

The Pied Flyer

North East Norfolk Bird Club



May 2026 – Issue 131

The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

BlueSky: [@nenbc.bsky.social](#)

Website: www.nenbc.co.uk

Email Secretary / Editor: nenbc@aol.co.uk

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Through a Lens





By John Swallow

You may have noticed on our website the following:

“The UK population of Turtle Doves has drastically declined and we need to give this species as much space as possible. Therefore, we will no longer be publishing sightings of Turtle Dove in the Club Area during the breeding season (April to August). Please send records directly to the Club Recorder Andy Clarke (ac1967@cantab.net), who will ensure they are passed to RSPB and BTO.”

While there will be a more complete explanation of our decision in next month's newsletter by our Recorder, Andy Clarke, I thought you would like to hear from me too. I paraphrase here what I said at our last indoor meeting of the spring on Thursday 30th April.

We have some “well-known” sites in our area which are both a blessing (great for birding) and a curse (attract lots of visitors). They are so well known that they have appeared in many books on where to watch birds in Norfolk. They are also heavily used by members of the public from a nearby holiday park, often with dogs, walkers and even steam railway enthusiasts. It is unrealistic to ask that people no longer visit these sites.

However, we felt that now was the time to reduce pressure by asking for a period of quiet both in the news and, where possible, in footfall. This brings NENBC into line with other local bird clubs, BTO and Birdguides etc. This does not mean we cannot visit but we should consider making fewer visits and, as always, follow the [Birdwatchers Code](#) (and the [Nature Photographer's Code of Practice](#)) and set a good example to other users.

When NENBC was formed it was in part to help promote the dissemination of bird news across a wider community. We will still continue to do this! We still would like your records from these sites but news will be pended. While just presence is useful, if you can

observe breeding information, which is best obtained at a distance (ie, adults carrying food/faecal sacs, feeding young etc, there is no need to locate the nest!) then this would be very valuable.

I was asked at the meeting if this additional caution should apply to other species and I said the same caution should also be applied when observing Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark and we may pend news on these species too at a later date.

The Club has always had ideas on how the club website could be further developed, including some as a result of great feedback from our members, and this month the team over at Bird.Club have been busy implementing some excellent upgrades which are already operational ([see page 40](#) for more news on this). In addition, behind the scenes there is a possible way to help manage sightings of sensitive species. Carol has begun testing the new software on this but more time is required before we can change the system we are currently requesting. However, we hope to be able to implement and announce changes to help everyone in the coming months.

I don't know about you but I think we are having a very good spring. It's always a pleasure to hear your first Chiffchaff then follow this with Blackcap, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat etc and there's been a good smattering of Ring Ouzel and Yellow Wagtail. Leading the short walk at Felbrigg Park last month was a pleasure as we took our time to listen for early migrants. Hearing my first Cuckoo along Dilham Canal on 24th April made my day but I missed the Mandarin Duck! Another highlight for me was a singing Lesser Whitethroat, Whinchat and a fly-by Greenshank with Phil and Russell on Weybourne beach a few days ago.

Good birding!

Five key principles to remember

1. **Put birds first** – Avoid disturbing birds, their nests, and their habitats. Keep a respectful distance and use binoculars or a telescope to enjoy close views without causing distress.
2. **Respect the countryside and other people** – Follow the Countryside Code, keep to paths where required, and show courtesy to landowners, farmers and other visitors.
3. **Be an ambassador for birdwatching** – Set a good example through considerate behaviour, accurate recording, and sharing your enthusiasm responsibly.
4. **Share records responsibly** – Submit your sightings to the NENBC website, unless we have specifically asked you to send direct to Andy for sensitivity reasons, and they will additionally be submitted to the BirdTrack website. Accurate records help protect birds and build understanding of population trends.
5. **Think before you share news of rare birds** – Consider the welfare of the bird, local residents, and the potential for disturbance, especially during the breeding season. If in doubt, report the sighting quietly and through official channels.



By Carol Thornton

Welcome to our May newsletter!

Sadly we have reached the end of our 2025/2026 indoor season with our last very interesting talk on Spoonbills at Holkham last week but no worries, we will be back again in September! I initially thought I wasn't going to be able to get to

the event and in my absence we wouldn't be able to run the Zoom option. As it turns out, I was able to make it but we decided not to reinstate the Zoom option as our speaker Andy Bloomfield had asked club member Frederic Landes to video the presentation. Frederic has kindly made his video available to us on YouTube. Those of you who have already requested the link, I will get it out to you in the next couple of days. If you haven't asked yet and want it, please get in touch. It isn't an open-access video and you will only be able to access it with the link I send. Many thanks Frederic – really interesting to do something different.

All the info on our other upcoming events are included from [page 14](#), including the annual **Big Sit TOMORROW SATURDAY 9th FROM DAWN!** Do come and join us at Felbrigg Park or Beeston Common so hopefully catch up with you soon.

Oh my goodness – the BirdClub team have been working flat out with a raft of changes to their internationally used website platform of which our club website is part. There is a lot more info on the changes from [page 40](#) but I just can't keep up with them all so in order to get this newsletter out I have drawn a line under it for this month and will put a little more detail on any subsequent changes in June's edition. Current improvements which I have covered off are around enhanced species info pages and easier filtering of records. Since writing that, we additionally have a renaming of Calendar to Events, the ability to download a pdf of upcoming club events plus the list of species shown under "What you might see" on each location page has been redesigned. Instead of a taxonomic list, it now surfaces birds that are genuinely worth looking out for..

I hope you have all been making the most of the season and the weather to get out birding. I am particularly happy this month as both me and husband Ken have eventually secured our Inland Super-Green Badges, awarded for seeing 125 species in the club area walking out from home without the use of motorised transport – HURRAH! It has ridiculously taken us over 5 years and although we mostly bird together, we have both been on 124 for a while, me with a Cuckoo and Ken with a Spoonbill. Fortunately it was a 'new' bird for both of us, a Shelduck flyby at Felbrigg Park last week, that got us both over the line. Wouldn't have been very good if a Cuckoo or a Spoonbill had turned up! We have really enjoyed the challenge and would encourage any of you to have a go – see [page 43](#).

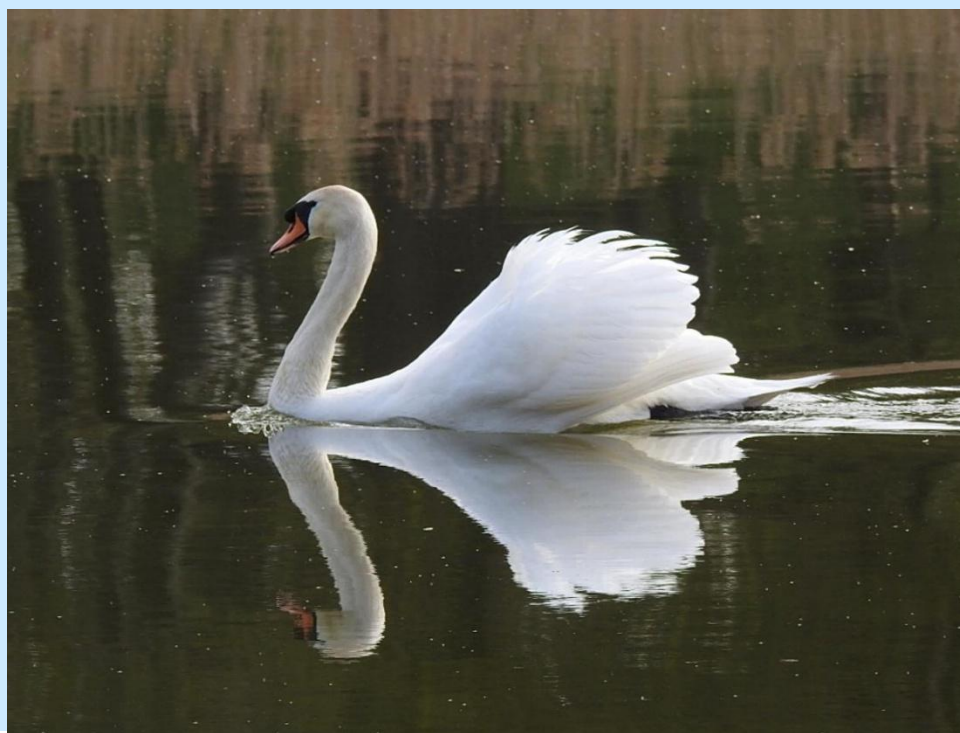
Don't forget it is 'No Mow May', one of the easiest ways to help the environment by letting wildflowers like daisies, dandelions and clovers grow instead of cutting your lawns, and you can read all about it [here](#).

The '**Through a Lens**' topic for the front cover of birds seen last month was '**birds exhibiting breeding behaviour**'. From the top left – Sand martin (Richard Farrow), Carrion Crow (Mark Clements), Song Thrush (Ken Thornton, Steve & Barbara Lines), Collared Dove (Mark Clements), Great Tit (Alan Stevenes), Whitethroat (Mark Clements), For May, our theme will be '**juveniles**' so get clicking!

Right is my **favourite member photo** from April, selected from the ones that didn't make it on to our monthly NENBC Bird Highlights section of the more unusual species ... this lovely reflecting Mute Swan is from Doug Cullern.

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

* Bill Clarke * Richard Petley *
* Andrew Bloomfield * Lousie Turner * David Spencer *
If you have any queries, just drop us an email





By Carol Thornton

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

≈ 12,158 individual records covering 165 bird species were added in April

April 2026 | Spring migrants are usually the key feature of birding at this time of year, though the weather exerts a strong influence on which species are seen, and in what numbers. Key Highlights from April were: the final few **Brent Geese** and single **White-fronts**; a pair of **Mandarin**; the last of the winter **Golden Plovers**; a single **Jack Snipe**; passing **Whimbrel** and Common **Sandpiper**; offshore **Mediterranean Gulls**, a single immature **Glaucous Gull**; **Sandwich Tern** plus a few **Common Tern** and **Arctic Tern**; **White Storks** on two dates; migrant **Ospreys** on two dates; 3 **Peregrine** eggs hatched at Cromer; a **Hoopoe**; **Sand Martins** along the cliffs, **Swallows** and a few **House Martins** have been passing; **Willow Warbler**, **Sedge Warbler** and **Reed Warbler** have all arrived plus **Whitethroat**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Grasshopper Warbler**; up to 3 **Ring Ouzel**; **Redstarts** and a couple of **Whinchat**; a good passage of **Yellow Wagtails**; **Tree Pipits** on 4 dates and a **Richard's Pipit** heading west. See fuller details below.

Brent Goose | Single-figure records throughout the month from Weybourne and Sheringham with the largest count a single flock of 45 east on 16th.

Barnacle Goose | Just two reports, 22 east at West Runton on 18th and 8 there, again east, on 24th.

White-fronted Goose | One west at Weybourne on 5th with Greylags and a single east calling there on 10th.

Mandarin Duck | Mandarins were reported on 10 dates in April across 3 locations around North Walsham. The first record was of a pair at Felmingham on 14th and at Spa Common on the same day there were 3, a pair and a second male. Subsequent reports through to the 28th were of a pair at Dilham Canal and Spa Common and most of the reports of singles specified male. *Photo 1 courtesy of Stu Buck*

Velvet Scoter | A single male was reported west at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 9th and subsequently speed-checked past Weybourne 10 minutes later.

Goosander | One east and 4 west off Weybourne on 2nd.

Grey Partridge | Fourteen records over 10 dates from 3rd to 30th of mostly two birds from Weybourne and West Runton on the coast and Kelling Heath and Bodham inland. *Photo 2 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Cuckoo | The first Cuckoo of the year was reported near Stratton Strawless in the south of our area on 17th.

Subsequent records were from Alby on 18th, both the River Bure path and Dilham Canal on 24th and from the latter location again on 25th.

Crane | On the 6th a single was slowly drifting west from Beeston Bump and then along Sheringham Cliffs and 4 flew low over the lake at Felbrigg Park before turning and heading west. *Photo 3 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*



Avocet | There were 2 west at Sheringham on 2nd and a pair east Weybourne on 23rd.

Grey Plover | Four west at Weybourne on 5th a single west at Cromer on 23rd.

Whimbrel | Most of the 30 records over 15 dates were of 5 or less birds and were all at the coast, both east and west. High counts were 12 east at Weybourne on 23rd, 13 west there on 25th and 2 west / 12 east on 27th. At Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs a single was on the beach then east with a further 3, also east, with a Bar-tailed Godwit on 11th.
Photo 4 courtesy of Trevor Williams

Bar-tailed Godwit | The godwit east at Cromer on 11th was in near summer plumage and a winter birds was on the beach there 17th. Most of the 11 records were of singles but a flock of 16 flew into West Runton from the west on 21st and landed in the paddock, with 4 east past Weybourne on 23rd and 7 flew onto the airfield at Weybourne Camp on 26th.
Photo 5 courtesy of Mark Clements

Knot | A single west at Weybourne on 21st and one west at Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs on 25th.

Jack Snipe | Just one record of a single from the scrape at Weybourne Camp on 23rd.

Common Sandpiper | Two birds were reported at Dilham Canal on 28th near the Mandarin. All other records were of singles at Felbrigg Park on 16th, 22nd and 25th, Beeston Regis on 24th and 30th, Selbrigg Pond on 25th plus Blickling Park on 25th and 27th. *Photo 6 courtesy of Ken Thornton*

Kittiwake | The high count was 29 west and 1 east from Sheringham on 2nd with all other records being single-figure counts with reports from 2nd to 7th and then no further sightings until 28th and 29th. Sightings were from Weybourne, West Runton, Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs and Bacton.

Mediterranean Gull | Over 50 reports this month from 10 coastal locations plus Kelling Heath. Predominantly single-figure counts with up to 45 west during seawatches at Weybourne on 12th with 10 there on 13th, 36 on 18th (including 6 which flew inland), 14 east on 24th and up to 15 on 25th. Where age was mentioned, all were reported as adults. *Photo 7 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Glaucous Gull | A second calendar year bird was first reported on the groyne at West Runton on 16th with numerous reports of presumably the same bird thereabouts the following day. *Photo 8 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Caspian Gull | Just one record of a “superb 2CY (end of 1W) bird drifting west along cliffs, showing gleaming white base to tail, smart secondary band and clean pale underwings “ at west Runton on 3rd.

Sandwich Tern | Over 50 reports in April from along our coast between Weybourne and Cromer Lighthouse & East Cliffs. The high count was 96 (61 east / 35 west) off Weybourne on 12th during a seawatch.



Arctic Tern | A single came from south inland and carried on north out to sea high at West Runton on 21st and 8 were on a buoy there on 24th before lifting off and heading north-east.

Arctic Skua | A single flew west at Sheringham on 28th.

Red-throated Diver | More than 40 records of 1-4 birds from the coastal locations during seawatches, with a maximum of 16 from one at Sheringham on 2nd. Most birds were mobile, with a few dropping down to the sea at various points.

Great Northern Diver | A single east past Sheringham on 2nd and on the 21st, a single east past both Weybourne and West Runton. *Photos 9 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Fulmar | More than 50 records in small numbers throughout the month, often referred to as local birds. Observations of up to 13 occupied nest sites at the cliff colony between East Runton and Cromer. *Photo 10 courtesy of Mark Clements*

White Stork | On the 3rd, two birds were reported high east from Sheringham and Weybourne and on 25th, further reports of a single over Sheringham, West Runton, Muckleburgh Hill and Weybourne. *Photo 11 courtesy of Ollie Allison*

Shag | Two birds were observed at Sheringham on 14th and 16th on the groyne markers with further reports of singles on 19th also at Sheringham and 20th at West Runton.

Spoonbill | A single west offshore on 19th and one west at Weybourne Camp on 27th.

Great White Egret | Singles west offshore at East Runton on 6th and Weybourne on 15th and 17th with 2 observed there on 27th. Also, a single was briefly around a garden pond in Gresham on 13th.

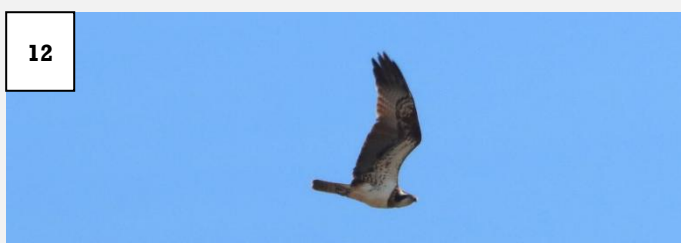
Osprey | One individual south over a member's garden in Holt mobbed by gulls on 14th plus one west over Muckleburgh Hill on 17th. *Photo 12 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Goshawk | Records of singles from Selbrigg Pond on 4th and 25th, Holt on 6th and Swanton Novers on 2nd (a displaying male) and 7th with 3 there on 10th, two males and a third bird with missing primaries on one wing.

