of course ubiquitous, and it is estimated that there are more than 34 billion chickens in the world – that's more than four for every person on the planet. And they are all descended from the humble, and very beautiful, Red Junglefowl of southern Asia. Most birds eaten today are farmed, primarily chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys, but it was not always that way. Let's not forget that almost all birds are technically edible, and only a handful are actually poisonous (and most of these are in New Guinea). Mediaeval feasts featured a wide range of wild birds, and hunters all over the world are notoriously indiscriminate in the species that they hunt. A few years ago I found an old *Encyclopaedia of Gastronomy* in a secondhand bookshop. It was published in 1944. Volume 6 was devoted to 'Birds and their eggs' and half the book described a wide range of birds, in alphabetical order, with tasting notes and recipes. I found it quite shocking that people could even consider eating Stone Curlew, Dotterel or Bittern – and that was just a few years before I was born. Apparently, the long claw of the hind toe of the Bittern was much prized as a toothpick! The list of 'edible' birds also included Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Kakapo and Slender-billed Curlew! While our tastes in Britain are now more or less limited to 'farmed' birds (even pheasants and grouse are essentially 'farmed'), you don't have to go far to find examples of wild birds being eaten (other than ducks or geese). In France, Ortolan Buntings are still considered a delicacy despite it being illegal, and the ritual around their consumption is little short of being ridiculous. In Cyprus, over two million songbirds are limed or trapped each year and then pickled for consumption as 'ambelopoulia' – yet it has been illegal since 1974! Why are they allowed to remain in the EU when they continue to flaunt the laws of the Union? Why do politicians turn a blind eye to this outrage, and to the appalling unregulated hunting in Malta, another EU country.

There is little doubt that most species of birds throughout the world have declined in number in our lifetimes, and many species are now threatened with extinction. Hunting is only one of the causes, of course. Loss or degradation of habitat and unfavourable farming practices are equally to blame, but there are many other reasons for the dramatic decline in birds. There are numerous examples of the tragic over-exploitation of birds: Passenger Pigeons in North America, Great Auks in the north Atlantic, Yellow-breasted Buntings in China and Thailand, Short-tailed Albatrosses in Japan, Houbara Bustards in the Middle East, to name just a few of the more notorious examples. Some have resulted in extinction, while in other cases the species still hang on in some areas. The Short-tailed Albatross is a rare 'success' story. The sole breeding population on Torishima Island off southern Japan once numbered several million birds, but by

1947 it was considered extinct. Fortunately, it was saved by its long life-cycle. Albatrosses take at least seven years to mature, and in 1954 25 birds returned to breed on Torishima. The population now numbers around 7,400 birds. It's a long way short of the millions that used to breed there, but the species now has full protection and has even spread to a few other islands.

The usage of birds extends far beyond just eating them or their eggs. Taxidermy was once very popular, as was 'oology', and collections of stuffed birds and their eggs were much prized by the wealthy. Feathers were formerly widely used in millinery, and the campaign to stop this famously resulted in the formation of the RSPB. Some native cultures still use feathers in ceremonial costumes, but this limited exploitation may be sustainable. Feathers were also used as quills for writing, until pens were invented to replace them. Marginal uses of feathers include arrows in archery and in flies for fly fishing. Unfortunately, birds are still popular as pets, with budgerigars, cockatiels and canaries being the most frequent in the western world; most are bred in captivity nowadays. But in Asia, many households have a wild-caught cagebird and a wide variety of species is imprisoned in small bamboo cages there. One of the saddest ironies of this is that Javan Pied Starling is now considered to be extinct in the wild, yet an estimated 1.1 million birds exist in captivity on the island. In West Africa vultures and owls, as well as a variety of other species, are commonly used in traditional medicine and many species are harvested unsustainably, resulting in rapid population declines. In Ancient Egypt millions of Sacred Ibises were mummified and entombed as tributes to Thoth, the god of magic, writing and wisdom – the species is no longer found in Egypt. In the Falklands and Macquarie Island (Australia) at the end of the 19th century, millions of penguins were boiled in huge steam-heated tanks to extract oil. Around the same time, the droppings of the Guanay Cormorant were mined in industrial quantities as 'guano', a rich and valuable fertiliser. And in SE Asia the saliva nests of the Edible-nest Swiftlet are collected as a food delicacy, for sale primarily in China. Fortunately, swiftlets are now farmed sustainably in purpose-built houses.

All this sounds a bit gloomy, and with good reason. There is a lot to regret, but there are some success stories and in Britain, at least, there is more concern for wildlife than there used to be. We just need to convince the rest of the world, and hope that action is taken to save more birds before it is too late.



Smoked Puffin is a traditional delicacy in Iceland, but the practice is probably driven by tourism these days.

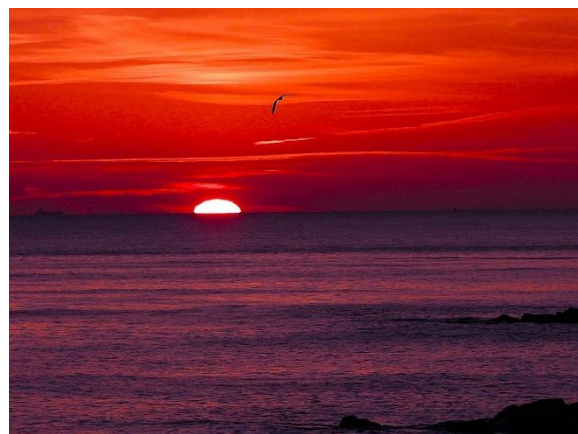


By Carol Thornton

Welcome to our October newsletter. It was great to see so many of you at our first evening session of the season – our Members' Night mini-talks are always a big draw. Hope to see you all back for this month's talk on House Martins! We also had a good turnout for our annual Coordinated Seawatch last Saturday - shame more birds didn't get the message though! There will be a full write up on that in next month's newsletter. If you missed it, keep an eye out for any of our Pop-Up Seawatches coming soon.

We are sad to announce the passing of club member Greg Bond who many of you will know from the moth trapping talk he gave at our Summer Social at Trimingham in 2021 and from volunteering on the Bee-eater Watchpoint. Carl Chapman has written us an obituary which you can find on [page 30](#).

'Through a Lens' for the front cover last month was 'Cormorants' and we had a great selection to choose. Here are my favourites, from the top left, Doug Cullern, Thomas Wright, Richard Farrow, Claire Brayne, Jane Crossen, Andrew Crossley. For October, our theme will be 'Ducks' so get clicking! Here are my **favourite member photos** from September from the ones that didn't make it on to the Monthly Bird Records section of the more unusual species. I love the sunset shot that Mark Clements snuck in by managing to get a Herring Gull in view. Below we have Mute Swans from Andrew Crossley, Green Woodpecker from David Griffiths, Kingfisher from mark Clements, Magpie from Doug Cullern, Stonechat from Richard Farrow. Thanks all!



WhatsApp group for general NENBC communications

Mobile numbers required to sign up!

This new group 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 groups, this one will be set up so that 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 purpose of our other two WhatsApp groups.

If you are interested in signing up, then **please let Carol have your mobile number**. 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.



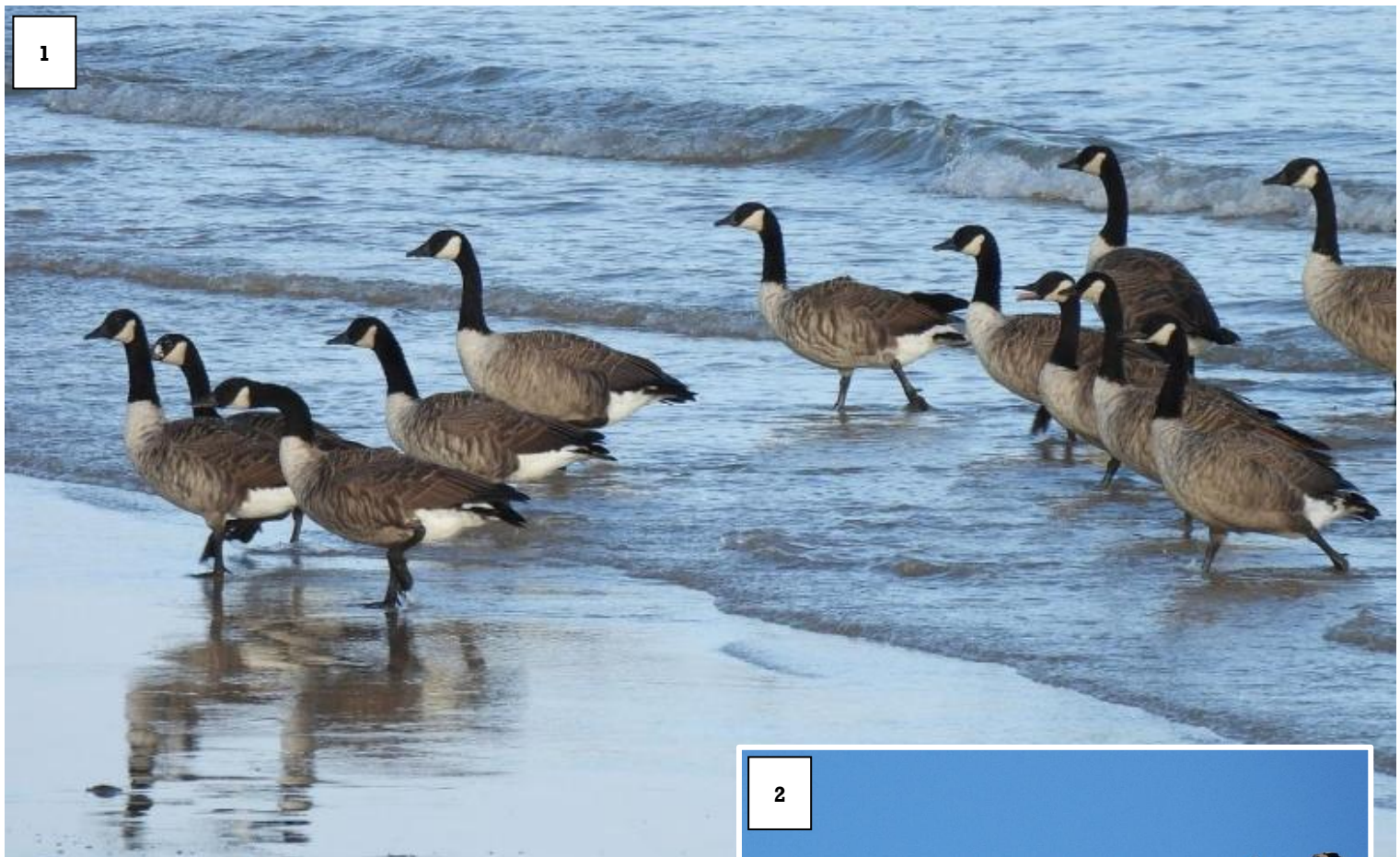
By Paul Laurie

All records are from the NENBC website and submitted by members unless otherwise stated.

≈ 5,800 individual records covering 173 bird species were added in September

September 2025: An excellent September in the NENBC area for scarce and rare birds with the outstanding record of a **Wilson's Storm Petrel** during a short period of suitable sea-watching conditions. Common autumn migrants were generally in poor numbers and there was very little evidence visible migration of passerines at coastal sites. The scarce birds seen during September included **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Black Guillemot**, **Leach's Petrel**, and a remarkable flock of **Glossy Ibis**. The standout passerines were **Isabelline Shrike** and **Western Bonelli's Warbler**. Sixty-seven members added 5,810 bird records in September 2025 with 173 species listed. The five-year average, 2020 -2024, is 174 species with 6,789 records. The difference in records can be found in the data; in September 2023 records uploaded from Weybourne Camp totalled 1,236 compared with 2025 when only 221 records were uploaded.

Canada Goose: A significant count of seventy-three west at Saxlingham on the 20th of the month. *Photo 1 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Pink-Footed Geese: The first were a small group on the 9th over Weybourne Camp. Increasing numbers seen at various locations by the end of the month with the highest count being 365 birds on the 23rd at Saxlingham. *Photo 2 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Teal: Small numbers were seen most days during September moving west along the coast with 598 west at Sheringham on the 23rd being the highest day total.

Common Scoter: Seven hundred and two west past Sheringham on the 24th was the most recorded on one day this month.



