

The Pied Flyer

North East Norfolk Bird Club



July 2026 – Issue 133

The NENBC Monthly e-Newsletter

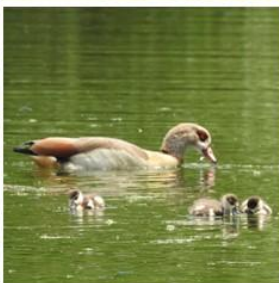
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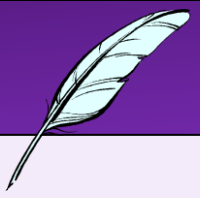
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By John Swallow

You may remember in my March Chair's Corner extolling the virtues of my local Blackbirds in the dawn chorus and I suggested not to wait for the official date, the first Sunday in May each year. Well I am no longer being woken by my local Blackbirds, and that is with the windows open as we swelter in this unusual, or is it now the usual, hot spell. I think the chorus significantly reduced by the end of May. I mentioned this to another birder friend and he has had the same experience. While not scientific is it possible that the exceptional dry spring we have had ended my local Blackbirds breeding attempt as they failed to find food with the ground baked hard? We shall have to await the results of this year's BTO Breeding Bird Survey, but read on below...

In early May I enjoyed a short break to Limestone country north to Malham near Settle and climbing Pen-y-Ghent. I visited this area on a School Trip, my first time away from home without my parents, in my last year at Junior school before moving on to Big School. As a boy I grew up in Leeds, an industrial city, at the heart of the large West Yorkshire Conurbation. My parents took me on holidays to Scarborough and Blackpool. Arriving in the Malham area I was amazed by the countryside and hills. Hearing bird song and especially the sound of Lapwing made a great impression on me. Walking the river near Ingleton I found a fossil and carried it for miles. On returning home I told my parents of this wondrous area and as a family we started hill walking and taking holidays each year to the NW Highlands. This early visit fired my imagination and led me to enjoy geomorphology and eventually study geology. It also planted the birding bug in me. All came together a few years later when I worked as a geologist and began birding after meeting a keen birder during my first job in Edinburgh.

So what were the things I noticed during my recent visit in early May. Well I could still get to the summit of Pen-y-Ghent, the route up the waterfall in Goredale Scar however now looks inaccessible! I saw Dipper, Grey Wagtail and lots of nesting Wheatear and Meadow Pipits. A passing Raven graced the skyline and the occasional bubbling Curlew, perhaps 3 to 4 pairs enhanced the soundscape. BUT no Lapwing at all! They are hardly a shy bird but as they are one of the birds I was amazed by all those years ago I was worried.

I am writing this now at the end of June after spendings a few days walking in Swaledale, some miles north of Malham but still in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. I noticed that walkers with dogs had their dogs on leads and there were many signs on gate posts explaining why this was important for ground nesting birds. At least in this area it seems to be paying off. I came across several pairs of Lapwing, some with chicks, plenty of bubbling Curlew, several piping Golden Plover and even a Short-eared Owl. I felt relieved, my worst fears were not true, the Lapwings that had inspired me over 50 years were still present and protection was in place to help them. Even the dawn chorus here was different. I was woken by Song Thrush, Wren and Willow Warbler all singing heartily by the River Swale.

I reflected on the value of early years experiences. I am sure many of my classmates on the same school trip did not become geologists or birders but would have been positively influenced, responding to different cues and leading different but changed lives. We must continue to offer opportunities for our Young People to widen their experience. The benefits are huge to us all.

Good birding, John

Lapwing | Moss Taylor





By Carol Thornton

Welcome to our July newsletter!

And relax! We are winding down a bit over the summer with our activity schedule but there was still plenty of things going on during June which you can [read about here](#) and we still have a selection of walks during this month for you to join us on.

As well as walk reports, this month we are showcasing the first of our UEA Environmental Consultancy projects, with Maisie's report on AI in birding ([page 22](#)). Yet again, it has been all go at the Cromer Peregrine Project Watchpoint ([page 26](#)). Thanks to new member Will Clarke for his article on migration birding in Sweden ([page 18](#)) – anyone else fancy writing us something up for next month? We are still beavering away behind the scenes on our 2025 Bird Report which we hope to have published late summer. Talking of which, my usual call – **if anyone has any of their bird-related artwork they would like me to include in the report**, then please send me the images across.

A bit of excitement in my village Lower Gresham last month when a homeless and lonesome Peacock was doing the rounds looking for a suitable garden to live in, taking in a couple of member plots on its travels. *Photo from Andrew Crossley.*

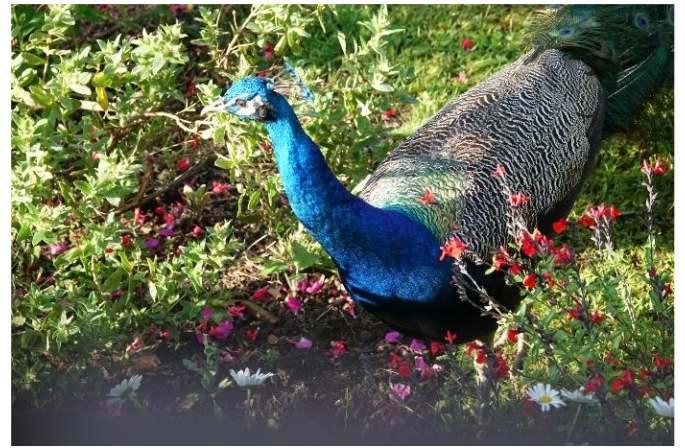
The **'Through a Lens'** topic for the front cover of birds seen last month was **'juveniles'** and predictably we had quite a variety. From the top left across: **Greylag Goose** [Doug Cullen DC], **Mallard** [DC], **Red-legged Partridge** [Richard Farrow RF], **Blue Tit** [Steven & Barbara Lines S&BL], **Long-tailed Tit** [Ollie Allison], **Egyptian Goose** [DC], **Robin** [S&BL], **Blackbird** [Philip Cartlidge], **Moorhen** [RF], **Swallow** [Alan Stevens], **Coal Tit** [Ken Thornton]. **Mute Swan** [DC]. For July our theme will be **'birds and water'** so get clicking at the coast, lakes, ponds or along waterways!

Below are my **favourite member photos** from June, selected from the ones that didn't make it on to our monthly NENBC Bird Highlights section of the more unusual species ... a precarious Stonechat from Jane Crossen, Skylark in action from Andrew Crossley and Green Woodpecker from Mark Clements.

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

* Cathy Batchelar & Simon Waller *
* Teresa Keane *

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!

≈ 7,025 individual records covering 147 bird species were added in June

June 2026 | Highlights this month were a probable **White-winged Black Tern** off West Runton, **Manx Shearwater** in good numbers on 5 dates, a **Honey-buzzard** at Swanton Novers, **Black Kite** drifting over Swanton Novers and a **Hoopoe** in a Weybourne garden. A large number of **Quail** records were great news too. See fuller details below.

Brent Goose | A single west at Sheringham on 2nd and one on sea before heading west at Weybourne on 11th.

Barnacle Goose | Three birds west close in seen from Sheringham and Weybourne on 12th.

Eider | A drake west at Sheringham on 6th, 2 east and 6 on sea at Weybourne on 16th, a single at West Runton on 17th, 4 west past Weybourne on 22nd with a drake west there on 24th plus 12 east, presumably over a seawatch session, on 25th. *Photo 1 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Grey Partridge | All 3 records were in the Weybourne area with one on the Camp on 3rd, and 2 birds seen locally there on both 17th and 18th. *Photo 2 courtesy of Andrew Crossley*

Quail | Quite a month for sightings of this usually elusive bird from 1st through to 30th. Most were records of singing birds only, with some nocturnal flight calls recorded over Sheringham on 3 occasions but one fantastic report of a bird briefly visiting a Beeston Regis garden. Birds were heard at Weybourne Heath (8th, 9th, 10th, 14th, 19th, 26th), Sheringham sites (9th, 14th, 15th, 24th), Selbrigg Pond (11th), Swanton Novers (12th), Baconsthorpe (15th, 16th), other Weybourne sites (16th, 20th, 27th, 28th, 29th), West Runton (18th), Southrepps Common (21st), Holt Country Park & Lowes (24th) and Felbrigg Park & Lake (30th). *Photo 3 courtesy of Julian Bhalereo*



Nightjar | Plenty of Nightjar reports this month from 5 sites – Cawston Heath (on 2 dates, with max count of 3 on 19th), Holt Country Park & Lowes (3 dates with max of 7 on 1st), Kelling Heath (8 dates with max of 6 on 14th and 25th), Weybourne (3 dates) and Weybourne Heath (12 dates with max 5 on 15th). Most records were of churring and wing-clapping with a good number of flight views too. *Photo 4 courtesy of David Griffiths*

Cuckoo | Singles over Holt on 1st, Pretty Corner Wood on 6th, Weybourne Cliffs area on 19th and Muckleburgh Hill on 27th where one was calling regularly for at least 2 hours.

Stone-curlew | Four lucky members got to see this bird at Weybourne / Weybourne Camp on 1st. where it was in view for 10 minutes.

Avocet | Two birds were west offshore at Weybourne on 5th and 11th and east there on 24th and 30th.

Whimbrel | One west calling at West Runton on 1st, 2 east at Sheringham on 2nd, 3 (1 east and 2 west) at Weybourne on 9th and 1 west there on 12th.

Bar-tailed Godwit | One heading north at Walcott on 5th, 5 west at West Runton on 17th and 1 west at Sheringham on the same day with another single west at Weybourne on 25th.

Knot | The only record was a nocturnal flight call over a Sheringham garden on 13th.

Woodcock | A single bird was seen at Holt Country Park & Lowes at dusk on 5th.

Kittiwake | Records on 7 dates between 3rd and 15th of predominantly 1-2 birds from Sheringham and Weybourne with a high of 4 there on 7th and 3 at West Runton on 9th.

Caspian Gull | Just on record of a bird at West Runton on 9th. *Photo 5 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Sandwich Tern | Sixty five records throughout the month predominantly from Weybourne [28 dates, high count 285 over 4 hrs on 12th] but with other records from Sheringham [9 dates, high count 77 on 2nd], West Runton [7 dates, high count 79 on 8th], Walcott [2 on 5th], Beeston Bump [8 on 9th], Bacton [1 on 21st], Cromer [24th] and Overstrand [2 on 25th]. *Photo 6 courtesy of Mark Clements*

Little Tern | Forty seven records throughout the month, with suggestions from observers they are likely part of the Eccles colony. Records from Beeston Bump [1 on 9th], Happisburgh [2 dates with max 23 on 14th], Sheringham [7 dates, max 50 on 1st], West Runton [5 dates, max 97 on 3rd] and Weybourne sites [21 dates, max 77 on 7th]. Although most reports were of birds in flight, there were plenty of reports of feeding close in or on tide line and of resting on beach.

White-winged Black Tern | A probable record of this species feeding distantly offshore in the failing light, occasionally alighting on buoys off West Runton on 20th.

Black Tern | One record of a single west past Weybourne on 10th.

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Puffin | One east with a Guillemot at West Runton on 21st.

Red-throated Diver | One west at Sheringham on 6th, 1 east at Weybourne on 11th, again there on 12th,

Fulmar | Forty two records throughout the month of mostly 1-3 birds along the coast from Weybourne to Happisburgh. High count of 8 off Weybourne on 12th.

Manx Shearwater | Thirty eight east at Weybourne on 7th, 23 east in a single flock at Sheringham on 8th, 8 east Weybourne on 12th, 14 there (11 west and 3 east) on 13th and 5 east off West Runton on 20th.

Spoonbill | Records on 5 dates from the Weybourne area. Two circling high offshore at West Runton on 3rd, 2 juveniles west at Weybourne on 11th and again there on 12th, 4 heading east over the coast path at the Camp on 21st and a juvenile west offshore on 28th.

Photo 7 courtesy of Russell Page

Bittern | Provisional record via a nocturnal flight call recording over a Sheringham garden on 13th, 01:06.

Great White Egret | One west at West Runton on 10th and 3 east offshore at Weybourne on 29th.

Honey-buzzard | One lazily drifted south over Swanton Novers on 7th.

Goshawk | At Swanton Novers, there were records of singles on 4th, 19th and 21st with 2 over the woods there on 7th. Elsewhere, a single circling over Kelling Heath and one east, high, over Weybourne on 15th.

Black Kite | A single reported over Swanton Novers on 3rd by one lucky club member: "Drifting slowly south west on the wind, shadowed in close company by two red kites, presumably not happy with this stranger in their air space. On view for approx ten minutes, affording great comparison between the two species. Only one other observer present, who called it out and managed to get some video recording. Two very happy birders and a first for myself. Reported over Pensthorpe at 12:30, twenty minutes after first seen at the raptor watchpoint, which was the general direction it was flying."

Hoopoe | One in a garden in Weybourne on 24th.

Kingfisher | Birds reported at Blickling Park, Selbrigg Pond, Saxthorpe and Itteringham.

Bee-eater | Heard over Beachwood Avenue, Aylmerton on 5th but too high to see.