Pallid Harrier | A Third Party Report of an adult male seen heading east at Weybourne Camp and later seen passing Sheringham (0820), West Runton (0835) and Overstrand (0845).

Little Owl | A single bird observed on numerous dates between 11th and 27th in the Camp buildings at Weybourne, with two there on 6th. Additionally, a very welcome first sighting of the year at Felbrigg Park on 20th – they used to be so regular here. *Photo 13 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

Hoopoe | A Third Party Record of an individual present for about 2 hours in private garden in Sheringham on 8th, but then not relocated.



Kingfisher | A pair were reported at Gimingham on 6th and 11th on the fishing lakes.

Hobby | The first Hobby of the year was reported from Deadman's Wood, Weybourne Cliffs on 29th.

Peregrine | Further information on the Cromer Church birds, their 3 hatched youngsters and various intruder Peregrines from [page 32](#). Elsewhere, singles were reported at Weybourne on 4th, 14th and 19th hunting offshore. At West Runton there was a male on 9th and a juvenile east there on 24th was reported to look like the bird that has been hanging around Cromer with a missing primary on wing. At Southrepps Common on 14th, a 2nd calendar year bird which looked un-ringed, was observed in encounters with Skylarks, Swallows and hares.

Raven | Reports of 2 birds at Southrepps Common on 1st and calling there on 27th, Plumstead also on 1st, Letheringsett & Ford on 7th plus Weybourne Cliffs (calling) and Weynor Gardens (Kelling) on 16th.

Marsh Tit | Just 5 records of this seemingly declining species. Singles at Bacton Woods on 4th, High Kelling on 8th and Mannington Hall park on 22nd with 2 birds reported there on 8th and also at Brinton on 6th. Four of the 5 records were of birds on feeders.

Woodlark | Nearly 50 records throughout the month from four locations, some of which include suitable breeding habitats. Birds were observed displaying and heard singing. At least 6 were reported at one site.

Willow Warbler | The first records of the year were on the 8th from Beeston Common and Bump and Cawston Heath and were subsequently reported on a further 16 dates throughout the month from another 14 sites. There was lots of singing reported and one lucky member had a bird bathing in their garden pond in Beeston Regis on 17th.

Grasshopper Warbler | The highlight of the club walk at Felbrigg Park on the 15th was the short, occasional but distinctive reeling of a Grasshopper Warbler from sedge below the dam wall. See the walk report on [page 14](#) for more detail. Other reports were from Dilham Canal on 21st and Weybourne on 25th.

Lesser Whitethroat | The first record of the year was from Beeston Regis on 18th with reports for the rest of the month from 14 other sites. Weybourne and the Beeston area had the most reports and are also well-watched. Although mostly singles, 2 birds were reported from Ingworth on 23rd, Sheringham Cliffs on 24th and the Beeston areas on 22nd and 24th.

Dartford Warbler | Up to 2 birds reported between 2nd and 27th from their well-known stronghold in our area.

Firecrest | Nearly 30 records throughout the month from Aylmerton, Cromer, High Kelling, Pretty Corner Wood, Selbrigg Pond, Sheringham Park and the Weybourne area. Where a count was recorded, all were singles except for at Selbrigg Pond on 6th when 2 were reported.

Ring Ouzel | Of the 44 records this month, only Cawston Heath represents anywhere significantly inland. Reports from the coastal belt and surrounding areas throughout the month, predominantly singles, but with 2 at West Runton on 9th, Kelling Heath on 13th, Happisburgh on 23rd, Weybourne on 26th plus 3 at Southrepps Common on 17th. *Photo 14 courtesy of Mick Rebane*



Nightingale | Briefly in scrub east of beach car park entrance at Weybourne on 20th. The bird was reported as not being in full song, but "a few glorious notes to announce its presence".

Black Redstart | Singles were at West Runton on 8th and Felbrigg Park on the same date, Sheringham Cliffs on 14th and Weybourne on 29th.

Redstart | Single males at Weybourne Camp on 7th, Sheringham cemetery on 11th and Weybourne camp on 29th with a female reported there on 13th.

Whinchat | First record of the year was in the paddock at West Runton on 26th, with reports of a male at Weybourne on 29th.

Wheatear | A fantastic 140 odd records this month from 14 locations throughout the month. Coastal high counts were up to 13 at West Runton on 12th and 8 at Weybourne on 13th with inland, 7 at Felbrigg Park on 14th. *Photo 15 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*



Tree Sparrow | A Third Party Report of a wintering bird still in private garden was received on 5th.

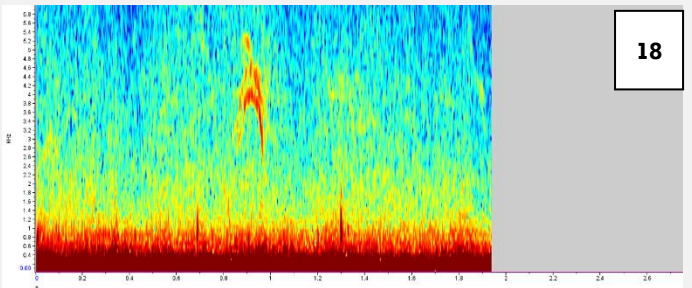
Yellow Wagtail | the hotspot was west Runton from the 9th onwards. Lots of reports of 1-2 birds in the paddocks there and a steady passage of 11 west there on 15th. Other sites that reported this passing species last month were Weybourne and Beeston Bump with just Happisburgh the only other site that recorded a bird landing, albeit briefly, 23rd. *Photo 16 courtesy of Steven & Barbara Lines*



Grey Wagtail | reported from 14 predominantly inland locations throughout the month. Mostly of singles but with a pair at Selbrigg Pond on 3rd, 2 west at West Runton on 17th, 2 on the pond at Mannington Hall Park on 22nd and 2 at Itteringham on 30th. *Photo 17 courtesy of Mark Clements*



Richard's Pipit | A calling bird was west along cliffs at west Runton on 3rd and a sound recording confirms identification although the poster says the call pretty diagnostic anyway! Sonogram image 18 courtesy of Andy Clarke



Tree Pipit | All records are of singles and came from Beeston Bump on 9th and 12th, Weybourne on 11th, West Runton on 13th and East Runton & Thains Lane on 14th.

Brambling | A single on a roadside tree at Wets Runton and a minimum of 3 at Sheringham Park on 10th with 2, including a male, reported there the following day.

Twite | Ten were west overhead calling at Weybourne on 3rd.

Lesser Redpoll | Up to 5 birds were reported at Kelling Heath at the beginning of the month with 1 at Beeston Bump on 15th and 2 at Holt on 20th.

Corn Bunting | A single was calling and singing from fence and grassy tussocks on coastal footpath to the west of the scrape at Weybourne Camp on 6th before flying inland.

May: What to look forward to



May is really the last real month of spring migration and can be one of the most amazing but what does 2026 hold for us? This time last year some lucky folk were treated to views of Booted Eagle, Purple Heron, Red-backed Shrike, Common Rosefinch and Marsh Warbler but there were some dreadfully low numbers of what are normally common migrants. Wheatears for example were very thin on the ground last spring but seem to be having a bit of a resurgence this year if number of records on our website thus far are an indication. May is often a good month to spend time stationary watching from a vantage point on your local patch and scan the skies, the fields and the trees, (think of it as a mini Big Sit), with the potential of the birds coming to you. Hoopoe and Red-rumped Swallow have already been reported locally and someone will hear and see a sublime Golden Oriole or a Bee-eater. It could be you !

If you look at the Wordsearch on [page 37](#), you'll see what a great collection of birds we had turn up last May, so you never know what you might be lucky enough to catch up with!

Library photo Hoopoe courtesy of John Hayward



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 report to the BTO <https://app.bto.org/euring/lang/pages/rings.jsp>”

23/04/2026	Mute Swan	5x	Ingworth	Trevor Williams Stephen Green	one colour-ringed, highlight of monthly Upper Bure farm survey
12/04/2026	Turnstone	30	Sheringham	Di & Richard Farrow (photo credit below)	Approx 30 quite mobile. Including tagged JAJ.



Noc-Mig Highlights



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

All records this month were from Andy Clarke at Sheringham.

01/04/2026	Wigeon	1	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0234 (single call)
01/04/2026	Common Scoter	1	Nocturnal flight call, 0258 (single call, faint)
08/01/2026	Common Scoter		Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0126 (22 calls), 0420 (7 calls)
01/04/2026	Water Rail	1	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0301 (single trill)
08/04/2026	Water Rail	1	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0029 (2 calls)

01/04/2026	Moorhen	1	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0058 (3 triplet calls)
08/04/2026	Moorhen		Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0401 (2 triplet calls)
01/04/2026	Oystercatcher	1	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0038
08/04/2026	Oystercatcher		Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0427 (2 calls)
01/04/2026	Golden Plover	1	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0343 (2 calls)
01/04/2026	Common Gull	1	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0234 (3 calls)
08/04/2026	Grey Heron		Nocturnal flight call over garden, 0001 (3 calls)
01/04/2026	Redwing	26	26 nocturnal flight calls over garden, 2250 (31 March) to 0526
08/04/2026	Redwing	1	Nocturnal flight call over garden, 2056 (so actually 7 April)
01/04/2026	Song Thrush		Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0009, 0327
08/04/2026	Song Thrush	2	Nocturnal flight calls over garden, 0127 (1 call), 0446 (1 call)

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!



Cananda Goose | "2x Both geese beside the Mike Thurston pool in the company of a large plastic heron" | Stephanie Witham | North Walsham | 23rd

Greylag Goose | "6x Territory warfare with resident male Swan winning the battle." | Doug & Jenny Cullern | Felbrig Park & Lake | 25th

Egyptian Goose | "On the Mike Thurston field dodging the lawn mower" | Stephanie Witham | 25th

Mandarin Duck | "Pr. Initially on canal and then feeding on food left out in adjoining garden - perhaps accustomed to being around people?" | Spa Common | 24th

Pheasant | "White male in field SW of entrance track to Holt Hall. Had a double-take as I was driving by!" | David Griffith | Holt | 3rd



Woodpigeon | "When will they stop mating in front of our kitchen window?" | David Griffiths | Holt | 24th

Collared Dove | "Back, once again trying to build a nest on our satellite dish bracket!" | David Griffith | Holt | 1st

Lesser Black-backed Gull | "landed on the canal. Not something I have often seen." | Bob Farndon | Dilham Canal | 9th

Lesser Black-backed Gull | "on camp, trying to feed on some carrion, unable to deter the Great Black-back from tucking in though." | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 19th

Sandwich Tern | "Single bird east along shore, occasionally performing feeding dives." | Dave Billham | Sheringham | 21st

Fulmar | "15 possibly 13 occupied nest sites between East Runton & Cromer - during the NENBC weekend walk" | Trevor Williams | Cromer | 18th

Sparrowhawk | "During ringing session 0600-1030. Female surprised as she was trying to grab a panicking blackbird, which consequently escaped minus a few feathers" | Roger Emmens | Sustead Common | 14th

Goshawk | "two birds together, both males as smaller than common buzzards, a third bird had missing primaries on one wing" | Julian Thomas | Swanton Novers | 10th

Marsh Harrier | "Eating carrion in field, persuaded to leave by two carrion crows who wanted the meal." | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 19th

Buzzard | "11x Including 8 birds following tractor that was ploughing, very Black Kite like if you were in France!" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 14th

Buzzard | "Low over garden circling drifting north at same time as red kite doing same thing" | Stu Buck | Antingham & Bradfield | 16th

Green Woodpecker | "Female seen on ground, second bird heard calling nearby, hoping it's a pair!" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 11th

Kestrel | "Hovering 3-4 meters in front of station. Excellent view in sunshine!" | Andrew Gorton | East Runton (Coastwatch Station) | 13th

Magpie | "Watched 'courtship display'. Not seen this before, quite flamboyant!" | Alan Stevens | Gresham | 6th

Magpie | "Squirrelwood horse paddocks. Unfortunately no Wheatear or Ring Ouzel. Wished I had hung around as could see from her WhatsApp that Val S saw a Ring Ouzel 30 mins after I left." | David Barrass | Kelling Heath | 23rd

Jackdaw | "15x Taking nesting material from the back of a cow! Lovely to watch!" | Jane Crossen | West Runton | 18th

Carrion Crow | "Observed carrying a moorhen egg, the contents of, which contained a well-developed chick, were duly eaten. A few moments later another egg was obtained, they had clearly found a moorhens nest on the water meadow and were tucking in. Such is nature." | Phil Borley | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 17th | *Photo courtesy of Mark Clements*



Sand Martin | "30x Investigating the cliffs just east of the slipway. Not seen them there before. Last year they were slightly further east. This site is very, very close to the coastal path and it could be disturbed during the busy summer season. They did all suddenly depart east (I didn't disturb them but there were people, understandably, quite close). I'm thinking maybe the previous year's site had suffered erosion over the winter period. Be interesting to see if they return to the newly-investigated site.2 | Jane Crossen | West Runton | 7th

House Martin | "3x Circling about in Alfred Road. House where they usually nest has scaffolding up. Might have put them off nesting there" | Andrew Gorton | Cromer | 25th

Cetti's Warbler | "Singing from garden along Fox's Beck heard from Chapel Road, good garden tick!" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 5th

Cetti's Warbler | "Next to sewage treatment plant. First time heard from this location this spring. Now 5 locations recorded in and around Southrepps this year, not including the population at Dilham Canal next to Pigneys Wood.2 | Mick Rebane | Southrepps Common | 19th

Willow Warbler | "Feeding in direct sunlight on newly burst apple blossom aphids. First garden record of this species, a real joy" | John Hurst | Mundesley | 10th

Willow Warbler | "Singing from birch plantation near Warren Barn, possible second bird calling in woods, according to Merlin but I wasn't convinced!" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 15th

Chiffchaff | "10x Singing from birch plantation near Warren Barn, possible second bird calling in woods, according to Merlin but I wasn't convinced!" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 5th

Reed Warbler | "Singing from blackthorn scrub at Sewage Treatment Works, confused Merlin who didn't pick it up at all even though very close, seen and heard well2 | Stella Bayliss | Southrepps Common | 16th

Grasshopper Warbler | "Found by Merlin in the same spot as one last year, which I saw and heard." | Bob Farndon | Dilham Canal | 21st

Blackcap | "7x Included 4 singing birds at Sewage Treatment Works in close proximity, confused Merlin who mis-identified Garden Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat - there was a lot of mimicry, but only Blackcap present (with a nearby Reed Warbler which Merlin didn't pick up!)" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 16th

Blackcap | "With in feet of me on my field I was so taken for his trust in me I forgot to take a photo !!!!!" | Anne Sims | Gresham | 17th

Blackcap | "Singing in the garden. First location record." | John Hurst | Mundesley | 25th

Lesser Whitethroat | "Pleased to see and hear one back in previous location, singing a bit subdued with lots of low warbling before usual rattle notes" | Stella Baylis | Southrepps Common | 24th

Goldcrest | "Collecting spider's webs just feet from me, completely oblivious to my presence" | Val Stubbs | High Kelling | 9th (*Library photo Ken Thornton*)

Blackbird | "A lone egg found on the ground. Maybe a Corvid had robbed a nest but was scared off before eating it." | Francis Farrow | Beeston Common | 20th

Pied Wagtail | "3x West along cliffs in a loose group; one looked very pale on the mantle (possibly a White Wagtail, but identification only tentative)" | Andy Clarke | West Runton | 3rd

Pied Wagtail | "In paddock with cows; one alba (White Wagtail)" | Andrew Clarke | West Runton | 13th



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



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!

NENBC WhatsApp groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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!

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 except assistance dogs.

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

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

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

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

Non-Club Local Events

Wild About Mannington is a family-themed event this year and will be taking place on **Sunday 24th May from 10am to 4pm**. Details will be updated here: [Wild about Mannington - Mannington](#). NENBC hope to be there on a joint stall with our friends from [Felbeck Trust](#) and the [Upper Bure & Glaven Conservation Triangle](#).

Felbeck Trust Annual Bio-blitz is at their West Beckham Old Allotments site on **Sunday 7th June** with full details appearing on their website nearer the time [Felbeck Trust Events](#). A great day out always!

The North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust will be celebrating the **200th anniversary** of the opening of the canal on the **weekend of the 29th & 30th August** and NENBC plan to be there to support them on the 29th.

FREE ENTRY

WILDLIFE DISCOVERY DAY

In association with the Sheringham Town Council's Wildlife Garden Awards, we will be holding our first Wildlife Discovery Day on

Saturday 20th June 2026

Venue: Sheringham Community Centre
10am to 12pm - Children's activities
1.45pm to 5pm - Guest speakers

Wildlife Garden Award

Nick Acheson
Author, Naturalist, presenter & ambassador for the Wildlife Trust

Simon Harrap
Author, Botanist & owner of Natural Surroundings

Trevor Williams
Birder & Chair of UBGC Triangle Project & Felbeck Trust

Jo Haywood
Wildlife gardener

Face painting, crafting & more!