Goldeneye: One west past Sheringham on the 26th was the only record.

Red-necked Grebe: A single flew west at Sheringham on the 16th.

Golden Plover: On the 23rd a flock of 515 were seen at Saxlingham and represented the highest count for the month.

Curlew Sandpiper: Three Juveniles flew west off Weybourne Beach on the 17th of September.

Purple Sandpiper: On the coastal protection rocks at Sheringham a bird was present on the 24th and 26th of the month. *Photo 3 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Little Stint: A bird flew east with Dunlin on the 15th off Mundesley.

Common Sandpiper: The best count was a flock of nine at Felbrigg Park lake on the 6th. *Photo 4 courtesy of Ken Thornton*

Little Gull: On the 16th a bird was seen off Sheringham.

Mediterranean Gull: The highest count was of 50+ birds at Happisburgh on the 29th. Inland two birds were seen on the 27th over Southrepps. *Photo 5 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Yellow-legged Gull. Records of juveniles between the 3rd and 22nd from Sheringham and Weybourne may relate to just one or two birds. On the 25th an adult was reported flying east at Weybourne. *Photo 6 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Black Tern: On the 3rd and 4th singles were seen at Sheringham and Weybourne and probably involved one bird. On the 7th a flock of nine birds flew south through the valley at Saxlingham among 2,100 Black-headed Gulls moving south that morning.

Great Skua: Birds recorded between the 7th – 23rd from Weybourne to Mundesley with the highest count being five west off Sheringham on the 21st on the month.

Pomarine Skua: On the 20th a bird was seen from Weybourne and then on the 21st from Cromer Pier, Sheringham and Weybourne. On the 22nd two birds were seen from Cromer East Cliffs and then on the 23rd a fine adult was seen off Sheringham.

Arctic Skua: Reported along the coast on many days during the month with groups semi-resident offshore harassing the terns. By far the most seen on one day this month were the 96 past Sheringham on the 21st. *Photo 7 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Long-tailed Skua: Considering the numbers of Arctic Skuas present offshore this month this species was relatively scarce. On the 16th a bird was seen from Cromer East Cliffs and Sheringham. On the 21st a bird was seen passing Cromer Pier and Sheringham and on the 22nd a bird was seen passing Sheringham.

Black Guillemot: At Weybourne birds were reported on the 7th and 17th, an adult in winter plumage, and then on the 22nd. A bird was also seen off Sheringham on the 21st of the month.

3



4



5



6



7



Puffin. One flew east past Weybourne Camp on the 6th , and a juvenile was on the sea off Cromer East Cliffs on the 13th.

WILSON'S STORM PETREL: One of these delightful sea-birds was feeding for several minutes off Cromer on the 26th of the month. This is the first record off this species in the NENBC recording are since the club was formed in 2015.

Leach's Petrel: Recorded on the 21st & 22nd off Sheringham.

Cory's Shearwater. A bird was see moving east past Weybourne on the 17th of September.

Sooty Shearwater: Birds reported between the 7th & 23rd from Sheringham & Weybourne. The highest recorded number being six on the 21st off Sheringham.

Manx Shearwater: Reported in small numbers during the month with a peak of 59 sighting on the 21st from Sheringham.

Photo 8 courtesy of David Griffiths

GLOSSY IBIS: On the 7th an impressive flock of thirty-one birds were seen to fly west over Weybourne. This represents the largest flock ever encountered in Norfolk surpassing the flock of fourteen seen on the 24th of May 2023 over Sheringham Golf Course and then Weybourne. On the 9th a single was reported again over Weybourne. *Photo 9 courtesy of Russell Page*

Spoonbill: A flock of eleven birds flew east off Weybourne and on the 21st two immatures flew west past Sheringham.

Osprey: A good year for this species continued in to September with a bird east at Weybourne on the 15th and a bird inland over Felbrigg and Gresham on the 17th.

Honey Buzzard: On the 16th at 1025 a juvenile was seen to come in off the sea at Weybourne. *Photo 10 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Goshawk: The only report this month was a bird over Hunworth on the 27th of September.

Short-eared Owl: A bird was seen on the 26th at Sheringham and then Trimmingham.

ISABELLINE (DAURIAN) SHRIKE: On the 30th seven members twitched this bird at Happisburgh. The first record since 2015 when birds was present on Beeston Common Oct 11th – 19th at least, and a second bird present at Paston from the 12th until the 20th of October. *Photo 11 courtesy of David Griffiths*

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER: The first for the club and NENBC area was found in the hedge at West Runton on the 8th where three club members were able to twitch the bird before mid-morning when it disappeared. *Photo 12 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Yellow-browed Warbler: One found at Gunthorpe on the 30th of September with a flock of tits and Chiffchaffs.

Firecrest: Recorded on Beeston Common between the 12th and 29th with a maximum of three seen on the last date.



Redwing: The first were two birds at Saxlingham on the 23rd and then four there the next day and singles at Sheringham Cemetery, Mundesley and Paston. On the 26th a single was on Beeston Common and three flew over Aylmerton. An increase at the end of the month saw twelve on Beeston Common on the 27th and twenty at West Runton on the 28th. *Photo 13 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Spotted Flycatcher: Birds recorded at Bale on the 8th, Trimmingham on the 14th & Happisburgh on the 29th.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER: A juvenile was present in the clifftop wood at Trimmingham on the 26th. Four club members managed to twitch the bird. The seventh for the NENBC area since formed. *Photo 14 courtesy of David Griffiths*



Pied Flycatcher: Just one record of a bird in Sheringham Cemetery on the 6th and 7th. *Photo 15 courtesy of Jane Crossen*

Redstart: Only four records this month with a bird at Sheringham Cemetery on the 8th, Bale on the 9th, East Runton on the 19th and Beeston Common from the 27th – 29th. *Photo 16 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Whinchat: Two on Weybourne Camp on the 1st, six around Sheringham Cemetery on the 7th when one bird was also found inland at Saxlingham. Two birds seen at Paston on the 8th and a juvenile at Saxlingham on the 13th. Finally, a single was around Sheringham Cemetery on the 25th. *Photo 17 courtesy of Jane Crossen*

Wheatear: Many reports of ones and twos along the coast with highs of five around Sheringham Cemetery and three Weybourne Camp on the 5th. On the 20th a single was found on the pig fields at Saxlingham. *Photo 18 courtesy of Jane Crossen*



Yellow Wagtail: Only recorded on two dates with one west at Weybourne on the 7th and inland one at Saxlingham on the 6th and two birds there on the 7th. *Photo 19 courtesy of Paul Laurie*

Rock Pipit: One – two birds on the 17th and 25th on the rocks at Sheringham. *Photo 20 courtesy of Russell Page*

Brambling: The first record was a bird at Trimmingham on the 26th, then a bird went west over Beeston Common on the 27th and birds at Aylmerton & Trimmingham on the 29th of the month.





Wildfowl begin arriving from the north in ever increasing numbers including species such as **Velvet Scoter** and **Long-tailed Duck**. Raptors are often encountered as they follow the passerines across the North Sea with **Hen Harrier**, **Merlin** and **Short-eared Owl** the most obvious. Clifftop fields may hold **Richard's Pipit**, as well as **Twite**, and **Lapland Bunting** and a north-east wind will increase the opportunities of finding **Yellow-browed Warbler** and **Pallas's Warbler** as well as the enigmatic **Great Grey Shrike**. Surprisingly there have been no records of **Radde's Warbler** in the ten years since the NENBC formed, one on the north east coast would be a welcome addition.

Observations from last month

Member Extra!

Ringed Bird Highlights

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. Project coordinators love to get data on their birds – after all, that is the reason for ringing them - so here is a reminder on how to do it from Chris Lamsdell: "Please report your colour ring birds to the relevant project co-ordinator which can be found through the EU Colour Ring website <https://cr-birding.org/>. Locally ringed Turnstones (red flag three letters starting JAA), Black-headed Gulls (red rings starting 2C00) and Marsh Tit (white rings 00-99) can be reported through <https://iceni.shinyapps.io/sightings/> Metal only rings can be reported to the BTO <https://app.bto.org/euring/lang/pages/rings.jsp>"



Turnstone – all ringed records were from Sheringham

- "crown groyne 1 metal ringed bird " [6th]; "All on prom and groyne below The Crown, one with metal leg ring." [12th]; "crown groyne, including metal ringed bird" [12th]
- "including XR39701 ringed here 17 Feb 2022. The ring is upside down. (Photo Jane Crossen)" [9th]
- "Numbers building up now. My first sighting of JAJ this year." [22nd]; "Including tagged JAJ." [25th]
- "On prom including red flagged bird as usual" [27th]



Herring Gull – Sheringham

- "Including this Essex ringed bird" [5th]

Caspian Gull

- "East beach slipway area green T|B ring, ringed as pullus (fledgling) on Lelystad Netherlands on 13/5/2025." [7th] Sheringham
- "green colour-ringed individual in the gull roost on the East beach" [15th] Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs
- "all juv including Berlin colour-ringed individual" [20th] Cromer Pier

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!



Brent Goose | "24x All west with 4 ditching on the sea and hopefully lifting off later!" | David Griffiths | Weybourne Camp | 29th

Pink-footed Goose | "16x Flying South West over Holt, calling. Earliest I've had them over this way. Several 100s back in at Cley though." | David Griffiths | Holt | 21st

Mute Swan | "10x I saw this year's cygnets take off and fly for the first time this morning. Also witnessed

synchronised feeding." | Andrew Crossley | Felbrigg Park | 22nd

Mute Swan | "2x On the Priory Pond - rehearsing the Swan Lake chorus!" | Jane Crossen | Sheringham | 22nd

Pheasant | "One pure white beautiful bird sadly released for shooting among many others inc red legged partridge" | Denise Jones | Northrepps | 26th

Swift | "16x over town feeding on the front of an approaching heavy shower" | Peter Geary | Sheringham | 4th

Little Stint | "2x East with dunlins. Dwarfed by them" | John Hurst | Mundesley | 15th

Common Sandpiper | "1x Feeding and showing really well - rocks in front of The Crown with Turnstone and Gulls. Nice size comparisons!" | Jane Crossen | Sheringham | 1st

Black Tern | "9x best of the vis-mig this morning when a single flock flew south through the valley." | Paul Laurie | Field Dalling & Saxlingham | 7th

Pomarine Skua | "A superb pale-phase adult with full tail-spoons passed leisurely west along the shoreline in glorious light - just what you want on a seawatch; seawatch 0900-1130" | Andy Clarke | Sheringham | 23rd

Arctic Skua | "Pale phase adult and very dark ? 3CY bird harassing Sandwich Terns. Great time to see these are there are several loafing around between Cley and Weybourne with at least two being seen waiting on the shingle to mug terns as they pass by!" | David Griffiths | Weybourne Camp | 19th

Long-tailed Skua | "Distant bird west at 16.55 - considered to be juv. - erratic flight, rising above waves. Narrow wings, grey-brown all over, no wing 'spots'." | Trevor Williams | Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs | 16th

Guillemot | "On sea, close in, seawatch 6.15-8.45 - thrilled to see these lovely birds, as I haven't seen any for two years" | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 9th

Fulmar | "Headed over the pier before circling the west cliffs and alighting in the gully there. May we assume that young are being still fed?" | John Hurst | Cromer Pier | 14th

Cory's Shearwater | "Flew east about 500 metres out from shore. Best view I've had in the county. Really languid, non-flapping flight, much arcing and totally unlike the nearby Gannets which were in the vicinity." | David Griffiths | Weybourne | 17th

Gannet | "Difficult to count - streaming through and much plunge diving" | David Griffiths | Weybourne | 17th

Cormorant | "I was rather surprised to disturb one roosting in trees near the priory. It flew down and started fishing in the pond nearest the house." | Jane Crossen | Sheringham | 22nd

Sparrowhawk | "Female again bombing through the garden. Must have been successful as lots of feathers from one of the feral white doves now decorate our back lawn" | David Griffiths | Holt | 2nd

Sparrowhawk | "Trying to watch the England rugby but distracted by 2 Sparrowhawk in the garden arguing over who gets the Goldfinch one of them has caught." | Carol Thornton | Gresham | 14th

Great Spotted Woodpecker | "High in ash tree in garden. Using crook in branch to hold hazelnuts which it was breaking into and eating. Discarded nut shells on ground. Has done this before. Often find discarded shells." | Stu Buck | Antingham & Bradfield | 24th