Hobby | Over 30 records this month (1st to 24th) from 12 locations, both coastal and inland. With the exception of a pair flying together at West Runton on 5th, all records were of singles, including observations from 3 member gardens.

Peregrine | All reports this month were of the Cromer Church pair and their 3 juveniles. See the Cromer Peregrine Project report for details on [page 26](#).

Raven | One at West Runton on 27th, a Briston garden record on 28th and 2 nearby on 29th.

Marsh Tit | Three records, all of singles and all at Beeston Common on 24th, 29th and 30th. *Photo 8 courtesy of Jane Crossen*

Woodlark | [We are not including detailed information in the newsletter of the locations of this species during the breeding season.](#) | Over 20 records, mostly of 1-2 birds but with 3 on 5th and 13th, 4 on 15th and 5 on 12th

Willow Warbler | Twenty two records over 15 dates, mainly of singles at Kelling Heath. Elsewhere, 2 at Bacton Woods on 3rd, 1 at Holt Country Park & Lowes



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on 5th, 3 singing at Beeston Regis Heath on 14th with an additional report from Muckleburgh Hill on 13th.

Grasshopper Warbler | A single heard only at Weybourne on a few dates between 1st and 19th, one at Beeston Common on 10th which was also seen.

Photo 9 courtesy of Mark Clements

Lesser Whitethroat | Over 20 records from 12 locations, but predominantly Weybourne. Mostly singles, often heard only, with 2 reported at Weybourne on 15th.

Dartford Warbler | [We are not including detailed information in the newsletter of the locations of this species during the breeding season.](#) | Records of singles from one location.

Firecrest | Singles at Sheringham Park, High Kelling and Aylmerton on 5th, up to 2 birds (but possibly more) at Weybourne on 12th and again 14th plus a single in woodland at Sheringham Park on 24th.

Spotted Flycatcher | Records of mostly singles at Alby, Blickling Park, Melton Constable, Saxthorpe (2), Swanton Novers and Weybourne.

Black Redstart | A female / immature in a Sheringham garden on 26th.

Yellow Wagtail | Three flight calls picked up on a nocturnal recording over a Sheringham garden on 1st.

Grey Wagtail | Sixteen records 1-2 birds from 9 locations (Blickling Park, Southrepps Common, Corpusty & Saxthorpe, Beeston Common, Selbrigg Pond, Gresham, Dilham Canal, Kelling Heath, Itteringham), with additionally a high count of 4 at Mannington Hall Park on 7th. *Photo 10 courtesy of Richard Farrow*

Common Crossbill | A single east over Beeston Common on 12th and a juvenile in a member's garden in Aylmerton on 30th.



July: What to look forward to



July is definitely one of the quieter months in the birding calendar but there is still plenty going on. Breeding birds may continue to fledge young as the summer months progress and in any 'normal' year, July will also see the continued return migration of some wader species such as Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper and Dunlin. Check out inland scrapes and pools as well as watching for passing birds at the coast. Sea-watching can be rewarding, and a bit warmer, with the first returning adult waders still in splendid breeding plumage. Terns will be travelling to feed further offshore often attracting the marauding Arctic Skua and north-west winds have previously produced Cory's Shearwater in July.

The summer may also be a good opportunity to explore sites within our area that you have not yet visited. Check out the Locations section of the website for details of these. If you look at the Wordsearch on [page 32](#), you'll see what a great collection of birds we had turn up last July, so you never know what you might be lucky enough to catch up with!

If the bird watching seems slow, then now is usually a good time to focus your nocs on butterflies or dragon/damselflies and perhaps brush up on your identification of these. Any reasonable bodies of water such as the lakes at Felbrigg and Blickling Halls are a good place to start looking for dragonflies.

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 and the ringing coordinators love to get updates on 'their' birds.

EU Colour Ring website.

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

BTO [metal-only rings]

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!

Mark Clements reported a Norwegian black ringed Great Black-backed Gull at West Runton on 17th. All other records were from ringing activities undertaken by the Felbeck Trust Ringing Group (John Swallow, Roger Emmens) during sessions at local Felbeck Trust sites. At Sustead (Spurrell's Wood), ringing of the following took place on 1st: one recently fledged juvenile Blue Tit and similarly a Chiffchaff. At West Beckham Old Allotments on 16th, the following were ringed: 8 Whitethroat trapped plus a re-trap of a juvenile from 2025.

It would appear that again this month Andy Clarke was the only member doing noc-mig recordings over his Sheringham garden. He had 13 species in June over the four dates he was recording – 1st, 13th, 14th and 20th. Water Rail, Sandwich Tern, Quail (three records on the 1st three dates above, with 9 calls directly overhead on the 1st), Oystercatcher, Yellow Wagtail, Skylark, Curlew, Knot, Bittern, Wigeon, Moorhen, Little Ringed Plover, Golden Plover.

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!



Quail | I heard a couple of brief calls, one call recorded, distantly to the south between 21.50 and 21.53 totally unexpected during Woodcock Survey! Heard during BTO Woodcock Survey | John Swallow | Holt Country Park & Lowes | 24th

Mute Swan | one very small cygnet | Stuart Jones | Felbrigg Park & Lake | 5th – *This is the only record of any cygnets at Felbrigg this year. There was a later than usual nest observed but it is likely that any eggs or young were predated quickly.*

Swift | A tight group of 30+ plus Swift high over the common and slowly drifting downwind, apparently feeding on a closely packed food source; flying ants? | Dave Billham | Beeston Common | 8th

Woodpigeon | At bird feeder at window sill. Only seems to attract wood pigeons. | Andrew Gorton | Cromer | 1st

Woodpigeon | Picking bits off our "green" roof - at least now I know why there's hardly anything growing on it! | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 7th

Little Grebe | nest building. One ran up side of reservoir and chased off a carrion crow, presumably because it was close to the nest. | Phil Borley | Thornage | 18th

Stone-curlew | After a good scan from Muckleburgh quite relieved (for only time) when a model aircraft being flown over the camp flushed the (unseen) bird from somewhere near the western end of the camp and it flew, calling once, eastwards and soon lost to view behind trees. Not a fantastic sighting but..... | David Griffiths | Weybourne Camp | 1st

Oystercatcher | Holding up traffic by walking up the middle of the road | Kala & Mike Nobbs | East Beckham | 11th

Oystercatcher | On field by Deadman's. Seen to fly off carrying prey (large worm?). | Tony Pope | Weybourne Cliffs | 14th

Oystercatcher | The pair at Hillside Shire Horse Sanctuary successfully hatched all three eggs, last one hatching Friday afternoon. All three still alive today and they've migrated from the pond to the Donkey Field and are foraging with their parents. | Ellie Farrow | 24th and | At Hillside Shire Horse Sanctuary - sadly only one chick seen all at today. The other two have disappeared, presumed predated. | 26th

Kittiwake | West - strangely flying in close formation with 2 Sandwich Terns | Russell Page | Weybourne | 11th

Herring Gull | 46x Not exactly exciting but an unusually large number feeding on the pasture out back of ours under lovely rainbow arch! The usual number would be zero! Presumably attracted by food caused by the recent rains. Mainly adult with a few third year and one second year. Clearly a good food source as if spooked by walkers on nearby track they simply circle and re-land. All walking long distances back and forth. Suddenly all left as one after about 45 minutes. | Stu Buck | Antingham & Bradfield | 8th

Herring Gull | Over garden, one with a mouse in its bill, being harassed by others | Phil Borley | Edgefield | 18th

Herring Gull | 9 east. 84 west. One west carrying a sand eel, harassed, chased by two herring gulls, dropped sand eel, taken by gull, tern immediately turned back east, presumably to return for more sand eel. Nature is tough at times. | Phil Borley | Weybourne | 9th

Little Tern | 11x Feeding right on the shoreline, catching very small fish. Also spending time on the beach passing fish to, presumably, their mate, and preening. | Dave Bilham | Sheringham | 2nd

Fulmar | Surprised to see one flying along the cliffs, no sign of breeding activity | Stella Baylis | Happisburgh | 5th

Sparrowhawk | Large female soaring, causing some debate among assembled birders hoping for a Gos. | Andy Clarke | Swanton Novers | 19th

Sparrowhawk | female. roadside with caught juvenile wood pigeon, sparrowhawk flew off as I drove by. although the wood pigeon was not dead it was unable to fly off. | Phil Borley | Kelling Heath | 25th

Buzzard | One dangling something from talons maybe a snake? | Kala & Mike Nobbs | Pigneys Wood | 13th

Buzzard | 6x Minimum count. One dark individual frequently hovering. At least two different birds indulging in display flights over Great Wood, with 'butterfly' wing flapping and frequent plunge dives. | Andy Clarke | Swanton Novers | 19th

Great Spotted Woodpecker | adult with 2 juveniles (which keep themselves apart) have been coming to the fat ball feeders umpteen times a day for the past couple of weeks. Despite re-hanging some xmas decs in front of the patio doors, one of the juveniles still flies into the window every day | Carol Thornton | Gresham | 11th

Great Spotted Woodpecker | Unusual record for me - heard one calling on Skelding Hill in the undergrowth by the Coastwatch hut and then it flew towards the cemetery/allotment area. Could have been a juvenile. I've certainly never seen one there before! | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cliffs | 22nd

Hobby | Hirundines all flocked together over garden making lots of noise. Then hobby shot through them, turned and had another go but was unsuccessful. | Gary Bunting | Edgefield | 14th

Peregrine | 5x In 8 years spent watching Cromer peregrines I had only seen a bird (the female in each case) catch a feral pigeon around the church, with many failed attempts. Today the female stooped north of the church, then flew up with a tan coloured feral pigeon, which was dropped and intercepted by one of the juveniles, just after this one of the juvenile males intercepted another pigeon and carried it to the church. It rather looked as if the pigeon didn't realise the danger as the juvenile took it in level flight with seeming ease. | Julian Thomas | Cromer | 25th

Hooded Crow | Alighted on the fir tree viewed from the house, north of the salt bin on High Street. Although not seen here for several months, surely the same individual that has spent two winters here. | John Hurst | Mundesley | 17th

Marsh Tit | Calling as it fed in trees in SW corner wood. First I've seen on the Common for over two years. | Francis Farrow | Beeston Common | 24th

Sand Martin | Number is a guestimate. I've not been along to Skelding Hill much as on Cromer Peregrine duty most of the time! So it was really nice to discover a Sand Martin colony where I've not seen them before. Right next to the Coastwatch hut but nicely tucked away so no disturbance by people or dogs! Lovely, lovely views. They were very active and clearly some nearly fledged juvs hanging about. | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cliffs | 22nd

Sand Martin | 177x Never seen so many! 97 on the wires in Mill Lane, with 30-odd on the hedges, and another 30 odd flying around, as well as 20 hunting over clifftop grassland | Val Stubbs | Weybourne Cliffs | 29th

House Martin | Still only seen one. I hope there's a partner on a nest somewhere | Stephanie Witham | North Walsham | 5th

House Martin | two occupied nests on house | Phil Borley | Edgefield | 17th

Whitethroat | Great views again. The juv was begging for the food but the adults were ignoring it. He/she/it was trying to catch the butterflies - to no avail! Lovely to watch though! I'll put some nice vid I got on twitter/bluesky. | Jane Crossen | Sheringham Cliffs | 25th

Blackbird | M singing, F on front path, 2 juvs (but not recently fledged - long tails) on new water feature designed for insects not birds, knocked everything over - time for a rethink! | Val Stubbs | Weybourne | 29th

Bird Ventures of Holt

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



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

Calling All Artists!

We are busy working on the 2025 Bird Report in preparation for printing later in the summer. As usual, we would love to showcase member artwork so if you have any sketches, paintings or other artwork of birds, rare or common, that appeared in our club area last year, please take a photo of them and send them in to nenbc@aol.co.uk

Newsletter Contributions

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

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.

2nd Hand Book Stock

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

Speaker Suggestions

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

Thank you!

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

Felbrigg Park Walks | 15th July

Walk 1 | 9:00am to 11:00am | ≈ 2+ m | *A bit of a romp with Trevor Williams*

Walk 2 | 9:30am to 11:00am | ≈ 1 m | *Slow and steady with Nick Kimber*

Our two Felbrigg Park walks are sociable events and cater for all levels of birding ability so come and give us a try. The plan is a staggered start with us all meeting up in the café afterwards at 11am. Our routes are dependent on the local bird and other wildlife recently reported or likely to be present on the day. We normally see between 30 and 50 species.

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

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

| 16th Sep | 21st Oct | 18th Nov | 16th Dec |

Sea Palling to Eccles on Sea

*** A Little Tern Walk with Stella Baylis ***

Saturday 4th July | 9:30am to 1:00pm

Prior booking is required for this walk, maximum 10 participants, to minimise disturbance. Email nenbc@aol.co.uk

This walk will focus on the stunning Little Terns at Eccles on Sea.

Last year this colony was the largest in the UK, with 270 pairs fledging over 400 chicks. The chatter of Little Terns on a beautiful beach is surely the sound of summer! There may be Ringed Plover nesting and walking to and from the colony takes in coastal scrub and sand dunes, with warblers, finches and raptors all possible. We hope the RSPB warden will be able to meet us at the colony to tell us about the history of the site and ecology of Little Terns.