Visit the Sheringham Town Council Website for more information
www.sheringhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Upcoming Events

In the coming weeks we have another double **Felbrigg Park Walk** offering a short or a standard stroll, a walk at **Burnham Overy Staithe** and of course our annual **Big Sit**. Sorry, no more evening talks until the autumn as we are all enjoying being out in the spring weather. Keep an eye out for our pop-up events which are our short-notice activities – upcoming are seawatches and a Nightjar walk. Look forward to seeing you at these events soon.

Felbrigg Park Monthly Walk 20th May 2026

Following the success of our March double event, we will offering two walks on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for the next few months at least.

In addition to our usual romp with we will also be leading a second shorter and slower walk for those who find our normal offer more than they are willing / able to do. We really hope that many of you will come and join us. The plan is a staggered start with us all meeting up in the café afterwards at 11am.

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

Walk 1 | 9:00am to 11:00am | ≈ 2+ miles

A bit of a romp with Dave Billham

Walk 2 | 9:30am to 11:00am | ≈ 1 mile

Slow and steady with Nick Kimber

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

| 20th May | 17th Jun | 15th Jul |

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

Burnham Overy Staithe Walk grazing marsh, sea, dunes and beach

Sunday 17th May

9.30 am 1.00 pm

Walk Leader: Colin Blaxill

A walk during May along the Norfolk coast is always exciting, with resident and passage migratory birds likely to keep us entertained. Starting along the sea wall, we will look over grazing marsh and explore the dunes and walk to the beach, returning back through the dunes. We will be looking for waders, ducks, raptors and a range of passerines. The sandy beach, popular in summer, depending on the weather but should hold a range of gulls and possibly different waders. The dunes on the south side are grass and scrub with Holkham Pines to the east end. We will try to enter the pines, if time allows .

PARK & MEET: The Hard, East Harbour Way, Burnham Overy Staithe, PE31 8JF. The Quay Car Park is a free car park and should be tide-free during the walk | Grid reference: TF 845 443 | What3Words: mass.rainbow.laminate | GIS: Easting 584507, Northing 344378

DISTANCE: approx 4 miles

ACCESSIBILITY: The sea wall is a gravel path which is worn in places but generally easy level walking. The dunes are fine sand and are harder to negotiate. We will most likely scan the beach from the dunes then walk east along the southern edge towards Holkham. Sturdy footwear advisable and please come suitably dressed for the forecasted weather.

FACILITIES: Refreshment stops at a café are not a formal part of this walk. However, for those interested, there is a pub at Burnham Overy Staithe 'The Hero'. There are also public toilets in nearby Burnham Market at Foundry Place car park, along with cafes and pubs. All are likely to be busy on a Sunday in May, so bringing your own refreshments is highly recommended! Please bring water and a light lunch.

CLUB BADGES: The walk is outside the club area so records can't count towards club badges this time.

Pigneys Wood and Dilham Canal Walk with Julian Thomas

Saturday 13th June | 9:30am to 1:00pm

Sea Palling Tern Colony Walk with Stella Baylis

Saturday 4th July | times to be confirmed

The Big Sit | Saturday 9th May

NENBC's Annual Dawn to Dusk Static Bird Count



How many bird species can we see from the same spot dawn to dusk? – join us to find out!

We very much hope you can come along to give us a bit of support and join in the general excitement of the day. For those of you new to it, there is a bit of general info in the box below but basically we hang about in the same spot watching, listening and taking note of what is about. It is always a fun day out with the chance to chat during the slower periods, engage with the passing public and with the added bonus (at Felbrigg at least) of an events shelter if the weather is a little inclement! You absolutely don't need to be a birding expert to take part and we would love to see you for all or some of the day. If you can make it down for dawn to either of the sites for the dawn chorus that would be great but if you just want to pop by at a more civilised hour then please do!

FELBRIGG PARK with Trevor Williams & the gang | Dawn (5am) to Dusk | Above the lake on 'The Warren' so we have a view onto the water, across the grassland, a bit of the water meadow in the scopes and of course the trees and sky. If anyone fancies a walk, we will also be **running a morning walk from the site starting at 9:30am with John Swallow**. If there are any takers, we are happy to do a lunchtime / early afternoon walk too.

BEESTON COMMON PILLBOX with Francis Farrow & the gang | Dawn (5am) until 1pm (possibly longer if plenty of birds and it's not too cold!) | At Pill-box Hill, towards the south of Beeston Common as usual. Grid ref: TG164240 / W3W: edgy.yourself.wolves

Not able to make it? Why not have your own Big Sit at home? The event coincides with Global Bird Day & World Migratory Bird Day and we will making a donation to a worthy nature cause based on number of records added to our website by members over the weekend so please get logging!

The Big Sit Made Easy



- Choose a site with good views and set a notional 17 feet diameter circle to base your team in
- Record all bird species seen or heard from the circle during a 24 hour period (realistically dawn to dusk)
- Where possible records should be confirmed by a 2nd team member and spotters out in the field are allowed as long as the bird is recorded from the circle
- Maintain a birdlist in 10 minute intervals during the day and later log results on the club website
- Keep in touch with other teams for possible fly-throughs and bragging rights
- Bring a picnic and enjoy the company of others
- The club will compare results across sites and years in the newsletter

Last Month's Evening Talk with Andy Bloomfield "The Spoonbills of Holkham National Nature Reserve"



By Alan Stevens

For the last NENBC indoor meeting of the spring with had the company of Andy Bloomfield talking about Spoonbills, and more specifically about the Spoonbills at Holkham National Nature Reserve where he is Senior Warden. Andy had the good fortune to be born on the estate where he has spent his life studying the natural history of Holkham and the surrounding area. He is the author of 'Birds of the Holkham Area' and 'North Norfolk's Wildlife', has contributed to ornithological publications including 'The Birds of Norfolk'. His special interest in Spoonbills led him to forming the UK Spoonbill Working Group and he has lectured on the species internationally.

Andy started with a brief look at the Spoonbill describing the bird in general terms, by comparison to other species, with a closer look at the beak, explaining that they can feed with their head submerged and that the beak has sensors and a 'hook' to aid catching fish.

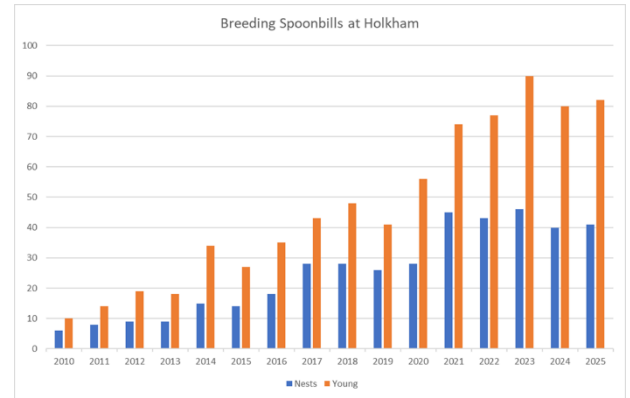
Giving the species an historical perspective Andy showed a slide of their distribution pre-1700 when, as far as records show, there were 15 UK locations where the birds were recorded with the last nest being noted in 1668. In East Anglia their strongholds were in The Fens and towards the east coast with records from the Claxton and Reedham where a Spoonbill still features in the village sign. Much of the historical data comes from contemporary estate records which sadly only record how many were shot for the table or for their plumage to decorate hats. There appears to have always been an abiding interest in Spoonbills, perhaps because they are large and attractive birds and our speaker showed a slide of old publications featuring them including 'The Home Life of the Spoonbill' from 1910, a cookery book describing a Spoonbill recipe and a church pew end with one carved in relief. One of the last birds was shot at Breydon Water in 1800. Andy related a tale about a case of taxidermized Spoonbills in a pub which I won't relate here – just ask him if you bump into him!

Having looked at the Spoonbills of the past Andy turned to those of today and Holkham NNR, the 'modern home' of the species which is part owned by the Holkham Estate and part by the Crown. The area the colony location is part re-claimed marsh, a decoy wood and an Iron Age Fort, all of which contribute to making it appealing to the Spoonbills and other species but also present challenges to its management. He related matters around tree planting, the salt marsh and grazing, the management of water on the site and the back story of the channel serving the 17th century decoy Duck Pond. The site was on the Bird Map 1967-87 and Andy spoke of the work the then Nature Conservancy Council carried out along the lines of a Dutch model proving that the management of water levels results in bird species making use of/returning to a location.

Andy explained that the area suffered a long era of neglect and decline with the site falling into a state of disrepair over perhaps a century, the woodland with its willow and oak becoming wet. A plan by English

Nature in 1980 to remove the trees to the benefit of Bitterns was luckily not followed through and the location has attracted several breeding species. It has been colonised by Cormorants, of which there are many, from 1999, Little Egret 2002, Norfolk's first breeding Great White Egret 2016 and Cattle Egret in 2019. Grey Heron are also present. The site is attractive as it provides shelter from the wind and is surrounded by water so providing protection from predators and human/dog disturbance. The other main plus point is of course the availability of extensive feeding areas in the salt marsh.

The success of the Spoonbills at Holkham was illustrated by simple bar graph. The first summering colony was recorded in 2004, the first breeding success came in 2010 with 6 pairs which in turn have led to a maximum number of pairs at 46 (2023), with a best productivity of 90 (also 2023) and a total of fledged young of 748 between 2010 and 2025. Assessing the numbers is aided using drones to avoid disturbance. The colony is now considered to be at capacity and other colonies are being formed as a result.



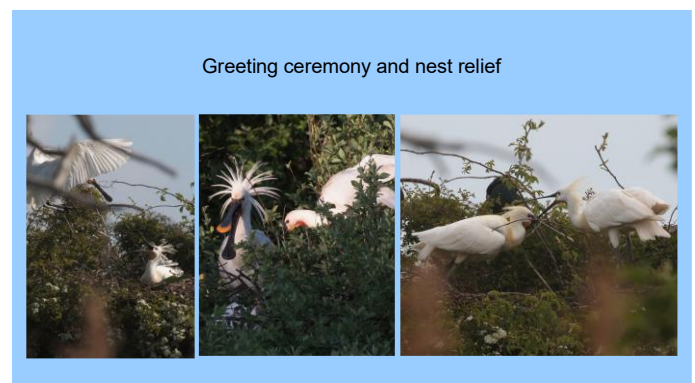
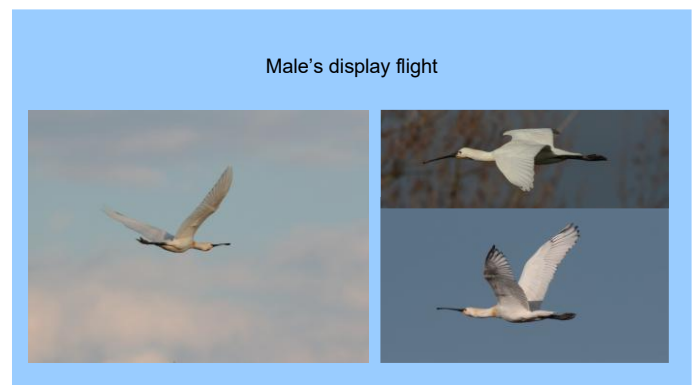
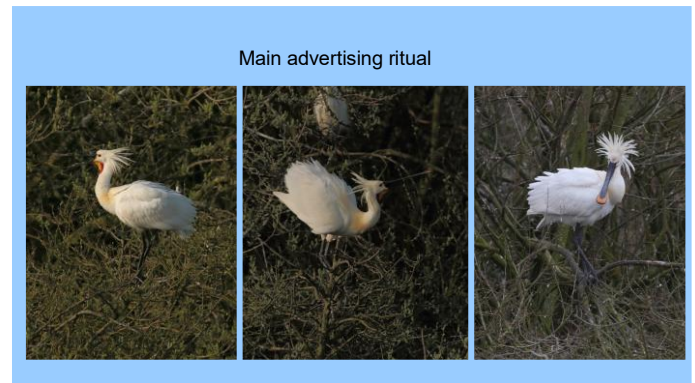
We next turned to the life and times of Spoonbills at Holkham. The earliest arrival date recorded so far is February 10th for what was always considered to be a summer visitor appearing in late April/May. Birds are no longer migrating as far as Africa to over winter with many choosing to stop in Iberia and some even in the UK.

Spoonbills do not mate for life and when they first arrive at Holkham they start to 'advertise' themselves to prospective mates and from this point on Andy gave a wonderfully detailed account of their rituals, mating and breeding behaviour all from his firsthand experience.

All illustrated with his own images Andy described this 'advertising' which takes place on the tops of bushes and trees, their calls and the preening of their spectacular plumes. Threat displays were explained which can lead to ferocious fighting between rivals with the 'nick' on their beaks causing significant injury as they smash them together. They also show hostility to non-breeding Spoonbills often causing harm by grabbing their upper leg. They equally attack other species and apparently they 'hate' Little Egrets but will not challenge Great Whites as they are out matched on size. Pair formation sees females engaging in 'head-bobbing' and after mating the pair 'rub shoulders' and preen each other. Then it's down to nest building often based on old Cormorant nests, involves stick stealing from others and the use of fresh reeds.

Incubation is asynchronous from a clutch of a maximum of 4 eggs (elsewhere in Europe up to 6 eggs is common), and is undertaken by both birds, usually males during the day and females at night. Change overs involve greeting ceremonies, calls and crest raising.

Hatching takes place after 22 to 31 days with an average of 27.3 and we shown images of parent birds protecting young from both heat and rain. A sequence of shots showed clearly chick development from 5 to 51 days old and feeding behaviours. Fledging occurs between 31 and 42 days with an average of 37 days. Post fledging fledgling creches develop and young remain dependent on their parents for an extended period, even after migrating to West Africa. Come the autumn flocks form prior to migration but the destination of the UK population is still requiring investigation to be certain of locations. Without ringing or geo-tagging this is obviously difficult but is



something Dutch researchers have had success with. Much has however been learnt from the study of Colour-ringed Spoonbills at Holkham as detailed in the slide below right.

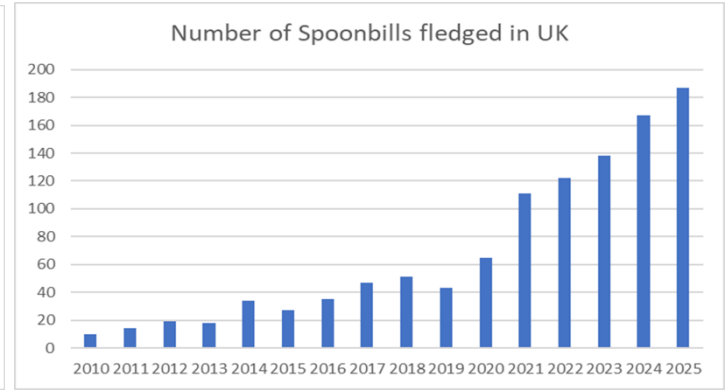
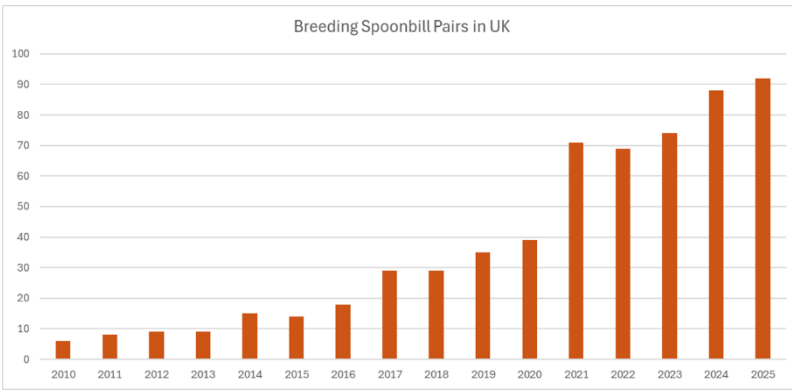
To conclude Andy turned an eye to the future of Holkham and safeguarding the fragile environment there. This already involves dealing with the effect of Cormorant 'poo', managing water levels and the planting of a new wood which will hopefully provide a home for Spoonbills and other species as the present wood slowly dies, a significant undertaking.

The happy news from this talk is that against a backdrop of terrible news about the fall in species numbers Spoonbills are a UK success with numbers of breeding birds and the total population increasing exponentially from 2010 to today. Whether this is in part due to climate change and birds are expanding their range, well perhaps so, but they are doing well in establishing a firm foothold in the UK after a long absence.



Colour-ringed Spoonbills at Holkham and what we have learnt

- 'Some' wintering sites
- Local feeding distances
- 'Some' migration routes
- The changing of sexual partners
- Long distance feeding
- Links to other sites in UK
- Long distance travel by families
- Nest material gathering by females
- A need for more knowledge!