Great Spotted Woodpecker | "In my garden pecking at my log heap only ten foot away from me !!!" | Anne Sims | Gresham | 28th

Kestrel | "Around the field west of cemetery and arguing with a Magpie at one point - the Magpie won!" | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cemetery | 6th

Jay | "Looked like planting acorns. Already have one sapling from a previous year!" | David Griffiths | Holt | 28th

Blue Tit | "On feeders in apple tree; later 2 on front feeder, which they haven't used for months but have suddenly rediscovered because I'd taken the others down for cleaning" and "1 flying repeatedly at the window - complaining about the lack of feeders? When I put them back up, 3 were on the seed feeder almost immediately" | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 27th and 28th

Western Bonelli's Warbler | "Has to be my luckiest sighting to date, arriving on site as 2 birders were on the bird, time to get bins on and it flew low to the left, South, despite spending the next 90 minutes looking it was not relocated." | Tony Forster | West Runton | 8th

Goldcrest | "Spent 10 mins or so looking through a mixed tit/finch flock, 13 species logged, no walking involved, in one small patch of sunlit scrub" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 21st

Starling | "20x Rough count. Assuming mostly youngsters from the brown still in the plumage. All hoping for a bit of sausage roll from the people on the next bench" | Andrew Gorton | Cromer | 17th

Blackbird | "Actually I think this might well have been a 1st winter or female Ring Ouzel but I only saw it flying away high and straight from nearby tree far off to edge of woods with a silveriness to its underwings and underside." | Bob Farndon | Dilham Canal | 24th

Redwing | "Trees behind the garden then off south. My earliest autumn record of this species.3=" | John Hurst | Mundesley | 24th



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

* David & Andrea Brown * Martin Hammond * Jessica Bygrave *
* Robert Stevens * Jane & Jules Gray *

446 individual members
across 297 households

72,819
bird records logged

243 bird species reported

Please keep adding all your sightings to our website at www.nenbc.co.uk. Let us know if you have forgotten your password and need it resetting or need assistance on how to upload your records. More information from our website records, posts and social media presence in **Data, Records & Posts** [page 33](#).

Club Achievement Awards

Star Badges

No new achievers this month

Currently, **5** members have achieved **GOLD STAR** status, **22** members have been awarded **SILVER STAR** status and a fabulous **86** 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 is a little behind at the mo in assessing submitted description species (rarities) for acceptance. This is having an impact on our ability to 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

CONGRATULATIONS to David Barass – rather belatedly being awarded an Inland Green this month after his submission went astray earlier in the year - sorry!

We currently have **27** members who have achieved their **GREEN ECO-BADGES** [Coastal: 16 | Inland: 11] and 9 who have achieved **SUPER-GREEN** [Coastal: 8 | Inland:1].

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!



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.

Conservation Corner - can you help??

Would you be interested in joining or team of article writers for the Conservation Corner slot? We currently have two members writing excellent articles alternate months but a bit of back up would be very handy for months when they have other commitments.

If you don't fancy writing an occasional article, please let us know

WhatsApp Groups.....



The club runs two WhatsApp groups:

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 of interesting birds within the club area – no gossip allowed!

The advantage of both these groups is that you can get instant details about a bird sighting rather than having to rely on looking at the website later in the day and missing out. If either of these groups are of interest, drop us an email on nenbc@aol.co.uk and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate administrator. You'll need to provide your mobile number and sign up to the group rules. Both groups are free but to get the most out of them you'll need to be able to use the internet on your phone when you are out and about.

Speaker Suggestions

We are always on the lookout for recommendations for speakers for our indoor programme, or ideas you may have of subjects you'd like us to find a speaker on. If you have any thoughts, please drop Alan an email on ahstevens52@gmail.com

Thank you!

Contributions to the Newsletter

The newsletter is reliant on input from others, is certainly much richer from having a wide range of articles included and we could really do with some of your interesting stories! You really don't have to be a birding 'expert' to write something for our newsletter. It can be long or short, with or without photos, whatever suits. Please have a think about whether there is anything you could write about for a future publication. The copy deadline for any issue is the last day of the previous month, but it would be good to know in advance if you are planning to submit an article.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Club Sponsor **Bird Ventures** offer a 5% discount on own-branded wild bird food to NENBC members all year. Have a look at the Bird Ventures website www.birdventures.co.uk as they also supply feeders and much more with good advice and help for garden bird enthusiasts. Free local delivery available

Bird Ventures, The Wildlife Shop,
9B Chapel Yard, Albert Street,
Holt, Norfolk NR25 6HG

Telephone 01263 710203
salesbirdventures@aol.com

Opening Hours:
Monday
10:15am–4:00pm
Tuesday to Saturday
9:00am–4:00pm
Sunday Closed



Restocking our 2nd hand bookstall

We could do with some more book donations for our birds and other nature stall at our indoor events. We have rather a lot of Field Guides to the rest of the world so don't really need any more of those, but we could do with some more reading material from a bit closer to home. If you have any books languishing on your shelves that might suit, bring them along to one of our events or let us know on

nenbc@aol.co.uk

What's On?

General Event Information – please see our **website** or ‘upcoming events’ in this newsletter for **fuller details** of what we have on offer



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.

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: For the Felbrigg Park Walks no booking is required so just turn up on the day if you fancy it, although it is always nice to know to expect you so feel free to let us know! For the other, generally weekend, walks, and Walks Week, we sometimes require advance booking and if this is the case it will say so on our publicity

General Talks Info

LOCATION: Our indoor events are benenerally 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 a couple of our regular **Felbrigg Park Walk**, a monthly mid-week favourite, followed by the return of our annual **Walks Week Programme** with no less than 8 walks on offer this autumn and then next month a trip out of area to the popular **RSPB Titchwell Marsh Nature Reserve**. Our **October Evening Talk** this month is all about the Martins! Don't forget to get the date in your diaries for our **Christmas Social and AGM** which this year is on Thursday 11th December – more details on that next month. Look forward to seeing you at these events soon.

30th October 7:30pm to 9:30pm
Gresham Village Hall and via Zoom
"House Martin Conservation" a talk with Martin Tickler
 Always interested in natural history, Martin's passion for House Martins began over 40 years ago when a pair nested at his Suffolk cottage. Last season the colony consisted of 34 pairs in a mixture of natural and artificial nests. He was closely involved with the BTO House Martin Survey and nest recording work and now contributes to House Martin Conservation UK and to the Suffolk Birds Group campaign which support the care and protection of these Red List birds, raising awareness of the species in communities, encouraging action to improve their nesting opportunities, and gathering international data on all factors affecting the fortunes of these wonderful little hirundines.

Felbrigg Park Monthly Walk 9:00am to 11:00am with Trevor Williams

This sociable walk caters for all levels of birding ability so come and give us a try. We take a leisurely stroll around the park and lake, route dependent on the local bird and other wildlife recently reported or likely to be present on the day. We see around 40 bird species on an average walk and even on the 'worst' of days more than 30. And there is a café stop at the end of the walk.

15th October | 20th November | 17th December

Please come and join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except August), you would be most welcome!

NO BOOKING REQ'D | PARK & MEET: Main Felbrigg Hall car park – free for National Trust members | **DISTANCE:** 2 miles | **ACCESSIBILITY:** Not suitable for wheelchair users but could be for those with limited mobility – please get on touch. | **FACILITIES:** Café and loos at the Hall | **BADGES:** In area so all appropriate individual records count towards club badges.

RSPB Titchwell Marsh Nature Reserve Walk with Janice Darch Saturday 8th November | 9:00am to 1:00pm

Titchwell can be an exciting reserve at any time of the year. In November we should be treated to returning waders and wildfowl and a seawatch may yield rafts of Common Scoter, or possibly a Velvet Scoter, as well as passing Gannets and auk species. The scrapes and reedbeds can be viewed from the hides and banks.

BOOKING REQ'D: Via janicedarch@gmail.com before noon on the Friday | **PARK & MEET:** RSPB Titchwell Marsh car park, Coast Road (A149) just west of Titchwell Village PE31 8BA. Please bring your RSPB membership cards to obtain free car parking. | **DISTANCE:** approx 3 miles | **ACCESSIBILITY:** The walk is mostly flat, boardwalks and rolled sand and gravel surface with accessible hides so may be suitable for wheelchair users or those with limited mobility. | **FACILITIES:** Toilets are available and there is a café and shop. | **BADGES:** Not in the club area so species can't count toward club badges this time – sorry!

Autumn Walks Week | Monday 27th October to Monday 3rd November

Our annual 'week' of small group walks is back at the end of the month with 8 to choose from. We have taken on board feedback we've received from members and thrown in a few shorter strolls with café / snack options either mid-walk or at the end (dependent on the location) so we hope that those of you who find some of our other walks a bit too far will polish up your walking boots and join us again. As these events are deliberately for small numbers, **we do need advance bookings** for them. Please contact Carol via nenbc@aol.co.uk to reserve a spot. You are welcome to come on more than one walk but if a walk is over-subscribed we will aim to give priority for that walk to folk only wishing to attend one.

- WALK 1 | Beeston Birds | Mon 27-Oct | 10:30 to 12:30 | 1.5 miles | Francis Farrow**
- WALK 2 | Cromer Golf Course Loop | Tue 28-Oct | 09:00 to 11:30 | 4 miles | café option | Trevor Williams**
- WALK 3 | Blickling Lake & Woods | Wed 29-Oct | 09:00 to 11:00 | 2.5 miles | café option | Alan Stevens**
- WALK 4 | Around Happisburgh | Thu 30-Oct | 09:00 to 12:00 | 3 miles | cake! | Julian Thomas**
- WALK 5 | Muckleburgh Hill | Fri 31-Oct | 09:30 to 11:00 | 2 miles | Colin Blaxill**
- WALK 6 | The Cromer Ridge above Overstrand | Sat 01-Nov | 09:00 to 12:00 | 3 miles | Stella Baylis**
- WALK 7 | Bottom of the Bump | Sun 02-Nov | 09:30 to 11:30 | 2 miles | café option | Dave Billham**
- WALK 8 | Spout Hill | Mon 03-Nov | 09:00 to 10:00 | 0.75 miles | café option | John Swallow**

Full details for parking, accessibility etc are on the website but here is a bit more to give you a flavour of the walk and where to meet. **BOOKING REQUIRED** due to small group size!

Walks Week!

WALK #1: Beeston Birds | Monday 27th October | 10:30am to 12:30pm | Francis Farrow | 1.5 miles

A circular walk through the mixed habitat of Beeston Common - grassland, wetland, heath and woodland with the Honorary Common Warden. **NEARLY FULL**

MEETING POINT: In the layby on the A149 layby (nearest post code: NR26 8RX, Grid: TG166425, W3W: charities.stray.overture)

WALK #2: Cromer Golf Course Loop | Tuesday 28th October | 09:00am to 11:30am | Trevor Williams | 4 miles

A loop walk taking in Cromer Golf Course, a well-known local hot-spot for migrants, returning either along the shore looking for sea-birds (depending on tide) or woodland edge. Moderately difficult in respect of walking surface and climbing.

MEETING POINT: The boating pool in North Lodge Park

WALK #3: Blickling Lake & Woods | Wednesday 29th October | 09:00am to 11:00am | Alan Stevens | 2.5 miles

Walking away from the car park we will walk to the park gates and turn through the wood. On reaching the lake we can have a good look at the south end of the lake before walking the west side of the lake taking in the reed beds and copse. At the north end we will take time to have a close look at the wood there before returning along the east side, again with reed beds, and its stand of trees. We will then return the Hall taking in wooded pasture and the east side of the gardens. Just short of the walk end we will be at the café where it may be nice to stop for a coffee for those who have time.

MEETING POINT: Car Park payment meter at entrance to the Blickling Hall car park off Blickling Road

WALK #4: Around Happisburgh | Thursday 30th October | 9:00am to 12:00noon | Julian Thomas | 3 miles

We will walk out to the old Coastwatch station, along coast to village, explore parts of village, then maybe to Cart Gap and return.

MEETING POINT: The Happisburgh Community Pay-and-Display Car Park (NR12 OPR)

WALK #5: Circuit of Muckleburgh Hill | Friday 31st October | 09:30 to 11:00 | Colin Blaxill | 2 miles

A walk on undulating terrain but reasonable paths around the heathland and secondary woodland of Muckleburgh Hill with views to the sea with a break in Kelling.