PARK & MEET: Sea Palling Car Park, Clink Road, Sea Palling, parking charges apply (£1.50 per hour). There are 2 car parks on Clink Road, the first is a privately run car park and slightly cheaper, cash or contactless card payments. | Grid reference TG 429 273 | What3Words: mason.loss.enough | GIS: Easting 642914, Northing 327391

DISTANCE: 5-6km with circa 3km on sandy beach

ACCESSIBILITY: Sections on small private road, sandy beach with a bit of shingle both of which could be firm / soft depending on tide, little shade so bring a drink.

FACILITIES: Public toilets near the car park in Sea Palling at the start and end of the walk, along with cafés, pub and a fish and chip shop.

CLUB BADGES: Not this time as outside the club area.



A badge and an owl | by Dave Billham

It was June, and as you will be well aware, we have had mostly dry weather throughout. Not on the day of the walk though; it was raining, and was forecast to continue until 11am, when the walk was due to finish! However, you will also be aware that the very local weather can be somewhat different to that forecast, so I personally opted for the classic combination of applying suncream then wearing an anorak on top of it. I arrived at a damp hall to find other folk toggled up in wet-weather gear as well; it was obviously going to be a soggy walk. Except, all of a sudden, it wasn't – as we waited to start, the rain just stopped. We spent a few minutes looking at the still grey sky, then decided that this was indeed a good sign; plastic over-trousers were removed and returned to cars, and we hoped it would stay this way.

As is now the norm, a second, gentler walk, led by Nick, was starting at 9.30, and we would combine totals at the end. The seventeen members present for the 9am start included Cathy, a new member on her first walk. There was a slight delay whilst I was presented with my blue sea-watching badge by Val, though the congratulatory write-up had appeared in the May newsletter!



Due to the inclement conditions, our car park list was smaller than usual, consisting of **Carrion Crow**, **Rook**, **Jackdaw** and **Woodpigeon**, with a couple of singers, **Wren** and **Dunnock**, and two individuals flying over, singles of **Herring Gull** and **Swallow**.

We started by heading towards the lake from the car park, and crossing the field we picked up a singing **Skylark** and an overflying **Great Black-backed Gull**, our first sighting of this species this year.

Arriving at the wall leading down to the lake, we paused to scan the water meadows below, where a **Kestrel** sat on a fence and a few **Starling** on the grass were all we could see. Five **Mallard** then flew up from



the area of the beck, following which the song of **Reed Bunting** was picked up from the valley below. It was spotted sat in a bush, and it remained there, singing constantly, as walked towards it, giving very good views. From here we moved on towards the woods behind the lake, finding a number of birds en-route; a **Green Woodpecker** flying across the lake, a pair of **Stock Dove** in a dead tree, distant **Swift**, **Common Buzzard** and **Collared Dove**, and a pair of **Greenfinch** engaged in a manic, chasing flight. We also heard the song of **Linnet** and **Song Thrush**.



In the woods we added three more species to the list, namely **Robin**, **Blue Tit** and an overflying **Grey Heron**. On arriving at the lake it initially looked to be devoid of birds, but we did find **Moorhen** and **Coot**, and a pair of **Mute Swan** skulking in the reeds. A lone **Magpie** and a tuneful flock of **Goldfinch** were also present. On the dam wall we spied a **Pheasant** resting in a tree, and could hear brief bursts of **Reed Warbler** song. We also met Andrew here, and he told us that he had found **Little Owl** in a nearby Ash tree. *Photo courtesy of Andrew Crossley*



Sure enough, it was there, though only the lower half of it was visible in amongst the leaves, making it extremely tricky to find. It is not easy to get others onto a resting bird when you have only the most tenuous of markers to guide them in! Val set up her scope, but even then it was not easy. However, this was our first sighting of it on a walk this year, so it was a most welcome addition to the list.

We now moved along the path on the house-side of the lake, where we found **Blackbird** and **Chaffinch**, along with hundreds of froglets in the grass. Activity on the ground by the warren alerted us to a family of **Mistle Thrush**, which we watched for a while.

Continuing along the path as it passed above the water meadows, we saw a **Great Tit** in flight, whilst down by the beck were a large number of Jackdaw, excitedly feeding on something in the grass; we wondered if it might be more of the many froglets that had attracted their attention? Moving on towards the house the last species we noted was a **Red Kite**, high in the distance.



Totting-up the log gave a total of 38 species, a fairly usual number for June. It is traditionally a quieter month, as the breeding birds are mostly quiet and busy feeding with their fledged young, and there is no migratory movement taking place. After a run through of upcoming events from Trevor and Carol, it was time for the café, or home, complete with dry clothing as the rain had stayed away. I caught up with Nick as the second group of eight club members arrived at the house, and consulting his logbook it transpired that they had seen three species that we had not; **Chiffchaff**, **Pied Wagtail** and a family of **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. This last species had been on the ground by the warren at the same time as we were watching the Mistle Thrush; Nick had seen us looking, and presumed we were watching the same birds, but from our different vantage points we were observing different families. It can be a funny old game! Anyway, a full total of **41 species** had been recorded for the two hours, and 25 members had enjoyed the walk.





A slow and steady lake loop | by Nick Kimber

Despite the local heavy showers of the early morning, the weather was forecast to clear up as the day progressed, and eight of us met up at 9:30 for a slower and shorter walk around Felbrigg. As usual a **Blackcap** was being very vocal in the adjoining hedge, and very high up in the sky both **Swifts** and **Swallows** were almost out of eyesight. We agreed to take a walk down and around the lake, so we set off along the drive and down across the field in

front of the house. The usual **Jackdaws** and **Rooks** were joined by a **Buzzard**, although surprisingly the corvids didn't appear that bothered. A **Pied Wagtail** was on the lawn in front of the house, and further down towards the lake, a **Skylark** was singing and a **Red Kite** afforded incredible views as it flew around low overhead. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** flew over towards the house, as a slight shower started, but luckily soon passed and didn't come to much. Making our way down to the bridge over the water meadow, we stopped to find several **Reed Buntings** and **Reed Warblers**. The Buntings as ever once located allowed for some good views, whilst the Warblers barely skimmed the top of the reeds before darting down again. We had our first view of 4 **Mistle Thrushes** flying overhead. Taking care to avoid several Toadlets and Common Blue Damselfly we made our way around the back of the lake, where Doug spotted a **Coot** close in, and the pair of **Mute Swans**. We heard **Song Thrush**, **Chiffchaff** and **Great Tit**. Surprisingly there was not a lot on the lake, and crossing the dam we only added **Chaffinch**, **Moorhen** and **Kestrel**. Sadly we couldn't find the Little Owl despite a top tip via WhatsApp from the other group. Along the top of the lake a **Green Woodpecker** was heard, and a few **Mallard** flew in. Seeing the four thrushes fly up into the oaks, our best views of the day were found in the fallen dead trees below, where an adult and juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker were later joined by an adult and juvenile Mistle Thrush. A few **Linnet**s were found as usual in the gorse, before we made our way back up to the house, to join up with members of the first group for coffee. In all we spotted or heard 31 species.

K Ken & Carol
2 Little Owl corner of Felbrigg Lake, 1 low down in ash / ivy tree, slightly left of centre Felbrigg walk 2 folk - on your right
10:27



Last Month's Weekend Walk

Pigneys Wood Walk | Saturday 13th June



By Julian Thomas

On a breezy day with a northerly wind, but also sunny spells seven of us met up at the Pigneys Wood car park and ventured out onto the NWT reserve. We were greeted with the sight of a **Buzzard** circling overhead, with what appeared to be a snake dangling from its talons. In the scrub and woodland leading to the Dilham Canal a range of new species quickly appeared, with a mixed tit flock comprising **Blue Tits**, **Coal Tit**, **Long-tailed Tits** and **Great Tits**, while **Blackbird**, **Song Thrushes**, **Blackcaps**, **Chaffinches** and **Chiffchaffs** created a song chorus. Three pigeon species were flying over with **Wood Pigeon**, **Stock Dove** and **Collared Dove** added to the bird list. The cool windy conditions suppressed butterfly activity in many areas, but a sheltered bramble patch held Red Admirals, Large Whites, Speckled Woods, Painted Ladies galore, Essex Skippers, Meadow Browns and Small Tortoise-shells, with Norfolk hawkers patrolling above. On reaching the canal the expected range of warblers were quickly located with **Reed Warblers** rhythmic song contrasting with the energetic chaotic **Sedge Warblers**. The scrub held **Common Whitethroats** in some numbers, and **Cetti's Warblers** drew attention with their explosive song. Some of the group had never seen a Cetti's Warbler but this one came out into the open, just five yards away, for everyone to admire. **Reed Buntings** added their feeble best to the marshland bird song chorus, and other species seen here were **Grey Heron**, **Lesser Black-backed** and **Herring Gulls**, **Starlings**, **Goldfinches**, **Skylark**, **Dunnock**, **Jackdaw**, **Rook**, **Magpie**, **Jay**, and after a struggle to find any, a **Swift** and **Swallows** flew over. We walked as far as the bridge over the canal at Spa Common, failing to find Kingfisher here, but **Green Woodpecker** was present and a smart male **Kestrel** devouring prey on its perch was much appreciated. A return along the woodland of the Paston Way produced the only **Robin** of the walk and instructions on how to view the badgers that live here was given to those who had never seen this charismatic animal, even down to which tree to climb for the best viewing! Every NENBC walk should have some sort of surprise, and the surprise on this walk came in the form of a mammal. As we paused by a sluice along the canal (the very spot where the Blyth's Reed Warbler was seen in 2020) an Otter came out from the canal onto the path. Otters are notoriously short-sighted, but even the most short-sighted Otter could hardly fail to notice seven people just five yards away and so it quickly bolted back the way it had come. A fine Roe Deer buck resting in a field, with a Muntjac buck close-by to allow comparison gave rather more lengthy views.

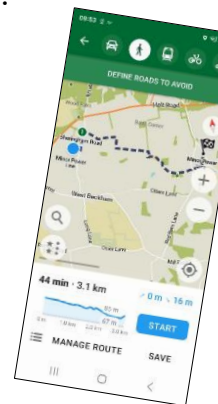
Library photo: Cetti's Warbler, Moss Taylor 2017



By Carol Thornton

The Felbeck Trust annual Bioblitz was held at West Beckham Old Allotments (WBOA) on 6th and 7th of June with a range of activities scheduled, including a bat walk, overnight moth-trapping, bird ringing and some pond dipping. Most of you will know that the Trust is a local charity that works to improve habitat for wildlife on small, generally neglected, sites in Norfolk and many of our NENBC members are included in their volunteer pool and some are even trustees.

When Alan S and I rolled up around 9am we were expecting to be spending the day 'assisting' the species specialists surveying the site. I say assisting loosely – what I really mean is ooo-ing and ahhh-ing at their finds and marvelling at their extensive knowledge and ability to tell the difference between such similar looking species with ease be it insect, bat, flower, tree, moss, whatever is lurking in the ponds or absolutely anything else. We thought we would be able to contribute effectively to the bird count at least, and that we did. We hadn't been there long before we were asked what time the advertised walk between the three Felbeck Trust managed sites around the Beckhams would be taking place. On enquiring with 'management' it turned out Trevor had Alan and I, both Trust volunteers, down for leading it – who knew?! So despite suspicions that Trevor may have just made that up on the spot, we set about working out a route. As it turned out, we only had one taker, NENBC member Chris R, and she told us about a free App called Organic Maps (others no doubt available!). It is based on the Open Street map site and after some shenanigans using a fair portion of our monthly data allowances, we downloaded the App and were able to easily pick out a route from WBOA to the other sites. With the exception of maybe 400 yards, the 6.5km walk there and back was all off-road on footpaths and tracks.



We started out heading for the nearby West Beckham Green (WBG). Despite this short section of the walk being 'only' along the road through the ribbon village, we stopped for a while to watch a hornet attempting to get into a bees nest in a large oak. Fascinating watching the bees responding. WBG is a small open woodland with areas of scrub, bracken and dense leaf litter with a circular path and a couple of benches provided. Here we picked out a few tits and finches by sight and heard the familiar song of Blackcap and Yellowhammer. Our route onwards to East Beckham took us through a range of different habitats on a route that none of us had been along before and the thing that struck us all from the start was what a lovely wildlife corridor it was. There were mature hedgerows and trees along the edges of the agricultural fields as we began and when we came past a huge dung pile (sadly no wagtails!) we stopped to admire the wildflower areas planted along the edge of a solar farm that were home to a good number of caterpillars, butterflies, damselflies and other flying insects. The hedgerow along the track (photo left) was a double hedge of both old and new growth. The track wiggled through some old farm buildings where we had some distant views of hirundines and a few Stock Doves. A slight rise through some woodland of pines and foxgloves before dropping down through some tree-lined pastures alongside a small beck towards East Beckham Common where we stopped for some refreshments. This gently sloping narrow little site consists of a public footpath with broad margins to either side, mixed mature trees and hedges with areas of blackthorn thicket, bramble/bracken scrub, a small pond and some patches of open grassland. On the route back we dawdled looking at wildflowers, finding my best pen I dropped on the way in long grass whilst watching a Wren (result!) and spotting a mid-distance small lake that had been obscured on the way that held a couple of Shoveler. We made our way slowly back to WBOA in the sunshine. Good company, a new walk and lots of chat about nature. What's not to like?