A really great talk by a local naturalist willing to share his lifelong observations with his audience and especially those of the Spoonbills which clearly he greatly cares for. I'm sure that many of the members present who have not been to Holkham of late may well pay a visit this summer.

A huge thank you to Frederic for coming to video the event – link will be with those of you who have requested it in the next day or so. Thanks also to the NENBC refreshment team – Hilary and Jane and the clearing up support from Sean and Colin – you are all stars!





What a success! Our double walk at Felbrigg Park last month proved a real hit so we decided to make it a regular feature. The result this month was a combined species count for the estate walk and the lake loop walk a fantastic 54. Read all about them both below ...

An award, woods, lake and fields and a surprise reeling | by Dave Billham

Well, it only went and happened again - after years of not achieving a total of 50 species for a Felbrigg club walk, we managed it for a second month running - and a few more!

It was also the second time of having two simultaneous walks, though this time the second one started half an hour earlier to allow a little more time by the lake. As a bonus, although it was somewhat grey, it was warm and dry – shorts were in evidence; it was really feeling like the run-up to summer. Trevor was leading the walk with Carol sweeping up at the rear; in the absence of Nick, John Swallow was to lead the shorter walk. He had arrived early, which meant that he could be there for the presentation of a club bronze badge (for 100 species in the NENBC area), being awarded to **Jonathan Anderson** – well done Jonathan! Or rather, he got an envelope with his name on it, as the badge had been left at home - whoops! We also had Patrick from Mundesley, on his first club walk, amongst the 21 members present.

The list started, as usual, in the car park, where we saw **Carrion Crow, Woodpigeon, Rook, Jackdaw** and **Feral Pigeon**, and were serenaded by **Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Goldfinch, Greenfinch** and **Blackbird**. After the normal briefing, we started by walking behind the house into the woods; a **Pheasant** calling was the first addition, before we heard both **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** in full song. We spent a while trying to find these two, but apart from brief views they remained elusive. Further into the woods



we heard first a **Jay**, then a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** calling, along with the calls of a pair of **Stock Dove** from the treetops. Other singers were **Nuthatch** and **Wren**, though again only brief views were obtained. We were alerted to a distant **Common Buzzard**, then it all went quiet for a while. A singing **Mistle Thrush** on our lefthand side was next up, joined by a **Song Thrush** from our right; it was great to hear these two together, filling the peaceful woods with their mellow notes.



Emerging onto the path leading to the water meadows, we spied a pair of **Herring Gull** overhead, and, glowing white on the meadows in front of us, a pair of **Mute Swan**. As we got closer we could also see **Mallard**, **Teal** and **Coot** on the pools, and a single **Magpie** poking around in the grass. **Linnet** were noted on top of the gorse, and the call of **Green Woodpecker** drifted up to us. As a **Whitethroat** was heard singing, a **Common Snipe** shot up from the reeds, completed a fast circle then dropped down to land in the adjacent meadow. At this point Carol caught me to ask if I had **Treecreeper** on the list, as Jonathon, further back in the group, had spied one; I didn't, so it was added on. An explosive burst of song stopped us in our tracks; **Cetti's Warbler**. Despite much searching, it was not going to show itself; much more visible were a pair of **Red Kite** drifting overhead.

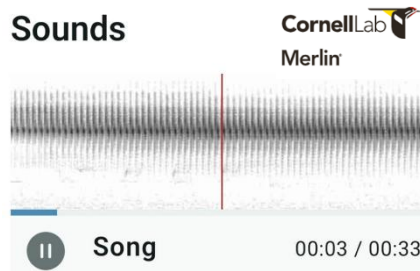
Arriving at the wooden bridge across the beck, we saw a **Grey Heron** flying in, being mobbed by a Herring Gull. This was followed by another Snipe lifting up and flying off, though we could see nothing that might be disturbing them. At the lake we found some **Long-tailed Tit** in the trees, and on the water

were a pair of additions to the list in the shape of **Gadwall** and **Tufted Duck**, along with further Mallard, Mute Swan and Coot, and a third flying Snipe. Walking along the dam wall Trevor found a few Early Purple Orchid; whilst we



were admiring these a couple of members picked up the faint call of a **Grasshopper Warbler**, coming from the scrub in the meadow behind the dam. This was a super find, being a rare bird for Felbrigg; it was the first for a club walk. Carol reminded us of the incident on an NENBC Skywatch event a few years back, when her, Trevor and others thought they heard one of these distinctive calls in a hedgerow but which turned out to be a discarded, but still bleeping, electronic security tag from a shop! Our bird was calling consistently but faintly, and we spent a good while trying to see it, unfortunately with no joy, though we did have a few false alarms as the reeds and associated brambles did contain a few other flitting species. Following on from our March walk where we were accompanied by one of our UEA students who is researching the use of AI in birding for us, it was interesting that on this occasion, many of our members invoked Merlin and it was able to pick out the Grasshopper Warbler's feint call. Below is a sonagram (not from our walk but from the App's library *courtesy of Arnoud B van den Berg*). See what a distinctive and repetitive pattern it makes?

Sounds



Here's a link to a call on the also very useful Xeno-Canto site:

[Common Grasshopper Warbler \(Locustella naevia\) :: xeno-canto](https://xeno-canto.org/species/Common-Grasshopper-Warbler-Locustella-naevia/)

When we had to move on, Roger decided to stay in the area for a while to try and find it. However, we had added **Kestrel** and singing **Skylark** to the list as we had searched for the Grasshopper Warbler. At this point two members of our group decided to make an early bid for the café, and left in the direction of the house.

Carol had checked out some Wheatear the previous day, so the plan was to go to the fields above the lake to see if they were still present. On the way we found **Pied Wagtail** and **Red-legged Partridge**, along with further Linnet and another Grey Heron. One member had seen what she thought could have been a pair of Shelduck flying in to land over a rise in front of us; when we got a view down the slope they turned out to be **Egyptian Geese**; a nice find. Two Mute Swan flew in, apparently not local birds; after a couple of circuits of the lake, obviously giving it a good look over, they decided to splash down. Arriving at the field, we initially could not spot any **Wheatear**; eventually a single female was found, very, very distant in amongst the furrows. Without any real landmarks to guide others in, it took Trevor quite a bit

of time to get some of us onto it; even then others were still struggling. Eventually it moved along the field a little, before disappearing over the rise.

At this point Roger caught up with us; he had not been able to see the Grasshopper Warbler and now had missed the Wheatear! He had, however, heard **Chaffinch** which was added to the list. Mentioning that we had seen no hirundines elicited a response from Patrick that he had seen a single **Swallow** whilst he had been waiting in the car park. This gave us 48 species, but with our time almost up we had to head for the house. Three **Starling** on the grass briefly raised hopes that we could achieve fifty, but it was not to be, so we had to settle for 49.



Approaching the house we were looking for the second group, who should have been finishing at the same time as us, but there was no-one to be seen. Having missed a 'both groups' photo the previous

month, as some of the second group had decided to run for the café to beat the queue, Carol was hoping to obtain one this month. Her hopes were dashed; unlike the March walk, where some had left early for the café, this time they all had!



We could see John in the queue, so Carol and I waited for him to come out into the courtyard so that we could compare lists. Going through John's notebook we found the following species that we had not seen: **Dunnock, Reed Bunting, Cormorant, Collared Dove** and **Moorhen**. At which point Carol excitedly told us that she and the tail-enders had seen Moorhen down at the lake; our group had seen **50 species** after all! Combining the two lists gave a grand total of **54**, with which we were very happy. All in all, a smashing morning, complete with good weather, great company and a super bird. What more could you ask for?

A slow and steady lake loop | by John Swallow

Following the success of last month's inaugural "Short Walk" we decided to make this a regular feature of our walks program. Nick was away so I volunteered to guide the group and my first tasks were to log everyone in (a total of 9 including me and one of our youngest recruits in her pushchair bringing down our average age a bit!) and go through a brief health and safety reminder. After a short discussion it was decided that the "Shelter Belt" and Scarrow Beck water meadows would be good places to look for spring migrants before checking Felbrigg Lake so we left the NT car park a little after 09.30.

We set off at a nice gentle pace allowing everyone time to enjoy the views as we walked past Felbrigg Hall. The fields had many ewes (at least 95 from the inelegant numbers on their sides) with their newly born lambs chasing around. As we descended into the woodland we heard many calling **Nuthatch**, and we had super views of a couple of **Long-tailed Tit** carrying nest material into bramble scrub. It was very noticeable that most if not all birds were actively engaged in the new breeding season either singing, feeding, carrying nest material or all three! It is always a pleasure to witness the onset of a new breeding season and the boundless energy of wildlife at this time of year. Our attention was drawn by the familiar sound of a singing **Blackcap** and while listening the group



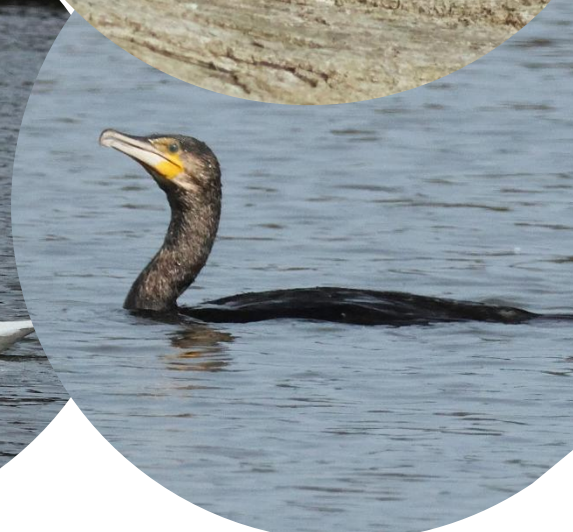
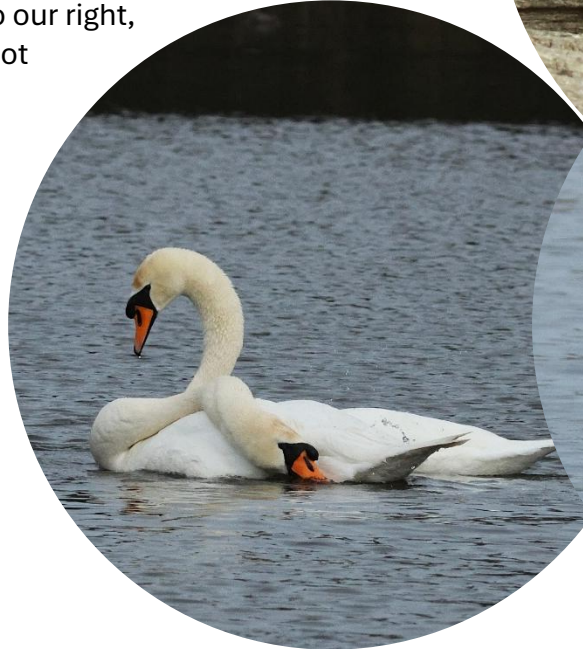
latched onto at first one, then two **Treecreepers** doing what, well, what Treecreepers do, searching the bark and moss along the gnarled limbs of an old Oak.

The sound of a singing **Mistle Thrush**, which had been feint, became louder as we walked towards Scarrow Beck water meadows and everyone was able to hear the bird well with a second bird spotted in a nearby tree. This was quickly followed by views of a nice male **Kestrel**, a **Buzzard** and **Grey Heron** overhead. Everyone chipped in with sightings, first a **Red Kite** gliding by, the whoop whoop call of a nearby **Stock Dove** then a lively party of **Greenfinch** with songs and called continuously monitored using the Merlin App.

We couldn't locate any hoped Snipe at the base of Scarrow Beck but we did encounter a LOUD **Cetti's Warbler**, followed by quiet **Mute Swans**, **Teal**, and **Moorhen**. A scan across Felbrigg Pond produced **Coot**, **Gadwall** and **Tufted Duck** plus a **Cormorant** too.

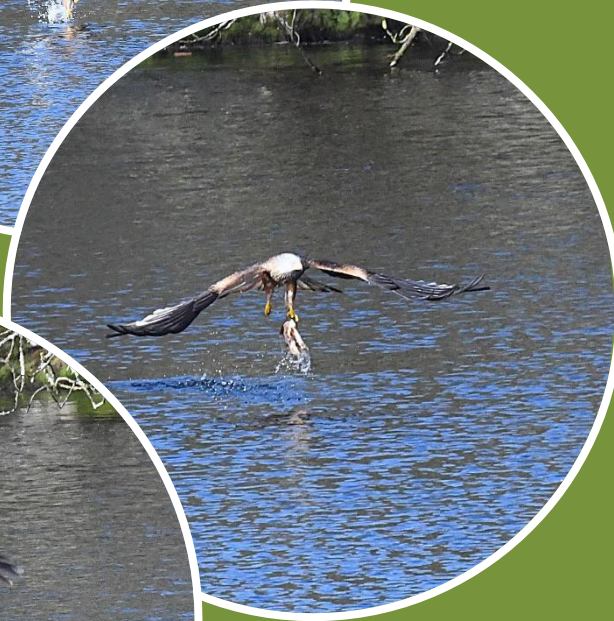
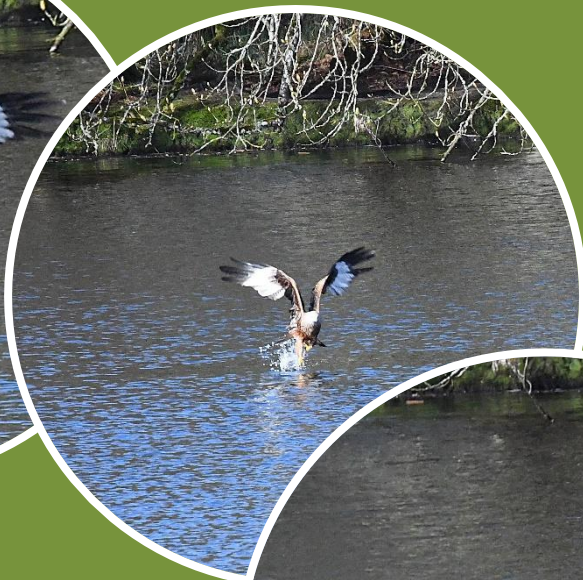
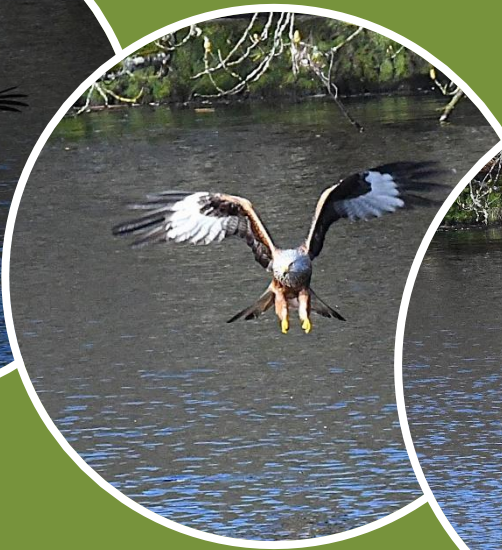
With 11-o'clock approaching I suggested we turn away from the pond and head for the NT café and Hall. Half way "Home" we noticed the "Long Walk Group" to our right, some 750m away. While we are not competitive an early arrival at the coffee queue seemed like a good idea so we engaged afterburners, picked up the pace and came in ahead of the other group. We had had a very enjoyable stroll, logged **44 species** and I really enjoyed being a part of this group with plenty of time to appreciate what we were seeing and hearing.

Photos from that week at Felbrigg Park courtesy of Ken Thornton: Tufted Duck, Nuthatch, Mute Swan, Cormorant

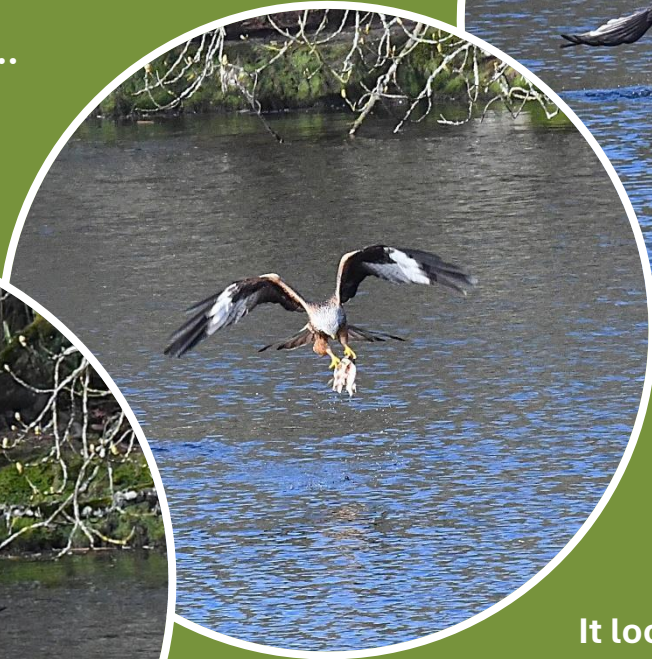


**In the café afterwards
turns out the 'slow and
steady' group were quite
speedy after all!**





Here's a great series of pics from Felbrigg Park last month taken by Lower Gresham residents Chris and Gary



It looks like this Red Kite plucked a fish (or part thereof!) from the lake.