MEETING POINT: Weynor Gardens NR25 7EQ | [Google maps](#)

WALK #6: The Cromer Ridge above Overstrand | Saturday 1st November | 09:00 to 12:00 | Stella Baylis | 3 miles

Starting in Overstrand, we will head south towards Northrepps up on to the Cromer ridge. Taking public and permissive paths, we will work our way towards Hungry Hill before descending from the ridge back into Overstrand. There is extensive scrub, woodland and hedgerows that may host thrushes, warblers, tits, finches and any other autumn migratory birds. There are also good views from the top of the ridge for scanning for raptors. Walking boots needed.

MEETING POINT: Toilet block at the North Norfolk District Council Pay-and-Display car park, Paul's Lane, Overstrand, NR27 OPE

What 3 Words [initiates.testy.today](#) | | [Google maps](#)

WALK #7: Bottom of the Bump | Sunday 2nd November | 09:30 to 11:30 | Dave Billham | 2 miles

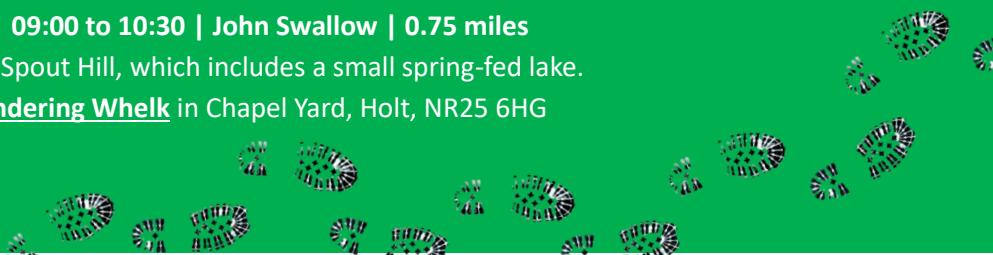
A walk through East Sheringham and Beeston Regis. Starting from Beeston Common layby, we will visit the priory ponds and paddocks, then head for the clifftop path and down into Sheringham, where we will visit a café for refreshments. The return will be across the lower commons back to the layby.

MEETING POINT: In the layby on the A149ayby (nearest post code: NR26 8RX, Grid: TG166425, W3W: charities.stray.overture)

WALK #8: Spout Hill | Monday 3rd November | 09:00 to 10:30 | John Swallow | 0.75 miles

A short walk in the park and woodland around Spout Hill, which includes a small spring-fed lake.

MEETING POINT: Outside the front of [The Wandering Whelk](#) in Chapel Yard, Holt, NR25 6HG

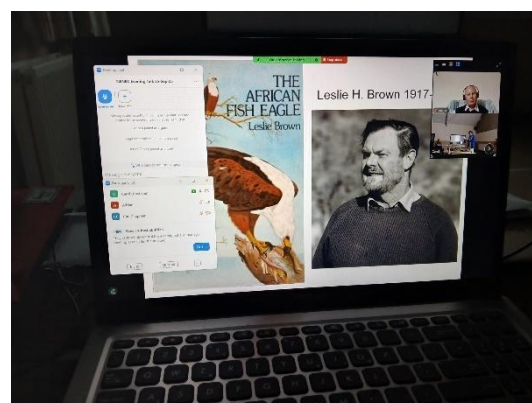




By Alan Stevens

The return to our indoor meetings after the summer break saw four members taking to the floor for another of our Members' Evenings when in the space of about 20 minutes they tell us something they know about birds.

Always well attended, by the time we got the evening under at 7.30pm, there were about 50 members in the hall and others joined us via Zoom, all eager to hear what our speakers had to say. This year we had two new faces with Maureen Harper talking about her experience of African Fish Eagles and Bev Taylor giving a run down on the Felbeck Trust, followed by two regular contributors, Andy Clark with a report on his recent trip to Finland and Norway and finishing with John Hurst, who at this stage of the evening was keeping to subject matter of his talk close to his chest.



So, first up was Maureen, whose talk took off with a video clip of a pair of African Fish Eagles calling - and what a cry they made and one which she told us was her wake-up call on so many occasions. She went on to explain that her work with the eagles was centred on Lake Naivasha on the Great Rift Valley in Kenya, a freshwater lake of around 100 km square. While there she stayed at Joy Adamson's former home 'Elsamere Lodge' run by the 'Elsa Conservation Trust' and surrounded by acacia trees with Columbus Monkeys and hippos (more of which later!) in the lake.

There to study the fortunes of the eagles, firstly in 1990, Maureen set the scene by describing the lake, calm in the mornings often turning windy and rough later, rough enough to sink a canoe with hippos chasing it! One of the important measures undertaken was to assess the clarity of the lake as the level of opacity directly affects the eagles' ability to catch fish.

Our speaker introduced us to Leslie Brown, the renowned ornithologist and author who studied the eagle's population during the 1960s and 70s, and it was his work that was used as base data. Working as a colonial agricultural officer, Brown spent his spare time sleeping on a boat to spend as much time as he could with the eagles. Dividing the lake into 4 sectors he recorded the trees where eagles perched and fished from, the nests,



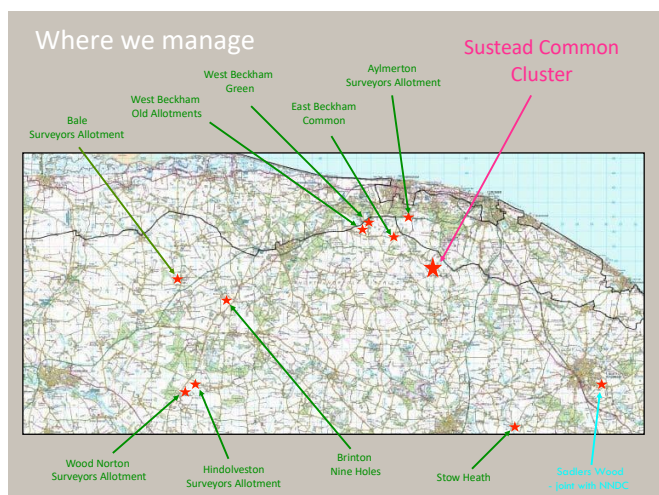
the number of juveniles and the aquatic vegetation. The lake differed from when Maureen was there - the water level was higher and there were lagoons outside the main lake and the eagles could easily fish from their perches in the acacia trees. Water Lilies abounded in the lake but were since decimated by introduced Red Louisiana Crayfish, an attempt at diversification by local fishermen. Water Hyacinth is now a predominate species as is Papyrus which gained a stronghold as the lake level dropped, and agriculture advanced into the areas where there were once lagoons. Brown recorded around 200 eagles during his time there but by 1990 numbers had fallen to just 90 with no juveniles apparently present, a situation that demanded investigation. Was the lack of any obvious breeding success a result of a change in habitat, especially the loss of the lagoons or was something else afoot? Maureen explained her methodology over the years she visited the lake observing locations around the perimeter and recording nest sites and the number of birds and attempting to differentiate between single birds and pairs – not easy when they can be a long way apart. Numbers were still only at 98 in 1997. But then the rains came, the water level rose and the fortunes of the eagles, and much other wildlife, improved. Breeding in their large untidy nests improved and the eagles fed on the Black and Large-mouthed Bass.

At the close of her time there Maureen had 57 territories with 114 birds including juveniles taking their full 5 years to reach maturity. She rightly waxed lyrical about these eagles their cry, their plumage and now their improving fortunes at Lake Naivasha and elsewhere with what for the time being is considered a stable population so some good news to finish on.



Having just been to Africa Bev bought us firmly back home to Norfolk with 'A Year at Sustead Common'. In addition to being a member of the NENBC, Bev is a Trustee of the Felbeck Trust (FT), something which many of our members are aware of because of the charity's close links to our club and the fact we have a great pool of willing volunteers! Others may not yet have heard of it so here, for them, was an opportunity learn something of it.

Starting with an overview our speaker explained that the FT was registered in 2016 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and manages small parcels of neglected land in North Norfolk with the aim of improving biodiversity for the benefit wildlife. It now tends over a dozen sites under agreements with The National Trust (NT), North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) and several parish councils. The Trust is a low-cost organisation with no employees or premises and a majority of the work, excluding where specialist machinery or training is required, is carried out by volunteers. The Board of Trustees set the strategic direction of the charity and provide governance. Income relies on donations and grant support. The volunteers number around 50 with the dedicated core of 12-20 attending work parties ever few weeks.



The background set, Bev moved on to the focus for her talk by giving an illustration of what the Trust gets up to by drawing on their work at 'The Sustead Cluster' found along the Felbrigg Road from Sustead Green. The site has four components: The Common owned by the NT and managed by the FT under an agreement; 'The Surveyors Allotment', owned by NNDC now leased to the FT for 99 years; Spurrell's Wood, a native deciduous wood planted in the 1980s and now owned by FT after a public appeal and a significant grant from The People's Lottery; and lastly a Roadside Nature Reserve (No49) with a citation including orchid species and ferns and extended following an application from the FT – readers may have noticed new signs popping up at these reserves in the area of late. In addition, she explained the

Gur Beck runs these sites adding extra value before joining Scarrow Beck and from there the River Bure.

So, within this area, the FT has an interesting variety of habitat ripe for enhancement. Bev detailed the different areas with a precis of the work undertaken which she said was not 'just gardening'! Starting with the woodland which, aside from several old oaks, is planted with Ash, Hornbeam, Wild Cherry and Willow. Improvements have been made by judicious removal of dead trees (some dead trees are good), and the carrying out of coppicing, dry hedging, hedge laying and scrub clearance. A copious number of nest boxes and bat boxes have been provided and are monitored. Grassland restoration has mainly undertaken on The Common by removing scrub and planned seasonal cutting with scythes to restore a habitat encouraging the return of grass and flora species. Scrub is great for nature, but in moderation, providing shelter for breeding birds and food for wildlife. Areas of scrub have been removed resulting in open areas of grassland and sheltered areas in the woodland. Globally there are 210 chalk streams and with the Gur Beck, the FT is fortunate to have one of 17 in Norfolk flowing through these sites. Improvement works have included clearing debris, improving flows and the provision of winter scrapes. This work also focuses on the three top sources of pollution - agricultural and road run-off and sewage discharge. The Upper Bure is heavily polluted and the FT, we were told, has a partnership with the NT Riverlands Project to help clean it up. The Roadside Nature Reserve, part of a joint venture between Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Norfolk County Council, is managed with mowing and general tidying up in accordance with its status. An Outdoor Classroom / bird hide has been built on The Common and is used by children staying at the nearby Aylmerton Study Centre (as well as for the volunteers to eat doughnuts in!).



Bev then turned to a seasonal overview of several of the species benefitting from, and found at, the site. In spring, Tawny Owls, Bullfinches, Song Thrushes, breeding frogs and toads and emerging hedgehogs; in summer, Brown Hawkers, Norfolk Comfrey, nesting birds including Great Spotted Woodpeckers and a variety of butterflies and moths; autumn brings fungi, dragonflies and, if luck is with you, Purple Hairstreak and Silver-washed Fritillary butterflies; and in winter look for Siskins, Woodcock, winter thrushes and more fungi on decaying trees.

Drawing to a close our speaker turned to the Trust's band of specialist surveyors who comb FT sites from time to time and whose findings have confirmed that the work at Sustead is clearly paying dividends gauged by the 'explosion' in the number of species found. To conclude, and aware she was talking to a bird club, Bev showed a slide of birds recorded at FT sites including Turtle Dove, Yellow-browed Warbler and Hawfinch.



Bev's talk encapsulated very clearly what a difference some hard work and dedication can achieve in giving nature a chance and encouraged those at the meeting to think about coming along.



In between talks, as well as eating too many cakes (thanks Hilary, ably assisted by Seán!), getting a run down on the birds of the past month and a heads up on upcoming events, we had a few badges to give out. Many thanks to club Vice President Francis Farrow who presented Alan Stevens with his Silver Badge for recording 200 species in the club area, and Janice Darch and Carol & Rob Hutcheson with their 10 Year Badges as they have been members since the second half of 2015 – thank you!