Bird list of 26: Yellowhammer, Blackbird, Great Tit, Kestrel, House Sparrow, Blue Tit, Robin, Chiffchaff, Red-legged Partridge, Blackcap, Chaffinch, Goldcrest, Woodpigeon, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Wren, Magpie, Goldfinch, Buzzard, Herring Gull, Swift, Stock Dove, Swallow, Greenfinch, Shoveler, Pheasant.

Maybe we could look at a different type of NENBC October Walks Week that combines birding with conservation and wildlife corridors? We have had plenty of walks over the years to our established sites but how about linking in with the Upper Bure & Glaven Conservation Triangle ethos of connectivity between habitat islands and seeing if we can put together some other off-road walks along footpaths or tracks through potential green corridors linking sites and see what we can see? What do you think? Do let me know if you think this is worth pursuing and if you have any suggestions for small-group walk locations off the beaten track that would help us help the Triangle initiative better map our area.



By Moss Taylor

Having lived in the same house in Sheringham since 1972, I have been able to keep a comprehensive list of the birdlife in the garden for 54 years. During this period, Blackcaps have been recorded almost annually and in every month of the year but with the majority between October and January, although occasional males have been in song in the spring. In both 2021 and 2022 a male (perhaps the same individual) was singing in the trees around the pond from mid-April until late May/early June, but there was no sign of an accompanying female. A few years ago many of the tall, mature trees were felled in order to open the garden up, since when the herbaceous shrubs in the borders have spread resulting in a scrub-like habitat, while dense ivy clumps have grown around the stumps of many of the old trees.

This year, I was pleased to see a female on a nut feeder in February and March, while a male was first recorded singing in the trees on April 14th. Four days later the male had attracted a mate and the pair was regularly seen around the scrub near the pond, where the male was often heard giving its scolding call, as well as singing every day. From May 18th I was delighted to see the female regularly taking juicy, green caterpillars into an ivy-covered stump, where clearly nestlings were being fed. The arrival of the female with food was often heralded by the male bursting into song, although he was not seen taking any food into the nest. This behaviour continued until May 22nd, when I left for a holiday in Turkey. On my return ten days later, there was no sign of any Blackcaps in the garden, indicating either that the nestlings had successfully fledged or had been taken by the ever-present Magpies.

Library photo by Steven Lines



Quick Trip Into Sweden Anyone?

The Falsterbo Raptor Migration

By Will Clarke



It was many years ago and it had been a long week, I had shed my tie and parked the suit jacket in the overhead locker with my laptop case and I crashed into my EasyJet seat, belt on, headphones in and iPod at the ready for some soothing tunes. It is Friday, I'm tired and won't get home until roughly 11.00pm assuming we get off the ground here at Kastrup (Copenhagen) on time, we never do, also that is assuming that the luggage handlers at Stansted don't have it in for me.

Take-off time comes and goes and the pilot announces there will be a "short hold" but we should get away in about fifteen minutes and we shouldn't worry as we have a tail wind and we should make it up in transit. I puff and bluster, gnash my teeth, mutter curses and the guy sitting next to me shows no reaction and just keep scribbling in the fancy leather-bound notebook on his lap, he is totally Zen. He's a fit looking bloke, by which I mean free of the business gut, at the younger end of middle aged and he's come dressed as tree: Khaki combats, a green outdoorsman sort of shirt, a green Berghaus fleece and clearly expensive walking boots, he is at peace and I am far from that.

At last we start to move and he ceases his notes, closed his notebook with a slap, shoves his propelling pencil into the handily sewn pen holder in the breast pocket of his utility shirt and asks me if I am on my way home, "end of the working week?". My brain goes into red mode, the last thing I want is a chatty seat row companion but manners triumph and I manage to mutter a "yep, you?", I imagined he was a Forester or an Arboriculturist, there are loads of them in Scandinavia. But then he said the magic: sentence:

"Yes, going home I'm going home but not from work, I have just had five days bird watching, five days at Falsterbo". He said it as if I should know where he meant, paraphrasing Manuel in Fawlty Towers: "I knew nothing." However by the end of the short flight I knew loads more, he had shared the notes from his fancy notebook and I had become desperate for the year to pass so that I too could witness The Falsterbo Raptor Migration. Whoever you were, man tree on a plane, I will be eternally grateful to you.

Falsterbo

On the southwestern tip of Sweden, the Falsterbo peninsula is supposed to be one of the finest places in Europe to experience the spectacle of the autumn raptor migration. It's not only supposed to be, it definitively is, you have my personal guarantee on that. The peninsula acts as a natural funnel for birds of prey leaving Scandinavia and heading south toward wintering grounds in southern Europe, the Mediterranean, and even West Africa. For a visiting birder, this means the chance to see thousands of raptors that can glide across the sky on any given day (honestly - check for yourselves on this website: <https://www.falsterbofagelstation.se>), often with rare and exciting species mixed in among the more common ones. I know, it sounds far-fetched but trust me... it is for real. I have been there, I have done that.

Best dates to go

The main raptor migration window at Falsterbo runs from the beginning of September into October, with the highest numbers often in late September and early October. Which is to ignore the wider migration of vast numbers of Songbirds, Finches and the like. You can check individual days for yourself - back to 1973 [here](#) but broken down:



- August brings earlier migrants such as European Honey-buzzard, Osprey, and Common Buzzards and Kites.
- September and October see the peak of Common Buzzard, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Western Marsh Harrier, and Hen Harrier passage, with daily totals sometimes reaching many thousands of individuals.
- Migration can continue into November, but numbers drop off and the weather becomes less reliable.

For the best combination of numbers to spot and decent weather you should try to aim for a visit in late September to early October, preferably on days with south-southwesterly winds, which push the raptors hard up against the peninsula waiting for a wind change to cross the narrow Baltic.

The best locations within the Falsterbo Peninsula

Several key spots are used by migration watchers:

Nabben (Falsterbo southern tip) | Nabben is the classic passerine hotspot at the very end of the peninsula, where gulls, waders, and songbirds gather before crossing the sea. Many raptors pass overhead here in the morning, especially when the wind is light or coming from the south and west. You may have to watch out for Golf balls - you'll see what I mean. Also there is a notable lighthouse if you like lighthouses.

Ljungen (Skanörs Ljung) | This heathland area is widely regarded as the best place on the peninsula for raptors. Depending on the wind direction, birds may stream in low over the head at Haga roundabout on a south-westerly, or move further north along the old railway embankment when the wind is from the SE. These bits of local knowledge help.

Kolabacken and Måkläppen | Kolabacken offers a good vantage over the sea (maybe a White Tailed Eagle!) and is useful for catching raptors and other migrants funnelled by the shape of the land. Meanwhile Måkläppen, the outer part of the peninsula, is a militarily restricted area between 1 February and 31 October and should be treated with care, don't be tempted to trespass work around the restricted areas.

A day's birdwatching in synopsis:

Typically a day might start at Nabben in the early morning, then move up to Ljungen as the air warms and the thermals lift more raptors overhead.

Raptors you might expect to see: Falsterbo is famous for huge numbers of common raptors, but it also produces regular and occasional rarities. Typical species include:

- [Common Buzzard](#) – often the most numerous raptor, with thousands per day on good days.
- [Eurasian Sparrowhawk](#) – in late August and September, daily counts can reach over 2,000 birds.
- [European Honey-buzzard](#) – migrating in smaller but still impressive numbers, often a real highlight. A chance to brush up on ID characteristics compared to Common Buzzard.
- [Western Marsh Harrier](#) and [Hen Harrier](#) – frequent, with hundreds recorded in a season.
- [Osprey](#) – passing through in the tens to low hundreds depending on the year. I was lucky!
- [Merlin](#), [Hobby](#) and [Peregrine Falcon](#) – smaller falcons, gliding low overhead toward the sea. I have never seen a flock of Hobbys in any other place!

Rarer visitors can include [Greater Spotted Eagle](#), [Lesser Spotted Eagle](#), [Imperial Eagle](#), [Steppe Eagle](#), [Short-toed Snake Eagle](#), [Montagu's Harrier](#), [Pallid Harrier](#), and [Red-footed Falcon](#), among others. The [White-tailed Eagle](#) and [Golden Eagle](#) are also occasionally recorded. I once watched a White Tailed for over an hour patrol up and down the shoreline.

Just to get a feel, here is an overview of some species numbers:

Dedicated visual counts at Falsterbo have recorded truly spectacular totals. From **one autumn**, for example, counts included roughly:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Eurasian Sparrowhawk : around 28,900 | • Pallid Harrier : 40 |
| • Common Buzzard : 8,700 (with a single-day record of over 16,000) | • Montagu's Harrier : 6 |
| • European Honey-buzzard : 4,000 | • Osprey : 390 |
| • Western Marsh Harrier : 780 | • Merlin : 250 |
| • Hen Harrier : 340 | • White Stork : 106 (I know, not a raptor but a fun spot) |

These figures illustrate just how dense the migration can be. In favourable conditions, patterns which depend strongly on wind, weather, and time of day, your best strategy is to:

- Be flexible with your watching spots - move around (Nabben, Ljungen and Kolabacken).
- Time your visits to mid-morning through early afternoon, when thermal uplift and favourable winds come together.
- Take a notebook and make notes, it's such fun to look back on and the recognition practice rewards you for life.

For the birder, a week-long, a two day trip or a long weekend autumn trip to Falsterbo offers some of the most spectacular migration watching anywhere in Europe, big numbers, good variety, and the buzz of searching for rare eagles, harriers, and falcons among the soaring thousands. Whilst the focus of this article is around raptors **the numbers of other birds of many species also crossing at Falsterbo are endless, in the millions since recording started.**

How to travel from the UK to Falsterbo

From the UK, the usual route is via Copenhagen Airport (CPH) in Denmark, then across the Øresund Tunnel Bridge into southern Sweden. Fly to Copenhagen from Stansted /London or other major UK airports. From Copenhagen, you can take the Øresund train to Malmö (plenty of hotels) (about 35–40 minutes), then either:

- Catch Skånetrafiken bus 100 (or 300 to Skanör) and get off at Haga roundabout or Skanör/Falsterbo centre, walking the rest of the way.
- Best of all rent a car and drive the E6 south, turning right just south of Vellinge and following the road out onto the Falsterbo peninsula, with Ljungen or Nabben as your main general species and raptor-watching targets.



Many birders stay in Skanör–Falsterbo itself or in nearby Malmö; the journey by public transport is straightforward but can take a full day depending on connections. It is honestly best to rent a car. That way any travelling non birders can drop you and then scoot off and indulge themselves in the home settings for much Scandi-noir TV, historic towns or the City of Malmö.

Book your own flights, it is so easy (no pun intended) book accommodation through booking.com or the like, a car through any of the big car renters and you'll find it's a cheap and easy trip, without language problems and one you will never forget.

The people

When I sat down on that flight I was tired, grumpy and antisocial and a really well meaning, enthusiastic and friendly birder turned me around. At Falsterbo the same human experience can be as rewarding as the birds themselves. For a few weeks each Autumn birders from around the World (literally) gather to experience the magnificent spectacle, share their experiences and help their friends from other countries. In my case a young Bosnian guy on his third trip went out of his way to ensure that I didn't miss a hotspot. You can stand at the edge of the Heath in a phalanx of three hundred birders, resembling medieval archers expecting cavalry to break from the distant woodland, just waiting for the ripple of whispers to break as the next soaring group of 15 Honey Buzzard are spotted by a South African guy with his New Zealand friend he met that morning who passes it on to the Belgian lady who told the Estonian couple who tell you just where to look so as not to miss a thing.

If you can GO! You will never regret it.