Last Month's Weekend Walk

The Runtons | Saturday 18th April



By Trevor Williams

It was a small but select group who gathered by the Blue Sky Cafe at the start of the NENBC weekend walk around the 'Runton loop'. The walk started out across the Cromer Carnival field, crossed the road to the 'Runton gap', went along Mill Lane to East Runton, then via Top Common and Thains Lane, past the West Runton golf course, through the village to the Water Lane carpark and coffee at the Seaview Café coffee cart. The return leg was on clifftop fields to East Runton and then via the beach back to Cromer. A gentle three and a half hour stroll over a distance of five miles. The target for our walk were spring migrants, some of which we saw from the car park at the start of the walk - Sand and House Martin and Swallow got us off to a good start. The group of six adults Mediterranean Gull heading west unfortunately came too early for most of the group. The 'green belt' scrub which separates Cromer from East Runton - 'the 'Runton Gap' - is always good value and has held some exciting migrants in the past, but not today! Still Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Whitethroat kept us amused as we slowly headed west. One of the Blackcap, obviously newly arrived from the continent, gave us an initial identification challenge as it sang repeated phrases from a variety of tropical sounding species. The walk to Thains Lane, another migrant 'hot spot', was relatively quiet as was the edge of Inceborough Hill and the golf course. It was only when we arrived at the horse paddocks along Beach Road that we saw our first two Wheatear. A well-deserved coffee break before we departed on the return leg via the clifftop fields at the back of Rocky Bottoms and Woodhill caravan park. Here another pair of Wheatear gave exceptional views. The highlight of the final stretch along the beach from East Runton to Cromer was the Fulmar colony on the cliffs. We counted what looked like a dozen active nests, with 15 attendant adults. A nice walk, in good weather, with great company - the 55 species recorded were a bonus!



Wheatear



Fulmar

By Andy Clarke

With the increasing use of the 'Merlin' App to identify bird calls, I thought it might be interesting to recount some recent experiences I have had, with very different outcomes.

In spring I tend to spend my early mornings on the coast, usually at Beeston Bump or West Runton, watching for visible migrants. At the same time I run my recorder, in case this picks up calls of passing birds that I have missed. These days my hearing is not what it was, and I can easily miss some higher pitched calls, so having a recording is a valuable back-up. Recently (21 March) I was watching from Beeston Bump and there was a light passage in progress, mainly finches (Chaffinches, Goldfinches and quite a few Siskins). Interestingly most birds were heading east, when usually spring migration is westwards. Three Pied Wagtails headed west, however, as did a single pipit which I immediately identified as a Rock Pipit from its flight call. Small numbers of Rock Pipits from Scandinavia winter along our coast, and are regularly seen at places such as Sheringham and West Runton, so a passing Rock Pipit was nothing out of the ordinary.

When I got home I downloaded the recording, and ran it through the AI-based program 'Chirpity'. This (free) software assigns an identification to the various calls it detects, and isolates the calls so you can check them. The software identified all the species I had seen, and the number of detections broadly matched the numbers of birds I had identified by eye and call (most were Siskins). However it also picked out the four calls from the passing pipit, and identified the first of these calls as Water Pipit.

Water Pipit is a scarce wintering bird in Norfolk, and is very scarce indeed in the NENBC area, with only ten records since the start of the club in 2015. This is partly because the club area largely lacks suitable habitat for this species, which favours water meadows and other wet areas inland; at Cley where a small number of Water Pipits often winter, they particularly favour areas where reed has been cut (see image).



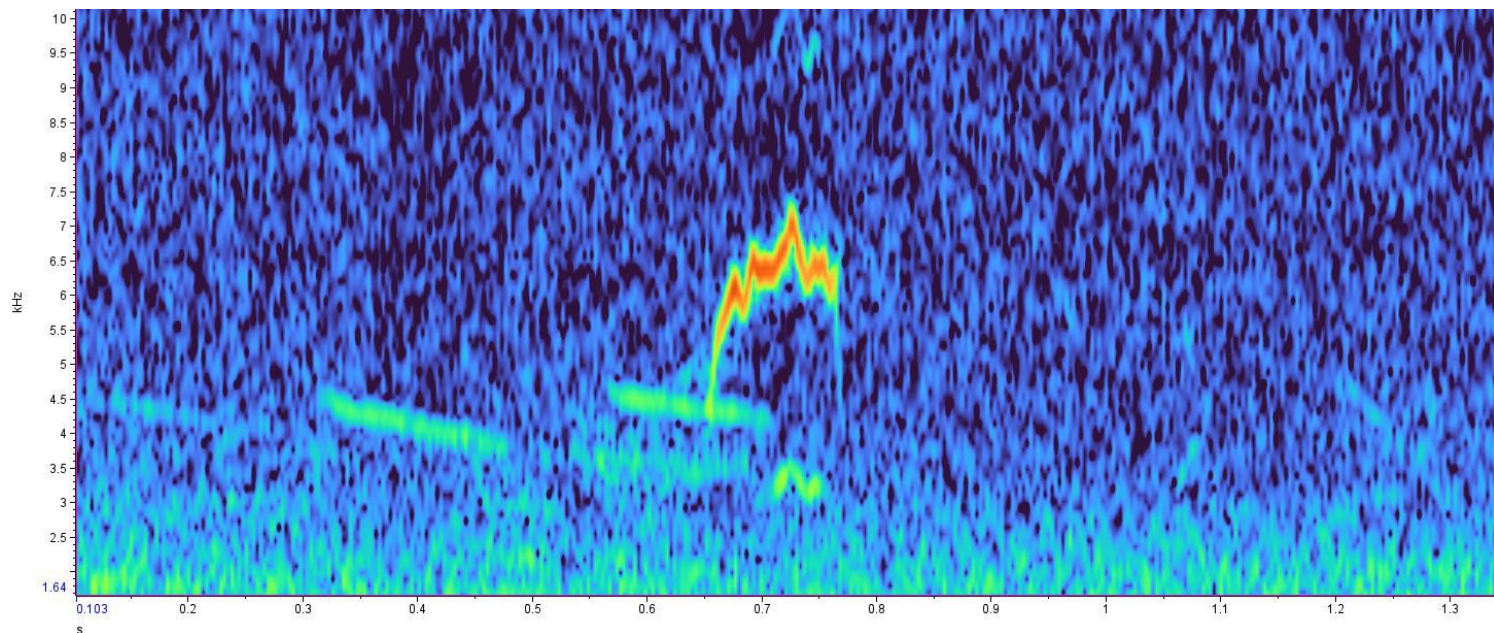
A Water Pipit in typical habitat at Cley (29 Oct 2025)

Image: Andy Clarke

Because of the scarcity of this species in the NENBC area, and the similarity of the call to that of Rock Pipit, I needed to check the identification carefully. So I isolated the four calls, and ran them through the Cornell University AI system (BirdNet). This identified two of the four calls as Water Pipit, with confidence scores of 0.84 and 0.91. It is important to recognise that these scores are not a measure of

confidence in the identification, but a measure of how closely the recording matches the library of calls the AI has been trained with; the scale runs from 0 to 1, so a score of 0.91 means that the match is very close. The next step was a 2014 paper by Thijs Fijen in *Dutch Birding*, in which he compared in detail the flight calls of Rock Pipit and Water Pipit. This confirmed that the general appearance of the flight call (see spectrogram) was essentially identical to that of the European race of Water Pipit (*spinoletta*) and quite different from Rock Pipit (even though to most birders the calls are very similar). Moreover I was able to make accurate measurements of key features (the length of the call, the maximum frequency and the position of the peak spike in relation to the overall length of the call). All pointed clearly to Water Pipit, and ruled out Rock Pipit. So

on that basis, and after a fascinating morning's exploration, I felt confident to post the record as a Water Pipit, my first in the club area and only the 11th record overall for NENBC.



Spectrogram of Water Pipit call

Recording of a the flight call of a passing Water Pipit (analysed in 'Raven' software)

Almost two weeks later (3 April) I set out to walk from Beeston Bump to West Runton. The overnight winds had been from the south and I was hoping that the overcast sky and drizzle might have dropped a migrant or two. Apart from the long-staying Cetti's Warbler in the pit area at Beeston Bump, a lone Sand Martin and a splendid immature Caspian Gull drifting along the cliffs, birding was quiet. At West Runton I bumped into local birders Chris Mason and then Mike and Kathy Young-Powell, who all confirmed the lack of migrants. Working my way back I was checking the clifftop bushes when I heard a series of calls that sounded like a Richard's Pipit. A quick glance up revealed a large pipit flying steadily west. Thankfully I had my recorder running, so once I was home, and after the necessary cup of tea, I ran the entire recording through 'Chirpity'. This identified all the Greenfinches, Linnets, Skylarks and Meadow Pipits I had been hearing, and also a trio of passing Pied/White Wagtails. It also identified a possible Richard's Pipit, at just the same time as I had heard the calls. I excised the call, cleaned up the recording (for this I use the proprietary software package 'Raven' from Cornell) and submitted the recording to 'BirdNet'; the AI responded with an identification of Richard's Pipit and a confidence score of 0.97. The final step was to consult *'The sound approach to birding'* (Mark Constantine & The Sound Approach, 2006), which has a nice discussion of how the buzzy nature of a typical Richard's Pipit call appears on a sonagram. This confirmed only my second spring record of Richard's Pipit, after one that passed overhead calling loudly at Beeston Bump on 3 May 2016.

But things are not always so simple. Last autumn I spent a few days near Donna Nook, a well-known place for migrants. As the skies cleared towards the end of a wet day, I went to check the coastal bushes to see if the weather had dropped anything in. I was quickly rewarded with a fine male Redstart, which judging by its furious feeding and insistent calling, had only just arrived. As the bird was calling frequently and there were no other calls apart from an angry Whitethroat, I thought I would try 'Merlin'. In 48 seconds the bird called 43 times, and Merlin identified this one bird first as a Redstart, then as a Chaffinch, then Chiffchaff, then Redstart again, and so on. An inability to distinguish Chaffinch, Redstart and Chiffchaff is a well-known weakness of 'Merlin', so when I returned home I downloaded the recording from my phone and ran it through 'Chirpity'. This identified two of the calls as Redstart, and offered no opinion on the other 41 calls. However if I dropped the confidence threshold from my usual 0.8 to 0.5, then it identified 13 calls as Redstart. 'BirdNet' was similar, identifying 13 calls as Redstart with a confidence scores of between 0.53 and 0.95.

So what would I conclude? I think that used with care, modern tools such as 'Merlin' and 'BirdNet' are a valuable addition to the birder's armoury. But the key message is not to take them at face value. Always look for the bird to confirm its identity visually, and be aware of the traps (such as Redstart and Pied Flycatcher). But the field is improving rapidly, and these new tools will continue to provide a valuable extra dimension to our birding.



By Moss Taylor

I get great pleasure from reading old natural history and bird books, and am constantly amazed at how little has changed in the attitudes to birding over the last 70-80 years. Amongst my favourite Norfolk authors is Major Anthony Buxton, whose family has lived at Horsey Hall for just under 100 years. His son, John Buxton took over the running of the Horsey estate in 1958 and in recent years his grandson, Robin, is now living in the Hall.

While Major Buxton was very much in the old tradition of 'hunting, shooting and fishing', he was also a very keen conservationist and the observations in his book *Travelling Naturalist*, published in 1948, are very pertinent to today's birding scene:

'Many naturalists visited Horsey in the summer, and it was interesting to see the different ways in which they employed their time. A large number seemed simply bent on seeing and recording the largest possible number of different sorts of birds in the day and did not appear interested in what particular birds did. They just wanted to count'. Interestingly this is now the norm for participants in the BTO's BirdTrack project.

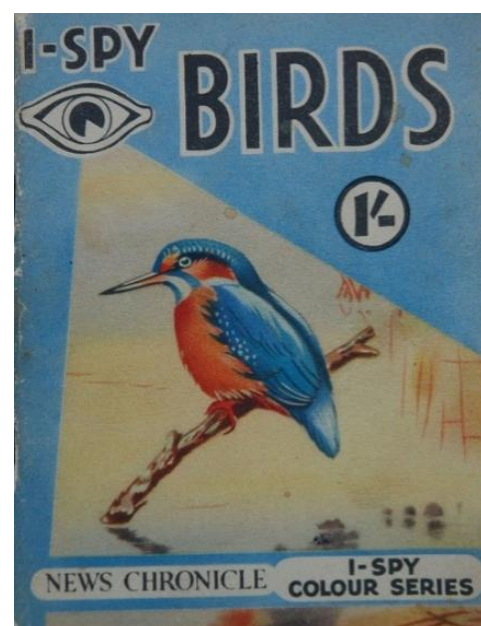
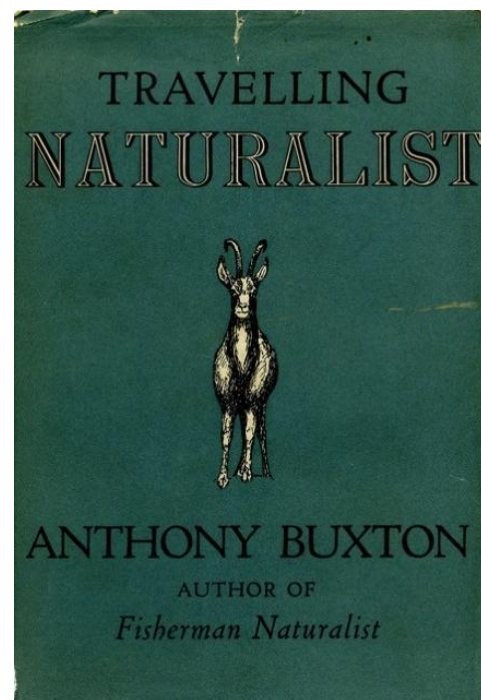
He continues his theme with regard to Bird Reports: 'Examination of publications by naturalist societies throughout the country leads me to think that this practice is very common today, and it strikes me as a dull form of natural history. It does no harm and I am not quarrelling with it, but the people who engage in it seem to me to view natural history as a business and to lose the fun, which they might get out of it, if they took the trouble to become more intimate with the creatures they saw and realised that birds and indeed all animals are individuals with individual tastes and characters.'

Other visitors to Horsey, with whom Major Buxton could relate '...liked spending most of the day getting a really good view of a particular pair of birds and learning how they spent their time... [others] seldom understand the importance of sitting still and of selecting the right place in which to sit – most of them will go wandering vaguely about, making noise and preventing the birds from carrying on in their natural way.' One of the finest, current Norfolk field ornithologists is James McCallum, artist and the finder of many rare birds in the county. His great success in both of these fields is undoubtedly due to his patience and careful observation of subjects that are often unaware of his presence.

Finally, Major Buxton makes some very apposite comments about bird photographers, which could just as easily be made today. While 'I like to encourage photography of wild birds and beasts, for it has done perhaps more than anything else to spread an interest in natural history among a wider public; but there are dangers inherent in it and some photographers that I have met have shown themselves either ignorant of, or indifferent to, these dangers.' He concludes 'The interests of the birds should come first, photographs second, and those who reverse that order give a bad name to an honourable profession.'

So has very much changed over the last 77 years?

Also on a more personal note, as a 10 year-old I was a very keen collector of the *News Chronicle I-Spy* books. Even at that age my favourite was *I-Spy Birds* and I still have my original copy. The book contained descriptions and pictures of 71 common British birds, each one worth from 15 to 30 points depending on its abundance, and in those days the sighting of a Great Spotted Woodpecker warranted 25 points, while a Cuckoo was only worth 20. It's ironic that today, over 70 years later, a similar system is in place in the NENBC but this time for adult birders!





By Russ Malin

Fair Isle is a small island that sits between Shetland and Orkney. It is three miles long by one and a half miles wide and since 1954 it has been owned by the National Trust for Scotland.

To lift a quote direct from the Shetland.org website it is 'famous for its birds, knitwear and historic shipwrecks'

Norse settlers named it Fridarey, 'the island of peace', but this stepping stone in the sea was also vital in times of strife, when the Earls of Orkney, and Viking warlords before them, used it as a look-out post and for sending fire signals to and from Shetland.

On 28th August 1948, Fair Isle Bird Observatory (FIBO) was officially opened. Amongst those present were George Waterston (founder of the observatory), Ken Williamson (the first warden) and a number of Islanders including George 'Fieldy' Stout who had been a resident birder on the island since the 1920s.

Fair Isle is renowned for the rare birds that have been recorded there, but it should also be noted that the observatory has been involved in scientific research both on bird migration and on its important seabird colonies where species such as Puffin, Black Guillemot and European Storm-petrel breed.