After a fair amount of ‘bird talk’ over refreshments Andy took to the floor to take us away again, this time to Finland and Norway with his talk ‘In search of owls in the land of the midnight sun’. Starting with a slide of his two guides, one from France but based in South America and the other from Finnature, the company to go with, from Halifax, Nova Scotia. A further slide showed his route through Finland to the far north of arctic Norway with a target of filling in blanks on his list with and a hope of seeing nesting owls. In Finland at Oulu he was to see owls, grouse, woodpeckers and shorebirds; at Kuusamo, Bluetails and Siberian Jays; followed by Grosbeaks in Ivalo; and finally tundra birds, ducks and eagles in Norway. So, quite a ride and lots of birds!

Having a North American guide bought its challenges as Andy highlighted the different names for birds used by Americans, a Slavonian Grebe is a Horned Grebe and a Sand Martin is Bank Swallow for example. With Andy’s talks we get lots of birds and lots of brilliant photographs and he started in Oulu with a Pygmy Owl followed by a Great Grey Owl on a nest, a Tengmalm’s Owl looking out of a nest box and a well-hidden Ural Owl in a tree stump nest. Among other species encountered here were Black Woodpecker, beautiful Willow Ptarmigan and a surprise Honey Buzzard. A Terek Sandpiper was noted nesting in a lorry park and our speaker related that they have a propensity to nest close to human activity and mentioned another example of nesting close to a sawmill. Our attention was next drawn to the loss of native forests in Finland over the last 500 years or so and its replacement with a monoculture of coniferous trees with the resultant loss of a diverse habitat and the inevitable consequences that follow. At Kuusamo Andy’s tour guides did however visit an area of contrasting habitat in a virgin forest close to the Russian border where Siberian Jays and Red-flanked Bluetails, one of the target species, were seen and where our speaker would have liked to loiter for longer but, as with guided tours, there is inevitable a need to move on. Moving on to Ivalo Three-toed Woodpeckers, Capercaillie and very elusive Hazel Grouse were added to the trip list. A visit to a renowned café to view Pine Grosbeaks looked fun as the café provides feeders to attract the birds and has become a must go to stop for birders for close up opportunities which for Andy included a Mealy Redpoll and Little Bunting. Moving north for the last time the tour visited the northern territory of Finnmark an area famous for seabirds around the Varanger Fjord. A new habitat for the trip and different birds; lots of Wood Sandpiper, Goldeneye, Whooper Swan, Smew and Guillemot, Tundra Geese and Barnacle and Taiga Bean Geese. Wooden boardwalks gave access to Broad-billed Sandpiper and a roadside was good for Lapland Buntings. Long-tailed Skua were described as surprisingly hovering much like a Kestrel. Images of Dotterel, Rock Ptarmigan, Golden Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Red-throated Pipit, Ringed Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, White-billed Diver (Yellow-billed Loon in American), Guillemot and Brünnich’s Guillemot all added to the picture drawn of this trip. On a visit to Vardo Andy came across a statue of Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian polymath famous for among other things being the first to traverse the Greenland ice pack but who failed to reach the North Pole.





The species count ended for this trip with a Hawk Owl, something many of us would like to do!, and with a trip list of 149. Another great talk from Andy.



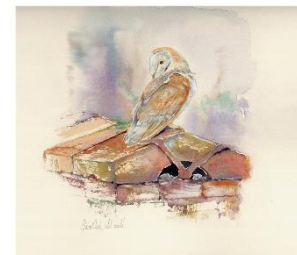
For our final talk of the evening John Hurst took over with the last (I think!) of his trilogy of talks about his life growing up, birding, teaching and of course working as a successful artist and author, with a presentation titled 'Ornithological education or not?!'. Since his first contribution in 2019 he has taken use through a myriad of tales that shoot off at unexpected tangents and roll from the poignant to the hilarious. A natural raconteur with so much to say in 20 minutes I am again cautious about retelling his stories, it's not my purpose here.

So, what about a flavour of what he had to tell us this time? For a while during the 1980s John was an environmental and arts advisor working in rural Lincolnshire schools in areas where a degree of poverty was not unusual, and the title of his talk led us rightly into thinking that a number of his tales would come that time. John started with a drawing he made of one the schools he worked in and started with a question given to one of his charges - 'Why is a Brimstone butterfly called a Brimstone' The answer given by the boy was 'Well, it's called a Brimstone butterfly because it's the colour of butter and it flies.'....and so the evening continued through an amazing variety of recollections which, because we are a bird club, and John is a life-long birder, included birds and the nature surrounding him. They ranged from his friends pet Jackdaw to Albert's snake (used as necktie) and the vacant vicar, a Yellow-breasted Bunting at Filey Brigg, Beijing swift geo locators, a Gales Honey competition, 'The guided rocket and the Bairds', a screeching owl, Sparrowhawk attack, Drakes Explorations and Encounters (about ducks), the milkman at the garden gate, a tale from Spurn exclaiming 'It's a long way off but I think it's a Stock Dove', and finishing with one titled 'Wheatear or Raven. Oh no...where on earth is my phone'. One story did catch a few members out when John suggested there had been the serious suppression of a sighting in Sheringham last September of a Wallcreeper. The convoluted story via the sighting of a 'spidercatcher' in Stratton Strawless in 1792 resulted in the revelation that John had actually been watching a colourful leaf blowing up and down a wall! ... but it had a few of the members going until that point! Ever generous, John donated a lovely watercolour collage on the proviso that whoever answered a question from his talk should donate at least £20 to club funds. It was won by the President without a murmur of 'Fix!'



30th October 1792 Robert Marham, Statton Strawless Hall to Gilbert White. 'A spidercatcher, the quill feathers of which are 'uncommonly pleasing'

A serious Sheringham suppression September 2024. Exactly one year ago tonight!



The screeching owl. You told me that it *wasn't* what I thought it was and I thought it was a screeching owl.



Drake. Explorations and Encounters. A National Curriculum for life.



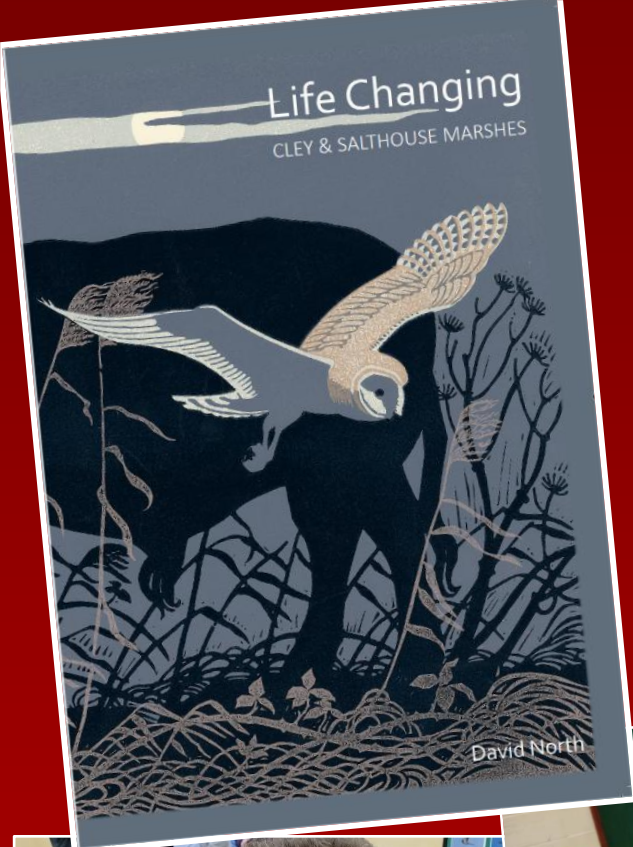
The Spotted Dickies Spurn and the redfoot, IW, BE and RRS! No GSW! "It's a long way off but I think it's a stock dove".

The evening closed with a well-deserved appreciation from the members for the speakers' time and efforts and **I am now looking forward to organising another next year, so thinking caps on, come and tell us something about birds!**

Do contact Alan on ahstevens52@gmail.com if you fancy a go – we'd love to hear from you!



Dear milkman. Please close the garden gate because.....



We were very pleased to have club member David North along for the evening, signing copies of his new book on Cley & Salthouse Marshes.

David has made a limited number of these copies available for purchase to NENBC members at a special membership discount price of £15 and they will be available for purchase at this autumn's indoor meetings. Each copy sold will provide a donation to NENBC of £1 and all profits from the book support Norfolk Wildlife Trust's conservation work at Cley and Salthouse Marshes.

If you haven't yet got your hands on a copy, don't hesitate – it is a lovely book and would make a great Christmas present!





By Dave Billham

My first thought, on looking out of my bedroom window on the morning of the walk, was - do I really want to go put in this? Rain, and forecast to worsen as the morning wore on. But, if you don't go out, you don't see the birds, so anorak, waterproof trousers and hat were donned, followed by a wet drive to Felbrigg. As I arrived I wondered if anyone else had been daft enough to turn out, but I should have known better. Eight hardy folk gathered, including two new members, Jane and Kevin, on their first Wednesday walk. Trevor was leading, but we were without Carol as our 'sweeper-upper' at the back, as she had a prior commitment.

A distinct lack of birds was evident as we waited to start. A few **Jackdaw**, even less **Carrion Crow** and a single **Woodpigeon** were around the car park, with a lone **Herring Gull** drifting overhead. A **Magpie** had also been spotted by two members as they arrived. However, things looked up a little as we spotted a couple of **Swallow**, feeding on something in the air above us. More and more appeared until we had 13 of these little beauties swooping around, leaving us wondering what on earth they could be feeding on, as the rain appeared

to have washed the air of insects. Something had to be up there though.

As the rain was not yet too heavy the decision was made to cross the open ground to the lake first, so that if the heavens opened later we would hopefully be in the shelter of the trees. **Rook** was all that we added to the list on the fields, and it was not until we were in sight of the water meadows that we heard both **Pheasant** and **Jay** calling. As we tried to spot these two, a couple of **Mistle Thrush** flew over us, followed by some more, then yet more, until an amazing 33 had passed over as a loose flock; quite a sight. We then walked down to the bridge over the beck to see what might be on the water, but found only a **Kestrel** and an over-flying **Black-headed Gull**. To dampen enthusiasm yet further, the rain was definitely getting heavier. Four birds overhead caught our eye; raising binoculars it was a real 'it can't be' moment until realisation sank in - **Osprey**! Two Jackdaw and a Carrion Crow were harassing it as it slowly drifted over us; it seemed to show a bit of interest in the lake before changing its mind and heading off, leaving a group of stunned but happy birders behind it. Wow, and totally unexpected;

the first sighting of this species on a monthly walk since I started compiling the records some three and a bit years ago. Trevor put out the news on the club's Whatsapp feed, getting a quick, frustrated response from Carol – every time she cannot attend a walk, we find a cracking bird!



Down on the lake we could see three **Moorhen** and no less than ten **Mute Swan**; two adults with seven of this year's brood (including one 'Polish') and one of last year's juveniles who, unable to fly, has remained on the lake all year and is tolerated to lesser or greater degrees by the adult male depending on how the mood takes him on the day! Three **Gadwall**, a lonesome **Coot** and a trio of **Cormorant** completed the waterborne list, though a few Swallow were noted feeding over the lake. One common species we were missing was eventually found when we saw some **Mallard** tucked in against the

bank as we walked along the wooded path on the lake's edge.

The rain was now getting fairly heavy, and we were getting wetter and wetter (me especially, as I was rapidly discovering that my anorak had lost an awful lot of its waterproofing over a summer hung on coat-pegs!). Although we had only been out for one of our allotted two hours, we had a chat amongst the group where the decision was made to retire to the cafe early; the rain was getting heavier, the birds were keeping their heads down and we felt we had seen the morning's highlight already! Turning towards the house, we heard the alarm calls of a **Wren** and the song of a **Robin** – both gratefully entered into the book as, so far, the smaller birds had been conspicuous by their absence. Further on, a single call alerted us to a **Common Buzzard** overhead. We stopped to watch another flock of Swallow, feeding just over a stand of trees, and found a **House Martin** in amongst them; possibly two, but it was hard to keep track as they circled the treetops. Once again, we could not see what they could be feeding on. Passing the small pond a **Grey Heron** was on guard over a few Mallard, but it wasn't until we were almost back at the house that we eventually found some tits; **Blue Tit** and **Long-tailed Tit** in a large mixed flock. With these entered into the total we gratefully retired to the café to dry off and drink coffee, and most welcome it was too. A low species count of **26**, but not too bad considering both the rain and a halved walk-time. But, Osprey! What a great morning.