By Tony Forster

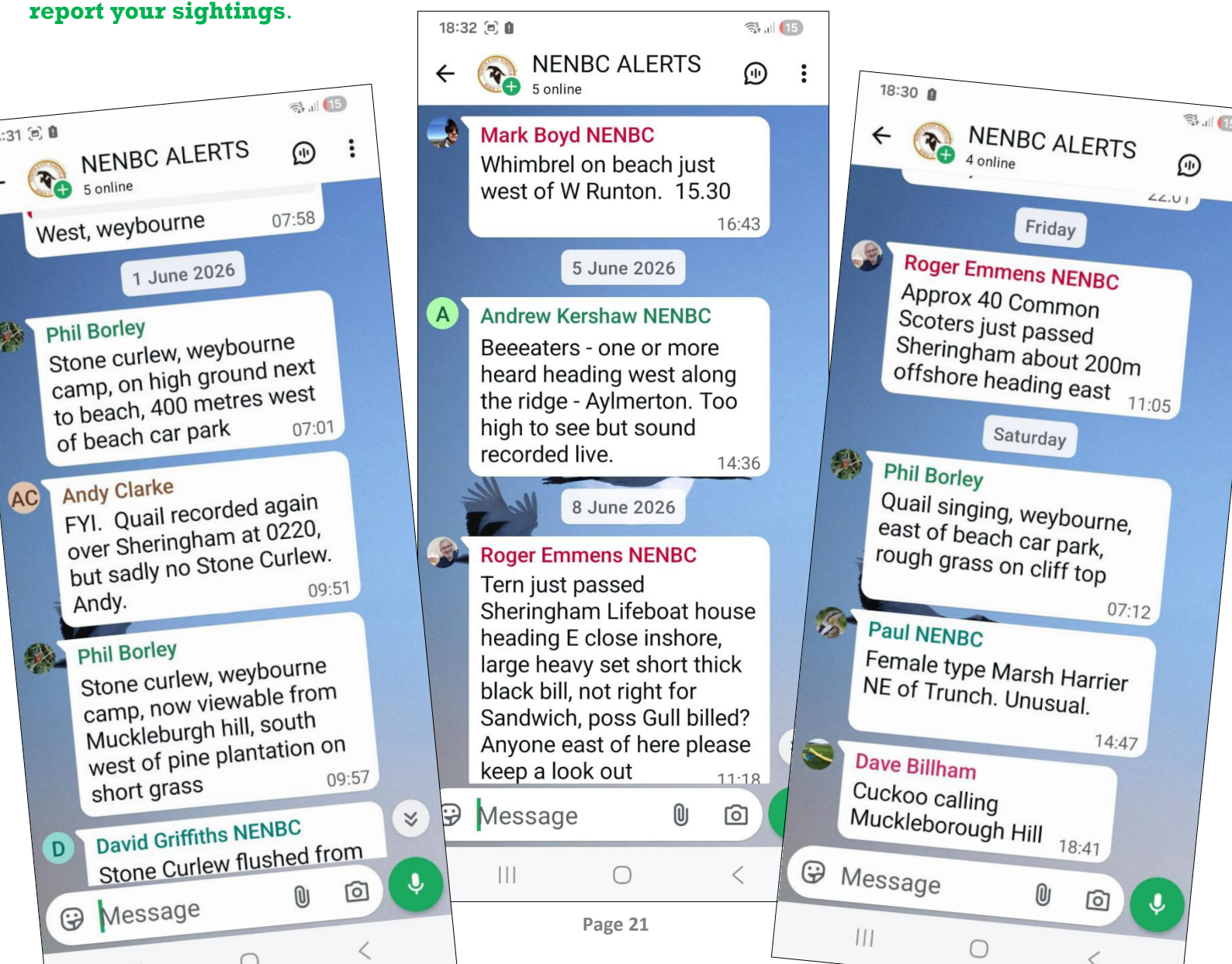
Welcome to the NENBC Alerts WhatsApp group summary covering April - June 2026, after club renewal losses and new members the group is holding steady with 80 members and with around 50 species reported throughout the period it should be proving useful for all members.

April was generally mild with plenty of sunshine and temperatures mostly around 10–18°C, while May was warmer and drier with averages of about 14–20°C and a late-month heatwave pushing temperatures higher. June stayed warm and fairly settled, 16–22°C, with occasional showers with the month ending on a high with temperatures reaching close to 30°C.

April was the busiest month with 2 new species added to the group list, (137) **Golden Plover** and **Black Kite**, and with more than 30 species reported it could have been a great opportunity to catch up with **Raven**, **Glaucous Gull** and **Ring Ouzel** for example. May offered more exotic opportunities with **Hoopoe**, **Bee-eater**, **Glossy Ibis** and **Red-backed Shrike** while June featured at least 5 different quail opportunities along with **Stone Curlew** another Bee-eater reported and the first mention in a long time of **Little Owl** at Felbrigg.

The nearly list is particularly frustrating this quarter with Pallid Harrier at Overstrand, Black-throated Diver at Weybourne just 250yds offshore drifting slowly West, Honey Buzzard at Swanton Novers, Tawny Pipit Kelling Heath. Just outside the area there was Montagu's Harrier, Red-rumped Swallow and Gull-billed Tern at Cley while Green Warbler, Eleanor's and Red-footed Falcons, Black-winged Kite, Ross's Gull were notable sightings in Norfolk this quarter, how many of those have spent time in the NENBC 10km square?

Who knows what the current hot weather might bring with it to further brighten our days before we get into autumn migration, either way it could be an exciting quarter so keep your eyes peeled and **don't forget to report your sightings.**



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

This time we worked with four students. Below is part of the brief for the first of these along with a summary extracted from the full report by student consultant Maisie Royal and we'll have the remaining three projects in the coming months. If you would like to be emailed the full consultancy reports for any of these projects then just let us know.

"There's no substitute for human experience" – or is there?

The impact of AI on birding.

It is safe to say that watching birds hasn't always been a hobby that has attracted the masses, instead being seen as a bit of a niche pastime undertaken by a certain stereotype. Lockdowns changed some of that but not so long ago, if you went out birding you would generally have run into fellow birders dressed in muted colours with their binoculars at the ready, had a chat about what they were looking for, or at, whilst scanning the habitats yourself. These days however, you can expect to encounter a much broader range, and larger number of folk, maybe not 'birders', and maybe not sporting a pair of binoculars, but phones out, Merlin App on recording birdsong on their walks and 'engaging with nature' in a new way.

Anecdotally, it would seem that the progression of AI is bringing more people into birding but is it? And what about the accuracy of AI identification and subsequent reporting? There are certainly mutterings from both 'traditionalists' in the birding community and from some conservationists involved in surveying that AI isn't a substitute for that 'human experience'. So what are the pitfalls and positives of using AI in a birding and natural history context? If Merlin, for example, is the only tool being used to identify a bird, is it producing a rise in false reporting? Is this giving an erroneous impression that nature is bountiful and doing well? Is it helping and or are there areas where it is possibly misleading?

Researching across a range of sources, produce a report on how the proliferation of AI-powered apps like Merlin have impacted the accessibility of birding as a hobby. Discuss the pitfalls and positives of using AI in a birding and wider conservation context using examples. The report should include AI's effect on wildlife conservation efforts and reporting of wildlife recovery, false reporting and mitigating actions, plus any ethical and practical considerations that may arise. If the research picks up any specific recommendations of relevance to our bird club, then these should be included.



"There's no substitute for human experience" – or is there? The impact of AI on birding by Maisie Royal

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

Introduction

In this report, I evaluate the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on traditional birding practices, focussing on member experiences within the North East Norfolk Bird Club (NENBC). The rapid development of AI-powered tools, such as Merlin Bird ID in recent years, has transformed how birders identify species and engage with the natural environment. The purpose of this report is to assess how these technologies are currently used, identify perceived benefits and concerns, and provide practical recommendations to support their effective and responsible integration within the NENBC.

Survey data collected from 92 respondents within the bird club formulates the basis of this report, but it also draws on more qualitative data collected from three individual interviews with experienced birders, and finally a non-birder perspective.

Background and Context

As AI becomes increasingly integrated into birding through tools such as Merlin Bird ID, it is important to understand how it gathers data and uses it to aid users with identifying birds. Merlin uses large datasets from eBird, the Macaulay Library, and regional and global contributors to identify birds through sound recordings and photographs. These technologies improve accessibility and confidence in birders, yet their growing use also raises ethical and conservation concerns, particularly around playback systems potentially disturbing

bird behaviour and contributing to noise pollution. Additionally, the increasing reliance on AI-assisted photography reduces user's direct engagement with nature as it can only be carried out retrospectively, potentially diminishing traditional birding skills. Therefore, while AI offers significant educational and conservation benefits, organisations such as the North East Norfolk Bird Club (NENBC) must consider how these technologies can be integrated responsibly to balance innovation with ethical birding practices.

Approach to Data Collection

This research adopted a mixed-method approach to provide both quantitative and qualitative insight into the role of AI in birding. For my primary data collection, I distributed an online questionnaire to members of the NENBC, followed by three semi-structured interviews to add depth to my findings. I also participated in a field observation where I joined one of the club's guided bird walks to understand how AI is used in practice, and finally I obtained a non-birders perspective of AI to explore its impact on accessibility and participation. These methods enabled me to identify broader trends alongside gaining more detailed personal perspectives from the interviews, strengthening the reliability of my findings. I also conducted secondary research using credible sources, including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, to examine the development of AI-powered tools such as Merlin Bird ID.

Key Findings

Findings indicate that AI is now firmly embedded within birding practice. A combined 82% of respondents reported frequent (46%) or occasional (36%) use of AI-powered tools. Such participants highlighted that they predominantly used AI for identifying bird calls, confirming species identification, and supporting learning. These findings indicate that there has been a widespread adoption of AI amongst the birding community, reflecting a shift towards technology-assisted birding.

Perhaps the most significant finding is the role of AI in improving accessibility to birding. 82% of respondents agreed that AI has made birding more accessible, particularly for beginners. This is reinforced by a non-birder respondent, who highlighted that AI increases awareness of local biodiversity and enhances engagement. Therefore, tools such as Merlin may act as an entry point into birding and the NENBC should capitalise on this to draw new members into the club.

However, the findings also show some divisions in opinions. When asked whether AI may reduce the development of traditional birding skills, responses were divided with 34% yes, 29% no, 36% unsure, indicating uncertainty regarding long-term impacts. Qualitative data from interviews reinforces this as it suggests that over reliance on tools such as Merlin may limit the development of individual's ability to independently identify birds.

Despite these concerns, AI is generally perceived positively. 62% of respondents reported that it has enhanced their birding experience, compared to only 2% who felt it had diminished it. This indicates that AI is currently viewed as a complementary tool rather than a substitute for human expertise. However, some respondents did express concerns that AI increased reliance on mobile devices which in turn had the opposite effect and actually detracted from the aim of encouraging an increased engagement with nature.

The impact of AI on birding culture appears more ambiguous. While 35% of respondents reported observable changes, 42% did not, and 23% were unsure. Therefore, it is important that the shift towards AI in birding is more gradual and individualised to reduce potential implications with traditional forms of sharing of knowledge being lost.

From a conservation perspective, findings raise notable concerns. A combined 59% of respondents expressed concern (33%) or uncertainty (26%) regarding the potential for AI to increase disturbance to rare or sensitive species, particularly through the use of location-sharing in apps such as Merlin. Therefore, it is essential that AI use in birding is carefully governed to ensure species are protected.

65% of respondents indicated that the NENBC should develop guidance on responsible AI use, showing that intervention would be welcomed and valued.

Interview Questions for Birders:

Opening
Can you briefly describe your birding background and how you got into it?

AI Use & Experience
Do you use AI-powered bird identification tools?
How do you feel AI has influenced your confidence when identifying birds?
Do you think AI changes the learning process for new birders?

Human Experience & Fieldcraft
The project asks whether "there is no substitute for human experience" in birding. Do you agree?
Do you feel AI enhances or detracts from that experience?

Conservation
Have you noticed any changes in bird behaviour or distribution?
Do you have any concerns about AI's impact on bird conservation?
Are there any risks to bird conservation from AI use?
How should we address these risks?

Section 3: Perceptions & Impacts
Do you believe AI tools have made birding more accessible?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure
Do you think AI use may reduce the development of traditional birding skills?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Possibly
☐ Not sure
In your view, AI tools have:
☐ Enhanced my birding experience
☐ Made little difference
☐ Diminished my experience
☐ Not applicable
☐ Prefer not to say
Have you observed any changes in bird behaviour or distribution?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure
If yes, please briefly describe the changes.

Discussion

The findings from this study indicate that AI is becoming increasingly integrated into contemporary birding. The survey data found that there was a widespread use of AI tools among respondents, the majority of which self-identified as highly experienced birders, suggesting that these technologies are not confined to beginners but are instead being adopted across all skill levels. This has been supported in the wider literature which argues that the increasing integration of technology into field practices, like birding, can increase participation and data generation (Bonney et al., 2009).

Although AI supports learning and building confidence, there is clear uncertainty regarding its long-term impact on traditional birding skills. This notion has been reflected in the wider literature regarding the potential for technology to reduce the development of expertise in individuals.

Consequently, AI has the potential to accelerate skill decay among experts and hinder skill acquisition among learners (Macnamara et al., 2024). This is an important consideration

when navigating the future of birding as traditional skills are central to developing a strong ecological understanding.

Despite these concerns, the overall perception of AI remains positive, with the majority of respondents reporting that it enhances their experience. This supports the interpretation gathered from my data collection that AI currently functions as a complementary tool, rather than a replacement for human experience. However, when looking deeper into the qualitative responses, it was argued that the way AI is used is critical. The general opinion was that when AI is used for confirmation species identity and learning, it can reinforce knowledge. However, when it is used as a primary tool for identification, it may limit people's engagement with their surroundings. This distinction highlights the importance of prioritising human experience in shaping approaches to birding, rather than through technology.