It is also worth mentioning that it is home to the Fair Isle Wren. The Wrens of Fair Isle were first recognised as distinctly different from those on neighbouring Shetland and those on the British mainland by the aforementioned Ken Williamson. Williamson gave the Fair Isle Wrens the subspecific name *fridariensis*.



Interestingly, it is the least numerous endemic bird subspecies in Britain and perhaps also in Europe.

Fair Isle Wren
Courtesy of Mark Rayment



Comparing them with the Wrens of Shetland, Williamson observed that the Fair Isle Wren 'is a paler and brighter brown above, more rufescent on the lower back and rump and suffused with grey on the head and neck in fresh plumage; it is also whiter and less heavily marked beneath.'

Fair Isle Bird Observatory re-opened in 2025, having been rebuilt following a devastating fire in 2019. This



was the culmination of a £10 million project with grants from various sources as well as donations from birders

from across the world. Another blow came in the form of the main building contractor for the project falling into administration leaving the trustees to move the project inhouse to ensure its completion. Thankfully as of May 2025 the observatory was able to welcome back its first guests.

Back to the birds and if lists and numbers are your thing let's look at some statistics. At the time of writing, and according to the observatory website, **Fair Isle has recorded 401 species**, however, with the introduction of AviList in 2025 this reduced to 396 with the losses being Hooded Crow, Green-winged Teal, Stejneger's Stonechat, Lesser Redpoll and Arctic Redpoll. Their highest year list was 220 species in 2014, and 11,965 birds have been rung there (date correct as of late 2023). Perhaps the most mouth-watering set of stats are that Fair Isle is responsible for no fewer than 33 additions to the British list and if that wasn't impressive enough then 6 of these were also firsts for the Western Palearctic. Amongst the firsts are some species that could now be considered 'staples' such as **Common Rosefinch, Savi's Warbler and Red-rumped Swallow** and some that most certainly are not such as **Citril Finch, Thick-billed Warbler, Song Sparrow and Asian Brown Flycatcher**.

The facts and figures presented here regarding 'firsts' are up to date to the end of 2020, according to data published in the 2019 report (and earlier reports) of the British Birds Rarities Committee. It is intended as a guide only and by way of a disclaimer may already be out of date! It should also be noted that the area is excellent for cetaceans, particularly between May and October, where you may encounter Harbour Porpoise, Minke Whales and Orca.



Despite its location the island can be reached from Shetland either by sea or air. If you are planning a trip, it would be worth investing in travel insurance as journeys to the island are totally reliant on the weather. Travel plans can be disrupted by poor visibility and/or strong or gusting winds and visitors should be aware that their plans may be affected even at short notice, especially when considering onward travel immediately after a trip to Fair Isle.

If this hasn't put you off you can find out about the observatory and the wider island, including travel information, on the observatory website

Both 'view' images courtesy of Ian Andrews / FIBO and the burnt image from their website

RSPB Big Garden BirdWatch 2026 Results

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th January



Here are some quick stats from this January's RSPB Big Garden BirdWatch. The top 30 Norfolk results are below. If you cast your mind back to our small-scale results from 21 recorders (see February Newsletter), our Top Five were Blue Tit, Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Dunnock and Great Tit. For us, House Sparrow was down in 14th position and Starling in 26th.

Big Garden Birdwatch 2026: The Results

The Birdwatch began in 1979, when children's TV programme Blue Peter asked viewers to post in their sightings. Much has changed since the 70s. But what has changed for our birds? Which birds have moved up the charts and which have moved down?



The UK's top five birds

Celebrating its 23rd year at the top of the Big Garden Birdwatch charts is the House Sparrow. These chirpy little characters were the most commonly sighted birds, with **1,275,378** counted over the Birdwatch weekend.



Photos courtesy of Richard Farrow: Blue Tit, Woodpigeon, House Sparrow

Species	County	Country/CD	Mean 2026	Rank 2026	% Gardens 2026	Mean 2025	Rank 2025	% Gardens 2025	% change	Rank Change	% change in % gardens recorded
Blue Tit	Norfolk	England	3.95	1	85.9	3.53	1	84.1	12.1%	0	2.1%
Woodpigeon	Norfolk	England	2.78	2	82.8	2.98	2	83.5	-6.8%	0	-0.8%
House Sparrow	Norfolk	England	2.75	3	47.3	2.71	3	49.2	1.4%	0	-3.7%
Blackbird	Norfolk	England	2.22	4	83.3	2.68	4	88.3	-17.2%	0	-5.7%
Great Tit	Norfolk	England	1.87	5	63.6	1.71	6	60.0	8.8%	1	5.9%
Long-tailed Tit	Norfolk	England	1.84	6	37.6	1.49	9	33.4	23.9%	3	12.4%
Goldfinch	Norfolk	England	1.60	7	32.3	1.57	7	32.2	2.3%	0	0.4%
Starling	Norfolk	England	1.58	8	24.3	1.87	5	30.6	-15.5%	-3	-20.6%
Robin	Norfolk	England	1.55	9	84.4	1.49	8	83.5	4.2%	-1	1.1%
Collared Dove	Norfolk	England	1.02	10	43.3	1.10	10	45.0	-6.7%	0	-3.9%
Dunnock	Norfolk	England	0.85	11	44.4	0.85	11	45.4	0.2%	0	-2.2%
Magpie	Norfolk	England	0.80	12	41.0	0.82	12	41.9	-2.6%	0	-2.1%
Jackdaw	Norfolk	England	0.79	13	24.0	0.76	13	23.8	4.8%	0	0.9%
Coal Tit	Norfolk	England	0.61	14	30.7	0.57	15	28.4	7.3%	1	7.9%
Chaffinch	Norfolk	England	0.59	15	24.0	0.63	14	25.0	-5.8%	-1	-3.9%
Greenfinch	Norfolk	England	0.55	16	19.6	0.51	17	18.7	7.8%	1	5.1%
Feral Pigeon	Norfolk	England	0.54	17	15.4	0.56	16	15.5	-1.9%	-1	-0.4%
Carrion Crow	Norfolk	England	0.49	18	18.4	0.45	18	17.5	9.0%	0	5.0%
Wren	Norfolk	England	0.33	19	27.0	0.31	19	25.4	5.9%	0	6.4%
Pheasant	Norfolk	England	0.18	20	9.2	0.15	20	7.9	23.6%	0	15.2%
Rook	Norfolk	England	0.13	21	3.1	0.09	24	2.8	38.9%	3	10.2%
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Norfolk	England	0.12	22	10.1	0.11	22	9.4	8.7%	0	7.3%
Common Gull	Norfolk	England	0.11	23	3.0	0.14	21	3.4	-18.1%	-2	-12.7%
Black-headed Gull	Norfolk	England	0.08	24	2.3	0.07	26	2.0	26.4%	2	14.0%
Jay	Norfolk	England	0.07	25	5.2	0.10	23	7.8	-30.2%	-2	-32.9%
Song Thrush	Norfolk	England	0.06	26	5.1	0.05	27	4.3	16.5%	1	18.0%
Pied Wagtail	Norfolk	England	0.06	27	3.7	0.08	25	5.2	-22.3%	-2	-29.1%
Redwing	Norfolk	England	0.05	28	1.7	0.01	44	0.5	419.9%	16	257.9%
Nuthatch	Norfolk	England	0.05	29	3.4	0.05	28	3.7	-12.7%	-1	-9.0%
Herring Gull	Norfolk	England	0.04	30	1.6	0.04	29	1.4	11.2%	-1	18.9%

The Blue Badge Challenge | Episode 2

A Pop-up Bonus and Some Summer Arrivals



By Val Stubbs

On March 8th, 2026 I joined five other sea-watchers for a pop-up sea-watch at North Lodge Park: Trevor Williams, Phil Hall, Carol & Ken Thornton and David Barrass. The idea of the pop-up sea-watches is that the more eyes that are watching, the more birds are likely to be spotted, and so it proved.

The most common species was **Red-throated Diver**, 35 of which were migrating east, while one seemed unable to make up its mind. Another gave us good views while it rested on the sea. The **Common Scoters** were also all heading east, in groups of 2, 14 and 16. **Gannets** were thin on the ground, with just three flying east during the two-hour stint. While all these birds were flying far out near the

My Current Points Tally	
Duration Points	80
Event Bonus Points	100
First Time Species Points	245
TOTAL	425

horizon, Carol was looking closer in and picked up a splendid male **Eider** going East, which we all saw really well. High in the sky, a **Shelduck** bucked the trend, travelling West. Four **Cormorants** were also sighted high, moving east. A single **Guillemot** flew east before landing on sea, joining two others that were already bobbing about there. Close in, a lone **Greylag** flew east. Carol spotted a duck on the sea – a male **Gadwall**, which was a surprising but welcome record.

An immature **Common Gull** was spotted chasing one of the **Fulmars** that were flying around close in, giving us nice views of this unusual behaviour – usually it's the Fulmars harrying the gulls. Other gulls were attracted by the local fishing boat: a dozen or so **Herring Gulls** were following the boats, with six actually on board, while about 15 **Great Black-backed Gulls** joined the mêlée behind the boat.

An unexpected bonus was a male **Stonechat** that spent the whole two hours perched on the fence posts in front of sea-watching shelter and hopping down periodically to grab a snack, keeping us all amused through the quieter spells on the sea-watching front – what a fabulous treat!

I added four new species to my Blue Badge list: **Common Gull**, **Eider**, **Gadwall** and **Greylag Goose**.

A pop-up sea-watch is a great way for less experienced sea-watchers to take advantage of those that have spent many hundreds of hours staring out to sea and are able both to identify species and to help others to 'get onto the bird'. And you get a 100-point bonus for your Blue Badge for the first pop-up you attend! So next time you see a pop-up event advertised, why not join in?

On April 7th I joined Trevor Williams at the shelter in North Lodge Park. The birds were rather thin on the ground and it was rather misty. **Common Scoter** was the most prolific specie, with groups of 40, 15 and 4, all heading east. **The Red-throated Diver** migration had virtually dried up, with a single bird heading west and a pair (male and female) going in the opposite direction. A couple of the local **Fulmars** were soaring around and some 85 **Herring Gulls** loafed on the sea. Meanwhile, a **Mediterranean Gull** headed west. Trevor picked out several very distant **Sandwich Terns**, but I was unable to spot them, but later a couple came through much closer in, going east, and I was able to see these well enough to be confident of the identification. Shortly after this, they were followed by a couple of **Kittiwakes**. Two very nice 'summer' additions to my list, and taking my tally to 19 species.

Library photos: Common Gull, Greylag Goose, Kittiwake (Mark Clements), Eider, Sandwich Tern (Richard Farrow), Gadwall (Paul Laurie)

My Species List	Points	My Sightings Session 1	My Sightings Session 2	My Sightings Session 3
Black-headed Gull	10	1		
Brent Goose	10	4		
Common Gull	15		1	
Common Scoter	10	9	32	59
Cormorant	10	1	2	
Eider	15		1	
Fulmar	15	5	2	2
Gadwall	15		1	
Gannet	10	95	3	
Great Black-backed Gull	10	3	15	
Great Crested Grebe	15	2		
Greylag	15		1	
Guillemot	15	1	3	
Herring Gull	10	10	15	
Kittiwake	15			2
Mediterranean Gull	15	1		1
Red-throated Diver	15	84	37	3
Sandwich Tern	10			2
Shelduck	15	2	1	



Welcome to the 2026 season of the Cromer Peregrine story!

The webcam, this year sponsored by The Cliftonville Hotel, went live on 1st March and you can watch it here [Cromer Peregrines 2026 Live Stream](#). There is also a Facebook page here [Facebook](#) and a website here [CPP | Home](#) so lots of choice if you are not local, or even if you are!

Volunteers Needed!

The Cromer Peregrine Project is entering its eighth year! The survival rate from egg to successful fledging has been extremely good with only one completely unsuccessful year. We continue to monitor these wonderful birds and a hugely important part of that is the volunteer-run watchpoint. Situated outside the museum our visitor numbers have gradually increased over the years. BUT we desperately need more volunteers to set up the telescopes, table, leaflets etc. If you are interested, please can you contact our volunteer organiser Mick Hill via email: mick.hill@btinternet.com. He will go into more detail. It cannot be stressed enough that you do not need to be Peregrine experts. Most of our volunteers knew hardly anything about the breeding process at first, but they do now! You would never be on your own – we aim to have at least two volunteers per session and the person you will be on with will be more than happy to ease you in gently! It's a really informal, friendly group. So why not give it a go?

By Jane Crossen

And then there were three..... (all three chicks were being fed less than an hour after the third chick hatched). Luckily, all three eggs were slightly different colours, so we knew the order they should hatch.



First egg to hatch did so at 11.40am on 23rd April. It had been the first egg to be laid.

Second egg to hatch did so at 7.14pm, also on 23rd April. It had been the second egg to be laid.

Third egg hatched at around 7.12pm on 25th April.



First chick to hatch



First chick's first feed



This year since the watchpoint has been open, we have had more 'intruding' Peregrines than previous year. A LOT more. On one occasion a juvenile Peregrine actually landed on the south ledge of the church and stayed there over an hour. Luckily for the bird the male was incubating the eggs and (obviously) had no idea it was around. The female, luckily for the bird, was absent the whole time. That's quite unusual. At this stage of the game she doesn't normally go far, or for long.

The bird (photographs below) has caused some debate among the experts in the project (and beyond!).



Some folks think it's a hybrid – either crossed with a Lanner, Gyr or Saker Falcon. All three were suggested by different experts! It's really interesting because they all have serious qualifications and a serious amount of experience, but they can't agree. As a non-expert, I find that quite reassuring as it just looked like a juv Peregrine Falcon to me!! Here are a few thoughts:

Expert one: I think this bird could be a hybrid but there is also the possibility it could be a subspecies vagrant because the Arctic subspecies tundrius also has a pale streak above the eye like an eyebrow stripe.

Expert two: I wonder if it's a Scandinavian bird - in Norway they have the Eurasian Peregrine which has dots on the breast rather than streaks.

Expert three: It is strange colours for a juv peregrine. I would say with the vertical chest marking of that shape it is a second year bird with some Saker in it.

Expert four: I don't think it's a hybrid.

So there we are!

Cromer Peregrine Project
25 April at 23:11 · 🌐

We have had some new enamel pin badges made up! the pin is based on an image of 'Poppy' by our very own Chris Skipper, these pins are only £3.00 each and are available from [Upstairs Downstairs of Cromer](#) at our watchpoint and also mail order with a postage cost of £2.00, please message us if you want one posted ❤️





This is an interesting article, sent in from an Austrian reader who lives on the 'Crow Border'. It should open in English but if not, click on the translate option on your device.

In western Austria, crows are black, in eastern Austria they are grey. The European crow border, which runs right through Austria, is to blame. It regulates the habitats of crows and hooded crows, which rarely mix.

[Crow border: Why crows are sometimes black, sometimes gray - science.ORF.at](https://www.science.orf.at)

Note: You now may need to sign up on the BirdGuides website to read these articles – it is free but you need to put in your email address to sign up to their newsletter.

[Next 20 years crucial for Britain's imperilled wildlife, study finds - BirdGuides \[22-Apr\]](#)

[Making sense of the 2025-26 Taiga Bean Goose influx - BirdGuides \[18-Apr\]](#)

[European Turtle Dove among species to receive DEFRA funding - BirdGuides \[21-Apr\]](#)

[Promiscuity in birds linked to changes in parenting behaviour - @RareBirdAlertUK \[05-May\]](#)

[Moonlight Shapes the Lives of Nightjars, From Feeding to Migration - @RareBirdAlertUK \[05-May\]](#)

[Gen Z birdwatching numbers rise tenfold since 2018 - @RareBirdAlertUK \[01-May\]](#)

[Dawn Chorus fading as UK songbird numbers continue to fall - @RareBirdAlertUK \[29-Apr\]](#)

[Hidden cameras show Cuckoos do not carry eggs in their beaks - @RareBirdAlertUK \[24-Apr\]](#)

[BBRC highlights 'missing records' from 2025 and calls for submissions - @RareBirdAlertUK \[17 Apr\] – the only one on the list for our area is the Hume's Warbler report from Happisburgh for 19-Oct-25.](#)

[Rochester teacher hopes to be crowned best seagull screecher in Europe - BBC News \[25-Apr\]](#)

[Bempton Cliffs and how the battle for birds was won - BBC News \[19-Apr\]](#)

[Our latest guidance on what and when to feed garden birds: Feed Safely, Feed Seasonally - RSPB plus lots of comments over on their @rspb.bsky.social — Bluesky feed.](#)

[Lapwings – acrobats of the Norfolk skies | Norfolk Wildlife Trust and there are plenty more blogs from this young local blogger Oscar Lawrence on the NWT website](#)

[Do birds have accents? The fascinating regional differences in birdsong - Phys.Org website \[29-Apr\]](#)

[How temperature swings impact the growth of young songbirds - Phys.Org website \[30-Apr\]](#)



RareBirdAlert

@rarebirder.bsky.social

Dawn Chorus fading as UK songbird numbers continue to fall

New BTO survey shows long-term declines across many familiar species, with some now disappearing from parts of England's spring soundscape. www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/D...