Last Month's Weekend Walk Cromer-Incledorrough-Runton Loop | Saturday 20th September



By Trevor Williams

We gathered by the Blue Sky café at the entrance to the Runton Road car-park, Cromer, on the 20th for another in our series of 10th Anniversary walks. This time we were doing a version of the Incledorrough Hill loop, a popular destination in the early days of the Club.

By the time all eight members had assembled we'd got our list off to a good start with a late Swallow on the toilet block roof and a few House Martins flying west - always a puzzle in the autumn why these migrants appear to be heading *away* from the European mainland but they do! We had a nice mix of takers - Jane & Kevin, who have recently become members, were joined by Berni, David & Maureen and 'veteran' weekend walkers David B and Chris. As part of the welcome and introduction I explained that wherever possible we were moving away from pre-booking, a necessary requirement in the covid years, back towards our original walks concept with the flexibility to just turn up if you fancied it on the day.

We set off across the 'Runton Gap', a thin segment of green-belt between Cromer and East Runton and using a network of footpaths eventually joined Mill Lane - checking the fields and allotments for migrants as we went. On entering the village we turned south under the railway viaduct, then right by Top Common pond towards the base of Incledorrough Hill. Here the hedgerows were laden with winter berries but, apart from Chiffchaff and Blackcap, alas no autumn migrants.

Crossing the golf course I got tantalising views of a pipit sp. which disappeared into the pine belt but it failed to reappear. We then wove our way through the 'suburbs' of West Runton before joining the footpath at the edge of the pony paddocks to Water Lane.

At this point we decided to bring forward our coffee-break and we availed ourselves of the hospitality of the Seaview Café - run by Club members Louise & Martin. A thorough search of the paddocks during the refreshment interval failed to produce any migrants and it was the same result when we went to search for waders on the wave-cut platform at the bottom of the slip-way. A winter Mediterranean Gull in the roost on cliff-top fields was a welcome boost to morale.

Common Gull



Mediterranean Gull (library pic)



We headed back along the coastal path, through the caravan park, before eventually descending to the beach by the East Runton coastal watch-point. This last stretch of beach produced a couple of late Sandwich Tern, Gannet and, best of all, a close-in Arctic Skua - a much appreciated 'lifer' for at least one of the group.

We arrived back at the start three hours later after an enjoyable and reasonably successful birding walk - revisiting old haunts and making new friends.

Post Script. I walked back home with David & Maureen for company. As we reached the pier I noticed a Caspian Gull with a distinctive coloured ring. Once I was able to get better views I confirmed it was the bird of German origin which had been hanging around for a few days. Closing the list at a respectable 37 species.

Caspian Gull



You'll notice that Trevor forgot to take a group shot on the walk (but he has apologised so I have forgiven him!). It is always nice for those of us who didn't make a walk to see those who did enjoying themselves so if you are out and about, don't be shy reminding our leaders to take a people pic, or, even better, take the initiative and take a picture yourself, posed or natural, of the group (with their permission obviously) and email it in to me, Carol on nenbc@aol.co.uk. As always, any bird or scenic shots always appreciated too. Thank you!

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 their topic, feedback regularly via Zoom or in-person, and at the end of the process present us with an individual consultancy report. This time we worked with three students. Below is part of the brief for the second of these along with the **Executive Summary** from the student consultant and we'll have the remaining project next month. If you would like to be emailed the full consultancy reports for any of these projects then just let us know.

**UNCOVERING THE MYSTERY
OF GOLDEN ORIOLE**



LUCIAN DELANEY
23/05/2025



**PHENOLOGICAL TRENDS
IN MIGRATORY SPECIES**

Jasmin Evans
June 11th 2025

**MIGRATORY
LINKS BETWEEN
NORFOLK AND
AFRICA:**

**Phenological Trends
in Migratory Species**





Isabella Twigg
29th May 2025

Phenological Trends in Migratory Species

Using data published in the Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report, compile a time-course of arrival and departure dates for migrant birds in Norfolk. Examine these data for major trends such as long-term shifts in arrival or departure dates (and thereby length of stay), whether patterns vary between species wintering in different areas, and compare these results with those from elsewhere in UK or Europe, to establish how general these patterns might be. Differences in phenology may allow distinction between factors operating primarily in UK that influence the timing of migration, and those operating mostly in Africa. Summarise results in a report which includes simple but informative tables, graphs or maps

Phenological Trends in Migratory Species by Jasmin Evans

Disclaimer: This material is based upon work supported by **Jasmin Evans** 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

Background

The focus of this report is to investigate the phenological changes in migration dates of Long-Distance Migratory birds (LDMs) which summer in their recording area, or in Norfolk more generally. Migration phenology changes, or more simply changes in the timing of migration, can be useful to study as phenology is noted to be one of the natural processes which is most vulnerable to climate change. In the UK LDMs have been arriving at their summering grounds or been sighted at spring stopovers earlier over the past decades. Species who are advancing their migratory phenology, i.e. arriving at breeding grounds earlier, are showing that they are adapting to climate change successfully. As a result of this it is important to know which species are not advancing their migratory phenology as they are likely to be at risk of population decline or vulnerability. There is an imbalance in the

vulnerability of LDMs to climate change based on their habitat requirements. Species which are reliant on woodlands in breeding grounds are most vulnerable to climate change effects, additionally agriculture and farming put many more species at risk. In the recording area of the NENBC the vast majority of land is agricultural in some way. As a result of this it was decided that my research and recommendations would focus primarily on LDMs who utilise agricultural land and the effects of agricultural practices on LDMs.

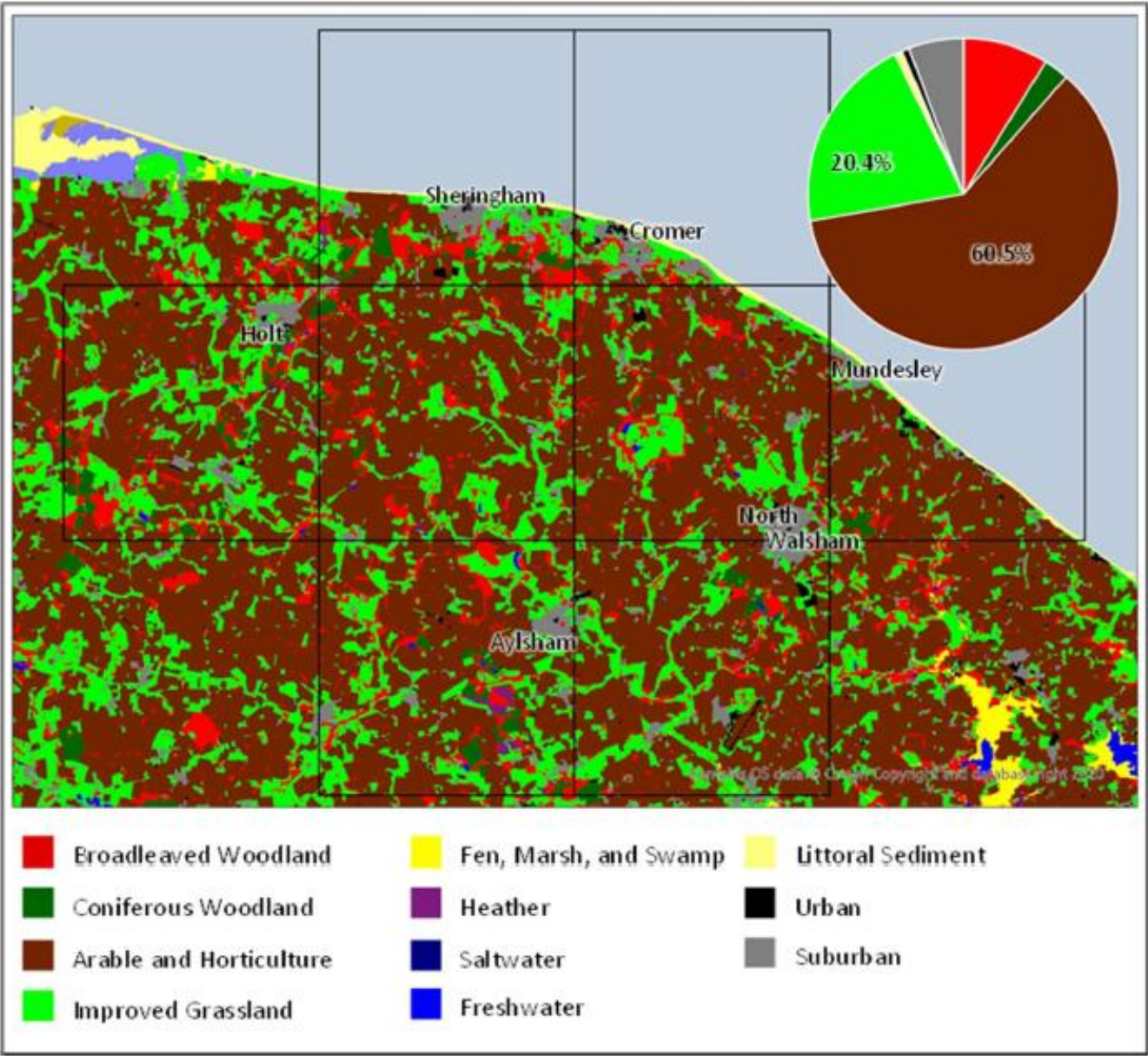


Figure 1 - Land Cover Map of North Norfolk with pie chart showing percentage of each type of land cover within NENBC recording area. (Excludes land use types making up under 0.8% of total land.) (Morton *et al.*, 2024) Based upon Land Cover Map 2023 © UKCEH 2024. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2007, Licence number 100017572.

Findings

My analysis of the databases I created from the Norfolk Bird and Mammal Reports and the NENBC data showed that, of the fifty-two species which either pass through Norfolk on their spring and autumn migrations, or migrate to Norfolk for summer, four were found to be arriving earlier while 2 were found to arrive later over time. These results also showed that three species were staying in either Norfolk or the NENBC area longer whilst three were staying a shorter amount of time over the period for which I had data.

The four species which were found to be advancing their migration phenology could be assumed to be adapting successfully to the effects of the changing climate however all were listed by BOCC5 as Amber which means they have experienced a decline in either breeding population or range in Britain over the past decade.

Species Focus

52 species have some form of arrival or departure data recorded by the NENBC or reported in the NEMR; 34 are common to both and 13 have a statistically significant result (tables 1, 2, & 3).

Table 4 shows the 13 species with a statistically significant change in arrival date, departure date, or length of stay. The NEMR records show different species as having phenological changes in these areas than the NENBC, however, neither dataset contradicts the results of the other.

TABLE 4 - SPECIES WITH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT RESULTS FROM LINEAR REGRESSION

<i>Species</i>	<i>Dep/Arr</i>	<i>Length of stay</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>UK Conservation Status †</i>
<i>Common Sandpiper</i>	Departing later*	Staying longer	Wader	Amber
<i>Common Tern</i>	Arriving later		Gulls and Terns	Amber
<i>Common Whitethroat</i>	Arriving earlier		Warblers	Amber
<i>Lesser Whitethroat</i>	Departing later	Staying longer	Warblers	Green
<i>Little Tern</i>	Departing earlier	Staying shorter	Gulls and Terns	Amber
<i>Nightjar</i>	Departing earlier*		Nightjars	Amber
<i>Reed Warbler</i>	Arriving earlier		Warblers	Green
<i>Roseate Tern</i>		Staying shorter	Gulls and Terns	Red
<i>Wheatear</i>	Arriving earlier*	Staying longer*	Chats	Amber
<i>Whimbrel</i>	Departing earlier*	Staying shorter*	Waders	Red
<i>Whinchat</i>	Departing earlier		Chats	Red
<i>Willow Warbler</i>	Arriving later*		Warblers	Amber
<i>Wood Sandpiper</i>	Arriving earlier		Waders	Amber

(*record for NENBC recording area) († BOCC5 (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021))

Recommendations

My recommendations for the NENBC to safeguard the long distance migrants of Norfolk focus on conservation efforts which can be done at little cost to the club itself. Firstly is my recommendation of working with local farmers to engage them in conservation by providing clear conservation information which is tailored to farmers. I also recommend the creation of some form of system of recognition for farmers who are engaging with conservation actively. The specific areas which I recommend the NENBC encourages amongst landowners and farmers in the area are:

- increasing arable land priority in crop rotations,
- encouraging hedgerow growth,
- delaying mowing and harvesting,
- reducing pesticide usage.