When looking at how AI impacts birding culture, the responses are more conflicted. While some respondents felt they had noticed a change, others did not, suggesting that the impact of AI is not perceived evenly across the birding community. Reasons for this could be to do with how different individuals have chosen to adopt AI into their birding practice, or it could be to do with the ways in which they view the usage of technology as an aid. My survey data backs this reasoning as there is evidence that AI is contributing to a shift towards more individualised birding practices, resulting in fewer group-based activities and knowledge sharing. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the NENBC because while AI might change the way in which birders learn, it can also support new forms of engagement.

A key limitation of both AI tools and this study is that it assumes that increased accessibility equates to positive conservation outcomes. Although AI may encourage participation in nature, there is also a risk that this is only superficial, which may have an impact on individual's ecological understanding and reduce their ability to make informed decisions that prioritise conservation. In addition, AI tools are not neutral as they are shaped by the data on which they are trained, which may introduce biases in species detection and reporting (Jarrahi et al., 2025). Therefore, if the birding community becomes more reliant on AI for identifying species, it could result in expanding any existing gaps in biodiversity data, instead of helping to reduce them. In this context, the value of AI should not be measured solely by its uptake in participation or its ease of use, but rather by its contribution to developing ecological data and encouraging responsible conservation. Consequently, it reinforces the need for guided engagement with AI which outlines the appropriate ways of using it as a tool.

Overall, the findings highlight that the impact of AI on birding is neither positive nor negative, but rather dependent on how it is integrated into the practice. The key challenge for the NENBC is therefore to support a balanced approach, where technology is integrated in a way that complements, rather than replaces, human experience.



Recommendations

1. Develop Guidance on Responsible AI Use

The most important recommendation for the NENBC is to provide clear guidance to its members on the appropriate use of AI in birding, including how to verify AI identifications and to promote responsible location sharing to protect sensitive species.

2. Promote a Balanced Approach to Skill Development and Deliver Targeted Training on AI Capabilities and Limitations

To ensure that traditional birding skills are not lost, the club should encourage members to combine using AI tools with conventional methods of birdwatching. This could be achieved through holding workshops and guided sessions that support members in understanding the capabilities and limitations of tools such as Merlin.

3. Encourage Mindful Use of Technology and Strengthen Ethical and Conservation-Focused Practice

As part of their guidance, the NENBC should promote a balanced approach to using AI when birding to ensure that it enhances, rather than distracts from, individual's engagement with nature. It is also important to highlight the ethical considerations involved with using AI, such as habitat distribution and noise pollution, into all guidance, particularly regarding sensitive species.

4. Leverage AI for Outreach and Participation

I found from my data collection that AI increases accessibility to birding. Therefore, it is important that the NENBC capitalise on this to bring new members into the club and to ultimately continue teaching and promoting traditional birding practices. This could be achieved by developing beginner friendly initiatives that use AI as an entry point into birding.

5. Encourage Community Learning and Knowledge Sharing

The club should hold group learning activities, for example where experienced birders share their knowledge with beginner birders. This would ensure that the social aspects of birding are preserved and that AI doesn't cause it to become an individualised practice in the future.

Conclusion

AI presents a significant opportunity for the NENBC. While it increases accessibility and enhances the birding experience, it also introduces challenges related to depletion of skill development and risks to loss of conservation due to lack of education. Therefore, to ensure that traditional birding practices are not lost in the future, the NENBC should produce a balanced, guided approach that enables members to maximise the benefits of AI whilst retaining the core values of birding.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the North East Norfolk Bird Club for their support and collaboration throughout this project. I am particularly grateful to all survey respondents and interview participants for their valuable contributions, and to those who assisted in distributing the survey. I also appreciate the opportunity to attend a guided bird walk, which provided useful context for this research.



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 Always 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 *(all photographs my copyright unless otherwise stated)*

The one where VSN steals the headlines.....

The last (but certainly NOT least!) juvenile fledged on 8th June. What a performance! She (the lone female) actually slipped off the pinnacle, rather than fledged. Obviously, that's significant, as she clearly was not quite ready to go.

The mantra now when we are looking for a fledged juvenile Peregrine is: "follow the gulls' unrelenting alarm calls and mobbing actions". So, yep, there were a lot of unrelenting gull alarm calls and LOTS of dive-bombing! We located her in various places, notably on the church porch roof – where she was very low and oblivious to people walking below – as they were to her! She also investigated the roof of a house in Jetty Street where she was mobbed again.



Photo: VSN and a confused pigeon on the church porch



Photo: On a roof in Jetty Street being mobbed by Herring Gulls



Photo: A different roof in Jetty Street! But possibly the same gull!

That evening we left her to it, albeit reluctantly, but watchpoint volunteers need a rest sometimes! Early next morning we located her – on the roof of the EACH charity shop. Now, that WAS low! We couldn't find her at first but a Blackbird's voracious alarm calls alerted us. It was clear she was trying to fly and the adults on the church were calling her which was good news.

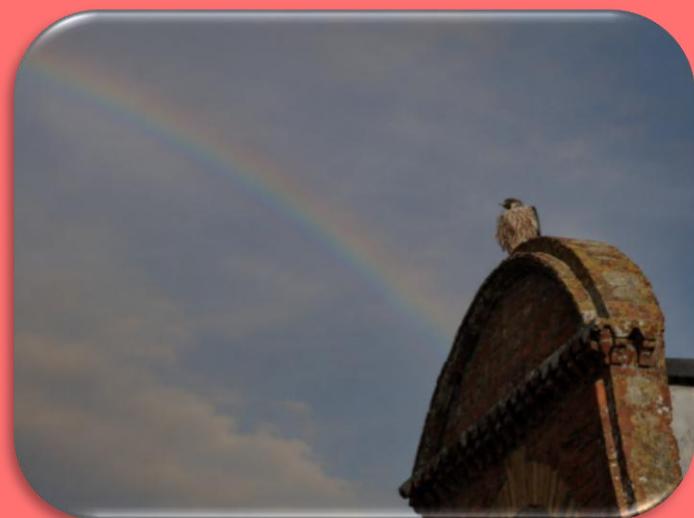


What happened next, hasn't happened before – she was grounded. That hasn't happened at Cromer before which is pretty remarkable when you realise we've had no less than 17 ringed juveniles negotiating the town roofs upon fledging.

It was extremely lucky that it was in the afternoon and, even luckier, that we had two volunteers at the watchpoint who became aware of the situation (Michelle and Sue). They did a fantastic job in trying to marshal 50-60 people away, who had gathered to, guess what, try and get the closest photo and, guess what, take a selfie with a troubled Peregrine.

The volunteers managed to block her way to the road as she appeared to possibly be heading that way. Apparently the adult female was calling and aware of the situation and VSN made it back to a roof in the old High Street.

Photo: The grounded juvenile. VSN on the flag pole in a flower bed at the front of the church. Permission granted to share. Photographer wishes to remain anonymous



We went back later that same evening and she was on the roof of the Yorkshire Building Society (via the top of the church tower which, remarkably, she had managed to find again)

She certainly knows her way around Cromer now!

She was sitting at the end of a rainbow – seemed ironic!

Photo: somewhere over the rainbow is where I'm supposed to be I think

The juveniles have been doing extremely well since then. Their flying ability is bang on target. If anything, and drawing on my seven seasons' experience there (no watchpoint the second year of the eight due to Covid restrictions), I would say they are marginally ahead of the game. There has been one witnessed failed food pass (*photo courtesy of Alan Gerring*) and the juveniles have had several goes at catching their own dinner – not successfully that we've witnessed - but they are not far off now and their efforts are highly entertaining for the visitors to the watchpoint.



We have ID'd 55 different samples of prey – and Bev Colman – who has taken responsibility for collecting and identifying dead birds, remains of the prey, feathers etc – has only been collating them for a couple of years to in effect, it's 55 different birds in just a few years. FUN FACT: the 55th bird was a quail.... four in total actually! Not had them before. The reason is because it's what is known as a "Quail year" – that's when all the conditions are right and we get an influx – the summer equivalent of Waxwing I guess. In that some years we get none (last winter then!). The are late summer migrants and only arrive in June – which is when we found the evidence! We'll see what July brings.....

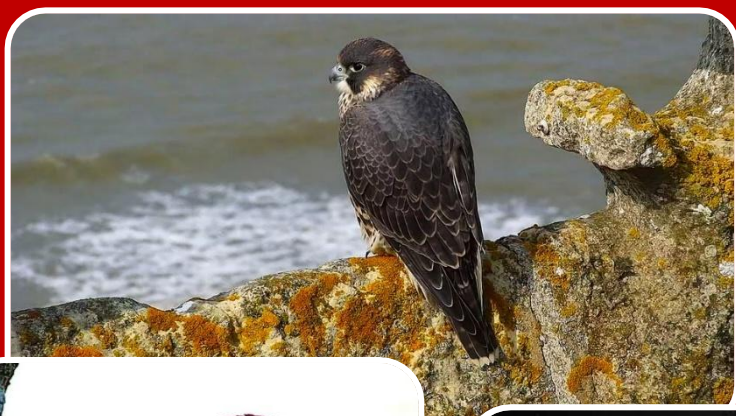
The CPP webcam goes off air on 30th June BUT the watchpoint remains open. The first year we closed the watchpoint at the same time as the webcam which, and it's easy to be wise after the event, was a bit daft. We missed the July/August/early September holiday season – very daft! Especially as the juveniles are usually still around into September (sometimes into October). Having said that, the three juveniles were last seen at the church in early August last year.



And let's not forget the sterling effort the parents have done – eight breeding seasons and look how beautiful they still are!

Photos: left the adult female and right the adult male

Below: webcam pics



Cromer Peregrine Project
22 June at 08:00 · 🌐

Monday merch drop!

Summer is here so grab your bright new summer vibes tote bag, bright colours with even brighter branding, these are limited edition and will sell out fast, go along and see the lovely people at Upstairs Downstairs of Cromer to grab one now ❤️ See less



Check This Out!

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



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

- [Swifts are more loyal to nest sites than partners - RareBirdAlertUK | 25-Jun](#)
- [BirdLife awarded £7.5 million to protect African-Eurasian Flyway, #ornithology news via @RareBirdAlertUK | 11-Jun](#)
- [Fair Isle Bird Observatory officially reopened seven years after devastating fire - @RareBirdAlertUK | 25-Jun](#)
- [Following the Cuckoo beyond the summer song, #ornithology news via @RareBirdAlertUK | 18-Jun](#)
- [GPS tags reveal gull behaviour around offshore turbines, #ornithology news via @RareBirdAlertUK | 10-Jun](#)
- [Knepp estate storks begin to nest in Guildford industrial estate - BBC News | 29-Jun](#)
- [Reaching into another world - British Ornithologists' Union | 08-Jun](#)
- [BOURC revises definition of Category E - BirdGuides | 29-Jun](#)
- [Shortlist revealed for new nature banknotes - BirdGuides | 05-Jun](#)
- [RSPB celebrates four decades of Little Tern caretaking project | 22-Jun](#)
- [Hatch of the Day – the football teams with feathery nicknames! | 16-Jun](#)
- AI in birding news**
 - [These 5 Research Projects Show How AI Is Revolutionizing Bird Conservation | Audubon | Summer 2026](#)
 - [Bird surveys enter the AI age, but drone disturbance concerns remain, #ornithology news via @RareBirdAlertUK | 23-Jun](#)
 - [Could AI replace some bird ringing for individual identification?, #ornithology news via @RareBirdAlertUK | 19-Jun](#)
 - [The 5 best British birdwatching apps - BirdGuides | 23-Jun](#)

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

It's Swift Awareness Week! Sadly, the iconic Swift (*Apus apus*) dropped in numbers across the UK by over two thirds between 1995 and 2024. Find out more about this aerobatic species on our BirdFacts pages: www.bto.org/learn/about-... @btobirds.bsky.social @jncc.bsky.social @rspbscience.bsky.social



08:05 · 29 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply



Reposted by you
Caroline Lucas @carolinelucas.bsky.social · 17d
Good news! Ministers have finally given green light to new #NaturalHistory GCSE. We've campaigned so long for this! Big hats off to tireless advocate Mary Colwell 🌟 Now our young people will have a chance to get to know & love the natural world, to feel awe & wonder, & gain skills to protect it 🌱🐾



Natural history GCSE to teach teenagers to plant wildflower-friendly gardens
Long-awaited course to examine human effects on natural world and explore everyday ways to aid biodiversity
© www.theguardian.com

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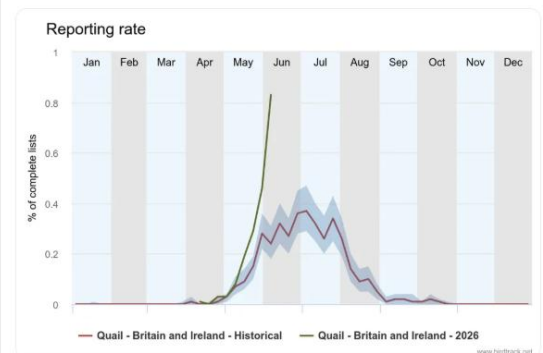
420

1.2k



BirdTrack
@birdtrack.bsky.social

Could it be a Quail year? We've seen a big increase in reports of this elusive migrant gamebird in the last two weeks. Reports don't usually peak until late June, so it will be interesting to see whether the influx continues into the summer #ukbirding



16:47 · 10 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

Contemplating Conservation

The National Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and Nightjar surveys



The following text is from the Rare Breeding Birds Panel website and written by Andrew Stanbury, June 2026. Andrew works as a Conservation Scientist at the RSPB Centre for Conservation Science and joined the Rare Breeding Birds Panel in 2020. Over the last decade he has been involved with many research projects, including national surveys of Dotterel, Ring Ouzel, Snow Bunting, Cirl Bunting, Turtle Dove and investigating the causes of Hawfinch and Whinchat decline. He spent a year researching cranes in 2010 and now sits on the UK Crane Working Group, helping to collate the UK's annual breeding figures.