Dawn Chorus fading as UK songbird numbers continue to fall

New BTO survey shows long-term declines across many familiar species, with some now disappearing from parts of England's spring soundscape

© www.rarebirdalert.co.uk



RSPB

@rspb.bsky.social

To reduce disease, we all need to make some urgent but simple changes to how we feed our garden birds.

See our website for the latest guidance: brnw.ch/21x1t4w



07:05 · 10 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

Contemplating Conservation

The 2025 Breeding Bird Survey Report



The Breeding Bird Survey started in 1994, and a report is produced every year containing population abundance changes and other results from the scheme. It is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common and widespread breeding birds, producing population trends for 119 bird and nine mammal species. The 2025 Breeding Bird Survey Report highlights the varying fortunes of four of the UK's widely monitored wild doves and pigeons. Whilst Stock Dove and Woodpigeon are faring well – Stock Dove has increased by over 40% in the last 10 years – the Turtle Dove decline shows no sign of abating, and Collared Dove has declined by around 40% since 2005. Read the full report here: **[BTO-JNCC-RSPB BBS Report 2025](#)**. Along with some analysis and spotlights, you can delve into regional population trends on page 29. Here in the East of England there have been 20 significant increases and 28 significant declines in the 72 trends analysed between 1995 and 2024. Here's a few graphics ...

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social


1/ The 2025 BBS Report is out now! It was a record year for volunteers taking part, with 2,800+ visiting 4,058 survey squares across the UK, Channel Islands & Isle of Man. A huge thank you to our volunteers!

[@btobirds.bsky.social](#) [@jncc.bsky.social](#) [@rspbscience.bsky.social](#) [#Ornithology](#)

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

4/ Two species of thrush are showing contrasting fortunes: Song Thrush increased by 37% 1995-2024 and has further increased by 18% in the last decade, following a decline of over 50% in the 1970s and 1980s. Meanwhile, its larger cousin, Mistle Thrush, is down by 40% in the UK 1995-2024.

SONG THRUSH
37% increase from 1995 to 2024




5 - 9 Apr 2026

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

4/ On the other side of the coin, Goldfinch has increased markedly in all parts of the UK, and has been a beneficiary of garden feeding. However, at least in Southern England, there are signs that this species is either stabilising or even beginning to decline itself.

GOLDFINCH: ENGLAND



10 - 13 Apr 2026

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

(3/ Tree Sparrow is a species that has declined markedly across England in recent years. It declined by 54% 2019-2024. It can now be quite a challenging species to find across the country, apart from in areas where it is locally common.

TWO UP, TWO DOWN: ENGLAND

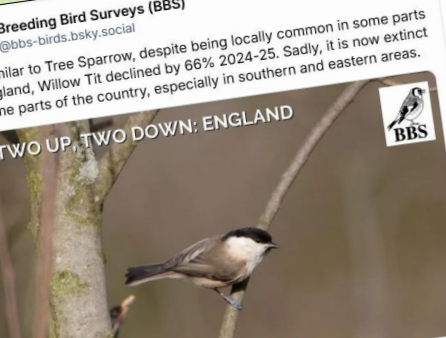


08:31 - 6 May 2026

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

(4) Similar to Tree Sparrow, despite being locally common in some parts of England, Willow Tit declined by 66% 2024-25. Sadly, it is now extinct in some parts of the country, especially in southern and eastern areas.

TWO UP, TWO DOWN: ENGLAND

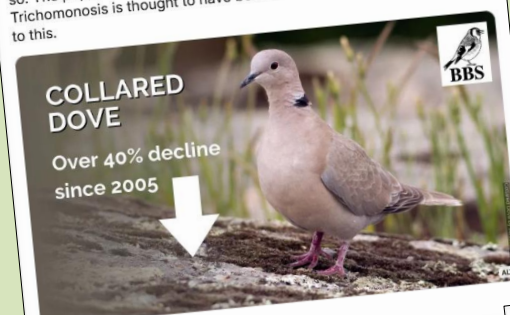


08:31 - 6 May 2026

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

2/ The report found that Collared Dove, which first colonised the UK in the mid-1950s, has shown a worrying decline over the last 20 years or so. The population has fallen by over 40% since 2005. The disease Trichomonosis is thought to have been a significant contributing factor to this.

COLLARED DOVE
Over 40% decline since 2005



10:15 - 9 Apr 2026

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

3/ Continuing on the familiar garden bird theme, Blue Tit and Great Tit have both shown 10 year declines. Great Tit declined by 17% and Blue Tit decreased by 8% across the UK between 2014 & 2024. Year-on-year Blue Tit population growth has been shown to correlate with high moth abundance.

GREAT TIT
17% decline from 2014 to 2024




10:15 - 9 Apr 2026

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

3/ But just because Greenfinch might be turning a corner, doesn't mean the problem isn't there. Chaffinch has declined by 50% in the last 10 years, it too having declined due to Finch Trichomonosis and that decline continues...

CHAFFINCH: ENGLAND



17:40 - 13 Apr 2026

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

2/ [@bbs-birds.bsky.social](#) data shows that Greenfinch in England declined by 66% 2008-2018, mainly due to the disease Trichomonosis. Recent advice from [@rspb.bsky.social](#) [bsky app/profile/rspb...](#) is based on a wide range of evidence, including BBS. However, are there any signs of a recovery?

GREENFINCH: ENGLAND




10:15 - 9 Apr 2026

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

(1/ It is England's turn for two up, two down! Red Kite increased by a whopping 24,950% 1995-2024. This representative percentage increase highlights how successful reintroduction programmes have been for this species. [@btobirds.bsky.social](#) [@jncc.bsky.social](#) [@rspbscience.bsky.social](#) [#Ornithology](#)

TWO UP, TWO DOWN: ENGLAND



08:31 - 6 May 2026 © Everybody can reply

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS)
@bbs-birds.bsky.social

(2/ Another interesting short term increase has been that of Garden Warbler in England. It increased 40% 2024-25. This species is very much home in woodland and areas of scrubland. Find out more about this plainly marked species here: [www.bto.org/learn/about...](#)

TWO UP, TWO DOWN: ENGLAND



08:31 - 6 May 2026



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.](#)

“Whistled ‘wheet’ and hard ‘chak’. Song often given in short, fluttery song flight, or from low perch, quick-fire phrase of chattering and ticking notes with musical chirps.”

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

“Call a straight whistle, like indrawn ‘hiit’, as well as a tongue-clicking ‘chack’. Song, often delivered from elevated perch (top of a rock, wire or the like) but sometimes in short song-flight, an explosive, fast, hard, chirpy and crackling verse with interwoven whistling ‘hiit’, varying in details and hard to transcribe; sometimes contains one or two imitations of other birds. Often sings at first light and just before, but also during the day.”

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

“Call is a hard ‘chack, chack’. It also has a pleasant warbling song that is given on the ground or during a short song-flight.”

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

Wordsearch



This month, we have the 21 species or races recorded on the NENBC website in May 2025 for which we have just one records – you never know what might crop up on your walks at this time of year so keep your eyes peeled as there were certainly quite a few exciting birds this time last year! For the purposes of this puzzle, ignore any hyphens, apostrophes, brackets and spaces. [Solution is at the end of this newsletter.](#)

- Black Tern
- Bluethroat
- Brambling
- Golden Plover
- Greenshank
- Hawfinch
- Honey-buzzard
- Hooded Crow
- Hoopoe
- Long-eared Owl
- Marsh Tit
- Nightingale
- Pied Flycatcher
- Pintail
- Redstart
- Roseate Tern
- Shoveler
- Snipe
- Snow Bunting
- Spotted Redshank
- Wigeon

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





No new 'Accepted' records from the Norfolk Records Committee [NRC] for our area since our last newsletter and their current '**NRC work in progress**' file was last updated 24-Feb-26. The British Birds Rarities Committee also have a '**BBRC work in progress**' file available on their website [Dec-24]. NRC have however asked for submissions that are outstanding for Hume's Warbler in our area in 2025. If you can help, please do get in touch with them as soon as you can.

Norfolk Birds
@norfolkbirds.bsky.social

BBRC submissions still needed for Hume's Warblers
Happisburgh 20th Oct, Wells 2nd Nov, Warham 16th Nov,
Thornham 16th Nov and Yarmouth 17th Nov 2025

#BBRC
#Norfolkbirds
@britishbirdsbbrc.bsky.social

07:13 · 28 Mar 2026 · Everybody can reply

NENBC Website

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

Prolific Posters April 2026

By Val Stubbs

Phil Borley continues to forge ahead, having added nearly 25,000 points this month! He now stands on 78,400 points, and at this rate will reach the 100,000 mark by the end of May. Mark Clements remains in second place with 42,160 points., but Tony Pope is closing the gap, having added 1,530 points more than Mark in April to take his tally to 40,960. Interestingly, Phil's and Mark's scores are almost identical to this time last year, whereas Tony has doubled his score from last year. Philip Cartlidge and Val Stubbs are the only other birders to have surpassed 20,000 points, but David Griffiths is very close to that target. We now have 106 members who have logged birds so far this year, 49 birders have already scored over 1,000 points, with 40 of these on 2,000 points or more, 31 on 3,000 points or more and 20 exceeding 5,000 points. Keep logging!

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

1	Phil Borley	78,400
2	Mark Clements	42,160
3	Tony Pope	40,960
4	Philip Cartlidge	31,530
5	Valerie Stubbs	25,890
6	David Griffiths	19,280
7	Doug & Jenny Cullern	15,270
8	Ken Thornton	9,800
9	Ann Gladwin	8,080
10	Carol Thornton	7,480
11	Stephanie Witham	7,060
12	Stuart Jones	6,960
13	John Swallow	6,540
14	David Barrass	6,380
15	Russell Page	6,040

16	Trevor Williams	5,750
17	Steven & Barbara Lines	5,520
18	Andrew Clarke	5,490
18	Colin Blaxill	5,270
20	Stella Baylis	5,000
21	Thomas Wright	4,680
22	Alan Stevens	4,330
23	Peter & Sue Morrison	4,000
24	Gary Bunting	3,910
25	Bob Farndon	3,800
26	Philip Hall	3,790
27	Di & Richard Farrow	3,550
28	Michael Harcup	3,530
29	Andrew Gorton	3,370
30	Christopher Mason	3,290



2026
Club
Stats

429 individual members
across 285 households

41,096
bird records logged

196
bird species reported

Social Media & WhatsApp – a couple of bits from social media and WhatsApp in the last few weeks. This is something we really haven't got to grips with of late so if you can tag us in any of your BlueSky posts or indeed have an interest in social media and can help us out, please do get in touch!

bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
Spot the Treecreeper! Not easy, so I zoomed in for you! Love it against the brown/white bark. @nenbc.bsky.social

22:18 · 2 May 2026 · Everybody can reply

bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
Sand Martins doing well at the West Runton site. Slightly different site to last year - just east of the beach cafe but VERY near the coastal path!
@nenbc.bsky.social

16:10 · 3 May 2026 · Everybody can reply

Justin Lansdeil
@yarevalleyjus.bsky.social
Another cracking if blowy day at Happisburgh from dawn: vis mig low key but today's highlights: male Ring Ouzel, 3 Yellow Wag, 15 Wheatear, 2 House Martin & c40 Swallow Ring Ouzel, Golden Plover (+ Painted Lady). Best of all PATCH GOLD with a sp Little Grebe on the sea!

20:39 · 12 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

Stella Baylis
@silyab22.bsky.social
It's been a good Spring so far on my local patch of inland NE Norfolk. A 2CY Peregrine, Cetti's Warblers establishing, first record of Great White Egret and after missing out the past few years, Ring Ouzels! 4 different birds all feeding on a potato field #norfolkbirding @nenbc.bsky.social

11:05 · 2 May 2026 · Everybody can reply

Stella Baylis
@silyab22.bsky.social
Swifts! 2 of them high over house, followed 5 mins later by Hummingbird Hawkmoth visiting late flowering daffs.
@nenbc.bsky.social #norfolkbirding

11:05 · 2 May 2026 · Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social
Local fields have been planted with potatoes and this Skylark was strutting along the near-perfect row top.

19:12 · 11 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social
female Blackcap peering around a tree, she was being courted by two male Blackcaps who were in full song. One of the males was perched high in the woodland canopy.

19:02 · 16 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

Russ Malin
@russmalin.bsky.social
A Happisburgh first for me with an adult female Marsh Harrier near the old RAF buildings this morning. Ringed Plover and Red Kite the other highlights. Lots and lots of Painted Lady along the coast...

11:05 · 2 May 2026 · Everybody can reply

Russ Malin
@russmalin.bsky.social
I do like Bacton Woods. Small groups of Siskin and a very vocal Marsh Tit...

14:39 · 4 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social
One of a pair of Treecreepers excavating behind the bark of a tree, either in search of food or possibly a nest site. Watched climbing up the trunk, disappearing behind loose bark only to back into the light 50cm lower than where it started.

20:17 · 1 May 2026 · Everybody can reply

Wheatears have migrated from sub-Saharan Africa and have been arriving along the coast for several days and are now moving inland. This is one of seven seen in a local field. Jay in the woodland gathering nesting material by snapping off twigs from an Oak tree and flying off.

18:43 · 14 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
Female doing a good job guarding the Cromer Church Peregrine nest box this evening!!! Screengrab from the wonderful CPP webcam.
@nenbc.bsky.social

14 May 2026 · Everybody can reply

bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
Fab views of the White Stork over my flat in Sheringham this morning! Headed west towards Weybourne/Salthouse and presumably Cley.
@nenbc.bsky.social

16:24 · 25 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social
Watched this Common Sandpiper moving along the dam wall at Felbrigg NT a few days ago - it will be on passage to its breeding grounds so will not hang about. Lots of Garlic Mustard in flower along the roadside verges and Cowslips still showing well in the garden.

18:59 · 23 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
Took this vid of the Cromer Peregrine Project webcam this morning (it's check out the 3rd egg! Nothing like the webcam quality!) all three eggs hatched by the end of the day! @nenbc.bsky.social @rspb.bsky.social

08:02 · 24 Apr 2026 · Everybody can reply

Well it has been a busy period over at Bird.Club central with a plethora of updates coming live on the club website. You may have noticed a new 'megaphone' icon on the top right of your screens like this ...



When it has a red dot on it, it means there is a note on there from Bird.Club for you to read about an update they have made. Below (green boxes) are details of the messages that have been put up this month alongside an example of how you might use it.

Redesigned Species Detail Pages [May 02]

We've overhauled the species detail page with a stack of new features designed to help you explore your club's birding history.

🌟 What's New

- **First Sighting Highlights:** The header now immortalizes club history, showing exactly who recorded the species first, when, and where.
- **Personal Stats Card:** See your own impact at a glance. If you've recorded the species, a new card displays your total count and the date of your first sighting.
- **Year-on-Year Activity:** A new chart sits alongside the seasonal view, allowing you to track whether a species is becoming more or less common in your area over time.
- **Enhanced Header Metrics:** We've added a total photo count to the header, alongside sightings, recorders, and locations.
- **Upgraded Gallery:** Photos are now more prominent with a new square-thumbnailed layout at the bottom of the page.

🔍 How to find it

Head to any bird in your club's list and tap through to its detail page. New panels appear automatically as data becomes available — if a species hasn't been recorded yet, the page will be waiting for that first sighting!

So, let's have a quick look at these updates. If you click on a bird species name on the website (anywhere the species is underlined when you hover over it), you will be taken to a Species Page like the one over on the right here....

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

Family: **Tits, Chickadees** Order: **PASSERIFORMES**

A small, active passerine of deciduous and mixed woodlands, parks, and gardens across Eurasia; acrobatic and often seen hanging from branches while foraging. Unmistakable: bright blue crown, wings, and tail contrasted with yellow underparts and greenish back; white face with dark eye-stripe and loreal mark; black necklace on yellow breast. Sexes similar, though females slightly duller.

Length: 11.5-12.5 cm Wingspan: 17.5-20 cm Weight: 7-12 g

Source: [Wikipedia \(CC BY-SA 4.0\)](#)

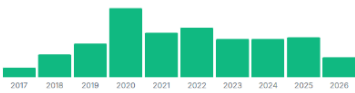
First recorded by **Trevor Williams** on 1 January 2015 at **Felbrigg Park & Lake**

24007	163	129	339
Sightings	Recorders	Locations	Photos

Seasonal Activity



Year-on-Year Activity



Your Sightings

326	2 April 2016
Times Recorded	First Sighting

In this example, of Blue Tit, the **First Sighting Highlight** shows that this species was first reported on the club website by Trevor on 1st Jan 2015, the day we went live. The **Enhanced Header Metrics** show 339 pics on our website of Blue Tit, alongside other info like the number of recorders, sightings and locations and now there is also a description of the species as per Wikipedia.