Additionally to this, I recommend some areas of conservation which the members of the NENBC can engage in with external partners such as the Felbeck Trust or Norfolk Wildlife Trust which would benefit the species found to be at risk by my research such as:

- wetland restoration or creation projects,
- grassland improvements.

I also recommend some further research combining the databases I created as part of my project with LDM population data, this could produce more accurate information on risk factors for LDMs and would allow further investigation into the dynamics of specific species which I found to be arriving later and therefore most vulnerable to climate change.

**NENBC
Bird Report 2024**



Published by North East Norfolk



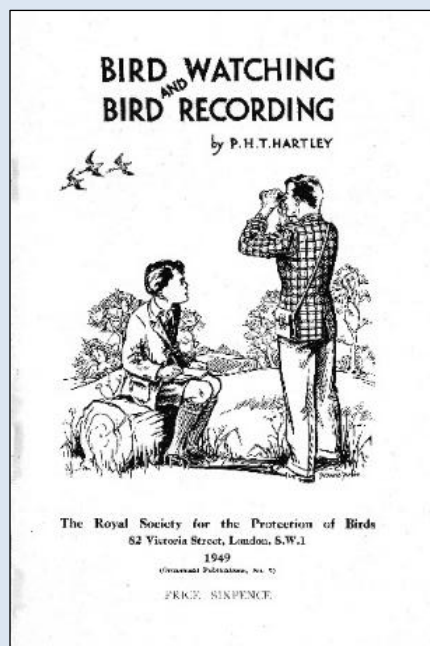
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RSPB Young Birders 1940s Style – Part 1

By Carol Thornton

This week we received some unexpected mail. An ex-colleague from years ago had been sorting out his attic and had come across a few RSPB leaflets from the 1940s and thought we would be interested. He was correct!

One of the booklets was called 'Bird Watching and Bird Recording' by P H T Hartley.



It is a 10-page story produced for the youth market by their Junior Bird Recorders' Club and takes the form of a conversation during a day out between a pair of cousins. The older cousin is teaching their younger relative how to get the most out of their birding. It does quite a good job of covering a range of areas and still has relevance today so I thought I would share this with you over the next couple of newsletters. You will need to enlarge it and apologies, this is as clear as I could get it.

Bird Watching and Bird Recording

By P. H. T. HARTLEY

A conversation between an older cousin and a younger cousin.
Younger Cousin: I must say that now I know most of the birds round here, my bird-watching walks don't seem to be as exciting as they used to be.

Older Cousin: H'm, I thought you'd find that after a bit. The fact is, my lad, it's about time you did some ornithological growing up.

Younger Cousin: What on earth do you mean?

Older Cousin: Well, it's like this. When you first started watching birds, it took you all your time to recognize them, and to get their songs fixed in your head. But that's a sort of apprenticeship; it's great fun while it lasts, but when it's over, the fun begins to disappear. When that happens, you've got to take a step forward, and become a bird-watcher, instead of just looking at birds. Get your glasses, and we'll go down to the wood and see if we can't find some of that lost excitement of yours—and do a bit of useful work into the bargain.

Older Cousin: Do you hear that rapping noise? I expect you know what it is?

Younger Cousin: It sounds like a thrush banging a snail; there is a big flint round the corner where they do it sometimes.

Older Cousin: Good, I'm glad you noticed that—shows you've got the habit of keeping your eyes open. We'll let him have a minute or two to get his meal, and then we'll go and see what the snail is.

Younger Cousin: Here it is—one of those yellow ones with black lines.

Older Cousin: That's called *Cepaea nemoralis*. Just crumple up the shell will you, while I make a note?

Younger Cousin: Are you trying to show off, giving it a Latin name? and why do you want me to break the shell up?

Older Cousin: To answer your second question first, so that I shan't record it a second time if I find it lying here tomorrow. No, I'm not being pompous—I don't think it has an English name. Besides that, scientific names really are useful. If I talked to that very jolly Dutch professor who was over here last month about the Black-banded Yellow Snail, or something like that, he wouldn't know what I meant, but he knows what *Cepaea nemoralis* is.

Younger Cousin: I see; it's a sort of international language.

Older Cousin: Exactly. You'll find it well worth while getting to know the scientific names of birds. It's a great help when you're doing work abroad. By the way, it's better to say scientific names, not Latin ones. Some of 'em are Latin, but some are Greek, and some are a kind of "jabberwocky." Now, there's a Bullfinch nest up and see how many eggs there are?

Younger Cousin: But I've seen a Bullfinch's eggs already.

Older Cousin: I dare say you have, but there's more to it than that. HUP you go.

Younger Cousin: There aren't any eggs—there are some baby birds.

Older Cousin: Good—splendid! How many?

Younger Cousin: It looks like four.

Older Cousin: Blast the boy! I didn't say how many does it look like, I said how many.

Younger Cousin: There really are four, but I don't see why you should get peevish about it.

Older Cousin: Sorry, old man, it wasn't really bad temper—it was only a desire to be accurate. She had four eggs yesterday, and I wanted to know if they had all hatched.

Younger Cousin: But if you knew how many eggs there were, why did you send me up to see?

Older Cousin: Well, I found that nest while she was building it. I knew the days when she laid her eggs and when she started to sit, and now I know how long it's taken her to hatch them. We'll go on visiting this nest until the young birds fly, and then we'll know how long it takes them to fledge.

Younger Cousin: But surely all that has been known for ages.

Older Cousin: Not so long, and not so thoroughly as you'd think. There are a lot of quite common birds—the House Sparrow is one of them—whose breeding habits are very poorly known. But now-a-days people all over the

country send in their records about nests to the British Trust for Ornithology on what are called Nest Record Cards, and any one who is interested in any species can look through their big collection and find far more records than he'd be able to compile for himself. It's a very sound organization, the Trust, and I hope you'll go into it when you're too old for the Bird Recorders.

Younger Cousin: There's a Willow Warbler singing.

Older Cousin: Yes, his mate's got a nest over the some brambles—I haven't been able to find it yet. If you don't mind waiting a few minutes I'd like to record the length of some of his song phrases. Will you write down for me—here's the page in my note-book—while I handle the stop-watch?

Younger Cousin: That's the twenty-fifth. Why do you want all these measurements?

Older Cousin: When I was up in the Lake District, this time last year, I got the idea that the phrases which the Willow Warblers sang were longer than those of the birds down here in the south: so I'm trying to get enough figures to find out if I'm right.

Younger Cousin: Could you record any other things about his song?

Older Cousin: Good heavens, yes. You could record the number of phrases he sings in each minute—I've heard as many as ten—and the hours of the day when he sings, and the heights of his song perches, and the time in the morning when he begins to sing, and the time at night when he stops, and how cold weather or rain or wind affect his singing, and—

Younger Cousin: Have you finished yet?

Older Cousin: No, but perhaps that is enough to get on with.

Younger Cousin: And do you record all that about every bird that sings?

Older Cousin: No, of course, I don't; life's too short. I do keep a record of the hours in each day when I hear each species of bird sing, so that I've a general record of the amount of song in each season, but except for that I stick to Willow Warblers and Song Thrushes.

Younger Cousin: Why those two particularly?

Older Cousin: Partly because they are two species which interest me, and partly because they are both very common in this district. It's always worth while studying the commonest species—you get so much more information.

Indeed, somebody once defined an ornithologist as a man who is interested in common birds and a bird-lover as a man who is interested in rare ones.

Younger Cousin: What are you looking at down there?

Older Cousin: There's another thrush's anvil, on this root. Look, this one has been going for *Cepaea* too, there are three shells. Once again, will you crumple 'em up while I make a note?

Younger Cousin: But you've got a record of a Thrush eating that; surely you aren't going to put it down again?

Older Cousin: I certainly am. You see, I'm interested in the changes in the number of snails which Song Thrushes eat in the course of the year. Here, I can show you what I mean; I roughed out a graph last night, and as it happens I slipped it into the back of my note-book. Now look at this—it shows the numbers of snails which Song Thrushes eat in each month, expressed as the proportion of all the snails they eat in the year.

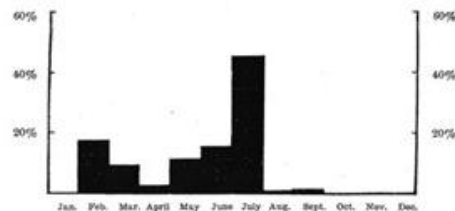


Figure 1. Seasonal changes in the consumption of Snails by Song Thrushes: figure based on the numbers of broken shells found at anvils in north Berkshire and South Oxfordshire in 1947 and 1948.

Younger Cousin: I can understand that they eat a lot of snails in the summer months, because the snails are out and about then. But doesn't this first hump in your graph mean that quite a lot of snails are being eaten in February? Surely that's funny.

Older Cousin: Yes, it's not what I expected, I must admit, when I began to look into the question. But, as a matter of

fact, Song Thrushes spend quite a lot of time in hard and frosty weather looking for hibernating snails in crannies in the hedges.

Younger Cousin: I see now why you want to put down every record. If you put down just some of them, a graph like that wouldn't mean anything. Its got to be all or nothing.

Older Cousin: Exactly. If your work is to have any scientific value, you mustn't select just some of the observations you make, you've got—as you say—to get everything down.

Younger Cousin: But, dash it all, you can't expect me to be a scientist—I'm only fifteen. Besides, I heard Aunt Emily say that "scientific" meant that a thing was always incomprehensible, and usually dull.

Older Cousin: That's just the sort of stupid thing that our respected Aunt Emily would say. As a matter of fact, "scientific" means, simply, exact in observation, accurate in making records and—in 'em, well—honest in interpreting them.

Younger Cousin: I see what you mean about being exact in making records, but how do you mean "honest in interpreting them?"

Older Cousin: It's like this: suppose that you had some frightfully exciting idea about birds, and had got together a lot of facts, say a hundred of them. And suppose that ninety-nine of your facts supported your exciting theory, and the hundredth proved conclusively that you were wrong, there'd be an awfully strong temptation to think of some excuse for neglecting that one. You might conclude that you had a head-ache that day, and didn't record it properly, or you might try to persuade yourself that you hadn't really observed that particular thing fully and so you'd better neglect that one, awkward note. But if you are a true scientist, you'll throw away the whole idea, because just one fact out of a hundred won't fit in; and I hope you always will be one—there's no fun in being a bird-watcher if you aren't.

Younger Cousin: You mean, that what makes you a scientist is the way you look at things?

Older Cousin: Just that. It doesn't matter what sort of a degree you've got, or if you haven't got a degree at all. It doesn't matter how old you are, or anything like that; the only thing that will make a scientist of you is a determination to be honest with yourself. Its being honest with

yourself that counts; suppose you tore that one awkward fact I mentioned a moment ago out of your note-book, and published your exciting theory without saying anything about it. No-one else would know, and every one would say how clever you'd been to find that out. But you would know it wasn't really true, and you'd feel a skunk for the rest of your life. Golly! what a sermon for a fine May morning. Let's go and see how the young Herons are getting on.

Contemplating Conservation

Felbeck Trust Launch New Conservation Project

Upper Bure and Glaven Conservation Triangle



By Trevor Williams

Earlier this month was the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership awards at The Forum in Norwich. Felbeck Trust won the prestigious Group Award in 2024 and, as a consequence, were invited back to give this year's keynote address. We took this golden opportunity to launch our latest initiative to help promote the fight for nature in Norfolk. There's nothing particularly new in what we're proposing but the fact that it's being driven by a small community conservation charity seems to have attracted attention – there's something of the 'David & Goliath' about it...