“In 2025, more than 1,200 birdwatchers from across the country came together to survey three species, associated with, but not confined to lowland heathland: **Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and Nightjar** (the latter is not an RBBP species). A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed.

These surveys, collectively known as the **Heathland Bird Surveys**, were a partnership project between the RSPB, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Natural England. After analysing the data over winter, the early results are encouraging. Compared with the last national surveys (conducted in 2006 for Dartford Warbler and Woodlark, and in 2004 for Nightjar), the number of territories recorded has increased by 27% and 29% for Dartford Warbler and Woodlark respectively, while Nightjar numbers have risen by around 20%. Both Woodlark and Nightjar have also expanded their range, with Nightjar now breeding more widely, including increasing numbers in Scotland.

Data submitted to the RBBP plays a crucial role not only in tracking trends in rare and scarce breeding birds, but also in designing national surveys such as these. For this project, RBBP records helped identify 1 km survey squares with recent sightings, ensuring priority was given to the most important areas.

Current provisional estimates suggest the UK population of Dartford Warbler stands at about 4,100 territories. Most birds remain concentrated in traditional lowland heathland strongholds in southern and eastern England, such as Dorset Heathlands, Thames Basin Heaths, the New Forest, Wealden Heaths and the Suffolk coast. The survey only detected limited range expansion outside areas occupied during the last survey in 2006, with no evidence of further increases at higher elevations.

Dartford Warbler
Courtesy of Adam, Reg & Anna Jones



This updated estimate exceeds the RBBP's guideline threshold of 2,000 breeding pairs. The Panel regularly reviews the list of species it covers, and some species with higher populations are retained if RBBP data still provide reliable annual totals or if alternative surveys are unable to support the calculation of population trends. Dartford Warbler was retained on the RBBP list after the 2006 survey (which estimated around 3,200 territories) due to its vulnerability to sudden declines during severe winters; its status as a RBBP species will be reviewed by the Panel in due course.

Unlike many warblers, this species is resident in the UK and has benefited in recent decades from milder winters and targeted and effective habitat management of lowland heathland.

Climate change is also an important part of the story. Although Dartford Warbler numbers have increased overall since 2006, RBBP data indicates that populations dropped following the cold winters of 2008/09 and 2009/10. A sequence of milder winters, since then has enabled recovery. This species is particularly sensitive to prolonged cold and snow cover, especially at the northern edge of its range in the UK.

Looking ahead, climate projections suggest the Dartford Warbler's global range will shift northwards and eastwards. While a warming climate may favour the UK population (assuming suitable habitat remains available), it is likely to have negative effects elsewhere. By the end of the 21st century, more than 60% of its current range, particularly in Spain and Portugal, which hold the bulk of the global population, could become unsuitable. Across Europe, the species has already declined by over 50% since the late 1990s. Additionally, climate change is expected to increase the risk of wildfires in key breeding habitats.

Lowland heathland is one of the most threatened habitats in the UK with 80% lost since the 1800s, mainly due to land use change, including forestry and (e.g. urban) development. In response, considerable effort has been invested in its heathland restoration and appropriate management. The results from the national survey are testament to the impact of all this hard work.

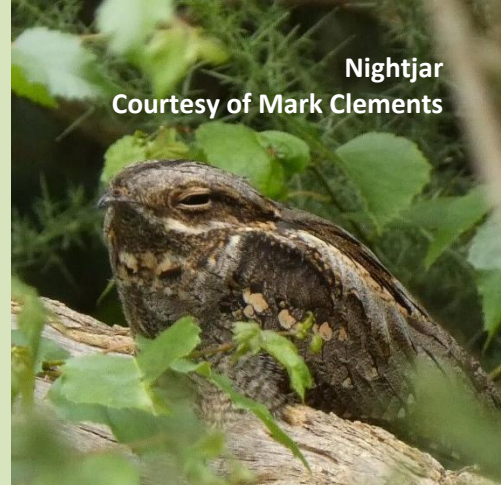
Regular national surveys like these are essential for understanding how species are faring. Until now, assessments have relied on data that is up to two decades old. The new findings will play a vital role in evaluating the effectiveness of Special Protection Areas, informing Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) condition assessments, and understanding the pressures posed by climate change, recreation and development.

Finally, sincere thanks go to everyone involved: the volunteers who carried out the fieldwork, the BTO's regional organiser network, county bird recorders and bird clubs who helped coordinate the survey, and the landowners who granted access. These surveys would not be possible without such collective effort. Funding was provided by Natural England, DEFRA and the RSPB."

Further write ups:

[Heathland Birds Survey reveals encouraging gains for specialist species - BirdGuides](#)

[Heathland birds survey records increases for three key species, #ornithology news via @RareBirdAlertUK](#)



Nightjar

Courtesy of Mark Clements

Woodlark

Courtesy of Mark Clements





What's That Song?



Many of us find it difficult learning or remembering bird song whilst others seem to have a natural knack for it, a bit like a foreign language or music skill. The Merlin App has been a great help in recent years but can you recognise a bird from the description of its voice? The words below come from three

different books, but they all refer to the same bird – no wonder it is so confusing! As you can see, some texts go into more detail than others. Answers are at the [back of this newsletter](#), along with a link through to a website where you can listen to an audio excerpt and decide which description resonates best with you!

"Clicking, hard 'tet' or 'tuk', sharper than Blackcap, high 'see'. Song low warble before loud, wooden rattle 'tuk-atuk-atuk-atuk-atuk-atuk-atuk'."

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 quiet, dry, clicking 'tett'. On migration, also a chattering, scolding 'che-che-che-che' (superficially like Blue Tit). Song in Europe a rattling, loud series, 'tell-tell-tell-tell-tell', preceded by a short scratchy warble. In E Turkey, Caucasus, Central Asia and Siberia, emphasis usually on the scratchy warble, while the rattle sequence is shortened or omitted.

Intermediate versions also occur.

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

"Song usually delivered from within dense cover such as a bush or hedge. Call is a hard, 'tac, tac', rather like a Blackcap but shorter. Song is heard from late April to June and is a dry rattle on the same note, and is very similar to a Cirl Bunting's song or the beginning of a Yellowhammer's. At close quarters a more musical warble can be heard before the rattle, and often a quiet 'stic, stic'."

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

Wordsearch

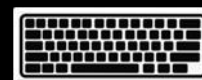


This month, we have the 27 species or races recorded on the NENBC website in July 2025 for which we have just 1 or 2 records – you never know what might crop up on your walks at this time of year so keep your eyes peeled as there were certainly quite a few exciting birds this time last year! For the purposes of this puzzle, ignore any hyphens, apostrophes, brackets and spaces. [Solution is at the end of this newsletter.](#)

Avocet
Black Redstart
Coot
Cory's Shearwater
Curlew Sandpiper
Egyptian Goose
Greenshank
Grey Plover
Hen Harrier
Little Stint
Osprey
Puffin
Red-breasted Merganser
Roseate Tern
Water Rail
Woodlark
Barnacle Goose
Brent Goose
Firecrest
Golden Plover
Grasshopper Warbler
Grey Partridge
Lesser Whitethroat
Marsh Tit
Wheatear
Willow Warbler
Yellow Wagtail

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





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

NENBC Website



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

Prolific Posters June 2026

By Val Stubbs

Phil Borley remains out in front by a country mile, with over 127,000 points. Tony Pope has edged into second place ahead of Mark Clements, with both having exceeded 50,000 points. Philip Cartlidge holds onto third place followed by Val Stubbs. Doug and Jenny Cullern have moved into sixth place ahead of David Griffiths. We now have seven members who have surpassed 20,000 points.

A total of 117 members have logged birds so far this year. Of these, 55 birders have already scored over 1,000 points, with 45 of these on 2,000 points or more, 39 on over 3,000 points, 25 exceeding 5,000 points, and 11 who have passed 10,000 points.

Two of our recent Birding for Beginners graduates have entered the top 50: Kala Nobbs & Mike McConnell, who are already ranked 37th, and Henrietta Robinson who lies in 47th place. Congratulations!

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 Brännich's Guillemot you are awarded 50 points.

1	Phil Borley	127,040
2	Tony Pope	56,040
3	Mark Clements	54,350
4	Philip Cartlidge	44,140
5	Valerie Stubbs	41,030
6	Doug & Jenny Cullern	24,970
7	David Griffiths	22,120
8	Stuart Jones	12,470
9	Ken Thornton	11,470
10	Stephanie Witham	10,880
11	Ann Gladwin	10,360
12	Trevor Williams	8,820
13	Carol Thornton	8,710
14	John Swallow	8,230
15	David Barrass	8,110

16	Russell Page	7,870
17	Andrew Clarke	7,250
18	Stella Baylis	6,890
18	Steven & Barbara Lines	6,730
20	Thomas Wright	6,240
21	Colin Blaxill	5,930
22	Peter & Sue Morrison	5,900
23	Alan Stevens	5,790
24	Julia & David Ivison	5,610
25	Gary Bunting	5,200
26	Stuart Buck	4,820
27	Andrew Gorton	4,650
28	Mick Rebane	4,420
29	Bob Farndon	4,380
30	Philip Hall	4,370



**2026
Club
Stats**

**435 individual members
across 290 households**

**56,537
bird records logged**

**217
bird species reported**

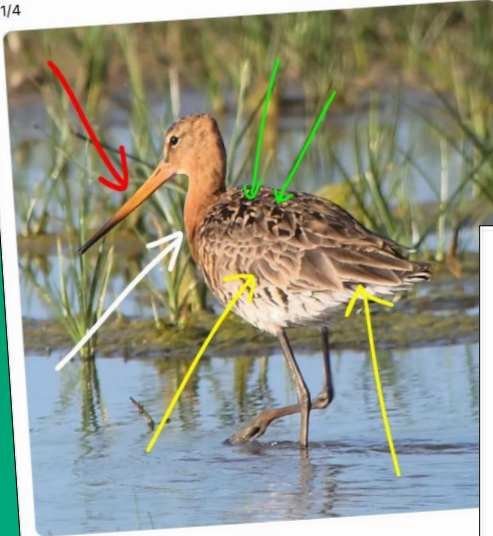
Social Media & WhatsApp – a few bits from social media and WhatsApp in the last few weeks.

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

The White Falcon
@markgolley.bsky.social

The superb adult nominate limosa last night showed a perfect suite of textbook characters to enable safe identification, without recourse to a CR. Most important 1's here are green & yellow. Green 1 highlights the diagnostic scap patterns, large black centres...

#cleybirds
#norfolkbirding
#L3
1/4



16:33 · 22 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

Dave Appleton
@applewildlife.bsky.social

Doing a bird survey in farmland in the middle of Norfolk this morning the last thing I expected to see (especially in mid June) was a Diver sp. flying south at 5am. Probably Red-throated but I didn't see it quite well enough to be 100% sure. #NorfolkBirds

20:27 · 19 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

The White Falcon
@markgolley.bsky.social

A wet end to the morning but sensational views of the stunning Glossy Ibis on the marsh ~ right in front of Daukes' Hide ~ made everything worthwhile. The smartest GI I've seen here since the May 1992 bird that dropped onto Bittern Pool & this one was closer too!

#norfolkbirding
#cleybirds



9:36 · 8 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

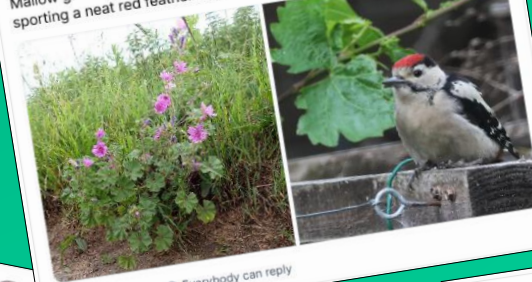
Water monitoring early this morning and it was warm and humid but did not seem to bother the Mute Swan or the female Emperor dragonfly which was egg-laying. The Moorhen kept vanishing into the reeds only to reappear a couple of minutes later, and by 9:30 it felt very sticky.



18:35 · 26 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

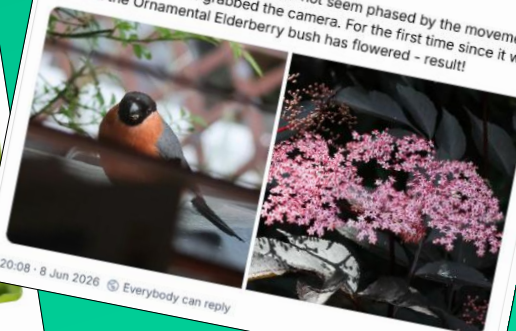
Mallow growing by the roadside. Juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker sporting a neat red feather-do!