Year on Year Activity is shown in two graphs and there is a **Personal Stats Card** showing your sightings of this species (what was I doing for the whole of 2015 that I failed to log a Blue Tit sighting????!!!!).

The **Upgraded Gallery** allows you to click on the selected pics shown to see the birds in all their glory.

The other two boxes show who has uploaded the most records (**Top Recorder**) and the site where the most records have been logged (**Top Locations**) and the map shows all the locations where the species has been reported.

📍 Club Species Index [May 06]

Clubs now have a dedicated Species page listing every bird that has been recorded in the club. Each species gets its own card showing everything you need at a glance

What's on each card:

- **Gallery photo** — the most-liked photo of that species taken within the club is used as the thumbnail. If there's a tie on likes, the most-commented photo wins, then the shot by the photographer whose photos have the most total likes. No photo yet? A clean placeholder keeps the card tidy.
- **Last seen** — the date, location, and member who most recently recorded the species.
- **Total records** — how many times the species has been logged across all club sessions

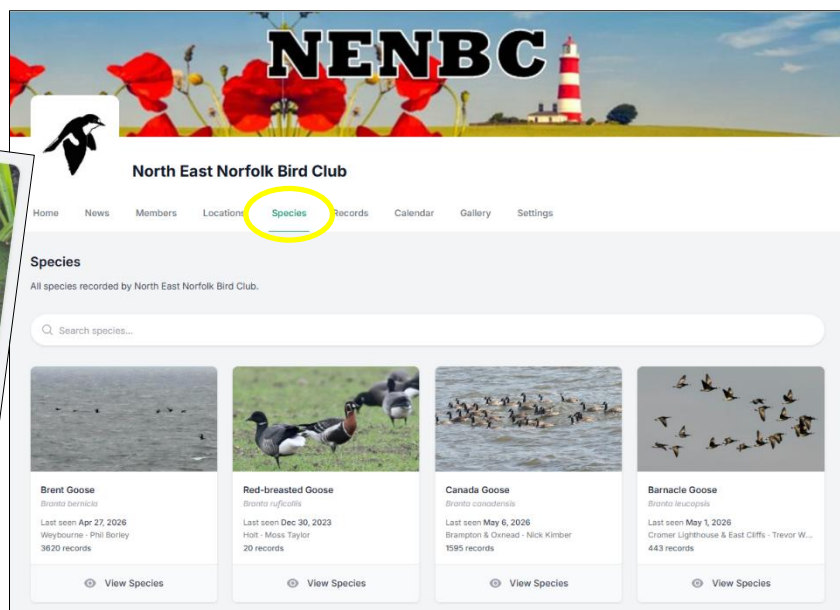
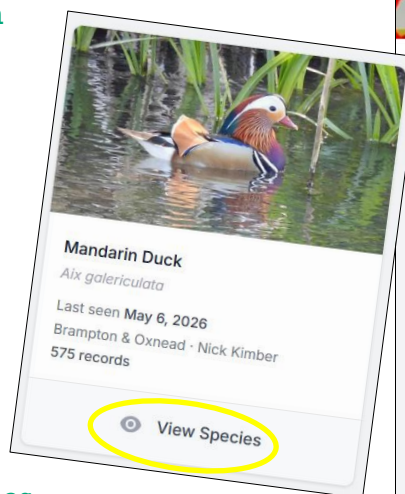
Search and browse

- A search bar at the top filters the list as you type. Results are shown 20 per page, ordered by taxonomy, or by relevance when searching.

🔍 How to find it

Open any club and click Species in the navigation menu.

There is a new clickable option called 'Species' on the navigation bar. Click on that and you will be taken to a screen that shows you a 'card' for each species, listed in taxonomic order. It gives the most recent sighting of that species, the date, the place and by whom and, where available, a photo too. If you click on the 'View Species' button, you will be taken through to the Species Detail page as described above.



📍 Add Records Straight from a Location [May 06]

Finding the right location and then adding new records just got a lot simpler.

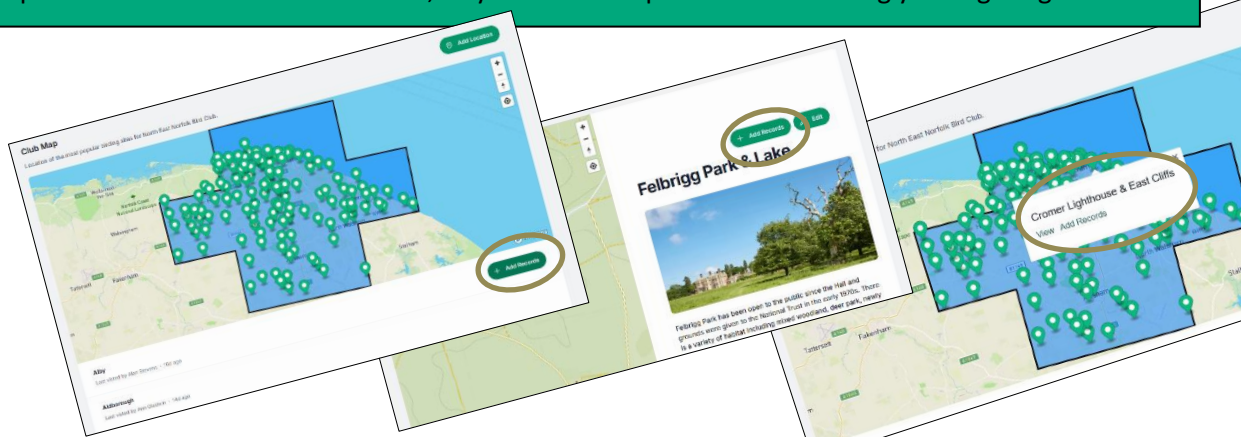
You can now tap 'Add Records' directly from any location — no more jumping between the map and the list to work out which location you're looking at before you can log anything.

Three new entry points:

- **Location page** — an "Add Records" button now appears in the header.
- **Locations list** — hover over any location (or tap on mobile) to reveal the Add Records button.
- **Map pins** — click a pin to open its popup, then choose View to browse the location or Add Records to jump straight into recording.

In all cases the location is pre-filled on the new session form, so you're one step closer to recording your sightings.

Basically, as well as just going to 'Records' tab to start adding records, the option now exists from several other starting points as shown here...



Records List Glow-Up [May 04]

The Club Records page has been refreshed to make it easier to use and more visually engaging.

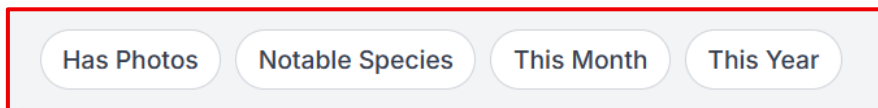
Photo thumbnails — Records with photos now show the actual image as a small thumbnail in the list, making it easy to spot photo-worthy sightings at a glance.

Searchable species and location filters — The old dropdown menus (which required scrolling through every species or location ever recorded) have been replaced with searchable comboboxes. Start typing a name and results appear instantly, including species that haven't been recorded yet.

Quick-filter chips — Four one-click filters now sit permanently above the filter panel: *Has Photos*, *Notable Species*, *This Month*, and *This Year*. No need to open the filter panel for the most common views.

Dismissible active-filter chips — When a filter is applied (species, location, member, family, or date), it appears as a highlighted chip with a × button so it can be removed individually — no more clearing everything just to undo one filter.

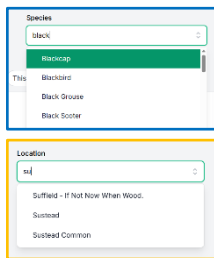
If you take a look at the screendump on the right of the Records page, you will see a couple of changes.



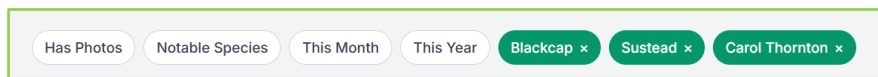
Firstly, this little row of buttons are called **Quick-filter-chips** and will make it easier to filter the records, listed with the most recent at the top, by these 4 common categories. You just click on the 'chip' to activate one or more of the options (the chip will change colour) and again to switch off.

If you click on the Filter icon to get into the screen where you can filter by Date, Family, Species, Member, Location, there are a few filtering enhancements too called **Searchable species and location filters**.


On the Species filter, rather than just being able to put in the 1st letter of the species you are looking for, or using the arrows to long-windedly scroll down, you can now type the name, or part thereof, and jump to the species you want. Similarly, it works on Location filter too.

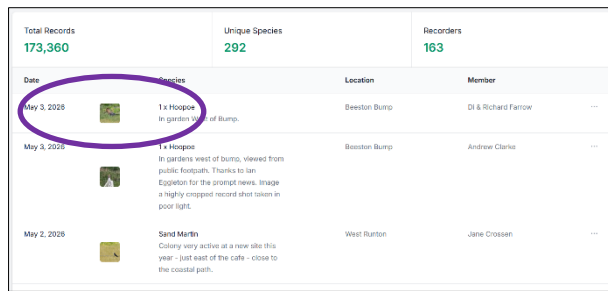
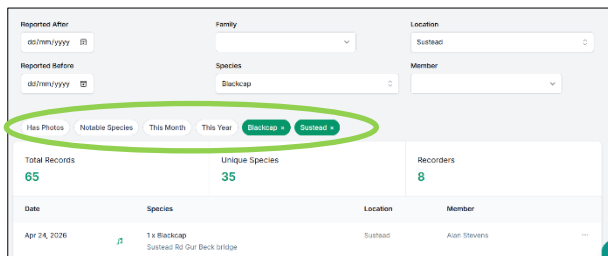
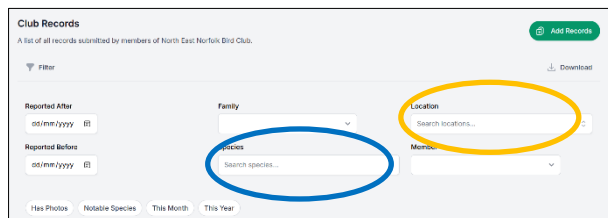
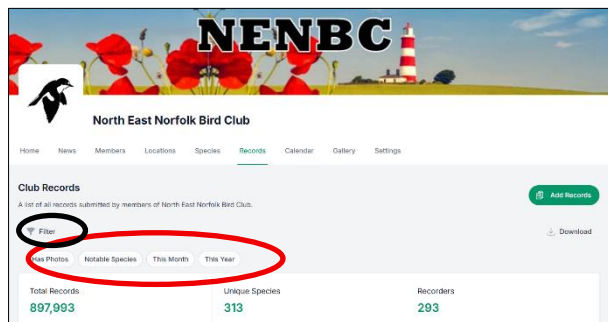


There is also now a function called **Dismissible active-filter chips**. Once you filter and select a Species or Location (or indeed Family, Member or Date), it appears in the bar below as a shaded 'chip'. You can delete and change any of your filters by clicking on the little cross without exiting and starting the whole filter process again. Much easier!



Lastly, **Photo thumbnails** refers to the fact that you can now see a small image of the photo associated with the record direct from the listings.

Date	Species	Location	Member
May 3, 2026	 1 x Hoopoe In garden West of Bump.	Beeston Bump	Di & Richard Farrow



Links are now taking flight! 🐦 [May 02]

We've added support for clickable links in comments.

No more hopping back and forth between tabs—just click and soar directly to your destination.

We don't think this is something that anyone has used at NENBC so it hasn't been an issue (remember that the Bird.Club platform is used by many clubs and groups). Now, if you leave a comment on someone else's birding session, you have the ability to add in a hyperlink through to another pertinent reference website, for example, as part of your text if you wish.

There are a few other behind-the-scenes upgrades also going on that will affect Admins only for now and once we have worked our way through them, we'll let you know how we are applying them. Any queries, please just ask.

Star Badges

No new achievers this month but a couple now very close to Silver.

Currently, **6** members have achieved **GOLD STAR** status, **25** members have been awarded **SILVER STAR** status and a fabulous **89** 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 both Carol and Ken Thornton who individually achieved Inland Super-Green this month – it was a long while coming!

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

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



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

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

- GREEN ECO-BADGE:** 75 species required for lists with only inland sites / 100 for lists with any coastal locations
- SUPER-GREEN ECO-BADGE:** 125 species required for lists with only inland sites / 175 for lists with any coastal locations

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

Sea-watching Badge

CONGRATULATIONS Dave Bilham on achieving your Blue badge!

We currently have 8 members who have achieved their BLUE BADGE.

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



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

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

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

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



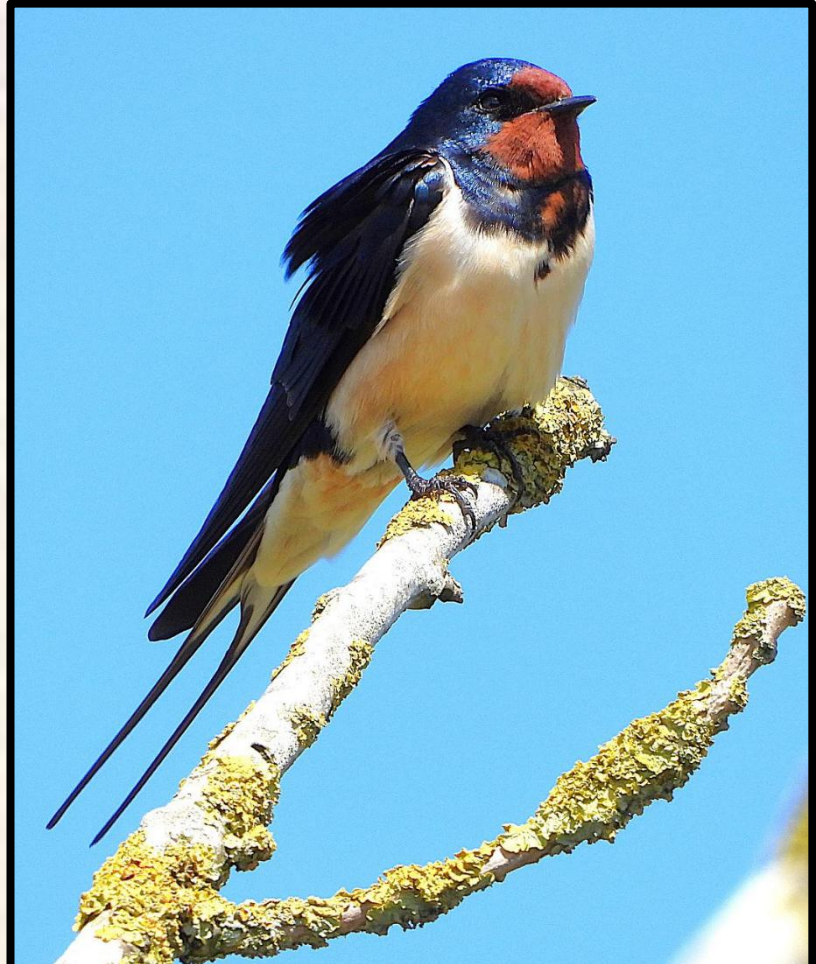
The Swallow by Luis G. Dato (1906 – 1985)

Little lone swallow frequenting the skies in the bleakness of oncoming rain,
Gloating on the view by the river reflected when days of sun reappear,
You who can sing in the fulness of sorrow, and in seasons of gladness usefully sing,
You who in mirth and melancholy alike find joy, joy in you we find.

We who aspire to vistas beyond us and only can lift our eyes,
We who live in transient gladness and hovering gloom,
We of the earth who cannot fly with you.

*Photos: Andrew Crossley,
Louise O'Shea, Paul Williams*

What life is yours who pursue not pleasure and yet have it,
You who know sorrow and by it be left unoppressed
You who in shadow arise, and in sunshine pensively dream on the river,
Of gladness not taking nor little nor much,
Of sorrow the master more often than not,
Knowing the one and the other as passing, imperfect,
Passing as the clouds in the bleakness of oncoming rain,
Imperfect as the vista by the river reflected when days of sun reappear.



The bird voice variously described was that of a **Northern Wheatear**. 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 Northern Wheatear** page and their **BTO ID Video: Know Your Chats** too. Photos from Mark Clements, David Griffiths Jane Crossen and Richard Farrow



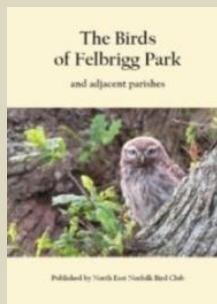
This month's **Wordsearch Solution:**
 BIRDS RECORDED IN THE NENBC AREA IN
 MAY 2025

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

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