The Premise

- FT Nature is going down the toilet - nature, water quality and soil health is still declining - evidenced by national surveys, expert analysis and from local knowledge
- FT No single organisation can arrest these declines or restore our countryside
- FT We need to bring together conservation organisations, local communities, and landowners - nature recovery initiatives seldom work without our farmers on board
- FT Work at a landscape scale - meaningful but manageable
- FT Quickly move from strategic planning to tactical delivery - boots on the ground

What we need to do

- FT Choose target area
- FT Map it for conservation and biodiversity - county and community nature reserves, SSSIs, Roadside Nature Reserves, big estates and landowner initiatives, agricultural set-aside, churchyards, trees and hedgerows, Surveyor's Allotments, etc
- FT Identify key 'recovery species' meaningful to people - birds, plants and insects on the edge of survival in Norfolk
- FT 'Walk the ground' between existing sites identifying wildlife corridors, conservation 'oases', ghost ponds, breeding sites, etc to develop a list of prioritised intervention sites
- FT Identify the key 'owners' and engage
- FT Crack on with habitat recovery - the practical aspects of improving sites for nature
- FT Look for resources to ensure sustainability
- FT Monitor biodiversity beginning to end - to show that intervention can work

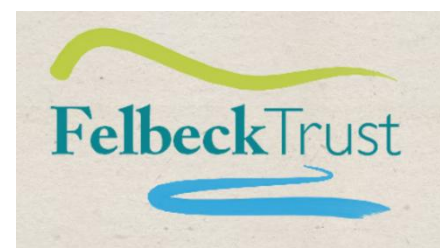
Levers

- FT Established groups / partnerships - Norfolk Wildlife Trust, NT Riverlands, Norfolk Pond Project, North Norfolk Coastal Group, RSPB Operation Turtle Dove, Woodland Trust, local wildlife groups, etc
- FT Funding – Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) might help, corporate support, private donations etc
- FT Nature recovery strategy, Parish Biodiversity Policies, Council reorganisation
- FT BTO Bird Atlas 2027-31 - birds are key indicators of the state of nature

First steps

- FT Agree and name target area - >65sq miles between Cromer, Holt & Aylsham - **Upper Bure & Glaven Conservation Triangle** - *Connecting habitats, wildlife and communities*
- FT Identify key players, constitute a steering group & appoint coordinator(s)
- FT Map sites - bringing diverse sources of information together
- FT Draw up detailed project plan
- FT Seek support and resources

.. and what would success look like?



Aims of the project

- FT Existing sites for nature are managed well for the more vulnerable species
- FT Connectivity is improved so nature can move more freely across our landscape
- FT New sites are created which provide more places for wildlife to feed, breed and recover
- FT Soil and water are improved through agriculture / cultivation, not diminished
- FT Over the next ten years biodiversity is stabilised and where possible we achieve a net gain
- FT We stop taking nature on our doorstep for granted and work better together to protect it for future generations

By the time we get to next year's awards we should be well on with this ambitious but necessary project.



Obituary: NENBC Member Greg Bond

By Carl Chapman

It is with regret that I learned of the demise of friend and club member Greg Bond. Greg moved from Essex in the early 2000s. He quickly integrated himself into the local birding community. He was for a time a trustee of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society. I initially met Greg on Tresco, the Isles of Scilly, where he and his wife Val had a timeshare. It was some years later when I moved to Northrepps in 2008 that we met again while out birding on Hungry Hill. Greg took the time over the subsequent couple of days to show me all the birding hotspots on what was his local patch. He asked in return that I give him a call should I come across a Red-breasted Flycatcher, a species which had eluded him locally on his patch. I was thrilled to be able to make that call and repay some of that debt when I found a rather showy individual in October 2013 adjacent to the Pottery in Trimingham. Together we hatched a local news information service based on a round robin of emails. This morphed over the years and eventually became the Cromer and area WhatsApp group.

When my own life took a turn for the worst and he knew I was to be alone at Christmas there was no hesitation in him inviting me to share his Christmas dinner table with Val and himself. Greg was a kind and thoughtful person.

Greg was also very good at introducing people by matching their personalities. I will always be indebted to him for introducing me to both Tony Eadson and Bob Cobbold both of whom as a result are close lifetime friends. The New Year parties run by Greg and Val at their Overstand home were legendary and a lot of friendships ensued from these events.

Greg extended his expertise into both Butterflies and Moths, regularly running events at Cley and being an active member of Butterfly Conservation.

Greg's quiet authority coupled with his knowledge made him a popular gentleman. When he spoke people listened. When Tania and I were married he did a very memorable reading at our wedding ceremony.

In short Greg was kind, thoughtful, well-travelled and knowledgeable and was prepared to share that knowledge. Every day spent in Greg's company was a worthwhile day.

My only regrets are that I did not know him earlier in my life and that I had found the time to visit him before I went to Scillies in October this year. Greg had been suffering with his health for some time and I wanted to let him know I was thinking of him; however, I just ran out of time and made a note in my diary to call in when I returned on the 13th; which of course was too late.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



Greg talking all things moth at our Summer Social at Trimingham in 2021





By Tony Forster

Update for the NENBC WhatsApp Alert group covering July 1st to September 30th, 3 months that I predicted in my last report "July to September is likely to be very quiet in comparison but you never know what might turn up so here's hoping"...

I don't have a crystal ball but... there were around 25 species recorded in the quarter 7 of which were new to the group list but oh what additions they were...!

Unfortunately just 2 were easily accessible with **Shag** and the showy **Daurian (Isabelline) Shrike**, a one-day performer that stuck around for most of the day.

With the right connections, **Wood and Western Bonelli's Warbler** were achievable but brief visitors while a **Marsh Harrier** also didn't hang around.

Without doubt seawatching stole the show this quarter with a number of **Cory's Shearwater** seen, just one got on the group but taking it to another level all together was a 3 minute view of **Wilson's Petrel** seen at Cromer. First seen by IP along with PL they watched it paddling on the sea and are more than happy with the ID, without doubt the best bird on the group list and to my mind probably the best sighting in the club area for a number of reasons.

There are now 73 members in the group.

Here's hoping the next quarter is just as exciting.

NENBC ALERTS

An NENBC members-only group to share news of interesting birds within the club area.

Please share records of species early/late dates, notable counts, scarce and rare birds.

Be mindful of potential rare breeding birds, sensitive locations and locations with no public access.

Please post news in a single message and keep messages to bird news ONLY, this is not a chat group.

The Norfolk Recorder may extract records for the bird report, please be as accurate as you can with locations and dates.

How To Change Notifications Sound For Group Messages On WhatsApp

Did you know you can change the notification tone for group messages?

To manage WhatsApp group notifications, open a group chat, tap the group's name, then select Notifications. You can mute notifications for a chosen period, change the notification tone, set notification preferences to receive alerts for All messages or only Highlights (mentions, replies, etc.), and adjust vibrate and popup settings.

If you prefer to watch how to do it, look for this on YouTube

Check This Out!

A few bits and bobs in the news in the past month ...



-  [Birdsong and botany at heart of new wellbeing research - BirdGuides](#) [19-Sep]
-  [Curlew Sandpiper influx is biggest in years - BirdGuides](#) [20-Sep]
-  [UK bird populations continue to decline as farmland species plummet - BirdGuides](#) [26-Sep]
-  [Operation Turtle Dove issues statement over captive releases - BirdGuides](#) [02-Oct]
-  [Volunteers needed to help map Britain's winter birds - BirdGuides](#) [06-Oct]
-  [Bird Populations in Pristine Danish Forest Decline Despite Stable Habitat - RareBirdAlertUK](#) [03-Oct]
-  [Band of Brothers: Birding at the Edge of Britain - RareBirdAlertUK](#) [02-Oct]
-  [Mass Culling of Cormorants Will Not Save Fish, Warns BirdLife International - RareBirdAlertUK](#) [25-Sep]
-  [No evidence for farmers' claim that Sea Eagles preyed on Shetland ponies - RareBirdAlertUK](#) [19-Sep]
-  [Vandals target bird hides at Carlton Marshes nature reserve - BBC News](#) [10-Oct]
-  [Stone-curlews under cover: an on-the-ground mission backed by members - RSPB](#) [06-Oct]
-  [Why environmental deregulation would devastate wildlife and our future - RSPB](#) [26-Sep]
-  [Migration Blog | BTO – regular blogs on the progress of the autumn migration](#)



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. Can you recognise a bird from the description of its voice though? The descriptions come from three different books, but they all refer to the same bird – no

wonder it is so confusing! As you can see, some books go into more detail than others. Answers are on the last page 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! Solution [at the end of this newsletter.](#)

“Short, dry, chattering ‘trrrit, trri-it’ twittering song.”

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

“Noisy, especially at colonies. Gives incessant dry but pleasing twitter, ‘prrit’, with variations according to mood and requirements. When agitated, utters a higher, emphatic and drawn-out ‘vhierr’. Song little more than a chatty burst of chirps with no clear structure, but the whole sounds rather sweet and ‘eager’.

from Collins BIRD GUIDE 3rd Edition by Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterström

“The main call is a hard ‘prrit’ and the song is a soft twittering that is heard during the summer.”

from RSPB Handbook of British Birds 4th Edition by Peter Holden and Tim Cleeves

Wordsearch



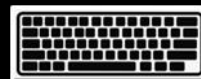
This month, we have the 22 species or races recorded on the NENBC website in October 2024 for which we have just one record each – you never know what might crop up on your walks at this time of year so keep your eyes peeled! For the purposes of this puzzle, ignore any hyphens, apostrophes, brackets and spaces. Solution is at the end of this newsletter.

Black Guillemot
Black Tern
Black-throated Diver
Canada Goose
Common Crossbill
Dusky Warbler
Garden Warbler
Green Sandpiper
Grey Plover
Hobby
Leach's Petrel
Lesser Whitethroat
Little Auk
Osprey
Penduline Tit
Purple Sandpiper
Redstart
Reed Warbler
Shag
Tawny Pipit
Whooper Swan
Yellow-legged Gull

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



Data, Records and Posts



For the first time in a while, we are delighted to have some news to report from the Norfolk Records Committee [NRC] as some bird record have been 'Accepted' for our area since our last newsletter update but their current '**NRC work in progress**' file on their website remains dated 16th Dec 24. The recent acceptances are for birds this year but there are still some to come from our area from earlier dates which hopefully will be looked at soon.

The British Birds Rarities Committee also have a '**BBRC work in progress**' file available on their website [11th Mar 24].



Norfolk Birds @norfolkbirds.bsky.social · 2d
Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Red-spotted Bluethroat Weybourne 20th May 2025



Norfolk Birds @norfolkbirds.bsky.social · 2d
Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Purple Heron Weybourne 27th May 2025



Norfolk Birds @norfolkbirds.bsky.social · 2d
Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Common Rosefinch Weybourne 27th/28th May 2025



Norfolk Birds @norfolkbirds.bsky.social · 2d
Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Marsh Warbler Weybourne 27th May-3rd June 2025



Norfolk Birds @norfolkbirds.bsky.social · 2d
Norfolk Records Committee

Accepted: Hoopoe Sheringham 2nd-6th May 2025



NENBC Website



A huge thanks to the 129 of you who have uploaded records to our website so far this year date – nice to see some of our new members getting to grips with the website. It is very much appreciated by us and the bodies we send the data on to for inclusion in the county reports. Not started adding records yet? Plenty of time to get going this! If you need any assistance, just drop us a line on nenbc@aol.co.uk or through the messaging element of the website.

Social Media





Autumn Birds *by John Clare*

*The wild duck startles like a sudden thought,
And heron slow as if it might be caught.
The flopping crows on weary wings go by
And grey beard jackdaws noising as they fly.
The crowds of starnels whizz and hurry by,
And darken like a clod the evening sky.
The larks like thunder rise and suthy round,
Then drop and nestle in the stubble ground.
The wild swan hurries hight and noises loud
With white neck peering to the evening clowd.
The weary rooks to distant woods are gone.
With lengths of tail the magpie winnows on
To neighbouring tree, and leaves the distant crow
While small birds nestle in the edge below*



Photos Mallard, Grey Heron, Carrion Crow, Skylark [Mark Clements]; Jackdaw [Francis Farrow]
Starling [Trevor Williams].



The bird voice variously described was that of a [House Martin](#). 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 House Martin](#), their [BTO Hirundines and Swift ID Video](#) and their [BTO Garden Birdwatch: Telling apart Swift, Swallow and House Martin](#). *Photos from Andrew Crossley, James Appleton, Julian Thomas, Doug Cullern*



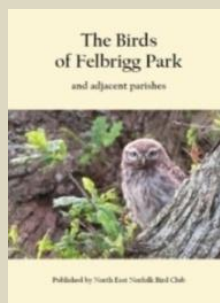
This month's **Wordsearch Solution:**
BIRDS RECORDED IN THE NENBC AREA IN
OCTOBER 2024

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

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 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**



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 / 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