18:59 · 11 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Bullfinch peering in the window, did not seem phased by the movement behind the blinds as I grabbed the camera. For the first time since it was planted the Ornamental Elderberry bush has flowered - result!



20:08 · 8 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

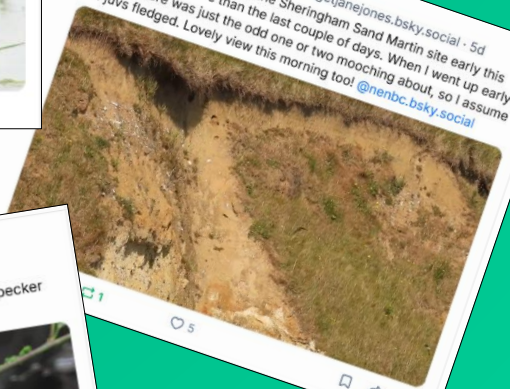
Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Small group of Mallards were sitting on the dam wall at Felbrigg NT this morning, although one was being less sociable. Sun had just risen and casting a soft light through the trees. On the way back the Mallards were still on the wall but now in colour.



31 · 20 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

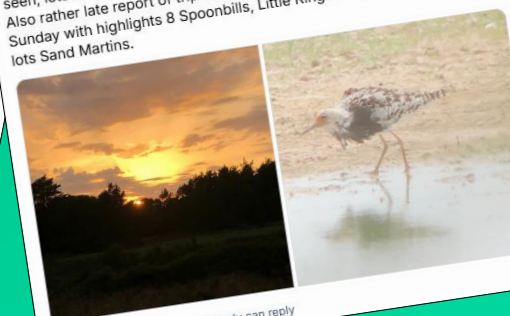
Reposted by you
bridgetjanejones.bsky.social
@bridgetjanejones.bsky.social · 5d
Huge amount of activity at the Sheringham Sand Martin site early this morning. Much more than the last couple of days. When I went up early evening there was just the odd one or two mooching about, so I assume the juvs fledged. Lovely view this morning too! @nenbc.bsky.social



5

Wryneck Birding
@wryneckbirdingnk.bsky.social

Successful trip to see Nightjars on #KellingHeath last night. 2 birds seen, lots of churring and flight calls. Marvellous experience for all. Also rather late report of trip to #NWT Cley & Salthouse Marshes on Sunday with highlights 8 Spoonbills, Little Ringed Plover and Ruff, also lots Sand Martins.



12:34 · 23 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

Ken T
@velociraptor500.bsky.social

Green Woodpecker in the garden at the weekend, digging holes in the grass in its search for ants. Common Blue Butterfly was another visitor.



19:08 · 8 Jun 2026 · Everybody can reply

Over at Bird.Club central, the team are still busy working on some more updates which will be coming live on the club website soon. Just a quick reminder that if the 'megaphone' icon on the top right of your screen has a red dot on it like this image on the right, then there is a new update described there. Below (green boxes) are details of the messages that have been put up this month alongside an example of how you might use it. So, let's have a quick look at this month's update

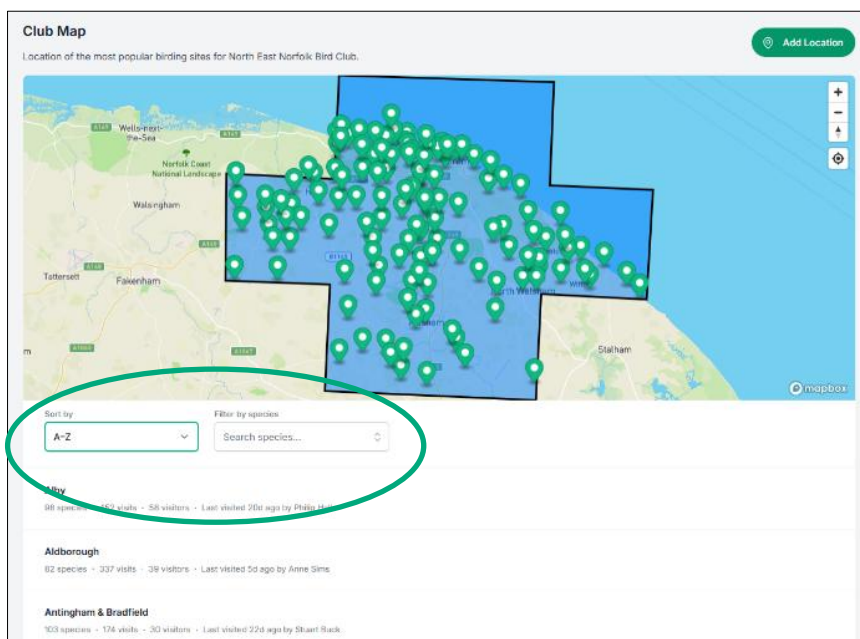


Sort and filter your locations | June 25, 2026

The Locations page can now do a lot more than list your sites from A to Z.

Use the new Sort by menu to order locations by most species, most visited, most recently visited, or most visitors — a quick way to see your club's busiest and most diverse spots at a glance.

You can also filter by species: start typing a bird's name and the list (and the map) narrows to just the locations where it's been recorded. Each location now shows its species, visit and visitor counts too.



Click on the Locations tab and you will see a couple of new filter boxes ...

Sort by

A-Z

Filter by species

Search species...

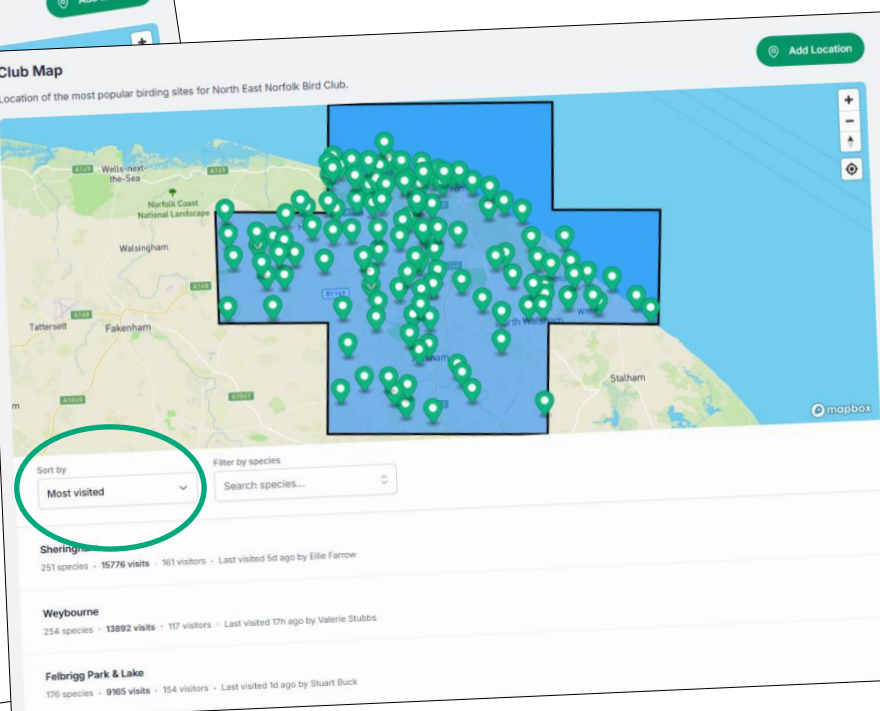
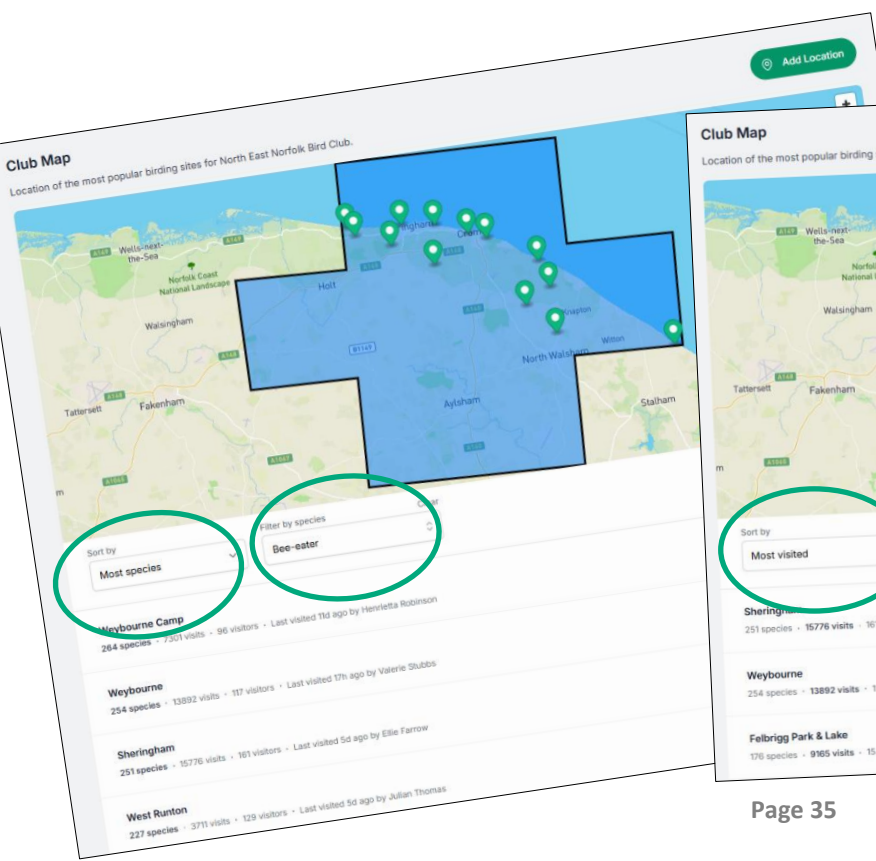
Click on options in either or both of these. Note that at the mo, the drop down may not be fully working for all species but you can type the species in manually to get the one you want.

Sort by

A-Z
Most species
Most visited
Most recently visited
Most visitors

Filter by species

Search species...
Taiga Bean Goose
Tundra Bean Goose
Pink-footed Goose
White-fronted Goose
Lesser White-fronted G...
Mute Swan



Star Badges

Congratulations to Ken Thornton on achieving his SILVER STAR this month.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Eco-Badges

No new eco-achievers this month.

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

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



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

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

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

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

Sea-watching Badge

No new achievers this month.

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!?



I came across this poem online this week which I rather liked. It was written by 10 year old Daisy and uploaded to an old sharing website called JumpingMag that hasn't been updated in a while so I haven't been able to trace her. She would be in her late 20s now. If you are out there Daisy, great poem! Here's what you had to say back then:

“Hi, my name's Daisy and I have a passion for writing and poetry. One thing I like to write poems about are birds because they are such free and stunning creatures that fill the skies with their sweet sounding songs and happy chirps. I have written a poem about a bird flying in the Norfolk Countryside because that is where I live.

I wrote this poem when I was 10 years old. I have now just turned twelve so although it is not one of my latest poems I would still like to share it with you. If you know Norfolk you might recognise some of the places in the poem.”

Bird's Eye View, by Daisy, 10 years old



Bird swoops and loops in Norfolk sky
Looking down, enamoured eye.
Fields of gold and red and brown,
Mother Nature bedding down.
Up along the coast he flies
Blakney's marshes he espies



Pine woods frame the Holkham sands
Steam from trains at Sheringham
Down Yarmouth way and cross the broads
Past reed beds he gently soars
Inland to Cathedral spire
He joins in song the heavenly choir.



Then South, South West he makes his way
The setting sun, close of day.
In Norfolk countryside I wait
Bird finds his way to my front gate,
Past daffodils and lambs that bleat
Lays songs of Norfolk at my feet.

The bird voice variously described was that of a **Lesser Whitethroat**. 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 Lesser Whitethroat** page and their **BTO ID Video: Getting to grips with warblers - The Whitethroats**.



Photos from Jane Crossen, Francis Farrow, Mark Clements and (below) Richard Farrow



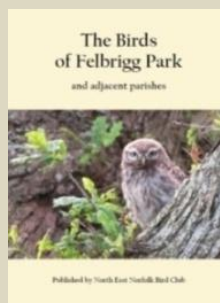
This month's **Wordsearch Solution:**
BIRDS RECORDED IN THE NENBC AREA IN
JULY 2025

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

Back Page Club Info



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



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

www.felbecktrust.org.uk

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

Club Sponsor: A 5% discount on Bird Ventures branded wild bird food is available to NENBC members at their shop in Holt all year on production of a current (or 2025) NENBC Membership Card. Have a look at the [Bird Ventures website](http://www.birdventures.co.uk) 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 | Short-notice **Pop-Up Birding events** | A **Birding for Beginners** workshop series combining practical and theoretical elements of birdwatching | **New Year's Day Birding Challenge** | **Occasional master-classes, lectures, workshops and conferences** to develop better skills and understanding of the birding world | A combined **Christmas Social and AGM Evening** in December